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## **Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter**

**Issue #82**

**February 2010**

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**AGS Membership**

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Please encourage others to join the AGS.

Membership benefits include:

- The AGS *Quarterly*: Bulletin of the Association for Gravestone Studies
- The next published issue of *Markers*
- The AGS monthly *e-Newsletter*
- Discounts on AGS publications
- Access to the AGS Research Clearing House and Lending Library
- Discounts on AGS conferences

To join, renew, or for more information, visit [www.gravestonestudies.org/join.htm](http://www.gravestonestudies.org/join.htm).

We invite everyone with an interest in gravestones and cemeteries to join the AGS.

Are you attending a conference where others may be interested? Please contact the AGS office for brochures to distribute.

**Earn a Free Membership!**

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Any member of the AGS who brings in five new members at the Senior level or above within a 12-month period will receive a free membership renewal at the Individual level for one year (free year begins with your next renewal date). New members that you recruit must record your name in brackets, after theirs, on the membership application form.

**2010 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting**

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**2010 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting  
June 22-27, 2010 in Granville, Ohio**

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

[Please click here to download the registration form.](#)

**Please note** that the conference registration form will only be available on the AGS website or by request from the AGS office for a hard copy. It will not be printed in the *AGS Quarterly*.

In addition to previously offered workshops on conservation, stone carving, photography, gravestone rubbing and foil impressions, we'll be offering some new workshops this year:

- Paranormal Sharing Workshop
- Re-Defining the Historic Cemetery Workshop
- Gravestones as Archaeological Artifacts Workshop
- Self-Publishing Workshop

Guided motorcoach tours are scheduled for both Wednesday and Saturday. Conferees will have the opportunity to visit many Central Ohio cemeteries, where they will have the opportunity to see gravestones carved by several different carvers.

There also will be lectures, exhibits, sales and a silent auction, late night sessions, classroom participation sessions and much more!  
Please visit our [conference website page](#) for details.



**Our 2010 Conference Logo**

from the gravestone of Mr. Byron Hayes who died March 6, 1836.  
It is located in Granville's Old Colony Burying Ground, established in 1805.

**We hope to see you there!**

**AGS is on Facebook**

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AGS is on Facebook! Join 500+ others and become a friend of AGS. Participate in the discussions, post some photos, get the latest news and connect with other gravestone enthusiasts.



**The AGS Board of Trustees asks for your assistance**

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Please contact the AGS office at (413) 772-0836 or [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org) if you have contact information for the following donors (or their next of kin) of archival collections:

Alex Beron, Sidney Eslinger, William Maxwell, Nancy (Buckeye) Mellin, Elizabeth G. Whitaker.

Thank you.

**The AGS President's Bully Pulpit**

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As some of you may know, I am the coordinator for the Evening Programs of the AGS 33rd Annual Meeting and Conference to be held at Denison University on June 22-27. In the past it has not always been easy to fill the program, so for the last couple of years the deadline for submissions was extended until February 1. I am pleased to say that not only did we receive more than enough high-quality paper abstracts by this deadline, but the number actually doubled! Because of that wonderful "problem," an additional four-hour chunk of lectures has been added to Friday's Participation Sessions to accommodate the contributions. I hope you'll agree that this is a wonderful addition to the upcoming conference and a good sign that our organization is continuing to grow by leaps and bounds. A listing of the Evening and Friday paper titles is provided below. Please check out the Conference website ([www.gravestonestudies.org/conferences.htm](http://www.gravestonestudies.org/conferences.htm)) for the abstracts and for more information on authors. And while you're at it, don't forget to register. It's going to be a great conference!

-Ian W. Brown

From Transi Tombs to Winged Death's Heads: The Medieval Origins of New England Memento Mori Culture, by Joy Giguere

A Search for the Source, by Laurel K. Gabel

Carved and Cast: Sculptural Cemetery Angels, a Theological, Thematic and Stylistic Study, by Frederick Meli

Jonischkies Cemetery and the Earliest Lithuanian Immigrants to America, by Patricia Hand and Milda Richardson

Grave Images: San Luis Valley, by Kathy T. Hettinga

John Zuricher, Stonecutter of Old New York, by Richard Veit

"In order to provide a fit and proper burial place":Burial Reform at the Jersey City Harsimus Cemetery, by Mark Nonestied

Boulder Monuments: From Clutter to Simplicity, by Natalie Wampler

Sears and Montgomery Ward: The Forgotten Producers of American Memorial Art, by Michael Trinkley

American Parnassus: Here lies a POET, by Walter Skold

In a Sudden and Awful Manner: Lightning Stones of Early New England, by Judith Trainor

In Memory of Susan Freedom: Searching for Gravestonesof African Americans in Western Massachusetts, by Bob Drinkwater

Egyptian Revival Funerary Art & Architecture in New York City, Elizabeth Broman

The St. Thomas White Bronze Company (1883-1900), by Leighann C. Neilson

English vs. American Principles in Cemetery and Monument Design: The Case of St. Mary's Anglican Cemetery, March, Upper Canada, by Bruce S. Elliott

Exploring Key West, Florida's Unique Cultural Identity Through Funerary Art, Epitaphs and Offerings, by Michele L. Zakis

Plain and Ornamental: 19th-Century Buena Vista Sandstone Cemetery Monuments in Cincinnati, Ohio, J. A. Chewning

That Which Has Been: Exploring the Use of Photographs in the American Cemetery, by Robin Hanson

Elizabeth Stuart Phelps and the Gates Ajar on Tombstones Then and Now, June Hadden Hobbs

"Dear Father, Mother, Brothers, and Sisters, I guess I have come to die": Two Coal Mining Disasters in the Southern Appalachian Mountains, by Martha Wiley

The Transformation of the São José Cemeteries in Porto Alegre: Damages for Funerary Art of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, by Luiza F. N. Carvalho

Intimate Relics: Skull Painting in Alpine Charnel Houses, by Paul Koudounaris

**Gravestone Studies Workshops at GCC--Greenfield, Massachusetts**

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Greenfield Community College (GCC) continues to offer gravestone studies workshops led by AGS members.

**Gravestone Studies 101:** A Survey of Gravestone Art in the Pioneer Valley is scheduled for April 14th and 17th, 2010;Bob Drinkwater, instructor.

**Gravestone Conservation Workshop:** Experiencing and Preserving History is scheduled for May 8th, 2010; Charlie Marchant, instructor.

For more information, visit [GCC's website](#).

### **Friends of Northfield's (Massachusetts) Old Cemeteries: Upcoming Events**

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Annual Meeting, Sunday, March 21st, 12:30, First Parish Church in Northfield.

Tour: Center Cemetery, Saturday, May 1st.

Both events will celebrate the life and music of composer Timothy Swan, who was buried in Center Cemetery in 1842.

For more information email [esrie@crocker.com](mailto:esrie@crocker.com).

### **National Preservation Institute Cemetery Seminars**

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The National Preservation Institute (NPI), a nonprofit organization founded in 1980, educates those involved in the management, preservation, and stewardship of our cultural heritage.

They are offering two cemetery preservation seminars in September:

*Cemetery Preservation*, September 28-29, 2010, San Francisco, California.  
Learn how to begin a cemetery preservation or restoration project and how to help ensure that sound choices are made to avoid harming what you seek to protect. Discussions focus on current issues in cemetery preservation, such as recording and documenting cemeteries and graveyards, undertaking preservation efforts, and exploring conservation techniques and issues. Debi Hacker and Michael Trinkley of the Chicora Foundation will lead this seminar. Michael is the Editor of the Conservation Talk column in the *AGS Quarterly*.

This seminar is being held in conjunction with:

*Cemetery Landscapes: A Practical Guide to Care and Maintenance*, September 30, 2010, San Francisco, California.  
Learn how to protect historic cemetery landscapes, preserve integrity of design, and safeguard tombstones and monuments while pursuing a practical outlook on maintenance and budget concerns. Explore approaches to caring for softscapes, or plantings, and hardscapes, including roads, pathways, and benches. Discuss effective pruning and cutting techniques, and when chemicals and heavy equipment can be safely and productively used. Review the basics of short- and long-term preservation plans. Debi Hacker of the Chicora Foundation will lead this seminar.

Agendas for these seminars, registration forms, and details are available at

[www.npi.org](http://www.npi.org).

**Stone Carving Class: "Leaf in Relief"**

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Come out for a day of stone carving with Tracy Mahaffey of Samaritan Carvers in Foster, Rhode Island.

March 20th, 2010, 10am-4pm or March 21st, 2010. 10am-4pm.

This is a one day class for anyone who ever wanted to try their hand at stone carving. We will focus on the carving of a leaf in slate. Just bring yourself and a lunch and the rest will be provided.

The cost for this class is \$60 (plus a \$10 material fee\*).

Call Tracy at (401) 397-7714 to make reservations. Only five students to a class, so call soon if you're interested! There are more classes to follow, so please call or check [www.samaritancarvers.com](http://www.samaritancarvers.com) for information.

\*Includes: All stone (practice piece and final project,) use of mallet and chisels for the day, and a plethora of leaves to choose from. Plus encouragement, inspiration, and hot tea!

**Memorial Service for Helen Sclair**

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In the December 2009 e-Newsletter we reported the death of Helen Sclair, Chicago's "Cemetery Lady." There will be a memorial service for Helen on March 28 from 2:30-6:30 at the Newberry Library in Chicago.

**AGS Member Website**

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Please take a moment to check out Beth Santore's site:  
<http://www.graveaddiction.com/index.html>.

Her site features:

- Many photos, organized by county, city and state, as well as by subject
  - A links page that includes links to other cemetery/gravestone related sites
  - A gravestone symbolism page
  - A tomb and mausoleum page
- And much more!

Beth is an AGS Trustee, as well as the 2010 AGS Conference Chair.

**Cemetery Preservation Summit video**

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This video is posted on the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) website. It features interviews with participants from the NCPTT Nationwide Cemetery Preservation Summit in Nashville Tennessee.

<http://www.blip.tv/file/3131515>

There are also other videos and articles about gravestone conservation on their site. Topics include:

- A project about saving historic wooden artifacts in cemeteries
- Comparative Study of Commercially Available Cleaners for Use on Federally-Issued Headstones
- How to properly reset stone grave markers

<http://www.ncptt.nps.gov/category/training/cemetery-monument-conservation-materials-research/>

**New Publication: *Chippiannock Cemetery***

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*Chippiannock Cemetery* is a new book by AGS member Minda Powers-Douglas.

Built on a ridge named for the great Native American spirit Manitou, Chippiannock Cemetery has honored the dead of Rock Island County for over 150 years. Chippiannock, which means "village of the dead" in the Sauk and Fox languages, is truly a village. People from all walks of life are buried in the majestic rolling grounds. From railroad and lumber barons to blacksmiths and riverboat captains, here one will find the people who made this land along the Mississippi River thrive. Upon stepping through the gates of Chippiannock, one finds memorials to the dead, ranging from artistic and stately to simple or humble. Each stone tells a story--whether it is a cenotaph in honor of Civil War Major General John Buford or the two Dimick children who passed away on the same day in 1878 of diphtheria. Today Chippiannock remains an active, "living" cemetery, beloved by locals and considered a jewel of the Quad Cities.

*Chippiannock Cemetery* is available from from the publisher, [Arcadia Publishing](#), and costs \$21.99.

**New Publication: *Skullduggery: 45 True Tales of Disturbing the Dead***

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*Skullduggery: 45 True Tales of Disturbing the Dead* is a new book by Brian Kannard.

His book features true stories of grave robberies, desecrations, and other disturbances of the dead. Stories include the postmortem histories of: Elvis, Charlie Chaplin, Thomas Paine, Groucho Marx, Abraham Lincoln, Eva Peron, and Che Guevara, and a story about the alleged body snatching of the Skull and Bones society.

For more information and to order, visit <http://www.skullduggerythebook.com/>

**Book Review: *Chinese American Death Rituals: Respecting The Ancestors***

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[This review](#) is published in *CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship*, a publication of the U.S. National Park Service.

*Chinese American Death Rituals: Respecting The Ancestors* was edited by Sue Fawn Chung and Priscilla Wegars.

**Article: *GPS replaces headstones in Calgary cemeteries***

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This article, [posted on the CBC News website](#), is about plans for two new "green burial" cemeteries in Calgary, Alberta, where no conventional burial markers will be permitted. Instead, cemetery staff will provide visitors with hand-held GPS devices to locate specific grave sites.

**Article: *Last best hope for first nations burial site***

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This article, [posted on the Vancouver Sun website](#), is about an effort to resolve an impasse over an ancient Cowichan First Nations burial site on Vancouver Island.

**Article: *Tlingit storyteller cleans up Native burial ground in Southeast Alaska***

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This article is posted on [Fairbanks \(Alaska\) Daily News](#).



**Query: Badge Shaped Gravestone**

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This query and photo comes from Roxy Bone. She writes: "I just located my ancestors, buried in North Andover, Massachusetts. Their gravestones are in the shape of badges. The superintendent at the cemetery said he assumes they were constables. They originated from Northern Ireland. Can anyone

tell me more about this type of gravestone?" You can email Roxy at: [roxiebone@aol.com](mailto:roxiebone@aol.com).

### **Query: Chattanooga National Cemetery**

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Rare Book School (RBS) provides continuing-education opportunities for students from all disciplines and levels to study the history of written, printed, and digital materials with leading scholars and professionals in the field. Founded in 1983, RBS moved to its present home at the University of Virginia in 1992.

This query is posted on their website:

Rare Book School has recently acquired a set of three American steel-engraved plates, each about 10" x 7", made (perhaps in Philadelphia) in 1864-65. They show vignettted head-and-shoulders portraits of Generals U. S. Grant, Joseph Hooker, and William D. Whipple. The steel plate used for Grant is stamped with the name of the platemaker on the reverse: John Sellers & Sons | Sheffield. The plates used for Hooker and Whipple are stamped on the reverse: W. Dougherty | Philadelphia. The plates have almost identical captions: "Sold for sole benefit of the National Cemetery | Chattanooga, Tenn." All three images are identified in the plate as having been drawn by A. F. Brooks [in fact, all three derived from photographs easily found online] and engraved by R. Whitechurch. In small letters at the bottom of each of the plates is the boilerplate legend: "Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1864 [for Grant; the date is 1865 for Hooker and Whipple] by Rev. Thomas B. Van Horne in the clerk's office of the district court of the United States in and for the eastern district of Pennsylvania."

According to information provided by the website of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Thomas B. Van Horne was the chaplain placed in charge of the cemetery's development.

In a report of May 14, 1866, the chaplain indicated that one-third of the cemetery site could not be used for burials due to large rock outcroppings. As a result, he suggested a design dictated by the rocky terrain. Much was accomplished during Van Horne's tenure at the cemetery. Flowering shrubs, evergreens and other trees were planted to replace a portion of the dense forest of oak trees that had been cut down as a part of the battleground. Each interment section consisted of a central site for a monument surrounded by plots for officers, with the graves of enlisted personnel arranged in concentric circles around them. In 1867, it was designated Chattanooga National Cemetery. (excerpt from the Chattanooga National Cemetery website, accessed on 4 March 2009).

One supposes that Van Horne developed an idea of selling prints made from our plates as a money-making venture to support the cost of creating the cemetery, but we cannot find a reference to these prints--or, indeed, anything at all about the venture. Given the generals chosen for this project, it appears that the cemetery was used for

Union, not Confederate, soldiers. The 120-acre plot in central Chattanooga is still in active use as a national cemetery. Can anyone provide us with additional information?

<http://www.rarebookschool.org/news/>

**Query: Salesman's Sample of a Tomb**

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"I've long been interested in old grave memorials, and years ago was fortunate to acquire a fantastic antique Salesman's sample of a tomb, expertly carved in real marble and granite, with a removable cover to show the space for the body. I've seen a number of Salesman's samples of obelisk-type monuments, but never anything like my little tomb. Do any of your members have in-depth knowledge of such things?

The photo below is, undoubtedly of a Victorian era salesman's sample. The base is granite, and the tomb and lid are white marble. No manufacturer's marks of any kind are visible. There is a small cement plug on the underside of the granite base, indicating an inset pin or bolt for holding the tomb to the base. The lid lifts off, showing the cavity in which a body would repose. The workmanship is first rate. It is possible that this tomb may have appeared in trade publications of the period that advertised merchandise to undertakers. If anyone can offer any information, especially regarding the possible origin of manufacture, I would be very interested in hearing from you! Please write to: [jett@psouth.net](mailto:jett@psouth.net) --Thank you."



Weight just under 2.75 lbs avoirdupois. Length of base = 12.15 cm (4 3/4+ inches) / width of base = 7.8 cm (3 1/16 inches) / height without lid = 7.4 cm ( 2 7/8+ inches) / lid height = 2.2 cm (just under 7/8 inch)

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