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# Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

Issue 22

February 2005

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**Conference Updates and News:** We're making progress on the registration packet. It will be completed and in the mail to you a few weeks later than the previously announced mid-March date.

We're still accepting proposals for lectures and participation sessions. The deadline of March 15 is fast approaching. Please send your proposals to: [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org), Att: C.R. Jones, Program Chair.

**Friday Cemetery Tours:** In addition to our regular Friday Colonial and Victorian tours this year will we have a special tour: *The Halifax Disaster Tour*, led by Joe Edgette and Rich Sauers. Halifax, the major seaport in Nova Scotia, Canada is associated with numerous disasters throughout her history. Major among them are: H.M.S. La Tribune (1797), S.S. Atlantic (1873), R.M.S. Titanic (1912), Halifax Explosion (1917), and Swiss Air Flight 111 (1998). This tour will focus on these events with an explanation of their histories and visits to several of the burial places of their victims. In addition arrangements to visit the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic have been made for participants to visit the exhibits related to several of these disasters. For those interested time will be made available at the museum to board one of the ships (H.M.C.S. Niobe-Acadaia) that survived the atomic-like Halifax Explosion of 1917.

**Halifax Information:** Halifax has a free summer downtown shuttle called FRED. For schedules and Halifax visitor information, please use this [link](#) to visit the Metro Transit website. To help you plan your trip, the phone number for Halifax/Nova Scotia Visitor Information is 800/565-0000.

The *New York Times* recently published an article about taking the ferry from Portland, Maine to Halifax. Please click [here](#) to read it.

## From the Office

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We recently received an e-mail from an AGS member who is looking for an article. It is titled "The Preservation of Natural Stone" by Seymour Z. Lewin. If you have a copy, or know where to find one, please e-mail the office at: [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org). We'd

also like to have a copy for the archives.

**Call for Oakley Awards** The Board of Trustees is seeking nominations for Oakley Awards. Guidelines for nominations: work can be done in any number of areas including but not limited to: gravestone carver research, conservation, art, exhibits related to gravestones, and efforts to raise community awareness of local cemeteries and burial grounds. The work may be in many forms: research, writing, photography, organizational leadership, legislation and teaching, for example. Please send to the AGS office a completed nomination form, photographs, personal references and newspaper articles about the person or group you feel is worthy for an award to the AGS office. You can download the form from the Awards & Scholarships section of the AGS website, or e-mail the office for a form.

[AGS Website/Awards](#)

### Recent Publication

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*Stories Carved in Stone: West Springfield Massachusetts*, by Rusty Clark is a fascinating collection of tales based on Colonial headstones found in the picturesque cemeteries of West Springfield, Massachusetts. The book features information on early New England gravestone carvers, and includes over two hundred photos and illustrations, with over one hundred photographs of this Yankee folk art. It also contains historical and genealogical information about the pioneers who settled in the Connecticut River Valley. Take this field guide along as you visit these ancient burial grounds. A map of each cemetery and an extensive index of local family names and places is included.

**Special Offer:** AGS members will receive \$5.00 off the cover price. For ordering information, please click the link to the publisher's website below.

[Stories Carved in Stone](#)

### Query: Wooden Gravemarkers

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Adrienn Mendonca is researching possible conservation treatments for wooden gravemarkers as a project for her Conservation Science and Preservation Technology class at Savannah College of Art & Design. She sent in the following request:

I want to know if any information on any such treatments for deteriorated wooden grave markers, and, if so, conservators involved, treatments used, location/date of treatment, and what the outcome was. I am looking for information on both successful and unsuccessful treatments. Examples might include epoxy/resin gap fillings, other kinds of fillings, consolidation treatments, attempts to preserve in situ, etc. I am also interested in date testing on wooden markers, as well as any potential written sources of information (such as articles or books) or other knowledgeable people/organizations that you may know of.

If you have any suggestions for Adrienn, please e-mail them to the AGS office at [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org).

### Intern Sought for Staten Island Exhibit

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The History Archives & Library of the Staten Island Institute of Arts & Sciences is seeking a college intern to work on the upcoming exhibition, "Realms of History: The Cemeteries of Staten Island."

Scheduled to open July 2005, this exhibit will examine the fascinating cemeteries that are found on Staten Island. From the 17th century burial ground located at the Dutch

Reformed Church in Port Richmond to the neglected and abandoned Fountain/Staten Island Cemeteries in West New Brighton, this borough's cemeteries are major repositories of information for all historians, researchers, genealogists, and people interested in the history of Staten Island.

The "Realms of History: The Cemeteries of Staten Island" internship will enable students to encounter a variety of humanities topics including: community history, religion, women's studies, African-American history, art, historic preservation, and landmarking. Hands on experience in exhibit and publication research, exhibition preparation and installation, archiving, and historic preservation will be realized.

For requirements and application information, contact Patricia M. Salmon, Curator of History, History Archives & Library, Staten Island Institute of Arts & Sciences, 75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island, NY 10301, e-mail: salmonf@aol.com.

[Staten Island Institute of Arts & Sciences](#)

**Call For Papers: Munich, Germany**

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Call for Papers: Conference Urban Burial Culture from the Enlightenment to the early 20th Century, Munich, November 11-13, 2005.

Famous cemeteries such as Père Lachaise in Paris, the Vienna Zentralfriedhof, and Highgate Cemetery in London bear impressive witness to the opulent urban burial culture of the nineteenth century. The international conference called by the German national committee of ICOMOS together with the Bavarian National Museum and to be held in Munich on November 11-13, 2005 aims to examine important cemetery reforms and new foundations of that period with special reference to the great city cemeteries of Europe.

The following aspects are planned: The cemetery as conscious expression of a powerful middle class or of individual groups (artists, scientists/academics etc); production and aesthetics (e.g. fashions in monuments and tombs; new materials and methods of production; the importance of cemetery sculptures and sculptors); and in particular the present day problem of conservation and restoration.

Proposals for papers (about 1 page) are invited from representatives of all disciplines specializing in this field. These should be sent by March 31, 2005 to: ICOMOS Germany, attn: Dr. Claudia Denk and Dr. John Ziesemer, PF 10 02 03, D-80076 München, e- mail: john.ziesemer@blfd.bayern.de.

**Laurel Hill Cemetery March & April Tour Schedule**

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Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia's March tour will be *KIA-Heroes: Killed in Action*, led by Andy Waskie. The tour will be on Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 p.m.

Their April tour will be *The Titanic - 93 Years Later: Survivors and Victims*, led by AGS Trustee Joe Edgette. The tour will be Sunday, April 10 at 10:00 a.m., and will meet at West Laurel Hill.

If you have any questions, please e-mail or call Ross Mitchell, Executive Director at rlm@forever-care.com, 215/228-8200.

[Laurel Hill Cemetery](#)

**AGS Member Website Link**

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*Confederate Graves Registry* is a home page and launch pad for a project that is being produced by the Sons of Confederate Veterans. At this site, there are many forms and documents tailored from AGS workshops along with poems, prayers, cemetery laws for many states, as well as memorial services. The database, when linked, will eventually list all Confederate Veterans from all over the world.

[Confederate Graves Registry](#)

**Websites to Check Out**

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We've included three websites recommended by AGS members in the *Quick Links* section at the bottom of this newsletter.

The first link is for a store called the Trolley Depot in Salem, Massachusetts. Among other items, they sell gravestone castings. The second site is about Prospect Cemetery in New York City. The third is about abandoned cemeteries in London.

**Quick Links...**

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- [The Trolley Depot](#)
  - [Prospect Cemetery](#)
  - [London Abandoned Cemeteries](#)

**Contact Information**

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email: [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org)  
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