



AGS Membership

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

Membership benefits include:

- The *AGS Quarterly*: Bulletin of the Association for Gravestone Studies
- The next published issue of *Markers* (June)
- 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 or for more information, visit www.gravestonestudies.org/join.htm.

AGS Office Relocation

The Association for Gravestone Studies is moving! To better serve our members we will be moving our office location to 101 Munson St., Suite 108, Greenfield Corporate Center, Greenfield, MA 01301 on April 1st. Our phone number will remain the same. Please bear with us during this transition period as phones and internet service is reconnected in our new home.

2009 AGS Annual Meeting and Conference



2009 AGS Annual Meeting and Conference

June 24-28, 2009
Union College
Schenectady, New York

Registration is open!

The registration form is posted on
[the conference page of the AGS website.](#)

2009 Conference Logo
The Veeder Monument
Vale Cemetery, Schenectady, NY

Gravestone Conservation Seminars & Workshops

We are pleased to announce that the 2009 AGS annual conference will include an expanded range of cemetery preservation workshops and presentations.

In response to membership feedback, this year's event will include two full days of gravestone conservation workshops. We are grateful to have the following people be part of this aspect of the conference: CR Jones, Joe Ferrannini, Francis Miller, Charlie Marchant, Bob Posson, Bill Bruce, and Conservation chair, Jon Appell.

The entire afternoon on Wednesday, June 24, will include presentations related to cemetery preservation:

Conservation of the Reverend Nathaniel Chauncey, Jr. Crypt, Old Burying Ground, Durham, Connecticut. This presentation will outline the conservation efforts by ConservArt LLC, Francis Miller, conservator, to preserve this historic structure.

Graveyard Preservation Roundtable. This will be a new event for an AGS conference. The moderated roundtable discussion format will allow questions to be posed by all in attendance. Professional conservators will offer ideas, advice and potential philosophical differences in the fields relating to gravestone, monument, and cemetery preservation. A group of photographs regarding gravestone preservation, will be included as part of this presentation.

Please submit photographs in advance, regarding cemetery preservation questions or concerns, to Jon Appell, jwappell@gmail.com.

To see what workshops will be offered and lectures presented [click here](#).
(This will be updated as we get closer to the conference. Please check back frequently).

To see more information about Union College, Vale Cemetery and activities in the Schenectady area click here: [LINKS TO AREA AND ACTIVITIES](#)

To see a video of last year's foil rubbing workshop click here:
[2008 Foil Rubbing Workshop Video](#) (for best viewing click on "Watch in High Quality" lower right of

viewing screen).

To see a video of last year's cemetery tours click here:

[2008 Conference Cemetery Tours](#) (for best viewing click on "Watch in High Quality" lower right of viewing screen).

Attention Students-2009 Conference Scholarship Announcement

Any student who submits an article to the AGS *Quarterly*, which is accepted and published, will receive a \$100 scholarship to attend the AGS conference.

Article-length manuscripts (approximately 2,500 words) can be submitted to the AGS office at any time. The *Quarterly* Editorial Board will inform you if your article is accepted. Then if you decide to go to the conference, simply attach a photocopy of your student ID to the registration package when you send it in. And be sure to subtract \$100 from the total fees.

You can't beat the deal - A published article and scholarship aid for the conference!

Call For Oakley Certificate and Forbes Award Nominations

Seeking proposals for the 2009 Oakley Certificate and Forbes Awards. Deadline for nomination applications is **April 1, 2009**. Awards will be presented at the AGS Annual Conference which will be held June 24-28 at Union College in Schenectady, NY.

The Oakley Certificate of Merit

The Oakley Certificate of Merit is presented periodically by the AGS Board of Trustees to individuals and groups that have helped to advance the mission of the Association. Named for long-time members Rosalee and Fred Oakley, the Certificate of Merit is designed to honor those whose work in the field of gravestone studies is worthy of recognition by AGS. The award consists of a certificate, presented by the Board of Trustees, as well as a gift of a book to the honoree's local library, in their name on behalf of AGS. Whenever possible the award presentation will be made by a local AGS member. Each year's recipients will have their names printed in the conference program book and annual report. In addition they will be acknowledged at the Awards Reception at the conference.

The AGS Harriette Merrifield Forbes Award

The Forbes Award is presented annually by the AGS Board of Trustees to honor an individual, institution, or organization in recognition of exceptional service to the field of gravestone studies. The award is named for Harriette Merrifield Forbes of Worcester, Massachusetts, who photographed gravestones and studied their carvers in the early 1900s. In 1927 she published a book titled *Gravestones of Early New England and the Men Who Made Them*. The Forbes Award is the highest honor bestowed by the AGS.

For more information and award applications, please visit [The AGS Awards page](#).

Reduced Prices--March Only--AGS Store

By Their Markers Ye Shall Know Them: A Chronicle of the History and Restorations of Hartford's Ancient Burying Ground, By William Hosley and Shepherd M. Holcombe, Sr.

Members regularly \$15.95/non-members \$17.50 - **SALE price for all: \$14.50.**

A Guide to Massachusetts Cemeteries, By David Allen Lambert

Members regularly \$15.95/non-members \$17.00 - **SALE price for all: \$14.50**

Portsmouth & Newcastle, New Hampshire Cemetery Inscriptions, By Arthur H. Locke, New Hampshire Historical Society

Members regularly \$17.75/non-members \$27.50 - **SALE price for all: \$15.00**

For book descriptions or to order, [please visit the AGS Bookstore](#).

2004 Danbury, CT AGS Conference T-Shirt **SALE price for all: \$5.00.**



2004 AGS Conference
Danbury, CT

For size and to order please visit [the AGS Giftshop](#).

All prices good until March 31st.

Note: All sale prices are only valid for one month after the sale is announced.

Attention Teachers

Please check to make sure that your library carries *Markers*. If it does not, ask the purchasing officer to add this journal to their holdings.

The available volumes (VII, IX, X, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX, XXII, XXIII, XXIV) normally cost \$20 each for non-members (total \$320), but are now available at a deep discount when ordered in quantities (see price lists and order form links below).

Please keep in mind that you will not only be helping your students, but you will be contributing greatly to the health of the AGS by making sure that your library obtains this important research tool.

[Order form for AGS Library Members](#)

[Order form for Library Non-Members](#)

Epitaph for an AGSer?

"There was a time when I like you,
Have pass,d this way grave stones to view,
And read these lines thereon,
But now a lifeless lump of clay,
Beneath this stone you see I lay,
My work on earth is done."

This epitaph was copied from a rubbing which recently turned up at the AGS office - all we know about the stone on which it was inscribed is that it was probably an early 19th-century slate, and that it might be located in a cemetery along the New England coast, north of Boston. If you recognize it, please contact the AGS Archivist, Marie Ferre at info@gravestonestudies.org.

Query: Cemetery Blogs

This query comes from Johan Mathiesen. He writes:

"Hello, I'm a new member of AGS and I am looking for cemetery blogs. If I do searches for cemetery blogs, I inevitably come up with genealogy blogs, and genealogists really have little interest in cemeteries, per se, they're usually interested in who's buried there. Do any AGS members have cemetery blogs?"

Thanks, Johan (<http://bloggingadeadhorse-dmt.blogspot.com/>), johan.mathiesen@gmail.com."

Note from AGS: Please also let the AGS office know about your cemetery or gravestone-related blogs and we'll try to publicize them in a future *e-Newsletter*.

Discount on *Understanding Scottish Graveyards* for AGS Members

The publisher of *Understanding Scottish Graveyards* by Betty Willsher (reprinted in 2005) is offering a discount to AGS Members.

Understanding Scottish Graveyards encourages people to take an interest in local graveyards and to value efforts towards their conservation. The three chapter headings suggest its broad scope-- Graveyards, Types of Monuments, and Recording and Studying Graveyards. The writing is pithy and includes lively anecdotal material but it is also authoritative. Thirty black and white line drawings and 36 well-captioned photographs accompany explanations of emblems denoting mortality (ie, hour-glass, angel of death, snakes), of immortality (torches, heart, snake, caduceus) and various trades (from coalmasters to millers to fleshers [butchers] to soldiers to ministers to schoolmasters). Chock full of information, the book takes us from the standing stones and cairns of the Neolithic and Bronze ages and the early Christian graves to the range of European traditions that have marked death, church burials and record-keeping.

A 12% discount off the \$16.95 list price is offered to members. Format is paperback, 96 pages, 6-1/2 x 7-5/8 inches in format. Information & orders: (845) 679-4024 or orders@woodstockerbooks.com.

New Publication: *Green-Wood Cemetery*

Green-Wood Cemetery, by Alexandra Kathryn Mosca is now available from the publisher, www.arcadiapublishing.com, or from amazon.com.

Book Description:

For generations, Green-Wood Cemetery has played an integral part in New York City's cultural history, serving as a gathering place and a cultural repository. Situated in the historic borough of Brooklyn, the thousands of graves and mausoleums within the cemetery's 478 acres are tangible links and reminders to key events and people who made New York City and America what it is today. The monuments read like a who's who of American greatness and include the names of Leonard Bernstein, F.A.O. Schwarz, Charles L. Tiffany, Samuel Morse, and DeWitt Clinton, among others. A national historic landmark since 2006, Green-Wood is considered one of the preeminent cemeteries in the country and is a living display of the evolving funeral traditions of the city and America as a whole. The cemetery was and remains one of the city's largest open green spaces and a century ago was a social venue for picnics, outings, and political events. Through vintage photographs, *Green-Wood Cemetery* chronicles the cemetery's rich history and documents how its tradition as a park and a popular tourist attraction continues, drawing 300,000 visitors annually.

A book review will appear in a forthcoming AGS *Quarterly*.

Second Edition of *Historic Preservation* now Available

W.W. Norton has published the second edition of Norman Tyler's classic book, *Historic Preservation*.

Book Description:

Historic preservation, which started as a grassroots movement, now represents the cutting edge in a cultural revolution focused on "green" architecture and sustainability. This is the only book to cover the gamut of preservation issues in layman's language: the philosophy and history of the movement, the role of government, the documentation and designation of historic properties, sensitive architectural designs and planning, preservation technology, and heritage tourism, plus a survey of architectural styles. It is an ideal introduction to the field for students, historians, preservationists, property owners, local officials, and community leaders. Updated throughout, this revised edition addresses new subjects, including heritage tourism and partnering with the environmental community.

To order, and for more information, visit: <http://www.wwnorton.com/NPB/nparch/073273.html>

This book is also available for purchase at 34% off the list price via amazon.com.

Cemetery Tours: Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

March 2009 Sunday Tours

Presented by the Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria, B.C., Canada

March 1: *Davy Jones' Locker*. This is an expression for the bottom of the sea, the resting place for drowned sailors. Ron Armstrong will visit graves of people connected to the sea, including victims of shipwrecks.

March 8: *Taking Care of Business*. Mark Anderson will visit the graves of some of Victoria's prominent pioneer businessmen who left their colourful imprint on the city.

March 15: *Irish Columbia*. It's close enough to St. Patrick's Day to celebrate with a tour to graves of people born on Erin's shores, led by Michael Halleran.

March 22: *Star Gazers*. Astronomy has long been a hobby and profession in Victoria. This first-time tour by Joyce Mackie marks the International Year of Astronomy by tracing the lives of those buried at Ross Bay Cemetery connected to this far out topic.

March 29: *Italian Pioneers-II*. During and after the 1858 gold rush many Italians settled in Victoria. Anna Maria Bamji discusses the artists,

hoteliers, grocers, ferry operators and many others whose family stories she has compiled.

More information about the above tours and a list of events for the rest of the year are posted on <http://www.oldcem.bc.ca/tour.htm>

Lecture: Oak Grove Cemetery, Fall River, Massachusetts

~~~~~

The Friends of Oak Grove Cemetery, Fall River, Massachusetts will be hosting a fundraising lecture titled "Oak Grove and the Rural Cemetery Movement in America" by noted Landscape Architect Martha Lyon, ASLA, CLARB.

The lecture will take place on Saturday, March 28th at 6PM at the Fall River Country Club, 4232 North Main Street, Fall River.

Ms. Lyon manages Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC, specializing in the design, preservation and planning of historic parks, streetscapes and cemeteries. She is responsible for preparing the preservation master plan for Fall River's Olmsted-designed North Park and oversaw efforts to restore the park's North Main Street entrance in 2008.

Established in 1855, and modeled after Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Oak Grove is one of the nation's earliest examples of the "garden cemetery", the precursor to our modern park system. Many of Fall River's prominent historical figures are buried in Oak Grove and the cemetery boasts an extraordinary array of Victorian funerary monuments

Actors in period costume will also be on-hand portraying various famous and infamous historical figures buried at Oak Grove.

Tickets for the event are \$10 (free for members). Annual membership is \$25. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the New Boston Bakery or by contacting us directly at (508) 642-9636 or via email at [friendsofoakgrove@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofoakgrove@yahoo.com).

Tickets may also be purchased at the door, however, advance ticket purchases are recommended.

Light hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served.

The Friends is a volunteer organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Oak Grove Cemetery. All proceeds will go toward the Friends' continued efforts to restore this historic cemetery.

### **Events: Connecticut Gravestone Network**

~~~~~

February 28, 1pm to 3pm - Free and open to the public.

Connecticut Gravestone Network Open Forum: CT Cemetery Laws; Problems & Situations Discussed

Ruthie Brown, Executive Director of the Connecticut Gravestone Network, will start out with some examples of abused cemeteries, followed by State Archaeologist, Dr. Nick Bellantoni, who will give a short talk on unmarked burials. These will be followed by an open discussion of specific problems and situations from members trying to resolve them.

April 4, 9am to 4pm - Admission: \$10, at the door.

Connecticut Gravestone Network Annual Spring Symposium

Exhibits, vendors, Introduction for First Timers, lectures on: The Huntington Tomb Restoration, Yantic Cemetery, A Cemetery Restoration Project in New York, stone carving demonstration, buffet lunch and more.

Both events will be held at South End Senior Center, 70 Canterbury St., East Hartford, CT, located just off of route 2 at the Glastonbury line.

Contact Ruthie Brown at shapbrown@cox.net for more info.

www.ctgravestones.com

National Preservation Institute Cemetery Seminars

~~~~~

The National Preservation Institute, a nonprofit organization founded in 1980, educates those involved in the management, preservation, and stewardship of our cultural heritage. The 2008 National Preservation Institute seminar schedule is now available online at [www.npi.org](http://www.npi.org).

**Cemetery Preservation**, September 15-16, 2009, South Bend, Indiana.

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.

This seminar is being held in conjunction with:

**Cemetery Landscapes: A Practical Guide to Care and Maintenance**, September 17, 2009, South Bend, Indiana.

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.

Agendas for these seminars, registration forms, and details are available at [www.npi.org](http://www.npi.org).

Note: These and other seminars are available as customized, on-site training. Please contact NPI at

(703) 765-0100 or info@npi.org if you are interested in one of these seminars. Once there is a sufficient prospectives list, the seminar will be scheduled and potential attendees contacted so that they can formally register.

**Article: *Veterans cemetery becomes hot topic for Fairbanks legislators***

-----

[This article](#), posted on newsminer.com, is about a bill that would create a state veterans cemetery in Fairbanks.

**Article: *NAACP to lead protest over grave relocation***

-----

[This article](#) is posted on Clayton (Georgia) Daily News Online.

**Obituary: Mira Graves**

-----

We are sorry to announce the October 28, 2008 passing of longtime AGS member Mira Graves of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Mira attended many AGS conferences, and often told of her work with school children at their local cemetery.

**Contact Information**

-----

[info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org), (413) 772-0836

-----