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## Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

Issue #57

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### 2008 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting



**2008 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting**  
**June 17-22, 2008**  
**Hampshire College Amherst, Massachusetts**

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

2008 Conference Logo-

Detail from headstone of  
Jonathan Ingram,  
Amherst, Massachusetts

We are looking forward to another successful conference in 2008, co-chaired by Fred Oakley and Bob Drinkwater. This, our thirty-first conference, will be held at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, a college town located in the heart of the Pioneer Valley region of western Massachusetts. Hampshire College has a compact campus, located on 800 pastoral acres. It is part of the Five College Consortium, which includes Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, Amherst College, and the Amherst campus of the University of Massachusetts. All of these campuses, which are within a half hour's drive of each other, participate in a program known as Museums 10. This is a partnership of seven college museums and three unique local museums, two of which, the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art and the National Yiddish Book Center, are located on the Hampshire College campus. So, for an excellent academic setting, in a picturesque rural landscape, with easy access to quintessential New England cemeteries, please plan to join us in Amherst this June.

For a virtual tour of the Hampshire College campus and environs, please click on [www.hampshire.edu](http://www.hampshire.edu).

As usual, AGS will offer on-campus lodging and meals, lecture sessions and other events at college facilities. For a guide to other local attractions, and a list of off-campus lodging options, click on [www.amherstarea.com](http://www.amherstarea.com). Note: if you plan to lodge off-campus, PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY--the Amherst area is a very popular destination!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Alan Swedlund, Professor emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst--author of the forthcoming book, *Shadow in the Valley: A Cultural History of Illness, Death and Loss in New England, 1840-1916*, to be published by the University of Massachusetts Press.

Here is a preview of the Conference Schedule:

Wednesday, June 18th: PRE-CONFERENCE TOUR. We will visit cemeteries in Deerfield, Northfield and Bernardston, Massachusetts, and there, view the work of 18th- and early 19th-century slate cutters, including Solomon Ashley and John Locke of Deerfield, Jonathan Allen and the Chapin family of Bernardston, and Ebenezer Janes of Northfield. While in Deerfield, conferees will have an opportunity to visit the Memorial Hall Museum (for a glimpse of the museum, click on: <http://www.old-deerfield.org/museum.htm>), and/or sample some of the other attractions at Historic Deerfield. Tour guides: Marie Ferre, Bob Drinkwater, et al.

Thursday, June 19th: WORKSHOPS (Conservation, Photography, Rubbing and Foil Impressions), KEYNOTE ADDRESS, LECTURES and LATE NIGHT SESSION

Friday, June 20: BUS TOURS (choose one of the following three), LECTURES and LATE NIGHT SESSION

EAST SIDE TOUR: 18th- and 19th-century cemeteries along the east side of the Connecticut River--Old Hadley Cemetery in Hadley, Evergreen Cemetery and the Old South Hadley Burying Ground in South Hadley and the Springfield Cemetery in Springfield, Massachusetts. Tour guides: tba

WEST SIDE TOUR: 18th- and 19th-century cemeteries along the west side of the

Connecticut River, including Bridge Street Cemetery and St. Mary's Cemetery in Northampton, Park Street Cemetery in West Springfield, and Elmwood or Forestdale Cemetery in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Tour guides: Bob Drinkwater, Cynthia Toolin and Rusty Clark.

(For a virtual tour of Bridge Street Cemetery, click on:  
[www.historic-northampton.org/601081/601506/601507](http://www.historic-northampton.org/601081/601506/601507)

QUABBIN TOUR: 18th/19th-century cemeteries in the area surrounding Quabbin Reservoir--New Salem, Templeton and Petersham, and Quabbin Park Cemetery in Ware (in the 1930s, during the construction of Quabbin Reservoir, thousands of burials, gravemarkers and monuments were moved to Quabbin Park). Tour guides: Tom and Brenda Malloy.

Saturday, June 21st: PARTICIPATION SESSIONS, AWARDS BANQUET and ANNUAL MEETING, LECTURES and LATE NIGHT SESSION

Sunday, June 22nd: LECTURES, Lunch and fare-thee-well 'til next year!

Additional information on the conference will appear here, in the *e-Newsletter*, and on the AGS website ([www.gravestonestudies.org](http://www.gravestonestudies.org)) during the next several months. The conference registration form is now available on-line. A print version of the registration form will be included in the next issue of the AGS *Quarterly*.

#### CALL FOR PAPERS

Proposals are solicited for scholarly papers, twenty minutes in length, to be presented during the lecture sessions. We encourage papers on gravestone subjects from around the world as well as specific to the New England region. Presenters are encouraged to incorporate visual images in their paper through the use of slides or power point (the type of visual presentation should be stated).

#### CALL FOR PARTICIPATION SESSIONS

As part of the Association for Gravestone Studies Conference, we host fifty minute "Participation Sessions," programs conducted in a workshop format where cemetery scholars, preservationists and educators can exchange ideas. These programs are ideal for panels and we recommend including others in your presentation. All Participation Sessions proposals should allow time for questions and audience discussion.

Please send all proposals to: The Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS)  
278 Main St., Suite 207  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
[info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org)

All lecture and participation session proposals should include the paper or session title and a 250 word description of the topic, which focuses on its value to the audience. A brief biography of the presenter should also be included. Presenters are required to register for the conference. All proposals must be received by the close of business on **Friday, March 28, 2008**.

#### 2008 AGS Conference Scholarships for Students

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Three \$250 student scholarships are available for the Thirty-first AGS Conference at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. These are the:

Gary Collison Memorial Scholarship

James Toolin Memorial Scholarship  
Barbara Rotundo Memorial Scholarship

Priority will be given to individuals who are presenting papers, leading participation sessions, or taking part in the Conservation Workshop. Applications are available on [the AGS website](#) and are due by **March 28**.

### Call For Oakley and Forbes Award Nominations

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Seeking proposals for the 2008 Oakley and Forbes Awards. Deadline for Nomination Applications is **April 1, 2008**. Awards will be presented at the AGS Annual Conference which will be held June 17-22 at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts.

#### 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 Association.

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

#### At the AGS Office

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The AGS Executive Committee has appointed Ann Myles, who has been staffing our office for the past four months, as the AGS Administrator. Her office hours will now be 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Tuesday through Friday and her duties will now include all administrative responsibilities of the Association. Also, Andrea Carlin has been appointed as the Publications Coordinator and she will be staffing the office on Saturday from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Her responsibilities will now include production of the *Quarterly*, the *E-Newsletter*, the various AGS brochures, and she will provide support for the *Markers'* editor.

#### Query: Servants' Cemeteries

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AGS Member Helen Sclair called the AGS office with this query. She is working on a study of three servants' cemeteries in the Chicago area. One is an African-American Cemetery founded in 1932. The other two are Irish Catholic cemeteries from earlier periods.

She is curious to know whether other people have information on servants' cemeteries

in their areas. Please contact the AGS office at [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org) if you have any leads or information.

### Follow Up: Rapid Gravestone Deterioration

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In the November 2007 issue of the *e-Newsletter*, we posted the following query from Vincent Luti:



Headstone of Samuel Willis, 1778, West Bridgewater, Mass. Photographed in 1980.



The same stone, photographed in December 2005, 25 years later! For comment by an expert: After 200 years, how could a stone deteriorate so rapidly in only 27 years?

We received responses from six AGS members. For their comments and follow-up responses from Mr. Luti [please click here](#) (the document is a PDF file).

**Article: Veteran's Day Ceremony at Quinette Cemetery, Kirkwood, Missouri**

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 AGS Member Keith Rawlings sent in the attached article, reprinted from the not-for-profit group, Youth in Action's Newsletter. It is about the 2007 Veteran's Day ceremony at Quinette Cemetery in Kirkwood, Missouri.

[Quinette Cemetery: Preserving the Past for the Future.](#)

**Article: Cemetery Protection in Texas**

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 The [attached article](#) was published in the *Forum News* of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Jan/Feb 2008, Volume XIV, No. 3. It was written by AGS member Gerron Hite.

**Article: "Skeletons in the Cul-de-Sac"**

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 This article, posted in Columbia, South Carolina's [Freetimes.com](#), is about a neglected cemetery in Coldstream, South Carolina. AGS Member Mike Trinkley, of the Chicora Foundation was interviewed in the article.

**Article: "Traditional Epitaphs Rest in Peace"**

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This article, posted on [reuters.com](http://reuters.com), is about the book "The Final Word: The Book of Canadian Epitaphs," by AGS Member Nancy Millar.

**Article: Vandalism in Westlawn Cemetery, Norridge, Illinois**

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This article, posted on [cbs2chicago.com](http://cbs2chicago.com), is about anti-Semitic graffiti in the cemetery.

**Tour: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania****THE LOVE STORIES OF LAUREL HILL: A EULOGY TO VALENTINE**

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**Saturday, February 9th at 2:00 pm.** "The Love Stories of Laurel Hill," a walking tour of Laurel Hill Cemetery will honor the "spirit" of Valentines' Day. While many of the stories we'll hear may certainly warm our hearts, the rest of our appendages will be subject to the "stone-cold" of a cemetery winter. Please dress appropriately. Hot beverages will be provided at the start of the program; red wine and sultry bites will warm your flesh afterwards.

The program cost is \$25 per person. As space is limited, advance reservations are requested. Please call (215) 228-8200, or email [tours@thelaurehillcemetery.org](mailto:tours@thelaurehillcemetery.org),

Laurel Hill Cemetery: The Underground Museum is located at 3822 Ridge Avenue in Philadelphia. For more information visit [www.theundergroundmuseum.org](http://www.theundergroundmuseum.org).

**Event: Grove Street Cemetery, New Haven, Connecticut**

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The premier showing of the documentary, *Grove Street Cemetery: City of the Dead, City of the Living*, will be held on February 1, 2008, at 4:30 PM at Yale University's Whitney Humanities Center. The film is produced and directed by five-time Emmy Award winning film maker Karyl K. Evans, who will introduce the program. The documentary will be available for purchase on DVD.

For reservations please call (203) 230-9858.

<http://www.grovestreetcemetery.org/>

**Contact Information**

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