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# Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

**Issue 27**  
**July 2005**

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**From the Office**

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**Markers XXII** was mailed out to the membership in June. If you haven't received your copy please let Andrea know at [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org). The issue contains an article by Vincent Luti entitled "Eighteenth-Century Gravestone Carvers of The Upper Narragansett Basin: George Allen." A complete list of Allen gravestones used for this study had to be omitted from *Markers* due to space limitations, but the list is available at the AGS office and can be emailed or sent as a hard copy. Please email Andrea at the address above if you'd like a copy.

We also have corrections to a few of the photo captions in the Allen article. They are:

- Page 117, Fig. 6: Nathaniel Read's stone is in Newman Cemetery, East Providence, Rhode Island.
- Page 137, Fig. 28: Sarah Lawton's stone is in Little Neck Cemetery, East Providence, Rhode Island.
- Page 145, Fig. 37: Israel Bullock's stone is in Little Neck Cemetery, East Providence Rhode Island.

**New items for sale:** We have many new items for sale on the AGS website. In the gift shop section, 2006 Cemetery Art calendars are now available. Also, we now have a beautiful pine green AGS sweatshirt, and new t-shirts (including a long sleeve style). In the book section we now carry Deborah Trask's book, *Life How Short, Eternity How Long: Gravestone Carving and Carvers in Nova Scotia*. For photos, details, and ordering information, please check out the [AGS store](#).

**2005 Conference Notes:** We need photos and short reports about the 2005 conference for this year's conference section in the Fall *Quarterly*. We'd appreciate anything you'd like to contribute. Please forward information to the AGS office. Thanks for your help!

At the conference we showed the documentary "Prairie Crosses, Prairie Voices: Iron Crosses of the Great Plains" produced by Prairie Public TV, Fargo. The researcher, scriptwriter, and narrator is Dr. Timothy Kloberdanz (an AGS member). The documentary is available for sale as a VHS or DVD from the North Dakota State Libraries. For more information about the documentary and ordering info, please visit the [NDSU libraries website](#).  
[AGS Website](#)

**Article: "Mausoleum faces its own mortality"**

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Cristine DeMarco gave a late night presentation about this mausoleum at the 2004 Danbury conference. You have to register with *the Providence Journal* to read it, but registration is free.

[Providence Journal](#)

**Missing Statue in Omaha, Nebraska**

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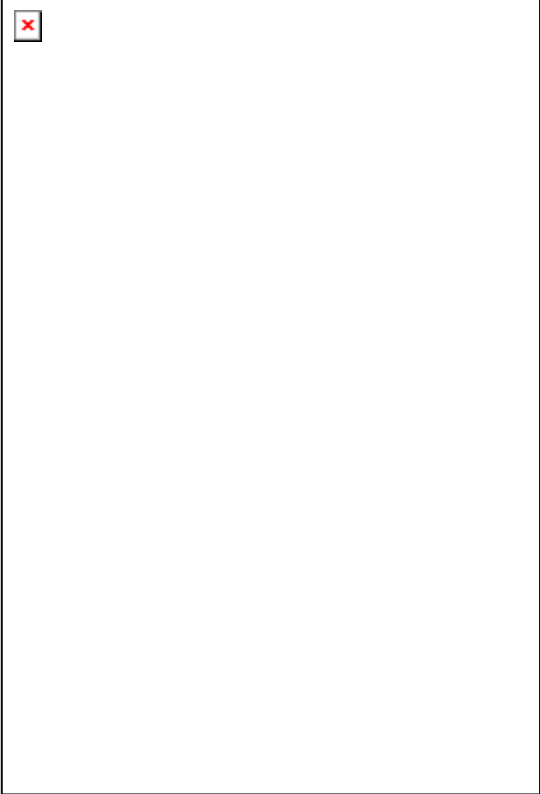
*From Kristin Sutherlin, President Board of Trustees Prospect Hill Cemetery:*

The statue of a soldier atop the Spanish-American monument was recently discovered to be missing from Prospect Hill Cemetery in Omaha. The pedestal was unharmed except for the top-most part, which had fallen to the ground – one corner was chipped, and one of the markers for the soldiers buried next to the monument was damaged or knocked over. Left on the ground nearby were a cable and one work glove. It's been quite dry lately so there were no tire track "prints" or other evidence. The police have been notified and there has been coverage in the local media.

We're hoping a local fraternity or such has done this as a prank, but we fear it's more serious. It seems unlikely that the statue would be melted down for the metal value – seems like it would be easier to just steal copper wire from construction sites. We've contacted eBay and will contact Antique Weekly. Local contacts here are alerting the military historian networks/grapevines, and I'm going to do some research and see if there's an international or national database for antique salvage items. I'd appreciate it if you can provide any advice or suggest any contacts we could make. Kristin's email address is: [klsutherlin@cox.net](mailto:klsutherlin@cox.net).

[Prospect Hill Cemetery](#)

**London Gravemarkers**



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John Martine was recently in London, and wants to share this item of interest. He says: "While going through cemeteries there I noticed that some had addresses on them. They seem to be the addresses of the deceased. Has anyone seen this before? I don't recall seeing this in the U.S., and does anyone have any comments about why this was done? The photo attached is from Kensal Green. I also noticed this in Brompton and West Norwood cemeteries. John's email address is: johnmartine63@yahoo.com.

**Seeking Living Children and Grandchildren of Former Slaves**

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*From Sandra Arnold, American Slave Burial Project:*  
The response for assistance with The American Slave Burial Project has been overwhelming. Your emails, referrals and input have been more than helpful and for that I am extremely grateful. Please continue to contact me or forward any information that you feel might be of interest to us.  
I also want to put out another request. I am currently working on another project with living children and grandchildren of slaves. Incredibly, I have located a number of both. (Obviously, more grandchildren than children) A book is currently being written and published entitled *Living Testimonies*. It will be a book of portraits of living children and grandchildren of slaves and their stories.  
If you know of any living children or grandchildren of slaves that might want to participate or be included in this project, please contact me or forward my information to anyone that expresses an interest.  
Sincerely, Sandra Arnold, American Slave Burial Project, One Rockefeller Plaza, Concourse Level, #207, New York, NY 10020. Tel: (212) 694-7901, Email: info@slaveburialproject.org or sarnold@fordham.edu.  
[American Slave Burial Project](#)

**Workshop: October 14-15, 2005, Selma, Alabama**

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**4th Annual Cemetery Preservation Workshop Friday & Saturday October 14-15, 2005 Selma, Alabama.** The Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance, Inc., The Alabama Historical Commission and the Montgomery Genealogical Society, Inc., are once again joining hands for a 4th Annual Cemetery Preservation Workshop. This is in response to the continuing need for the public to come together with genealogical, historical and preservation groups in "A Call to Action" to help preserve our Alabama cemeteries.

Cemeteries throughout Alabama continue to face problems such as theft, vandalism, maintenance issues and marker deterioration, and more. Our Cemetery Preservation Workshop, conducted by nationally known experts, is designed to teach those interested in how to preserve family and community cemeteries, ways to protect against cemetery theft and vandalism, proper planning and maintenance techniques and legal issues, that continue to confront us. Educational sessions, a hands-on workshop and optional tours highlight the two-day seminar.

All education sessions on Friday will be held at the Striplin Performing Arts Center. The Center is located at 1000 Selma, Alabama, in downtown Selma, directly off of Broad Street. On Saturday, the Alabama Historical Commission has offered one of its properties, the Old Cahawba Archeological Park, as the location of the hands-on portion of the workshop. You will gather at an historic cemetery in Old Cahawba and experience practical demonstrations of cemetery preservation and conservation techniques.

Full Workshop and Single Day Registration is available. Register before September 1, 2005 and receive an Early Bird Registration Rate. Please visit the ACPA web site for preservation, membership information and downloadable workshop registration forms: <http://alabama-cemetery-preservation.com>. For More Information Contact: Lisa A. Baggett at [lisabaggett@mindspring.com](mailto:lisabaggett@mindspring.com) Or 205-814-1215

[Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance](#)

### **Article: "African-American Graves Might Be Destroyed"**

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The link below is to an article from WLTX-TV in Columbia, South Carolina. AGS member organization the Chicora Foundation is quoted in the article.

[WLTX-TV](#)

### **Note: Fraternal Symbolism**

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This question was recently emailed to the AGS office. Laurel Gabel was able to provide the answer.

**Question:** While doing some genealogy research I came across an article published in 1979 about the River Folk of San Saba, Texas. Well as it turns out Elizabeth Miller is a distant relative. She died in 1876 and is buried in Voca, Texas. I have a picture of her headstone and have been unable to figure out the lettering inscribed on it. There are two sets of letters the first reads as follows: N D O S B T K C F and the second is: A M Y R. Can you help me with this? --Aaron Savory, Tucson, AZ.

**Answer:** From a short piece I wrote for AGS Newsletter (16:4) Fall, 1992, pg. 4. I extracted the following: The emblem and letters FNDOZBTKC:AMRY represent a little known Masonic degree called Mason's Daughter. Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia (Henry Wilson Coil. New York, 1961; 11-13) states that the Mason's Daughter was a popular order in the mid 19th century, but probably originated much earlier. Once separate from the Mason's Wife, at some point (no one seems to know when or where) the two orders united. Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry (Albert G. Mackey. New York, 1916; 473) explains Mason's Wife and Daughter as "a degree frequently conferred in the United States on the wives, daughters, sisters, and mothers of Masons, to secure to them, by investing them with peculiar mode of recognition, the aid and assistance of the Fraternity... [The Mason's Wife and Daughter] had certain modes of recognition and a signet bearing the letters AMRY (Mary) encircled by the letters FNDOZBTKC." But nowhere was there an explanation for FNDOZBTKC. According to Coil, the order of Mason's Daughter was founded in the legend connecting Mary, sister of Lazarus, with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. I turned to the Bible and the Gospel according to St. John in search of additional clues. In John 12:15, I finally found the following: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, thy King cometh." . --Laurel K. Gabel

You can read the entire article from the 1992 AGS Newsletter by clicking on the link below. It is a PDF file.

[FNDOZBTKC:AMRY Article](#)

### **August Tours: Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston, MA**

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- **August 14**, 5 p.m. "Victorian Sculpture Tours" with Elise Ciregna. Admission \$8.
- **August 21**, 5 p.m. "Contemporary Art Tours." Admission: Free.
- **August 28**, 2 p.m. "Stories Behind the Stones" history tour with Al Maze. Admission: \$8.

[Forest Hills Educational Trust](#)

**August Tour: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA**

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**August 14**, 2 p.m. "Philadelphia's Industrial Magnates at Laurel Hill."

[Laurel Hill Cemetery](#)

**August Tour: Historic Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse, NY**

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**August 28**, 2 p.m. "America's Civil War." Attired in a Northern Civil War uniform, Drew Ellis, a Civil War re-enactor, will look at the ways in which the outcome of the Civil War affected the development of the United States. For more information, please call Letty Murray at (315) 445-9388.

**August Tour: Albany Rural Cemetery, Albany, NY**

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**August 4**, 11 a.m. "Albany Rural Cemetery: A Guided Tour for Kids and their Families." Reservations are required. \$12 adults/\$10 seniors/\$6 children 6-12.

Guided tour aboard a horse-drawn carriage begins at the Chapel, Broadway cemetery entrance. Albany Rural Cemetery is an early example of the rural cemetery movement which began in the 1830's in response to a desire to improve civic life and the romantic notion that man could create a setting more ideal than nature itself. In contrast to flat and unadorned older cemeteries, rural cemeteries were developed in wooded locations and were comprised of rolling hills and pathways, streams, trees, fine sculpture and other pleasing qualities. Learn the story of Albany Rural Cemetery's development and experience the landscape of ponds, waterfalls, ravines, thousands of trees and the work of well-known artists and stonecarvers.

[Albany Rural Cemetery](#)

**Missing Fencing in Oakwood Cemetery, Austin, TX**

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*From AGS member Leslie Wolfenden:*

I just wanted to share our story that is ongoing at the moment regarding theft of cemetery fencing. We started a volunteer association called Save Austin's Cemeteries at the end of last year, so we are just getting our feet wet. The first cemetery we picked to thoroughly document to get a Master Plan in the works is Oakwood Cemetery. Oakwood Cemetery is the first city cemetery in Austin, Texas, founded in 1839. It is the final resting place for many prominent Austinites and Texans, over 23,000 on 40 acres. This spring, our president, Dale Flatt, noticed that some fencing was missing. Looking around, he noticed a lot was missing. He immediately called the police and the media. The news story can be read on our website under News (www.sachome.org). To make a long story short, the suspect was apprehended and is currently awaiting trial. Much of the fencing has been recovered and awaiting reinstallation. I think this is a precedent-setting case, at least in Texas, because so rarely do we catch the person and recover the stolen goods when it comes to cemetery items.

[Save Austin's Cemeteries](#)

**New AGS Member Announcement**

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New AGS member Sheralyn Barnes is a full-time artist whose paintings often feature cemeteries. She says that when she works in public, normally she gets interrupted a lot (and understandably so) by curious folks. The graveyard is so much more peaceful and conducive to the artistic process. To view more of her paintings, please check out the gallery's [website](#), Blue Moment Fine Arts. She welcomes comments or inquiries. Her artwork is available through her gallery as prints or originals. You can email her at [info@sheralynbarnes.com](mailto:info@sheralynbarnes.com), or call 888- 295-0450. The gallery

accepts visa/mastercard/discover credit cards.  
[Blue Moment Fine Arts](#)

**Websites to Check Out**

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 We have two websites featured in the Quick Links section at the end of this newsletter. The Wooster Cemetery in Danbury, Connecticut has a new website! The site includes information about the cemetery and the the Danbury Cemetery Association. Cluestones.com is working to build the world's largest on-line cemetery database for genealogists.

**Quick Links**

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- [Wooster Cemetery](#)
  - [Cluestones](#)

**Contact Information**

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 email: [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org)  
 phone: 413-772-0836  
 web: <http://www.gravestonestudies.org>  
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