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Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

Issue 39

July 2006

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From the AGS Office:

Please take a moment to check out the [AGS Website Store](#). We've added lots of new items, including the AGS 2007 Cemetery Art Calendar, an AGS static cling window decal, *Markers XXIII*, A CD version of *Markers XXI*, and lots of new books and t-shirts.

September 9th is Association for Gravestone Studies Day at the Woodlawn Cemetery

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 Members and Prospective members from the New York Region are invited to AGS Day at the Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx. On Saturday, September 9th there will be a special tour of the cemetery for AGS members and those interested in learning about the organization. The program begins at 1 pm with a picnic luncheon followed by a tour of some of Woodlawn's spectacular mausoleums and notable gravesites. Reservations are required: to make a reservation contact the Friends of the Woodlawn Cemetery office at (718) 920-1469 or email Friends@thewoodlawncemetery.org.

### **National Trust Preservation Conference 2006**

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 The National Trust Preservation Conference 2006: "Making Preservation Work!," will be held October 31-November 5 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In addition to many workshops and programs about preservation issues, they will be offering a bus/walking tour of Allegheny Cemetery on October 31st.

You can read the program and register online at the [National Trust Website](#).

Event: Salve Regina University Conference on Cultural and Historic Preservation

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 The 10th annual Salve Regina University Conference on Cultural and Historic Preservation: "Ritual Spaces and Places: Memory and Commemoration in 19th Century America," will be held September 14-16, 2006 in Newport, Rhode Island. This conference will focus on this intersection of memory and place as well as on the preservation of these places in the modern age.

Session programs include: Memorializing the Dead: From the Neoclassical to the Necropolis; Commemoration and Conflict: Remembering the Civil War; Construction Memory: Building the Spaces of Remembrance. There also will be a gallery opening entitled: "The STONE-CARVERS' Business:" Three Centuries of Craft Tradition at the John Stevens Shop at the University's gallery, and a tour of the John Stevens Shops. You can read the program and register online on [Salve Regina's website](#).

### **Events: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

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 Tour: Sunday, August 13 at 2 p.m. "The Age of Discovery: Explorers, Inventors and Scientists." The tour is \$15

Save the Date: The Friends of Laurel Hill will be holding the second annual Gravedigger's Ball, a black-tie dinner-dance benefit on Friday, October 6th, at 7 p.m. For information please call (215) 228-8200.

[Laurel Hill Cemetery](#)

Events: Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York

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**Sunday, August 27, 1:30 p.m.** - Free Event - The Green-Wood Historic Fund and United States Merchant Marine Academy sponsor the Annual Battle of Brooklyn Parade. Meet at the main gate for a parade to Battle Hill led by George M. Cohan's Own Regimental Band of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

**Sunday, August 27**, 2:00 p.m. - Free Event - Battle of Brooklyn Commemorative Ceremony honoring the Patriots who fought the first battle of our new nation on this sacred ground 230 years ago.

For information about any of the above events, call the Cemetery at (718) 768-7300.

### [The Green-Wood Cemetery](#)

#### **Tour: Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester, New York**

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Saturday, August 5th, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Civil War Tour with Marilyn Nolte. The Civil War as told against the backdrop of Mount Hope Cemetery, the burial place of many Civil War veterans. Focusing on local involvement, Marilyn Nolte will explore the role of Rochester's 108th NY Volunteer Infantry.

Meet at the North Gate House (opposite Robinson Drive). Free cookies and lemonade \$3.00/person, \$5.00/family, Members/free.

[Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery](#)

Tours: Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts

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- **Saturday, August 5, 2:00 p.m.** "Mount Auburn Cemetery: A National Historic Landmark." A walking tour.
- **Tuesday, August 8, 5:30 p.m.** "Summer Blooming Trees and Shrubs." A walking tour with David Barnett, Vice President of Operations & Horticulture, Mount Auburn.
- **Thursday, August 10, 5:30 p.m.** "Summer History Hike: The Garden Cemetery." A walking tour with Bree Harvey, Director of Public Programs, Mount Auburn.
- **Tuesday, August 23, 5:45 p.m. or Wednesday, August 24, 5:45 p.m.** "Mount Auburn's Nighthawks: A watch from Washington Tower" with birder Robert Stymeist. Preregistration (by Aug. 16) is required.

All events are \$5 for members of the Friends; \$10 for nonmembers. Meet at Entrance Gate, Mount Auburn Cemetery. For Updates: Upcoming programs (617) 607-1981, weather-related cancellations (617) 607-1983.

### [Mount Auburn Cemetery](#)

#### **Tours: Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston, Massachusetts**

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Sunday, August 13, 4 p.m. *Victorian Sculpture Tour*, in conjunction with Dwelling: Memory, Architecture and Place, the Forest Hills Educational Trust's 2006 outdoor exhibition of site specific contemporary art. Cultural historian Elise Ciregna leads a tour of sculpture by well known 19th century masters and vernacular monuments created by accomplished, but often anonymous, stone carvers. Admission \$8

Sunday, August 27, 2 p.m. *Stories Behind the Stones*. Al Maze tells the fascinating history of Forest Hills through the lives of the people buried here, both eminent and less well known. Admission \$8

For information: (617) 524-0128, ext. 22, or info@foresthilstrust.org.

[Forest Hills Educational Trust](#)

Tours: Old City Cemetery, Sacramento, California

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- **Saturday, August 5, 10 a.m.** History Tour: "Brewers and Ball Players." Guide: Fran Pendleton.
- **Saturday, August 5, 10 a.m.** History Tour: "The Medical Bag." Guides: Barbara Oliva and Dr. Bob LaPerriere.

For information: (916) 448-0811, [tours@oldcitycemetery.com](mailto:tours@oldcitycemetery.com).

[Old City Cemetery](#)

**Advanced Hands-On Cemetery Restoration Workshop: Hamilton County, Indiana**

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Assembling the Pieces of History: Advanced Hands-On Cemetery Restoration Workshop, Saturday, August 19; 9 a.m.–5 p.m. at the White Chapel Cemetery, Hamilton County, Indiana.

This full-day workshop will focus on advanced cemetery restoration techniques. Topics covered will include fixing simple breaks, resetting obelisks, determining the original location of a stone once it's been moved, and how to mix stone dust to fill in cracks. Most of the workshop will be spent in the cemetery, where participants will gain valuable hands-on experience repairing stones. Participants must have attended one of the Indiana Historical Society's Basic Cemetery Preservation workshops or have prior cemetery preservation experience.

Photos from previous workshops and a downloadable registration brochure are available at <http://www.indianahistory.org/lhs/workshops.html>. Contact Corrie E. Cook at (317) 233-8913 or ccook@indianahistory.org for more information. Sponsored by the Local History Services Department, Indiana Historical Society, and the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Workshop: Cape Girardeau, Missouri

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**September 29-30, 2006.** The Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, will sponsor a free two-day Cemetery Maintenance and Restoration Workshop in Cape Girardeau.

During the workshop, each participant will receive individual instruction and gain hands-on experience in cemetery conservation. Participants will have access to a specialist in cemetery restoration and will be able to ask for advice regarding specific preservation and restoration tasks. The workshop will be held regardless of weather, and all participants will be involved in the hands-on session.

For additional information, contact Division of Planning Services, 401 Independence St., Cape Girardeau, MO 63703, e-mail: [BSchloss@cityofcapegirardeau.org](mailto:BSchloss@cityofcapegirardeau.org).

**Query: Where to Buy a Rubbing of Shakespeare's Grave?**

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The AGS office received an email request from Scott Farmer. He asks: "Do any AGS members know of a source for rubbings of Shakespeare's Grave or a reproduction of a rubbing? I would like to obtain one as a gift for my mother." Please contact Scott at SangerCat@aol.com.


Query: Location of Kay Nielsen's Grave

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Jim Parris emailed the office with this request: "I'm trying to find the location of Kay Nielsen's grave (he was an animator for *Fantasia* and also a book illustrator). I believe it is in Southern California." Jim's email address is parrisjim@verizon.net.


### Query: Meaning of Symbolism on a Monument

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 This query comes from Janet Seapker: "This is a photo of what, at first glance, looks like a standard Celtic Cross dating from about 1901, but it is full of snakes and unidentified animals. I assume it was erected by his wife who survived him. It is in Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington, North Carolina. I am interested to know if anyone can identify the symbolism of the ornament." Please respond to Janet at jseapker@ec.rr.com.

Rubbing for Sale

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 Carolynn Santos would like to sell this rubbing for \$400 or best offer (It was appraised at this value). It is 5' 6" tall, and 3' wide. Also, she asked if anyone can tell her what it says as it's in Latin, and whose tomb it is. For information, please contact Carolynn at carolynn\_santos@hotmail.com.

*Note from the AGS office:* I have close up images of the top and bottom. Please email Andrea at info@gravestonestudies.org if you would like to look at them.

### New Newsletter: *The Down East Cemetery Newsletter*

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AGS Member Heather Davidson is starting *The Down East Cemetery Newsletter* for people in Nova Scotia and for people who are interested in Nova Scotia cemeteries.

WHAT IS IT?

This is for cemetery researchers, sight seers and caretakers to share concerns and information.

WHY IS IT STARTING?

We have some interesting gravestones here at the Riverbank Cemetery which I would like to tell other people about. You can share information about gravestones too. I am also the caretaker of the Riverbank Cemetery in Hantsport. We are drawing up new bylaws with references to plastic flowers, the planting of trees at graves. What is your experience? What are your ideas?

WHAT WILL THE NEWSLETTER CONTAIN?

1. Themes of interest to subscribers. The first newsletter will contain an article about Civil War gravestones. I will include information and a photo of one here in Hantsport. Can you contribute similar information?
2. Events. We can advertise cemetery tours.
3. Queries.
4. Titles of books of interest.
5. Names of other newsletters in Canada and abroad.
6. Pet cemeteries.
7. Cemetery humour.

WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES OR PHOTOS?

Everyone.

HOW OFTEN WILL IT BE PUBLISHED?

December and June.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

\$10 CDA will buy one year's subscription.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Contact me: Heather Davidson, PO Box 91, Hantsport, NS B0P 1P0, Canada (902) 684-3876 or email: hhdavidson@ns.sympatico.ca.

New Publication: *Realms of History: The Cemeteries of Staten Island*

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The Staten Island Institute of Arts & Sciences is pleased to announce publication of the book *Realms of History: The Cemeteries of Staten Island*. Written by Curator of History Patricia M. Salmon, this volume focuses on local cemetery culture from a historical perspective, and builds on work previously done by three of Staten Island's foremost historians.

*Realms of History: The Cemeteries of Staten Island* focuses on a variety of cemetery related subjects including the burial grounds of Native Americans, Slaves, African-Americans, and immigrants, while also documenting homestead, sectarian, and nonsectarian graveyards. More than seventy-five burial grounds were discovered and researched. Emphasis is placed on their development, history, and sometimes even their abandonment. In addition, tombstones as folk art, cemeteries as nature preserves, and graveyard desecration are discussed. Over 300 pages long, the book includes almost 200 images. The publication is a valuable resource for genealogist's as it contains thousands of names from Staten Island's past.

The book can be purchased for \$25 plus tax by contacting [giftshop@statenismuseum.org](mailto:giftshop@statenismuseum.org) or by calling (718) 727-1135.

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

**New Publication: *Ghosts & Gravestones of Haworth***

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Ghosts & Gravestones of Haworth (United Kingdom) is a new book by Philip Lister. Lister, a tour guide in Haworth, takes you on a tour of Haworth's dark and ghostly side; meet the ghost of room 7 at the Old White Lion, the Grey Lady of the Weavers Restaurant, and Ponden Hall's harbinger of doom, Old Greybeard. Tour the famous graveyard, in use for over 700 years, and believed to house almost 40,000 souls - and don't miss the Graveyard Cookbook a veritable feast of ghoulish delights. The book contains previously unpublished material, with over 90 original photographs and graveyard maps.

It is £7.64 (GBP) and is available from the publisher, [Tempus Publishing](#). More information about the book is available on Lister's website: www.bronteguide.com.

AGS Member Announcement

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From The Evergreens Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York:  
A beautiful, historic rural cemetery, the Evergreens Cemetery, in Brooklyn, New York, invites AGS members and their friends to visit, tour, and study. Founded in 1849 with Andrew Jackson Downing and Alexander Jackson Davis as landscaper and architect, this 225-acre, non-sectarian cemetery of 522,000 graves takes its history and preservation

seriously and is reaching out to historians, genealogists, and the general public. There are scheduled tours, a book is in the works, and the grounds are regularly cited for their key role in the Revolutionary War Battle of Brooklyn. Located on the Brooklyn-Queens border, the Evergreens is reached in less than an hour from Manhattan by car or by subway (take the A train to Broadway Junction or the L train to Aberdeen Street). The tour schedule is on [www.theevergreenscemetery.com/](http://www.theevergreenscemetery.com/). Special tours can be arranged. Contact Anthony Salamone at (718) 455-5300 or historian John Rousmaniere at [jrousmani@aol.com](mailto:jrousmani@aol.com).

### **Public Advisory from Arlington National Cemetery**

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Arlington National Cemetery is considering various alternatives for correcting the Tomb of the Unknowns Monument's cracking problem. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, Federal agencies are required to inform the public of an undertaking and to provide members of the public the opportunity to express their views, to be considered in the decision-making process. They are also seeking to identify organizations and individuals who are concerned with the potential effects of the project on historic properties.

[Please click here](#) to read the entire press release. It is a PDF file.

[Arlington Cemetery Website](#)

AGS Member Graveyard Blog

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Please take a moment to check out Mary Blauss's blog (linked below). It's called "Of Graveyards and Things." She writes: "I write a blog about the cemeteries I visit through my genealogical research in New England, and especially enjoy seeking out forgotten small family plots."

[Of Graveyards and Things](#)

### **Article: The city of Trois-Rivières, Quebec Commemorates Jewish Burial Grounds**

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The article, linked below, is to *The Canadian Jewish News*.

[The Canadian Jewish News](#)

Article: Tornado Damages Cemetery in Mount Pleasant, New York

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The article, linked below, is to the Lower Hudson Online *Journal News*.

[Lower Hudson Online Journal News](#)

### **Article: Crowded London Cemetery Leases Old Graves**

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The article, linked below, is to *United Press International*.

[United Press International](#)

Article: Pioneer Headstones Missing in Northern Idaho

~~~~~

The article, linked below, is to [OregonLive.com](http://OregonLive.com).

[OregonLive.com](http://OregonLive.com)

**Article: "Taking a Graveyard Tour," Labrador, Canada**

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The article, linked below, is to *The Labradorian*.

[The Labradorian](#)

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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