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Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

Issue 38

June 2006

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From the AGS Office:

This year's conference was a great success! The conference program book is available on the AGS website [as a PDF file](#). The photo below is from the conservation workshop held at the conference. Participants are preparing to reset a stone in a pre-cast concrete

base. The photo was taken by Nancy Adgent.



SALE--For A Limited Time Only:

During the month of July, buy Charles Wells' *Boston's Copp's Hill Burying Ground and Preachers, Patriots, & Plain Folks* and receive \$5 off your total purchase. For details and ordering information, please visit the [AGS bookstore](#).

Reminder: AGS Spring Cemetery Tour

The AGS Spring Cemetery Tour will be July 8th, 2006.

10:30 a.m. to noon -- Kevin Sweeney will lead us on a tour of the Old Burying Ground on Albany Road in Deerfield. Kevin is a professor of History and American Studies at

Amherst College. His study of Connecticut Valley gravestones and stonecutters appeared in *MARKERS III*.

1:30 to 3:00 p.m. -- Peter Miller, Greenfield's recently appointed town historian, will accompany us on a tour of Green River Cemetery, a small rural cemetery established in 1851. We may also visit the Old Calvary Cemetery, located next to Green River, where many of the area's first Irish-American settlers are buried.

For directions and more details, call or email the AGS office. This event is free and open to the public.

Tours of Historic Stroudwater Burying Ground, Portland, Maine

Gravestone Art and Science

Gravestone art was the first visual art form practiced by the Puritan founders of New England. Although Stroudwater Burying Ground does not include any gravestones that old, there are many fine examples of mid-eighteenth-century gravestones.

Where did the stones come from? What kinds of stones were used? How were they quarried? What about acid rain? Who carved the images and epitaphs? What do they mean? All these topics will be explored and illustrated by gravestones in Stroudwater Burying Ground.

Tours will take place at 2:00 PM on Sunday, July 23, Aug. 27, and Sept. 24. (October's tours will be at night and include cloaked specters. That schedule will be published in September.)

Tour gathers at the Burying Ground on Westbrook Street, near the intersection with Congress. On-street parking is available.

Adults: \$5.00, Under 16: \$1.00.

For more information contact: Tate House Museum Office at (207) 774-6177 or Elizabeth Oatley at (207) 892-8812.

Tour: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1876: The Centennial and Laurel Hill. Sunday, July 9 at 2:00 p.m. Cost: \$15.

For information contact (215) 228-8200, or email tours@thelaurelhillcemetery.org.

[Laurel Hill Cemetery](#)

Tours: Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts

- July 1 at 2 p.m. "Mount Auburn Cemetery: A National Historic Landmark"-A walking tour with Bree Harvey, Director of Public Programs. FREE.
- July 8, at 10 a.m. "Rediscovering Childhood through Children's Literature: A walking tour for families with Jill Graboski, Children's Librarian, Cambridge Public Library. FREE.
- July 11, at 8 a.m. "Birds, Botany and Butterflies." FREE
- July 22, at 1 p.m. "Understanding Cremation" A presentation by Walter J. Morrison, Crematory Manager, Mount Auburn. FREE

For more information call (617) 607-1981.

[Mount Auburn Cemetery](#)

Symposium: "Death & Loss in America: Colonial Era to the Present"

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The Museum of Funeral Customs, Springfield, Illinois, will host "Death & Loss in America: Colonial Era to the Present," a special symposium addressing scholarly research in the subjects of death, funeral customs, interment, grief, and mourning in North America from the Colonial Period to the present. Held at Springfield's Crowne Plaza Hotel, October 19-21, 2006, the conference brings together representatives from a broad spectrum of disciplines, including funeral service professionals, museum professionals, academic historians, sociologists, psychologists, archaeologists, anthropologists, cemeterians, theologians, and graduate students, to examine the subject broadly, share current research, discuss common interests, promote networking, and disseminate material.

The Symposium includes several concurrent sessions of paper presentations over the three-day format, an Open House Reception at the Museum of Funeral Customs on Thursday evening, and a Friday evening banquet with independent author Christine Quigley delivering the keynote address, "The Body as Memento Mori." Additionally, licensed Illinois funeral directors can earn up to 13 hours of continuing education credits towards their license renewal throughout the Symposium. The registration fee for attending all three days is \$100 if registering by October 1st (\$150 if after the early-bird deadline), individual day registration is at \$50 per day (\$75 per day after October 1), and \$30 (\$55 after October 1) for a student registration with a copy of a valid student ID. Inquiries about the Symposium and registration can be made by phone at (217) 544-3480, or by e-mail at [funeralmuseum@ifda.org](mailto:funeralmuseum@ifda.org).

The Museum of Funeral Customs seeks to educate the public on the history of American funerary and mourning practices through collecting, preserving, and interpreting a collection of three-dimensional objects, photographs, books, and other archival material. For more information, visit the Museum's web site at [www.FuneralMuseum.org](http://www.FuneralMuseum.org).

### **Query: Has Anyone Seen This Type of Fountain?**



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This question comes from Dana Adams. She writes: "Our garden club is a member of your association. We have been involved about 5 years now with our downtown cemetery, Cedar Hill Cemetery, Suffolk, Virginia (c. 1802). One of our projects is to restore the old fountain (picture attached) , but we have not been able to find any information about it. Our consultant thinks it is late 1800's or early 1900's. It most likely was a 'watering' fountain, used for watering plants and work animals. It apparently worked with a foot pedal to pump the water to the basin, made of marble. The bigger brick basin that is covered in concrete at ground level seems to have held rainwater for use by horses or mules. The city, in the 1960's, sealed it off, probably because of a mosquito problem. Our question is whether anyone has seen anything like this fountain."

Please email Dana at: DAdams1597@aol.com.

Query: Do AGS Members Know of Any Cemetery Classes?

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An AGS member emailed the office asking if anyone knows of any courses taught at universities that focus on cemeteries. We know of a class at the University of Rochester, one taught by Ian Brown at the University of Alabama, and a class taught by Bob Drinkwater at Greenfield Community College in Massachusetts. Does anyone know of others? Please email Andrea at [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org).

### Query: Rural Cemeteries in the United Kingdom

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 Jim Freeman recently called the office to ask about rural cemeteries in the United Kingdom. Does anyone know of examples of rural garden cemeteries outside of London, and if so, where are they, and what are their features? Please email Jim at jfreeman@english.umass.edu

New Publication: New England Graveyards: A Photographic Portrait

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 The AGS office recently received information about a new publication. *New England Graveyards: A Photographic Portrait*, by Erin Paul Donovan. It focuses on New England's scenic historical graveyards with special focus on New Hampshire. This beautifully illustrated book, in full color, shows a side of graveyards that is often overlooked. It features stunning images by Donovan, a professional photographer. These thought provoking images will change the way you view graveyards. A "must have" book for historians, genealogists and graveyard lovers.

For ordering information, please visit [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com).

### AGS Member Website

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 AGS Member Midge Frazel's website focuses on professional development resources for educators. [This page of her site is devoted to cemeteries](#). There are links to sites that have lesson plans using cemeteries as a classroom, and other reference links.

AGS Member Website

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 In the April edition of the e-newsletter, we featured Valdosta Memorials' website. The site has been redesigned, and is much larger now--lots of new articles and information have been added. Included are photos, articles, symbols, and terminology. To visit the new site, [please click here](#).

### Article: Grave Goods Stolen From Cincinnati Cemeteries

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 The article, linked below, is from WCPO.com.

WCPO.com

Article: Couple has taken photos of more than 100,000 headstones in Wisconsin

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 The article, linked below, is to wbay.com.

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

### Article: Is grave-sharing the answer to overcrowded cemeteries?-London, U.K.

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 The article, linked below, is to the *Times* online.

The Times Online

Websites to Check Out

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 We have two websites, recommended by AGS members, featured in the Quick Links

section at the end of this newsletter.

The first link is to Rochester, New York's Holy Sepulchre Cemetery's website.

The second link is to the website for the Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria (British Columbia). The Society is dedicated to researching, preserving and encouraging the appreciation of Victoria's Heritage Cemeteries.

**Quick Links**

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- [Holy Sepulchre Cemetery](#)
- [Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria](#)

**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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