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Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

Issue #74
June 2009

AGS Membership

We invite everyone 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*
- 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.

Earn a Free Membership!

Any member of the AGS who brings in five new members at the Senior level or above within a 12-month period will be given a free membership renewal at the Individual level for one year (free year begins with your next renewal date). New members that you recruit must record your name in brackets after theirs on the membership application form.

2009 AGS Conference

Our 2009 conference and annual meeting in Schenectady, New York was a success! A full report will be featured in the Fall 2009 *Quarterly*.

Scenes from the 2009 Conference



Photo by Sue Lorraine



Photo by John O'Brien



Photos by John O'Brien

We hope you'll join us at our 2010 conference, to be held June 22-27 at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. It is located in Central Ohio, 27 miles east of Columbus. The campus is small, and the facilities are modern. Click on: http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http://www.denison.edu%2Fabout%2Ffor_visitors.html for more information.

There will be two days of tours: a pre-conference tour, and the usual day of bus tours. A Native American Indian mound will be included on the pre-conference tour. Other tours will focus on the following:

1. The old burial grounds in Fairfield and Licking counties, where visitors can view the detailed

carvings on gravestones by German stone carvers John Stricker and J.W. Jungkurth.

2. The Victorian garden cemeteries in Columbus, Ohio which contain many beautiful statues and mausoleums.



Our 2010 Conference Logo

from the gravestone of Mr. Byron Hayes who died March 6, 1836. It is located in Granville's Old Colony Burying Ground, established in 1805.

Markers XXVI Announcement

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*Markers XXVI* was intended to be in the mail by the time of the annual conference. However, the issue has been delayed and we are projecting a publication date in August or early September. It will be mailed to all current AGS members at that time. We apologize for any inconvenience.

**Seeking AGS Quarterly Submissions**

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Have you thought about submitting an article to the *Quarterly*? Why not now?

Some Guidelines:

- Images should be sharp high-definition prints or on CD
- We often must crop photos so they can appear vertically or horizontally. Please provide as much extra space around the item you're photographing as you can
- The suggested length for feature articles is about 2,500 words

Please e-mail or or snail mail submissions to the AGS office, c/o *Quarterly* Editor.

Thanks. See you in print.

Cemetery Databases: Follow up and Query

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In the May issue of the *e-Newsletter*, we asked the AGS membership to let us know about cemetery databases. We've received some information about online databases--thanks! We are

compiling these to make them available to AGS members.

We'll feature responses in upcoming *e-Newsletters*. This month, please check out this site submitted by Debbie Day:

I have created a website for a cemetery in Beallsville, Washington County, PA. It also contains information for other cemeteries in that area. The URL is [www.beallsvillecemetery.org](http://www.beallsvillecemetery.org).

**Query:**

Would AGS members also send information to the AGS office about the software you use to record gravestone inscriptions and map cemeteries?

For an example, please check out: <http://www.ovs-genealogy.com/software-cem-edit-cemetery-transcription-photo-searchable-database-creator.shtml>

Thanks very much. We will make this information available to all.

**Books for Sale From AGS Member**

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Brasses and Brass Rubbing, published in Britain and bountifully illustrated, discusses equipment and techniques as well as how to mount screenprint and photograph rubbings, hardcover, \$15.00.

Where are They Buried? Tod Benoit's 500+ pages of burial sites with brief bios for notables in various categories, hardcover, \$15.00.

Gardens and Graveyards of the Southeastern Seaboard: A Photographic Journey, Kenneth T. Jackson & Camilio Jose Vergara, softcover, \$15.00.

All prices include postage. Books (and dust covers, if any) in pristine condition. Downsizing library, disposing of hundreds of cemetery/gravestone books at reasonable prices. Contact by postcard if seeking some specific title: Sybil F. Crawford, 10320 Stone Canyon Road - #205, Dallas, TX75230-4833.

AGS Member Blog and Database

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This month we are featuring Dr. Lynn Rainville's blog. She writes: "I have a weekly gravestone blog which highlights symbols and motifs and funerary architecture within cemeteries:

<http://www.locohistory.org/Albemarle/gravematters.shtml>

I also have an on-line database of African American Cemeteries. I contribute new cemeteries

every month or so, but it isn't set up as a blog and it only covers cemeteries in central Virginia:

[http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/cem/.](http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/cem/)"

**AGS Member News: Gwynneth Anderson**

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AGS member Gwynneth Anderson has been awarded two grants to produce *Stones & Bones: A Photo-Documentary of King County's Historic Pioneer Cemeteries*. This project explores ongoing preservation efforts, human interest stories and interpretations of carvings found at those sites that helped shape the economic and cultural direction of the Pacific Northwest.

Come September, slide shows, in-depth articles on the profiled cemeteries and interview podcasts will be posted to the blog, [Beyond The Ghosts... A Cemetery Blog](#). For local area readers, there will be three public presentation slide shows planned.

Times, places and dates for these free talks will be announced on the blog at the beginning of September.

**AGS Member Website: Waterhouse Symbolism**

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Richard Waterhouse, an AGS Member, now has his "Waterhouse Symbolism" website up and running. The website includes introductory materials, contact information, a blog, links, back issues of the Waterhouse Symbolism Newsletter, Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery Symbolism Tour Information, and Photo Gallery. The website can be accessed on the AGS website under External Resources or [www.tinyurl.com/waterhousesymbolism](http://www.tinyurl.com/waterhousesymbolism).

**Webpage: Quebec Cemeteries at Risk**

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The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) is a non-profit, non-partisan umbrella organization whose mission is to help advance knowledge of the history and culture of English-speaking society in Quebec. A page of their website is devoted to Quebec cemeteries at risk.

The Winter 2009 issue of the AGS *Quarterly* featured an article, *Cemeteries in Quebec: Heritage at Risk*, by Matthew Farfan, heritage consultant and project leader of QAHN's Cemetery Heritage Inventory and Restoration Initiative.

<http://www.qahn.org/cemeteries.aspx>

**Green-Wood Restoration of Louis Moreau Gottschalk's Gravesite**

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This information comes from Joe Gissen. He writes: "After two centuries, Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, NY is as beautiful as it was at its founding. But such historic beauty is fragile, so since 1999, the Green-Wood Historic Fund's 'Saved In Time' program has been preserving and protecting this American landmark. Through the generosity of members and donors, the Fund has restored many monuments and preserved the stunning parkland in of one of New York City's premiere open spaces.

Now, we are excited to have begun the restoration of the gravesite of legendary American

composer and pianist Louis Moreau Gottschalk (1829-1869). The most ambitious part of this restoration is the re-creation of Gottschalk's 'Angel of Music,' a sculpture that once adorned the top of a marble pedestal.

In collaboration with the National Sculpture Society, we have solicited proposals from today's most accomplished figurative sculptors to create a new 'Angel of Music,' and we will select three finalists. To choose the sculptor who will receive the commission for this important work, we are establishing a Blue Ribbon Selection Committee.

With the generosity of donors and members, the non-profit Green-Wood Historic Fund is raising \$200,000 for the complete restoration of the monument and gravesite of Louis Moreau Gottschalk.

Sincerely,

Joseph Gissen,  
Phil & Company  
On behalf of the Green-Wood Cemetery Historic Fund"

<http://www.green-wood.com/>

### **International Preservation Trades Workshop**

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IPTW-ITES 2009

August 25-29, 2009, Leadville, Colorado

The 13th annual International Preservation Trades Workshop (IPTW) will be held by the Preservation Trades Network in partnership with the Colorado Mountain College Historic Preservation program. The 3rd International Trades Education Symposium (ITES) will be held in conjunction with IPTW 2009. These combined events will take place in the spectacular natural setting of the Rocky Mountains and will provide a unique opportunity for tradespeople, educators, preservationists, students and others from the US and abroad to exchange experiences, learn skills and find common ground in the application of the skilled trades to conservation of the built environment.

Workshops, "hands on" demonstrations of preservation techniques, and symposium sessions will take place in historic Leadville, Colorado and at the Hayden Ranch, an intact example of a high country ranch and agricultural operation which operated from 1872-1947.

For more information and to register, visit <http://www.iptw.org/iptw09-home.htm>.

### **Cemetery Preservation Workshop, Brookline, Massachusetts**

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The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) is holding a two-day workshop in Brookline, Massachusetts to introduce the basics of cemetery landscape preservation. The workshop will take place in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Town of Brookline Parks and Open Space Division at The Old Burying Ground in Brookline, Mass., July 29-30, 2009. Instruction will include both

lecture and hands-on demonstrations.

*JUNE UPDATE:* The workshop now includes a Mount Auburn Cemetery tour on July 31.

Founded in 1831, Mount Auburn Cemetery was the first large-scale designed landscape open to the public in the United States. As a premier example of the rural cemetery movement, the cemetery has been designated as a National Historic Landmark by the Department of the Interior, recognizing it as one of the country's most significant cultural landscapes.

Cemetery staff will lead workshop participants on a back-of-house preservation tour, focusing on challenges faced by Mount Auburn as stewards of a historic cemetery landscape comprised of a rich array of structures set intimately within magnificent horticulture.

To register, please visit the [NCPTT website](#).

**National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference**

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The National Trust for Historic Preservation will be holding their National Preservation Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, October 13-17, 2009.

Workshops being offered include:

- Challenges in Cemetery Restoration
- Humanities Grants: Interpret, Teach, Sustain Your Site
- Show Me the Money: Tapping Federal Funds for Historic Preservation
- Publishing Opportunities for Preservationists
- Help! We Need A Preservation Lawyer!
- Archeology and the National Register of Historic Places
- Resources for Preservation Commissions

Early Bird Registration: By registering before July 31, you can save up to \$175.

For more information and to register, visit <http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/npc/>

New Audio Cell Phone Tours at Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia

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Public Launch Party for Laurel Hill Cemetery's New Cell Phone Tour  
Friday, July 31st, 7:00 PM.

Help celebrate the launch of Laurel Hill's new audio Cell Phone Tour, while being among the first callers to hear it! Enjoy complimentary refreshments, and a rare opportunity to explore the cemetery grounds after-hours.

In addition to this new programming, view the recently installed introductory exhibit, developed to greet tour-takers. Your one-of-a-kind experience will be further aided by a specially designed map, brochure and signage.

Cost: FREE. Callers will incur NO costs, except the use of their minutes.

For additional information, visit [www.thelaurehillcemetery.org](http://www.thelaurehillcemetery.org).

**Open House: Mountain View Cemetery, Vancouver, British Columbia**

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In 1998 an extensive public process was initiated by the City of Vancouver to develop a Master Plan for the renewal of Vancouver's only cemetery. The first major projects of the plan have finally been completed, and for the first time in over 22 years, there are now new spaces available for interment at Mountain View. After 120 years, it's the beginning of a new relationship between the public and Mountain View Cemetery.

**There will be an Open House on July 11th, 11am - 3pm.**

Featuring:

- Live music in the courtyard
- Guided tours of the cemetery--leaving hourly starting at 11:30
- Take a stroll through the newly created columbaria and water features, and experience the spectacular view from the top of the cemetery
- Have a picnic by the fountain, and help start a new summer tradition at Mountain View Cemetery
- Claudette Martin, head of Education, Programs and Tours of the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Chinese Garden, will be on hand to discuss "The Feast of Hungry Ghosts", the traditional Chinese festival honoring ancestors.
- Demonstrations will include folding paper money (yuen bao) and burning various incense and offerings to appease restless spirits.

If some of your ancestors are buried at Mountain View, you can look them up the registry. Visit the beautiful new Celebration Hall and find out more about future plans and events at the cemetery.

[www.vancouver.ca/cemetery](http://www.vancouver.ca/cemetery)

**Article: Cemetery serves as silent sentinel of black history**

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This article is posted on [newsobserver.com](http://newsobserver.com). It is about Mount Hope Cemetery in Raleigh, North Carolina, which has just been listed on the the National Register of Historic Places.

**Article: Buried nearly forgotten at mental facility's site**

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This article, posted on Mississippi's [clarionledger.com](http://clarionledger.com), is about a a day of remembrance for the hundreds of thousands of mostly anonymous patients buried at state mental hospitals across the nation.

**Some Gravestone Humor: Newspaper Advertisement**

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**Contact Information**

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phone: 413-772-0836
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