
Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

Issue 23

March 2005

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Note from the AGS Office: The AGS Spring Cemetery Tour will be on June 4, 2005 in West Springfield, Massachusetts, co-hosted by Rusty Clark. More details will appear in the April e-newsletter.

AGS Cemetery Art Calendar: We're always interested in photos for the calendar. If you have high resolution, publication-quality images you would like us to consider, please mail or e-mail them to the AGS office. We can work from prints (preferably 5x7 or larger), negatives, slides and digital scans. Any color images received and selected for publication will be printed in black & white.

A note from the *Quarterly* Editorial Board: The Editorial Board would like to remind members of AGS to send in news, links, article clippings and suggestions to our regional and topical editors. Please send items to the individual editors, or to the office to be forwarded.

Call for Oakley Awards: The Board of Trustees is seeking nominations for Oakley Awards. Guidelines for nominations: work can be done in any number of areas including but not limited to: gravestone carver research, conservation, art, exhibits related to gravestones, and efforts to raise community awareness of local cemeteries and burial grounds. The work may be in many forms: research, writing, photography, organizational leadership, legislation and teaching, for example. Please send to the AGS office a completed nomination form, photographs, personal references and newspaper articles about the person or group you feel is worthy for an award to the AGS office. You can download the form from the Awards & Scholarships section of the AGS website, or e-mail the office for a form.

AGS Conference Update

Due to a few minor scheduling problems, we weren't able to finish the registration packet and forms by the end of March. They will be posted in the conference section of the AGS website on **Wednesday, April 6**. You can download forms from the website, or use the ones in the packet you'll receive by mail the following week.

Call for conference volunteers: We need volunteers to help man the registraton table (Tuesday-Saturday), and also someone to be an Audio-Visual liasion. The A.V. liasion would meet with St. Mary's A.V. staffperson to learn how to operate the equipment, then help set up before lectures and participation sessions, and be available for troubleshooting. The meeting would be sometime Tuesday-Friday, 8:30-4:30. Additionally, we need volunteers to provide line art for our 2005 conference program book. We will provide photos and/or images to work from. Credit will be given. Please e-mail Andrea Carlin at info@gravestonestudies.org if you are interested in any of the above positions.

Call for Participation Sessions: For this year's sessions, we are encouraging topics that focus on four themes: Cemeteries in the Digital Age; New Resources for Cemetery Research; Development and Promotion of Cemetery Tours; and Current Issues in Preserving Cemeteries. We plan to have two 50 minute sessions Saturday morning and two 50 minute sessions Saturday afternoon. Sunday morning we will have round-table breakfast discussions continuing these themes. 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. Proposals should include the Session Title and a 250 word description of the Topic, which focuses on the value to the audience and includes brief biographies of the presenter and panel members.

The deadline for submitting proposals has been extended from March 31, 2005 to **April 14, 2005**. Please send your proposal for a participation session to: Att: Susan Olsen, AGS Office, 278 Main Street, Suite 207, Greenfield, MA 01301, info@gravestonestudies.org. If you would like to discuss your proposal prior to submitting, contact Susan Olsen at The Woodlawn Cemetery (718) 920- 1469 or Friends@thewoodlawncemetery.org.

Southold, Long Island Conference

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The Long Island mini-conference that was announced last Fall has been re-scheduled as a one day event on May 14, 2005, at the First Presbyterian Church of Southold, New York. The event is sponsored by the Southold Historical Society. The contact person is Geoff Fleming ([shsdirec@optonline.net](mailto:shsdirec@optonline.net)). There will be morning lectures (9:00-12:00), Lunch (on your own) from 12:00-1:30, and afternoon cemetery demonstrations from 1:30-4:00. The cost is \$20 per person. More details will be posted in the April e-newsletter.

### **Connecticut Gravestone Network Symposium**

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April 23, 2005, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the Middlefield Community/Senior Center, Middlefield, Connecticut. Admission: \$10 to public, \$5 for CGN members. Pay at the door. Displays & exhibits from various historic groups, and vendors with books and cemetery novelty items.

Lectures: "Introduction to Middlefield History and their Old North Burying Ground" by Ruth Brown and Mary Hooper; "Mourning Quilts Women's Work: Making Burial, Coffin, and Casket Quilts" by Dr. Cynthia Toolin; "The Portland Quarry" by Alison Guinness. "Longmeadow Stone Carver Herman Newell" By Al and Betsy McKee. Lecture descriptions, details, and directions are posted on the CGN website (see link below).

[CT Gravestone Network](#)

Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery-Annual Meeting

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This is their 25th Anniversary Annual Meeting. April 6, 2005, 7 p.m. at the St. Anne

Church, 1600 Mount Hope Ave., Rochester, New York. The program speaker is Richard O. Reisem, he will be giving a slide presentation about Mount Hope. All are welcome.

[Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery](#)

**Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites-Annual Meeting**

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The Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites invites all interested persons to the 14th Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday, April 23, 2005 at Historic [Glenview Mansion](#), at 603 Edmonston Drive in Rockville, Maryland.

Registration and refreshments begin at 9 a.m. followed by a short business meeting and the announcement of the Periwinkle Awards recipients. Speakers include Anne Brokett who will discuss the "The Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Project" and Ed Okonowicz, an award-winning story teller and regional author on Delmarva culture, oral history, and folklore. His program "Tales Tombstones Tell" discusses the history of grave markers, symbols, architecture and inscriptions, as well as the significance of tombstones and cemeteries in our history.

Following lunch, Eileen McGuckian will give "An Introduction to Rockville Cemetery." After Eileen's introduction the group will tour nearby historic Rockville Cemetery where a tombstone preservation demonstration will be given by Robert Mosko of Mosko Cemetery Monument Services.

Pre-registration is required by [April 11, 2005](#). For questions and directions call Eileen McGuckian at (301) 762-0096 or Barb Kraske at (410) 730-8278. The cost is \$20 per person and includes morning refreshments, a delicious lunch, and all programs. To register, make checks payable to CPMBS and mail to Gerhardt Kraske, Treasurer, 9425 Dartmouth Road, Columbia, MD 21045. Include the names of all persons attending and a telephone number.

[CPMBS Website](#)

Monument Conservation Workshop, Omaha, Nebraska

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The National Center for Preservation and Technology Training is holding a Cemetery Monument Conservation Workshop, May 24-26, 2005 in Omaha, Nebraska. The workshop will introduce participants to activities including conditions assessment, reattachment, cleaning, protection, compensation for losses, resetting, metals conservation and safe handling techniques.

Space is limited to 32 participants. Since all past CMC workshops have had waiting lists, early registration is encouraged. Register for the workshop through the Center's website (link provided below). Tuition for three days of instruction and lunches is \$695 For more information, call (318) 356-7444.

[NCPTT Conservation Workshop](#)

**Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia-May & June Tour Schedule**

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Laurel Hill Cemetery will have two tours in May and one in June. "Spirits and Spiritualists in Laurel Hill" will be on May 8, at 2 p.m. A Memorial Day celebration will be held May 29 at 11 a.m. "Art & Architecture" will be June 12 at 2 p.m.

[Laurel Hill Cemetery](#)

Notice from the National Cemetery Administration

Sara Amy Leach, Senior Historian at the National Cemetery Administration Department of Veterans Affairs sent in the following notices.

PRIVATELY MANUFACTURED VETERAN HEADSTONES? Starting with the Civil War, the U.S. government began first issuing free, permanent headstones for Union soldiers interred in national cemeteries, c.1873- 79, and after 1879 for soldiers buried in private cemeteries. At the same time, marble dealers marketed headstones to the families and friends of veterans. Examples of these headstones are largely located in soldiers' lots or individual lots in private or community burial grounds. We're seeking information about such headstone dealers, who designed "private" veteran headstones to mimic the upright, rounded-top marble slab government version. This information could be found in marketing literature, advertisements, brochures, graphics, or any similar source. If you have information about this, please contact Sara Amy Leach, National Cemetery Administration, at sara.leach@va.gov or (202) 565- 6326.

HISTORIC CEMETERY BUILDINGS ADAPTED TO COLUMBARIA? As historic cemetery buildings (i.e., lodge, holding vault, gatehouse) are no longer needed for their original function, they may be recycled for new uses. We're looking for examples of any kind of historic cemetery building that has been converted to a columbarium--whether the project is completed or still on the drawing board. Information about the old structure, aspects of the conversion, contractors/engineers used, names of cemetery POCs, etc. If you have information about this, please contact Sara Amy Leach, National Cemetery Administration, at sara.leach@va.gov or (202) 565- 6326.

Rubbings for Sale

Over 50 rubbings, finished and ready to hang. Half-price. Mostly from Massachusetts--Boston and outlying areas. One or two are from New Hampshire. Many are from cemeteries where rubbing is no longer allowed. A rubbing of the Mother Goose stone is included in the collection. For information, please contact the seller: Barbara Moon, (207) 967-8472 (evenings), 250 Beachwood, Kennebunkport, ME 04046.

Forest Hills Cemetery, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts-April Tour

Forest Hills Cemetery, Sunday, April 24, 2 p.m. "Stories Behind the Stones." This is the first of the 2005 walking tours of Forest Hills Cemetery. Join favorite tour guide Al Maze to learn the fascinating history of the illustrious people buried there including soldiers and activists, artists and entrepreneurs. Meet at the Main Gate. Admission is \$8

[Forest Hills Cemetery](#)

Recent Publications

We received notice of two publications that may be of interest to AGS members. *English Churchyard Memorials*, by Frederick Burgess has recently been reprinted. It is available from the [Lutterworth Press](#). A review will be published in an upcoming *Quarterly*.

New publication: *Cemeteries of Cranberry Isles and the Towns of Mount Desert Island* by Thomas F. Vining. Recorded in this book are every name and every date on all gravestones in all 110 known cemeteries in the Hancock County, Maine, towns of Bar Harbor, Cranberry Isles, Mount Desert, Southwest Harbor, and Tremont. Detailed directions are given to each cemetery. All gravestone references to Revolutionary War and Civil War veterans are included. All maiden names are cross-referenced, and every surname is indexed. It is available from [V.F. Thomas Co.](#)

Preservation Grant Available: Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor

For those in the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor (South Central Massachusetts and Northeastern Connecticut), matching grants of \$500- \$2,500 are available from the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, inc. Details about their Historic Preservation Grant Program and applications are on their website.

[Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor](#)

Website Links

We have four websites featured in the Quick Links section at the bottom of this newsletter. Three of them are AGS member websites, the fourth is recommended by a member.

Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration is a conservation company located in Martinsville, Indiana. Grave Addiction features cemetery photos, information about symbolism and links to articles. The third link is to the Historic Cemeteries Preservation Initiative of Massachusetts. The last link is a link to a virtual tour of presidential gravesites.

Quick Links

- • [Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration](#)
• [Grave Addiction](#)
• [Historic Cemeteries Preservation Initiative](#)
• [Presidential Gravesite Tour](#)

Contact Information

email: info@gravestonestudies.org
phone: 413-772-0836
web: <http://www.gravestonestudies.org>

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