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Association for Gravestone Studies e-newsletter

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In This Issue:

[AGS Conference & Annual Meeting, 2007](#)

[Call For Oakley and Forbes Award Nominations](#)

[Query: Comments on Cemetery Databases](#)

[Query: Successful Cemetery Fundraising](#)

[AGS Member News: capecodgravestones.com featured on Yahoo Picks](#)

[A Thank You From AGS Member Elise Ciregna](#)

[NEWS: Cemetery in Baltimore, Maryland Named Threatened Historic Site](#)

[AGS Member Link: Chicago Graveyards](#)

[Gravestone Brainteaser](#)

[National Preservation Institute 2007, Seminars](#)

[Events: Friends of Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington, North Carolina](#)

[Event: Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Annual Meeting](#)

[Event: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#)

[Event: National Bohemian Cemetery, Chicago, Illinois](#)

[Gallery Opening: Necropolis Series, Tahoma, Washington](#)

[Article: Couple Plan to Tie the Knot in Graveyard](#)

[Article: Two Cemeteries Considering Making Room for Pets](#)

[Article: Graveyards of Henderson County, North Carolina](#)

[Article: Scavenger Hunt in Boston's Granary Burying Ground Cancelled](#)

[Websites to Check Out](#)

[Quick Links...](#)

[Contact Information](#)

AGS Conference & Annual Meeting, 2007



The Association for Gravestone Studies
Thirtieth Anniversary Conference
Rivier College, Nashua, New Hampshire
June 21-24, 2007

Registration is open! The registration form is posted on [the conference page](#) of the AGS website.

Ruth Jewet, Hollis, NH

From the Daniel and Jessie Lie Farber Collection of Gravestone Photographs, courtesy of American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA

PRE-CONFERENCE AND FRIDAY BUS TOURS

Detailed itineraries of the Wednesday pre-conference tour and Friday bus tours are posted on the [AGS website conference page](#). Also included are photos of some of the gravemarkers we'll be seeing on these tours.

SELF-GUIDED TOURS

The self-guided tours are also now available on the [AGS website conference page](#). There are four self-guided tours to cemeteries within driving distance of Rivier College. The tours include information about and directions to the cemeteries.

We will be having a **Foil Impressions Workshop** again at this year's conference, led by Judi Trainor, on Thursday, June 21.

In this workshop participants will learn how to document gravestones through the creation of foil impressions. The workshop will be held in a local cemetery with high quality slate stones of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Topics covered will be how to select a suitable stone, where to obtain foils and other supplies, how to make the impression of the gravestone, and options for finishing the impression after leaving the cemetery. This workshop was offered in a classroom setting at the Doylestown conference in 2006. It has not been offered to AGS conference attendees, in a cemetery, since the 2001 Boston conference. Participants should be prepared to sit on the ground for an hour or more and should bring a towel or cushion, a hat, and insect repellent.

The foil workshop will be offered together with **rubbings on paper** so participants will have the opportunity to try either or both techniques. The rubbings workshop will be led by longtime AGS member Roberta Halporn. She has conducted workshops on this topic at many AGS conferences.

Foil Impression by Judi Trainor



Call For Oakley and Forbes Award Nominations

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Last call for proposals for the 2007 Oakley and Forbes Awards. Deadline for Nomination Applications is April 11, 2007. Awards will be presented at the AGS Annual Conference which will be held June 23rd at Rivier College in Nashua, NH.

#### The Oakley Certificate of Merit

The Oakley Certificate of Merit is presented periodically by the AGS Board of Trustees to individuals and groups that have helped to advance the mission of the Association. Named for long-time members Rosalee and Fred Oakley, the Certificate of Merit is designed to honor those whose work in the field of gravestone studies that is worthy of recognition by AGS. The award consists of a certificate, presented by the Board of Trustees, as well as a gift of a book to the honoree's local library, in their name on behalf of AGS. Whenever possible the award presentation will be made by a local AGS member. Each year's recipients will have their names printed in the conference program book and annual report. In addition they will be acknowledged at a reception held in their honor at the conference.

#### The AGS Harriette Merrifield Forbes Award

The Forbes Award is usually, presented annually by the AGS Board of Trustees to honor an individual, institution, or organization in recognition of exceptional service to the field of gravestone studies. The award is named for Harriette Merrifield Forbes of Worcester, Massachusetts, who photographed gravestones and studied their carvers in the early 1900s. In 1927 she published a book titled *Gravestones of Early New England and the Men Who Made Them*. The Forbes Award is the highest honor bestowed by the Association.

For more information and award applications, please visit [The AGS Awards page](#).

#### Query: Comments on Cemetery Databases

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This query comes from Michael Trinkley of the Chicora Foundation. He writes: "As part of a major preservation plan being prepared by Chicora for the City of Raleigh's (NC) cemeteries, we have been asked to evaluate and recommend software for the transcriptions and other pertinent stone data.

We are aware of the AGS program and that from OVS-Genealogy. We have also used non-proprietary Microsoft Access databases designed for specific cemeteries. We are also aware of a variety of others listed on savinggraves.org. Unfortunately most of these links are dead (no pun intended) and presumably, so too, are the products.

While we have our opinions, we are interested in any comments that others might have concerning known bugs, ease of use for the general public, ability to handle multiple cemeteries, ability to be hyperlinked with GIS solutions, and applicability to a broad range of situations. We appreciate everyone's time and interest. Please respond directly to trinkley@chicora.org."

Query: Successful Cemetery Fundraising Stories

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This query comes from Linda Lewis. She writes: "I have located the site of a historic 1859 church and cemetery that appears to be undisturbed by development and is unmarked. Fortunately it is well documented in plat and deeds. I am just an individual, but I would like to raise money to perform GPR mapping and mark this cemetery. I would like to hear from anyone who has a similar story who was successful in raising awareness and funding for such a project. All ideas, suggestions, and stories are appreciated. Email Linda Lewis, Overland Park, Kansas - [webmaster@cottonhills.com](mailto:webmaster@cottonhills.com)."

### **AGS Member News: capecodgravestones.com featured on Yahoo Picks**

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Bob Carlson's Oakley Award winning website, www.capecodgravestones.com was selected for the March 10, 2007 Yahoo! Picks. Visitors to the website immediately doubled, from an average of about 1,000/day, to about 2,000 visitors on March 10. This is possibly the first time a gravestone website has made Yahoo! Picks. http://picks.yahoo.com/picks/Regional/United_States/

A Thank You From AGS Member Elise Ciregna

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"Elise Madeleine Ciregna thanks all of the very dedicated and friendly AGS members who answered her query for images dealing with textiles and upholstery, (in the December 2006 e-newsletter) and for vintage images showing "furnished" lots. Thank you all very much for your generosity! I hope to return the favor at some point!"

### **NEWS: Cemetery in Baltimore, Maryland Named Threatened Historic Site**

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"Endangered Maryland," the first statewide list of threatened historic properties in Maryland, was released in the March-April edition of *Maryland Life*. A statewide panel created the list by evaluating nominated properties, and assessing the level of threat, historic and architectural significance, community commitment, and potential solutions. The program's purpose is to generate public awareness of Maryland's significant threatened properties, possible solutions and calls for action. Number one on the list was St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Cemetery in Baltimore City. For more information, please check out the Preservation Maryland website: www.preservationmaryland.org.

AGS Member Link: Chicago Graveyards

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Please take a moment to check out AGS Member Matt Hucke's website:

[www.graveyards.com](http://www.graveyards.com). It features information about his book, *Graveyards of Chicago*, along with maps, photos and information about many cemeteries in Illinois. There is also information about cemeteries in other states and England.

### **Gravestone Brainteaser**

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For a gravestone-related brainteaser, check out AGS member Dana Laird's post on flickr.com.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/cemeteryrodeo/sets/72157594513286685/>

### **National Preservation Institute 2007, Seminars**

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The National Preservation Institute is offering four cemetery preservation seminars this year:

**May 7-8:** Cemetery Preservation Greensboro, North Carolina

**June 9:** Cemetery Landscapes: A Practical Guide to Care and Maintenance [NEA] Greensboro, North Carolina

**Sept 17-18:** Cemetery Preservation Washington, DC

**Sept 19:** Cemetery Landscapes: A Practical Guide to Care and Maintenance Washington, DC

For more information and registration, please visit: [www.npi.org](http://www.npi.org).

### **Events: Friends of Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington, North Carolina**

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Oakdale Lecture and Tour: Architectural historian Janet K. Seapker will give an illustrated lecture on the evolution of the rural cemetery and the establishment of Oakdale Cemetery, and reveal the secrets of funerary art. The walking tour will allow participants to explore Oakdale's treasures first-hand. Package price: \$20 for non-members and \$15 for members.

Lecture: Wednesday, April 4, 5:30-7 PM; New Hanover County Public Library.

Tour: Saturday, April 7, 10 AM-Noon, Oakdale Cemetery.

Horse-drawn Wagon Rides, April 22 and April 28, 2007, narrated tours every 30 minutes beginning at 3:00 PM, last tour at 5:30 PM; \$10 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and younger. Members of Friends of Oakdale will receive \$2 discount off the regular price.

For more information, please call the cemetery office at (910) 762-5682.

### **Event: Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Annual Meeting**

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The Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites (CPMBS) will be holding it's 16th Annual Meeting on April 28, 2007 at the New Windsor Conference Center in New Windsor, Maryland. The speakers will be Mary Ann Ashcraft who will discuss "Black Gravestone Carvers of the Early 19th Century," and another who is as yet undetermined. At the conclusion of the meeting the attendees will visit the St. Luke's (Winter's) Lutheran

Church.

Preregistration is required. Please visit [www.cpmbs.org](http://www.cpmbs.org) for more information.

**Event: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

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 Laurel Hill Cemetery and the Friends of Laurel Hill Present: "R.M.S. Titanic: 95 Years Later, A Tour, Lecture and Dinner," April 14th at 3:00 PM. The guide will be J. Joseph Edgette, Ph.D. There will be walking tours of Laurel Hill Cemetery and West Laurel Hill Cemetery in Bala Cynwyd, followed by a slide presentation and dinner.

The cost for the tours only is \$25.00 per person. The cost for the entire program, including tours, lecture and dinner, is \$75.00 per person, and reservations are required in advance. Space is limited, so register early.

For reservations or information, please call 215-228-8200, write tours@thelaurelhillcemetery.org, or visit www.theundergroundmuseum.org.

Event: National Bohemian Cemetery, Chicago, Illinois

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 The Bohemian National Cemetery Association is hosting a banquet in honor of the cemetery's 130th anniversary on April 27, 2007--\$35.00 per person, registration is required. For more information, please visit [the Friends of National Bohemian Cemetery's website](#).

**Gallery Opening: Necropolis Series, Tahoma, Washington**

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 Seattle-based artist Darel Thomas Grothaus will present a selection of ten pieces from his recently completed Necropolis Series on April 8, 2007 at the Tahoma Unitarian Universalist Congregation gallery.

The series of 50 mixed-media pieces captures vanishing iconic statuary imagery from cemeteries across the United States. Many of the images are of angelic, biblical or spiritual beings and were crafted between 1870-1920 by European master craftsmen. Over the past two decades, weathering, vandalism and theft has caused the disappearance of these monumental works from cemeteries around the country.

The public is invited to come to the opening on April 8 at noon and/or to view these works when the church is open. Please call (253) 474-4646 for hours.

Article: Couple Plan to Tie the Knot in Graveyard

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 The article is posted on [ABC 7 News website](#).

**Article: Two Cemeteries Considering Making Room for Pets**

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 The article is posted on JS online.com: [Cemeteries for people making room for pets](#).

Article: Graveyards of Henderson County, North Carolina

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 The article is posted on [hendersonvilleneews.com](http://hendersonvilleneews.com). It is about the burial places of the

county's local founders. There are links to other cemetery related articles on this page, also.

**Article: Scavenger Hunt in Boston's Granary Burying Ground Cancelled**

The article is posted on [boston.com](http://boston.com). It is about a promotional scavenger hunt hosted by Dr. Pepper that was to take place in Boston's Granary Burying Ground.

**Websites to Check Out**

Please take a moment to check out the two websites in the Quicklinks section at the bottom of this newsletter. They were recommended by AGS members.

The first link is to the National Association of Memorial Masons. They are a U.K.-based organization whose purpose is to increase understanding in all matters related to natural stone memorials.

The second link is to the American Battle Monuments Commission. The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) was established by Congress in 1923 to commemorate the service, achievements, and sacrifice of U.S. armed forces, where they have served, overseas, since 1917; and within the U.S., when directed by public law.

**Quick Links...**

- [National Association of Memorial Masons \(www.namm.org.uk\)](http://www.namm.org.uk)
- [American Battle Monuments Commission \(www.abmc.gov\)](http://www.abmc.gov)

**Contact Information**

email: [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org)  
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 web: <http://www.gravestonestudies.org>

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