



Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

Issue #71
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AGS Membership

We invite those 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* (June)
- 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.

2009 AGS Annual Meeting and Conference



2009 AGS Annual Meeting and Conference
June 24-28, 2009
Union College
Schenectady, New York

Registration is open!

The deadline to register is **June 5, 2009**

The registration form is posted on the conference page of [the AGS website](http://www.gravestonestudies.org).

A note from the Conference Chair, Marianne Greenfield: "Linen will be quite expensive at the June conference. Linen is included in the cost on the registration form but to help keep costs down, anyone who wants to is encouraged to bring a sleeping bag and pillow from home."

To see what workshops will be offered and lectures presented [click here](#).
(This will be updated as we get closer to the conference. Please check back frequently).

Attention Students-2009 Conference Scholarship Announcement

Any student who submits an article to the AGS *Quarterly*, which is accepted and published, will receive a \$100 scholarship to attend the AGS conference.

Article-length manuscripts (approximately 2,500 words) can be submitted to the AGS office at any time. The *Quarterly* Editorial Board will inform you if your article is accepted. Then if you decide to go to the conference, simply attach a photocopy of your student ID to the registration package when you send it in. And be sure to subtract \$100 from the total fees.

You can't beat the deal - A published article and scholarship aid for the conference!

Call For Oakley Certificate and Forbes Award Nominations

Seeking proposals for the 2009 Oakley Certificate and Forbes Awards. Deadline for nomination applications is April 1, 2009. Awards will be presented at the AGS Annual Conference which will be held June 24-28 at Union College in Schenectady, NY.

The Oakley Certificate of Merit

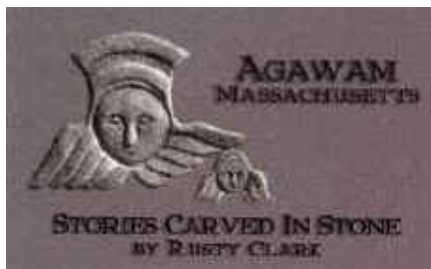
The Oakley Certificate of Merit is presented periodically by the AGS Board of Trustees to individuals and groups that have helped to advance the mission of the Association. Named for long-time members Rosalee and Fred Oakley, the Certificate of Merit is designed to honor those whose work in the field of gravestone studies 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 the Awards Reception at the conference.

The AGS Harriette Merrifield Forbes Award

The Forbes Award is 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 AGS.

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

Reduced Price--April Only--AGS Store



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Stories Carved in Stone: Agawam, Massachusetts by Rusty Clark - Regularly \$11.95 for members and \$13.25 for others. **Sale price for all: \$10.00.**

For more information, or to order, please visit [the AGS Bookstore](#).

Query: Stones carved by Thomas Brown

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This query comes from Kelly Grimaldi. She writes: "I would like to ask AGS members if anyone knows where there are more stones carved by Thomas Brown. I found this one (see below) in Albany Rural Cemetery, Menands, New York. It is very unique to this area." [Kelly.Grimaldi@rcda.org](mailto:Kelly.Grimaldi@rcda.org).



**Beyond The Ghosts: A Cemetery Blog**

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AGS member Gwynneth Anderson sent in this information and links. She writes:

"I currently write a cemetery research blog that not only focuses on cemeteries, but also

the social, historical and cultural aspects surrounding them that might be of interest to my readers.

The cemetery blog can be found at www.geanderson.wordpress.com.

I also have a link on my website for some of the cemeteries I've visited. That website link can be found at: <http://www.studiogphotos.com/CemeteryTOC.html>.

By the way, February has an interview with [Dr. Paul Wallace](#), one of your members who is researching the New Scotland Presbyterian Church cemetery near Albany, New York for his upcoming book. I hope you have the chance to meet him as he's quite a fascinating man."

AGS Member Website: Jeannine Shields

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AGS member Jeannine Shields has a website documenting preservation work in Flandreau Cemetery in New Rochelle, New York:

<http://www.geocities.com/neeneorb/flandreaupreservation.html>.

**Event: Friends of Northfield (Massachusetts) Old Cemeteries**

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Saturday, May 2, 2009: As part of Northfield's Day of History, the Friends of Northfield's Old Cemeteries will host tours of Center Cemetery. Costumed re-enactors will tell stories of some of the characters buried there.

Meet at 12 PM, Webster Room, First Parish Church. There will be displays and sales, and a light lunch will be provided. Tickets are \$5.00, Members of Friends, free.

Tour: Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington, North Carolina

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On Saturday, March 18, at 10 AM AGS member and Architectural historian Janet K. Seapker will give a tour focusing on the history of Oakdale Cemetery and the meaning of symbols in Victorian funerary art. The tour is free for members of the Friends of Oakdale Cemetery, \$8 for non-members.

<http://www.oakdalecemetery.org/>

**New Publication: *Burial Ledger of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Washington, DC***

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Burial Ledger of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Washington, D.C., July 5, 1917 - August 30, 1983, by AGS member Paul E. Sluby, Sr.

The "Government Hospital for the Insane" was founded in Washington, D. C., on March 3, 1855. According to Dorothy Dix, who wrote the bill establishing the institution, its purpose

was to provide "the most humane care and enlightened curative treatment of the insane of the Army and Navy and of the United States and of the District of Columbia." In 1916, the hospital's name was officially changed to St. Elizabeths. The hospital burial ledger, dating from 1917 to 1983, contains over 2,900 entries regarding burials of the general patient population.

A brief history of the hospital and an examination of the burial areas precedes the alphabetically arranged entries. Column headings include: Last Name, First Name, Middle Name or Initial, Died, Interred, Section, Row, Grave Number, Gender, Race, and Remarks. In addition to providing the name, date of death, and grave location, there are occasional notations that provide important details about the deceased. Sometimes corrections to an entry are included that provide important details, such as an alias or nickname. References to heritage also may be entered, such as "Indian," "colored man," "Japanese," or "Chinese." Occasionally, the word Exhumed appears, which indicates the remains were removed to another location. Enlightening facts also surface, such as the reference to William Powell Jenkins, who died on February 27, 1931 and was buried "between graves."

Paperback, 90 pages. \$19.50. To order, visit: <http://heritagebooks.com/>.

Teaching with Tombstones--Cleveland, Ohio

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Joe Hannibal, a geologist at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, knows that cemeteries are a great place to study and teach geology. In the August 2006 *e-Newsletter*, we published a link to an article describing his study of gravestone materials and weathering in the Cleveland area:

Bauer, A., J. T. Hannibal, C. B. Hanson, and J. V. Elmore. 2002. Distribution in time, provenance, and weathering of gravestones in three northeastern Ohio cemeteries. *The Ohio Journal of Science*, 102(4):82-96.

Here is a current link to that article: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/23935>.

More recently, he has written the following article about teaching geology in the cemetery.

Hannibal, J. T. 2007. *Teaching with tombstones: geology at the cemetery*, p. 82-88. In N. R. Shaffer and D. A. DeChurch (eds.), *Proceedings of the 40th Forum on the Geology of Industrial Minerals*, May 2-7, 2004, Bloomington, Indiana, Indiana Geological Survey Occasional Paper 67.

#### [Teaching with Tombstones: Geology at the Cemetery](#)

Later this year, Joe will lead walking tours of Lake View Cemetery--here are the details:

Lake View Cemetery Geology Walking Tour - South  
Saturday, May 30, 2009, 10 am to noon

Joe Hannibal of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History will lead us on this walk, examining the marble and other rocks and minerals that make up the monuments and buildings in the southern part of the Cemetery. The trip will include a visit to the old bluestone quarry and the Garfield Monument. Reservations and a \$6.00 fee required. To register for this field trip please call Lake View Cemetery at (216) 421-2665.

Lake View Cemetery Geology Walking Tour - North

Saturday, September 19, 2009, 10 am to noon

Joe Hannibal of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History will lead us on this walk, examining the marble and other rocks and minerals that make up the monuments and buildings in the northern part of the Cemetery. The trip will include a visit to the Wade Chapel, dam, gravesites of two famous Cleveland geologists, and the Garfield Monument. Reservations and a \$6.00 fee required. To make your reservations, call Lake View Cemetery at (216) 421-2665.

Learn more about Lake View Cemetery Field Trips at:

<http://www.cmnh.org/site/ResearchandCollections/InvertebratePaleontology/fieldtrips.aspx>

## Bill to Protect Ontario's Inactive Cemeteries

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This information comes from Bruce Elliott. He writes: "This is a private member's bill (i.e. not sponsored by the government of the day) intended to counter the revisions made several years ago to the Ontario Cemeteries Act that facilitated the closing of and removal of burials from inactive cemeteries. The Ontario Historical Society has appealed a number of such closures to a provincial tribunal, in most cases successfully, on the grounds that such removal is 'not in the public interest.' Click on the first link to see a copy of the bill."

Great News!

Bill 149 - [An Act to Protect Ontario's Inactive Cemeteries](#), 2009 has passed 2nd Reading in the Legislature. It will now go to committee hearings and then hopefully, come back for a 3rd Reading before the summer recess.

The Bill was introduced by Mr. Jim Brownell, MPP for Stormont, Dundas and South Glengarry, jbrownell.mpp@liberal.ola.org.

We must now let our MPPs and Mr. Brownell know that we support the passage of this bill. There are 2 things that we can do to accomplish this.

1. Download copies of the [Bill 149 Petition](#) from the OGS website. Get people to sign the petition and mail the original completed petition to:
OGS Provincial Office
#102-40 Orchard View Blvd.
Toronto, ON M4R 1B9

Photocopies or faxes of the signed petition cannot be used. We must have the form with the original signatures. We will arrange to have these petitions delivered to Mr. Brownell's office so he can present them in the Legislature. This will provide a record of the support of the bill.

2. We all need to contact our MPP and let them know of our support of Bill 149 and encourage them to support the bill while in committee and vote for the bill when it comes up for 3rd Reading. You can contact them via regular mail, email, telephone or in person.

Remember, this needs to be done before the summer recess so the bill does not die.

If you are unsure of how to contact your local MPP you can look at [MPP Addresses and Contact Information](#). If you need additional assistance, [Find Your Electoral District](#) will assist you in finding your local MPP.

Article: Advertising on Tombstones

AGS member Peggy Perazzo sent in [this article](#), "Advertising on Tombstones," from *Stone: An Illustrated Magazine*, January 1916, Vol. XXXVII, No. 1, pp. 26.

Peggy B. Perazzo
Stone Quarries and Beyond
<http://quarriesandbeyond.org/>

Article: Grave Discovery

This article, posted on augustachronicle.com, is about the tombstone of a man who died in 1903 which turned up in a canal in Augusta, Georgia.

Article: Cocaine found in fake tombstone bound for Scotland

This article is posted on the [Vancouver Province's website](#).

Article: Tourist's misstep reveals unknown (Boston) Granary crypt

This article is posted on boston.com.

Article: In all things moderation

This article, posted on LaGrange Daily News online, is about a proposal to remove grave goods from Shadowlawn Cemetery in LaGrange, Georgia.

Article: Church, Genealogist in Tussle

This article, posted on www.kentucky.com is about a church that is forbidding a genealogist from sharing photos and information from the Old Union Christian Church Cemetery in Lexington, Kentucky.

Contact Information

phone: 413-772-0836
