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Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

Issue 37

May 2006

In This Issue:

- 2006 AGS Annual Meeting and Conference, Doylestown, Pennsylvania
- AGS Spring Cemetery Tour Rescheduled
- Artists Needed For Markers Articles
- AGS Receives "Outstanding Website" Award
- Query: Primary Source for Ben Franklin Quote
- Cemetery Preservation Workshop: Indianapolis, Indiana
- International Cemetery and Funeral Association University, 2006 Program
- Cemetery Preservation Workshop: Klamath Falls Area, Oregon
- Letter Carving Workshop, Hood River, Oregon
- Tour: Albany Rural Cemetery, Menands, New York
- Celebration: Mount Auburn Cemetery's 175th Anniversary
- Event: "The Secret Cemeteries of Staten Island"
- Event: Friends of Center Cemetery, East Hartford, Connecticut
- June Tours: Old City Cemetery, Sacramento, California
- Exhibition: Barre Granite Association, Barre, Vermont
- Celebration: Historic Oakwood Cemetery Preservation Association, Syracuse, New York
- June Tours: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- AGS Member in the News: Ruth Shapleigh-Brown
- Proposed Legislation for New Jersey Cemeteries
- DVD: Stories Under the Stone
- Article: Wooster Cemetery, Danbury, Connecticut
- Article: Cemetery Preservation in Lincolnville, Maine
- Websites to Check Out

2006 AGS Annual Meeting and Conference, Doylestown, Pennsylvania

There's still time to register for the 2006 AGS Annual Meeting and Conference, June 22-25.

The early bird discount deadline is May 31st, the final registration deadline is June 9th.

Conference highlights include: **Thursday Workshops:** Gravestone Conservation, Archival Documentation (NEW!), and Creating Foil Impressions of Gravestones (NEW!);

Your choice of one of three Friday Bus Tours: Colonial, Victorian and Mixed. On the tours you'll see some of the most extraordinary Pennsylvania folk art gravestones anywhere, including some wonderful Pennsylvania German/ethnic Victorian marble markers and some interestingly decorated contemporary gravestones.

Saturday Participation Sessions: Fifty-minute programs conducted in a workshop format. There are four themes: *Cemetery Tours*, *Documenting Cemeteries*, *Writing About Cemeteries* and *Understanding Markers*.

[AGS Conference Website Page](#)

AGS Spring Cemetery Tour Rescheduled

The AGS Spring Cemetery Tour has been rescheduled to 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.

Artists Needed For Markers Articles

Artists Needed for *Markers* Articles: I'm seeking to build up a list of artists, graphic designers, etc. on whom I can call to translate poor photographs into great drawings or to create "field-guide" type pages. For some articles, it would be great to have a kind of image gallery that would fit on a page (or several pages) -- of variations of cherubs by a single carver, for example -- instead of have a series of one page photographs of individual stones, which makes it really hard to make comparisons, etc.. In the past, some authors like Vincent Luti and Ralph Tucker have supplied such compact galleries of drawings, but I can think of other articles that would also have benefited from drawings and illustrations in addition to, or in place of, some photographs.

If you are an artist, graphic designer, or computer graphics person (I'm sure I'm leaving out other good possibilities) who might be interested in helping to illustrate articles on occasion, please send me your contact information and I'll get in touch with you soon. I'd like to build up a list of volunteer artists/designers that I can draw on as each issue develops. Thanks. -- Gary Collison, editor (glc@psu.edu; 717-840-8318).

AGS Receives "Outstanding Website" Award

AGS is a recipient of the "Outstanding Cemetery Site Award" from TheCemeteryClub.com. This is a new award presented to sites that provide excellent information about the cemeteries they represent or promote the history and study of cemeteries and gravestones. The AGS website is among the first ones to receive this honor.

Other recipients of this award are: KensalGreen.co.uk, www.graveyards.com, www.oaklandcemetery.com, www.fohcc.org (Families of Historic Columbian Cemetery), International Association of Cemetery Preservationists, Inc., www.savinggraves.org, www.gravematter.com, and www.FindAGrave.com.

Query: Primary Source for Ben Franklin Quote

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This query comes from AGS Trustee Janet Heywood: "Does anyone have a primary source of the quotation ascribed to Franklin 'Show me first the graveyards of a country and I will tell you the true character of the people.' --Benjamin Franklin

It is repeated on genealogy sites but I can not locate a primary source in Franklin's original works. The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Committee has searched their records and found no evidence that Franklin printed or said this."

Please contact Janet at: [picapica@msn.com](mailto:picapica@msn.com).

### Cemetery Preservation Workshop: Indianapolis, Indiana

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Basic Hands-on Cemetery Preservation Workshop, June 9 and 10, 2006, Indianapolis, Indiana. The basic workshop, "Straightening Up the Yard: Basic Hands-on Cemetery Preservation Workshop," will provide each participant with individual instruction and hands-on experience in cemetery research and preservation. Participants will have direct contact with speakers and an opportunity to ask specific questions related to cemetery preservation, restoration, and research.

Day One, Friday, June 9, 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m.: Gravestone Symbolism and Art; Cemetery Law and Registry. Location: Indiana History Center, Indianapolis. Sheila Riley, long-standing member of AGS, will draw on more than 20 years of research and experience to discuss the symbolism, artistry, and traditions of Indiana pioneer cemeteries and Jeannie Regan-Dinius, DHPA-DNR employee and coordinator of the Indiana Cemetery Registry, will address Indiana legislation that affects cemetery preservation work and the Indiana Cemetery and Burial Grounds Registry.

Day Two, Saturday, June 10, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.: Basic Cemetery Restoration Workshop. Location: White Chapel Cemetery, Hamilton County, Indiana. Participants will take individual stones through the entire preservation process, from cleaning to straightening and resetting. Instructors John Walters, Micki Walters, and Daniel Faris will instruct and supervise participants in the use of appropriate preservation techniques. Participants will learn and practice skills including stone cleaning, resetting leaning stones, resetting stones in slotted bases, and using the global positioning system.

Day One ONLY (June 9): \$5 IHS members; \$10 non-members. Day One AND Day Two (June 9-10): \$15 IHS members; \$20 non-members. Space is limited; however, registration is open until the workshop is filled. Confirmations, including maps and directions, will be sent. Download a copy of the registration brochure at www.indianahistory.org and contact Corrie E. Cook by calling (317) 233-8913 or e-mail ccook@indianahistory.org for more information.

International Cemetery and Funeral Association University, 2006 Program

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 The International Cemetery and Funeral Association (ICFA) University offers an annual five-day intensive program for cemetery and funeral service practitioners. This year the course will be held on July 21-26, at the University of Memphis, Memphis Tennessee.

Programs include: College of Cemetery Administration and Management, College of Cremation Services, College of Funeral Home Management, J. Asher Neel College of Sales and Marketing, College of Land Management and Grounds Operations, a Master's Program and a CEO Program.

Registration for ICFAU can be completed by downloading the ICFAU Registration Form. Registration must be received by June 23.

[ICFA University](#)

### **Cemetery Preservation Workshop: Klamath Falls Area, Oregon**

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 A one day workshop on care and repair of historic cemeteries, sponsored by the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries (OCHC) is planned for the Klamath Falls area on July 29, 2006. Content will include how to survey an historic cemetery, how to develop a plan and set priorities, and hands-on training in proper methods of cleaning and repairing gravestones. To receive details as soon as they are available, contact the OCHC office at (503) 986-0685, or email Mirra.Meyer@state.or.us.

[Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries](#)

Letter Carving Workshop, Hood River, Oregon

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 Karin Sprague will be teaching a letter carving workshop (level 1) on September 26 & 27, 2006, in Hood River, Oregon. It is \$250 for Stone Foundation members, \$350 for others. For more information, please contact the sponsor, [the Stone Foundation](#).

[Karin Sprague's website](#)

### **Tour: Albany Rural Cemetery, Menands, New York**

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 "French and Indian War," Saturday, June 24, 2006, 10:00 am. Guided tour of Albany Rural Cemetery commemorating the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War (1754-1763). The gravesites of Philip Schuyler, Abraham Ten Broeck, Volkert Petrus Douw, Henry Quackenbush and the children and grandchildren of British Colonel James Bradstreet will be highlighted. Reservations requested.

The cost is \$5.00, and the tour departs from the Chapel of Albany Rural Cemetery, Broadway entrance, Menands. For questions and more information, call (518) 434-0405.

[Albany Rural Cemetery](#)

Celebration: Mount Auburn Cemetery's 175th Anniversary

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 A year-long celebration of the 175th Anniversary of Mount Auburn Cemetery (Cambridge, Massachusetts) will kick off at the State House in Boston at 11:00 a.m. on

Thursday, June 22. Resolutions from both houses of the Massachusetts State Legislation will be read, honoring the 1831 passage of the legislation that authorized the creation of Mount Auburn as the nation's first garden cemetery. Participating in the ceremony will be Senator Steve A. Tolman and Representative Rachel Kaprielian.

Subsequent events will include:

- A commemoration ceremony and reception at the Cemetery on September 24 to mark the 175th Anniversary of Mount Auburn's consecration;
- Seven free public lectures by renowned speakers touching on themes related to Mount Auburn (such as the Asian influence on American Horticulture, 19th Century Art and Architecture, and African-American history and roots) at the Boston Public Library, beginning in October, 2006 and extending through next May, 2007;
- Several art exhibitions and music programs featuring the works of artists and composers buried at Mount Auburn and/or featuring Mount Auburn settings;
- Publication of a revised and redesigned edition of *Silent City on a Hill: Landscapes of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery* by Blanche Linden;
- A number of "legacy programs" at the Cemetery, including the installation of a Visitors Center; the renovation and conservation of Bigelow Chapel and its original and rare mid-19th century stained glass windows; the groundbreaking for Birch Gardens, a new interment space landscape; and the digitization of the Cemetery's burial records;
- A celebration-concluding "Tribute to a Treasure" Gala Dinner on June 14, 2007, under a tent at Mount Auburn

### [Mount Auburn Cemetery](#)

#### **Event: "The Secret Cemeteries of Staten Island"**

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 The Staten Island Institute of Arts & Sciences will present "The Secret Cemeteries of Staten Island" at Beanie's Coffee Shop Tuesday, June 6, 2006, 7 p.m., 1190 Forest Avenue, near Jewett Avenue. This presentation is free of charge!

Program Description: Believe it or not, Staten Island is home to numerous burial grounds that have been forgotten, hidden, or are unknown to the average citizen. Did you know that:

- a cemetery at Port Richmond Center is the final resting place for many former slaves?
- Staten Island is home to one of the most famous Native American burial grounds ever discovered in New York State?
- Staten Island holds at least three former "Potter's Fields"?

This and much more will be highlighted during an insightful discussion with Curator of History Patricia M. Salmon. RSVP to (718) 727-1135 x123.

[Staten Island Institute of Arts & Sciences](#)

Event: Friends of Center Cemetery, East Hartford, Connecticut

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 The Friends of Center Cemetery (FCC), is a nonprofit organization that was established in 1989. The group promotes the preservation of the Historic Center Cemetery (1709),

which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The FCC will have their annual meeting, June 11, from 2 - 4 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in East Hartford. The business meeting will be followed by a presentation by AGS member Cynthia Toolin, Ph.D titled: "Women's Work: Making Burial, Coffin, and Casket Quilts." This fascinating presentation examines and illustrates the history of mourning quilts in the United States from the early Colonial period, through the Civil War era, to the present time of AIDS and breast cancer. Originally utilitarian in purpose, the quilts also were and still are used to commemorate the dead and celebrate their lives, while comforting the living.

### **June Tours: Old City Cemetery, Sacramento, California**

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- History Tour, Saturday, June 3 at 10 a.m. "Soap Operas"
- OCCC Members Meeting, Saturday, June 10 at 10:30 a.m. Open to all.
- Victorian Garden Party, Saturday, June 17, 3-5 p.m. \$25 per person. Reservations required.
- "Deadheading at Dusk" Tuesday, June 20, from 6- 8 p.m.
- Garden Tour, Saturday, June 24 at 10 a.m. "What's Blooming in the Cemetery?"

For more information, please call (916) 448-0811 or visit www.oldcitycemetery.com. The Cemetery is located at 1000 Broadway in Sacramento.

Exhibition: Barre Granite Association, Barre, Vermont

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The Barre Granite Association is sponsoring the 2006 Stone Crafters Exhibition, August 3-6, 2006, to be held at the Vermont Granite Museum of Barre, Vermont.

Events include: A Death Education Seminar, Sales and Marketing BGA Products Workshop, Digital Photography Workshop, Tours of Hope Cemetery, and Quarry Tours. For details and registration information, please visit the [Barre Granite Association's website](#).

### **Celebration: Historic Oakwood Cemetery Preservation Association, Syracuse, New York**

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To celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Historic Oakwood Cemetery Preservation Association (HOCPA), there will be a picnic on July 15th at the cemetery.

Events include: guided tours, a scavenger hunt and a sale of fine art prints by Andrea Hall and AGS trustee Frank Calidonna. For information, please call Susan Estabrook at (315) 637-5421.

June Tours: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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- Saturday, June 3rd at 2:00 p.m. "Franklin & the Revolutionary Generation" \$15.00
- Sunday, June 11th at 2:00 p.m. "KIA: Heroes Killed in Action" \$15.00
- Sunday, June 18th at 2: 00 p.m. "For Freedom in Life and Death: The Civil War History Buried at Laurel Hill" \$15.00

For more information, please call (215) 228-8200.

[Laurel Hill Cemetery](#)**AGS Member in the News: Ruth Shapleigh-Brown**

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Long-time AGS member Ruth Shapleigh-Brown was recently recognized by the Connecticut Commission of Culture and Tourism for her "unstinting efforts to ensure the preservation of historic cemeteries and gravestone art in Connecticut in her role as founder and director of the Connecticut Gravestone Network, a statewide center of information on historic Connecticut cemeteries."

Also, in February, the Connecticut chapter of the National Society Daughters of the Colonial Wars, Inc. awarded Ruthie with a certificate and check in "appreciation of her outstanding contributions to the preservation of colonial history."

[Connecticut Gravestone Network](#)**Proposed Legislation for New Jersey Cemeteries**

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Funeralandcemeteryinfo.org's June newsletter features information about proposed legislation that would have a significant impact on more than half of New Jersey's state regulated cemeteries. [Please click here to read the newsletter](#) (it is a PDF file).

[FuneralandCemeteryInfo.org](#) is a non-profit organization that is committed to providing unbiased information to the public about all aspects of the funeral service and cemetery industries.

**DVD: Stories Under the Stone**

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The AGS office recently received information about a DVD produced by Kansas Public Television entitled Stories Under the Stone. This hour-long documentary explores an amazing array of history, artistry, imagery and symbolism just waiting to be discovered in cemeteries across the Heartland. Included is a short segment about Quinette Cemetery in Kirkwood, Missouri, the cemetery restored by AGS member Keith Rawlings.

[The website for the documentary](#) also features general gravestone information.

Article: Wooster Cemetery, Danbury, Connecticut

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The article, linked below, is to the Danbury *News-Times* and is about students placing flags on veterans' graves for Memorial Day. AGS Trustee Bob Young is quoted in the article.

[Danbury News-Times](#)**Article: Cemetery Preservation in Lincolnton, Maine**

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The article, linked below, is to the *Bangor Daily News*, and is about preservation efforts by the Lincolnton Cemetery Committee at the town's 26 cemeteries. The Maine Old Cemetery Association also provided information for the article.

[Bangor Daily News](#)

Websites to Check Out

We have three websites, recommended by AGS members, featured in the Quicklinks section at the end of this newsletter.

The first link is to a site devoted to Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester, New York. It includes a timeline, maps, information about notable residents, as well as general cemetery information.

The second site is a photo gallery of Confederate gravesites in Catawba County, North Carolina. This is part of an ongoing Sons of Confederate Veterans project to photograph each and every Confederate gravesite in Catawba County. In addition, the project coordinator is seeking photos of gravesites of Catawba County soldiers who may be buried outside their home county. The coordinator's contact information is on the site.

The third link is to the state of Kentucky's website. The linked page is about the Kentucky Cemetery Preservation Fund. Established County Cemetery Boards and Not-for-Profit Entities in Kentucky can apply for funding through this program.

Quick Links...

- [Mount Hope Cemetery](#)
- [Memorial Stones and Markers of Catawba County Confederate Soldiers](#)
- [Kentucky Cemetery Preservation Fund](#)

Contact Information

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

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