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Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

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2008 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting



AGS Conference and Annual Meeting
June 17-22, 2008
Hampshire College Amherst, Massachusetts

The deadline for conference registration has passed! To inquire about late registration options, please contact the conference registrar.

2008 Conference Logo-
Detail from headstone of
Jonathan Ingram,
Amherst, Massachusetts

In just a few weeks, we will be meeting at Hampshire College, in the Pioneer Valley region of Western Massachusetts--an area where one can view a considerable variety of gravestone styles and materials within a short drive of the conference site. For an historical overview of the area and a preview of the conference schedule, please go to www.gravestonestudies.org and click on AGS Conferences.

For a virtual tour of the Hampshire College campus and environs, please click on www.hampshire.edu.

As usual, AGS will offer on-campus lodging and meals, lecture sessions and other events at college facilities. For a guide to other local attractions, and a list of off-campus lodging options, click on www.amherstarea.com.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Alan Swedlund, Professor emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst--author of the forthcoming book, *Shadow in the Valley: A Cultural History of Illness, Death and Loss in New England, 1840-1916*, to be published by the University of Massachusetts Press.

Information on SELF-GUIDED TOURS, LECTURES and PARTICIPATION SESSIONS will be posted on the AGS website (go to www.gravestonestudies.org after June 1st and click on AGS Conferences).

AGS Connecticut Valley Spring Tour

AGS Connecticut Valley (better-late-than-never) Spring Tour of the Old Westfield Burying Ground (est.1648) in Westfield, Massachusetts, Saturday, June 28, 10:30 AM, to be led by Bob Clark, author of *Stories Carved in Stone: Westfield, Massachusetts*.

Symbolism E-Newsletter

Richard Waterhouse, an AGS Member, offers a monthly symbolism newsletter covering symbols in historic cemeteries, art and art history. Richard, who has been doing a symbolism tour of Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta since 2000, has an education in studio art and art history. To view the May issue, [please click here](#).

Query: Philadelphia Ornamental Ironworks

We have received a query from Ann Chandler Howell. She writes: "I am researching the distribution of ironwork from the Robert Wood, Philadelphia Ornamental Ironworks (1838-1878) and need some assistance in certifying a cast iron mausoleum and railings around it, as well as the grave site to its right, in the Greensboro, Alabama Cemetery. The sites in question can be seen at <http://YouTube.com/watch?v=QKQIDj20P2E>.

The foundry marks may be Wood & Perot, Robert Wood & Company or Wood,

Miltenberger & Company. The mausoleum design can be found in New Orleans, Mobile, and Natchez cemeteries. Plot ownership and the earliest dates of interment would be most helpful in linking shipments to Wood's Mobile agent.

Should anyone have knowledge of Wood's ironwork in other locations, that too, would be most welcomed and appreciated."

Events: Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts

~~~~~ MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY CELEBRATES BOSTON'S MUSIC HERITAGE WITH SPRING CONCERT

Concert at Mount Auburn's historic Bigelow Chapel will highlight the works of notable Boston musicians and composers.

Mount Auburn Cemetery, the nation's first landscaped cemetery, will host a special "Spring Concert" featuring soprano Jean Danton and pianist Thomas Stumpf. During the concert Ms. Danton and Mr. Stumpf will pay tribute to some of the notable musical figures now buried at the Cemetery, performing works composed by Arthur Foote (1853-1937), George Chadwick (1854-1931), Randall Thompson (1899-1984) and Daniel Pinkham (1923-2007) among others. The Spring Concert will be held in Mount Auburn's historic Bigelow Chapel on Saturday, June 14 at 2 PM. Light refreshments will be served following the concert.

Admission: \$15. Please visit www.mountauburn.org for more details or to register in advance.

Other Mount Auburn June Events:

June 1: Family Scavenger Hunt
June 8: "Memories of Trinity Church"

Walking Tours:

June 7: "Discover Mount Auburn"
June 13: " Early-Risers' Horticulture Club"

Mount Auburn Book Club:

June 12: June Book Club Selection: *Grave Matters*

Workshops:

June 5 & 26: Monument Inscription Workshop

Please call or visit www.mountauburn.org for further information.

June Events: Old City Cemetery, Sacramento, California

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Monday, June 2: "Deadheading at Dusk: Historic Rose Garden." Come help tidy up flowers from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Instructions will be offered and light refreshments will be served.

#### Tours:

Friday, June 13" "Friday the 13th Tour Fundraiser." 7:00 and 8:30 PM. \$13 per person.

Saturday, June 21: What's Blooming in the Cemetery Garden Tour, Tour Guide: Sharon Patrician. 10 AM.

For tour information please call (916) 448-0811. Tours are free, though donations for the restoration of the cemetery are greatly needed and appreciated.

[www.OldCityCemetery.com](http://www.OldCityCemetery.com)

### **Events: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

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Saturday, June 7: White Bronze Monuments: Workshop, Tour & Reception. \$30.00, advance registration is required.

Saturday, June 21: "Free at Last: Juneteenth and the Civil War." 2:00 PM, Admission: \$15.00.

Sunday, June 29: "Designing our World, Divining the Next: Artists & Architects Now at Rest." 2:00 PM, Admission: \$15.00.

For more information, visit www.theundergroundmuseum.org.

Georgia Municipal Cemetery Association, Annual Meeting, Savannah, Georgia

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The Georgia Municipal Cemetery Association's (GMCA) Annual Meeting will be held on June 12 and 13, 2008. In addition to the meeting, they are sponsoring a Cemeteries Basics Workshop on June 12th, and tours of Colonial and Bonaventure cemeteries on June 13th. Jason Church of the National Park Service will be speaking at the meeting and leading the conservation workshop.

For more information and to register, visit the GMCA website at:

[www.geocities.com/citycemeteriesofga](http://www.geocities.com/citycemeteriesofga)

### **Avery Memorial Association Cemetery Workshop, Groton, Connecticut**

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On Sunday, July 20, 2008 beginning at 2 pm, the Avery-Morgan Memorial Association will be having a cemetery workshop at the Avery-Morgan Cemetery in Groton, Connecticut, off U.S. Hwy 1.

Frederick E. Burdick has also worked very hard putting together a CD and book about the gravestones at the Avery-Morgan Burial Ground in Groton, CT. The CD includes a map of the cemetery, photos of all the gravestones in the cemetery, their epitaphs and a short biographical sketch on most of the people. The 36-page companion book is wire-comb bound with color cover & clear plastic protective cover sheet. It also has a map, lists of the people buried, their epitaphs and biographies.

He is selling the CD for \$20 and the booklet for \$20, or \$35 for the set (one each CD & booklet), payable by check, in advance. Prices include shipping via U.S. Mail.

All profits will go to the Avery Memorial Association.

International Preservation Trades Network Workshop

The Preservation Trades Network will be holding it's 12th Annual International Preservation Trades Workshop on July 18-20, 2008 in partnership with the Vermont Granite Museum and Stone Arts School, and the Preservation Education Institute and Historic Windsor. IPTW 2008 will take place at the Jones Brothers Company granite shed, home of the Vermont Granite Museum and site of the Stone Arts School in Barre, Vermont.

There will be a section on gravestone repair and maintenance. For more information and to register, visit: <http://www.iptw.org/>.

To learn more about the Vermont Granite Museum and the Stone Arts School, visit their website at: <http://www.granitemuseum.com/>.

Article: "Peaceful Islands of Biodiversity"

This article is from the April/May 2008 *National Wildlife Magazine* about a Green Cemetery in California which is also a Certified Wildlife Habitat.

www.nwf.org

Article: "Grave Dowsing Reconsidered"

This study was published by the Office of the Iowa State Archaeologist and is about why cemetery personnel should not promote grave dowsing.

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/burials/Dowsing.pdf>

Blog Post: Odom Cemetery, Johnson County, Texas

This post is on the Ellis County, Texas blog. It discusses vigilante justice as seen on gravestones in Odom Cemetery.

[Vigilante Justice in Odom Cemetery](#)

Call for Papers: 2009 Symposium, Toronto

AGS Member Catherine Paterson sent in this announcement:

Dear Colleagues,

We are graduate students in archaeology at McMaster University both working on projects dealing with the interaction between identity, community, and mortuary practices in historic cemeteries. We are organizing a symposium for the 2009 Society for Historical Archaeology conference in Toronto and would like to invite you to participate. Below is the abstract for the symposium entitled "Shifting Borders: Understanding Negotiations and Change in Identity in Historic Cemeteries." If you are interested in presenting, or if you have any questions, please contact us.

Also, please feel free forward this to anyone you know who may be interested in participating.

We look forward to hearing from you and hopefully meeting you in Toronto.

Ani Chénier and Catherine Paterson

SHA Symposium: Shifting Borders: Understanding Negotiations and Change in Identity in Historic Cemeteries

Symposium Organizers: Ani Chénier and Catherine Paterson

The aim of this session is to explore how the study of historical cemeteries can help see shifts in the borders people used to define their identity within a diverse community. We invite papers that address how people managed to juggle multiple scales of identity (personal, family, community, gender, religion, country of origin, and other) in the context of ongoing changes derived from broad social and political processes such as immigration, urbanization, and industrialization. How did the creation of memory in a new locale affect how these identities were negotiated and the ways in which community ties and borders were defined? Specifically, we are interested in how these negotiations played out in the burial and commemoration of the dead within the plural/diverse context of historical communities. Also of interest are the ways in which existing cemetery architecture itself was one of the factors that came to bear on subsequent negotiations of social categories. In particular, how were mortuary practices maintained or transformed in ways that were informed by the confluence of extant funerary monuments, memories of past practice and contemporary debates. As well as new case studies that explore these interactions, we welcome theoretical papers that re-assess past works and assumptions, or re-evaluate methods.

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