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# Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

**Issue 31**

**November 2005**

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**From the AGS Administrator:** I would like to create a list of people who are interested in reviewing books for the *Quarterly*. We had a list at one time, but as the job of Book Review Editor changed hands a few times, we lost track of those who are willing to write reviews. Ideally, I'd like to create an email list to let reviewers know what books we've received and to ask who would be interested in writing the review. AGS will supply the book to be reviewed. Once we forward the book, we would like to have your review in hand within a couple of months. Reviews need not be long-a few paragraphs is perfect. If you are interested in writing reviews, please email me at [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org) and I will send you the complete guidelines. Please also indicate your subject interests if you are interested in reviewing certain types of books. --Andrea Carlin.

[The AGS website](#) has been revised! There is a new overall look and the site has been reorganized, making it easier to find information such as external resources, FAQ's, and news. More will be added in the coming weeks so check back often.

*Items for Sale:* We have a new book for sale in the AGS bookstore! *Agawam Stories Carved in Stone* by Rusty Clark is \$11.85 for AGS members, plus shipping and handling. We also carry Rusty's book about West Springfield Cemeteries (2004). For more information visit the [AGS Bookstore](#).

[The AGS 2006 Cemetery Art calendar is now available! It's \\$5.50 \(including shipping\) for AGS members. To order, visit the AGS Gift Shop.](#)

**Update: PBS Cemetery Special**

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In the October e-newsletter, told you about the PBS documentary *A Cemetery Special* by Rick Seback. It is available on DVD from [PBS](#).

AGS member Elisabeth Roark was one of Rick's earliest advisors on the project and in

the documentary she discusses Allegheny Cemetery.

Janet Heywood of Mount Auburn Cemetery wrote to add: Other folks that AGS members may recognize include: Blanche Linden (scholar who wrote the history of Mount Auburn, *Silent City* and AGS board member back in the 1990s, Michael Svanevik, who does historical tours at Cypress Lawn in California, and the presidents of Mount Auburn, Allegheny and Cypress Lawn cemeteries and many, many interesting visitors. Bree Harvey, Bill Clendaniel and Janet were on camera at Mount Auburn. Seback He even visited the famous "I told you I was sick" gravestone in Key West, and he has some great coverage of Historic Oakland in Atlanta.

A review of the program is also at the [Pittsburg Post- Gazette](#).

**Query: White Bronze Gravemarkers**

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These two questions and photo come from Don Hall. He writes: "I have two miscellaneous questions relating to the 'White Bronze' gravemarker in the photo.

1. Can you tell me where the original sculpture of the kneeling child in prayer is, and who sculpted it?
2. What is the technical term for one of these pillars-at-the-corner "temples?" The granddaddy of them all is in St. Peter's in Rome at the intersection of the cruciform building."

Please respond to Don at donh22@frontiernet.net.

**Event & Tours, Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts**

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**Sunday, December 4, 2 p.m.** "Shifting Patterns, Shifting Significance" - a lecture and slide show by landscape historian Jill Sinclair. Join us to learn about the design and social history of Fresh Pond Reservation in the 19th century. Preregistration required. FREE.

**Saturday, December 10, 1 p.m.** ". . . A voice, a chime, a chant sublime. . ." - a winter caroling event at Mount Auburn. FREE.

**Saturday, December 17, 2 p.m.** "Mount Auburn Cemetery - A National Historic Landmark" - a walking tour, Bree Harvey, Public Programming Coordinator, Mount Auburn. \$5, members; \$10, non-members.

**Tuesday, December 20, 3:30 p.m.** Candle Lighting Service at Mount Auburn. This program is held to remember the lives of the many who have gone before us and to experience the uniqueness of Mount Auburn as a memorial of beauty and peace. FREE. [Mount Auburn Cemetery](#)

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

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**December 11, 2 p.m.** "The Language of the Dead: Victorian Funerary Symbolism at Laurel Hill."

**December 31, 11 a.m.** General Meade Birthday Celebration at Laurel Hill. [Laurel Hill Cemetery](#)

## English Cemetery in Florence, Italy Possibly to Close



AGS member Linda Zaleski recently visited The Protestant Cemetery in Florence, Italy (known as the English Cemetery) and reported that the cemetery is in danger of being closed. An emergency appeal fund and petition have been created to keep the cemetery open and be declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. To read more about the potential closing and to sign the petition, please click on the link below. The photo to the left shows Elizabeth Barrett Browning's gravesite (courtesy of Andrew Blittman).

[The Protestant Cemetery, Florence](#)

## New Publication: Burial Terminology: A Guide for Researchers

AGS member Roderick Sprague is the author of a recently published book, *Burial Terminology: A Guide for Researchers*. It includes cemeteries and markers as part of the scheme.

Book Description: "Prominent archaeologist Roderick Sprague finally presents a long-overdue and much-needed logical outline of the variables that should be listed to describe bodies, grave goods, and tombs, establishing standard terms for the archaeologists who excavate these burials. Drawing from examples and terminology in historical archaeology, prehistory, ethnography, and forensic anthropology, this well-illustrated, practical, and user-friendly reference text will be indispensable to all researchers in these and related fields."

It is \$34.95 and available from the publisher, [AltaMira Press](#).

## New Publication: Children's Book about Cemeteries

*The Adventures of James - A Trip to the Cemetery*, by Starr Hailey Campbell. The book describes a young boy's trip to a cemetery with his grandfather and grandmother.

Book Description: "A trip to the cemetery is a wonderful adventure for James as he shares with Grandma and Grandpa as he learns about headstones, graveyards, and national holidays honoring the dead. James' grandma is a family historian. Share in James' excitement as he learns about the care of headstones, rubbings and making of a cemetery kit. This is a truly wonderful, easy to read and educational book to share with every child on your gift list.

The book is \$7.50 and is available directly from the publisher, [Creative Continuum](#).

## Articles: Lorimier Cemetery, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

AGS members Bill Eddleman and John Maurath both wrote to tell about recent vandalism in the Lorimier Cemetery, Cape Girardeau's oldest cemetery. Just after the site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, vandals broke in, pushed over, and damaged more than 69 old stones, causing an estimated \$40,000-\$60,000 worth of damage. The following articles are from the *Southeast Missourian*.

**Article 1:** Lorimier cemetery is placed on the [National Register](#). **Article 2:** Story about the [vandalism](#). **Article 3:** [Follow up story](#). John Maurath was recently featured in an [article](#) about restoration work on the cemetery. Terri Foley who is quoted in the articles above is also a new member of AGS.

**Article: Poker Game in Congressional Cemetery, Washington, DC**

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In the last e-newsletter, we had a link to an article about a poker game held amongst the tombstones in Colma. A poker game was also recently held in Historic Congressional Cemetery in Washington D.C. The story is linked below.

[Last Call Poker holds game in Cemetery](#)

**Article: Body Parts Taken from Mausoleum**

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The link below is to an article in the *Athens Banner-Herald*. Vandals broke into a 19th century mausoleum at Oconee Hill Cemetery in Athens, Georgia and took a skull and other body parts from two caskets.

You have to register to read the article, but registration is free.

[OnlineAthens](#)

**Photos from Shealy Cemetery, Towson, Maryland**

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AGS Trustee Melvin Mason sent in the attached slideshow. It is pictures he took at Shealy Cemetery in Towson, Maryland. He writes: "It has been in the news lately for the effort to have the area designated as historic. It is in one of the Towson Center shopping district parking lots. It is relatively well cared for, i.e., grass is cut and trash removed."

[Shealy Cemetery](#)

**Event: Worcester, Massachusetts**

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On Friday, December 2nd come and meet AGS member organization, the Gravestone Girls, who will be a part of the Worcester Festival of Lights ArtFest. There will be an annual holiday tree lighting on Worcester Common starting at 4 p.m., followed by a Craft and Art Bazaar, musical and roving street performers, and horse drawn hay rides along Main Street until 9 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The Gravestone Girls is a Worcester, Massachusetts-based group. They create decorative artwork using the images carved on olde New England gravestones and teach rubbing classes. Visit their website (link provided below), where you can also sign up for their e-newsletter, *Epitaphs*.

[The Gravestone Girls](#)

**Query: Access to Cemetery on Private Property**

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This query comes from Margaret Harmon. She writes: "I am working with a couple who have a problem with a farmer in Scott County, Missouri. He has destroyed more than one old cemetery on his land. They found one headstone where a relative was buried and photographed it. When they talked with the land owner he claimed to know nothing of a cemetery. She showed him the picture and a list of the people buried there. When they went back the one headstone was gone or buried. The couple has contacted an attorney to help them but are not satisfied with the results. The Sheriff told them he didn't know why they were making such a big fuss over the cemetery as it was very old and the people were dead many years ago.

I wrote an article in the local newspaper outlining the law that landowners MUST allow relatives visits to abandoned cemeteries during reasonable hours of the day. Do members of AGS have any suggestions on how we can force the landowner to allow this couple to erect a small headstone listing the names of the people buried there and insist that the landowner mow around it and not damage it? This couple wants respect for their ancestors but there was no "Perpetual Care" clause in the deed to the land so the land owner feels no obligation to this couple. They are large land owners and most people don't want to rock the boat and make them mad. Any suggestions would be appreciated."

Please respond to Margaret at [charmon@charter.net](mailto:charmon@charter.net).

**Website and Query: Columbian Cemetery, Portland, Oregon**

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Please check out the new website for [Historic Columbian Cemetery](#). Included on the site is a map, online store, articles, and updates.

Dave Foland, the caretaker of the cemetery wrote in with the following question: "A lot of work has recently been done in this cemetery in terms of cleaning up, but they need help with this ongoing project. Are there any AGS members in the area who can help, or is there anyone they can recommend?"

**Obituary: Jae Carmichael**

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The attached obituary is from the *L.A. Times*, and is about the life of Jae Carmichael, who passed away recently. She was a descendant of the Giddings family, which founded Mountain View Cemetery and Mausoleum in Altadena, California in 1882.

She also created the Mountain View Memorial Gallery in cooperation with the Pasadena Cemetery Association and made a film commissioned by the association, *Arbor of Light*.

[L.A. Times](#)

**Article: Woman Fights to Save Ancestors' Graves in Manchester, New Hampshire**

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The link below is to an article in [seacoastonline.com](#), and is about a woman's efforts to stop a proposal for a 12-acre subdivision that included a section of a cemetery in Manchester.

[Sea Coast Online](#)

**Website Link: Graven Garden**

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The link below is to is to Graven Garden, a business that creates a line of ready-to-frame art pieces. The photo to the left is an example, created from photos of monuments and items from nature to celebrate the beauty and history of the monuments.

[Graven Garden](#)

**Request: Can anyone provide a photo of a Venetian Sculpture?**

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We received this request from Anuradha Chatterjee in Australia. "This is regarding the image of the 'Dogaressa' in the Valier Tomb d. 1656 in San Giovanni e Paolo Venice. This is a Baroque sculpture that was discussed by John Ruskin. This sculpture is also discussed in *Tombs Of The Doges - Venice* (Originally Published 1900s) available online at URL: [http://www.oldandsold.com/articles07/veni\\_ce-34.shtml](http://www.oldandsold.com/articles07/veni_ce-34.shtml). Ruskin scholar Paul Sawyer has also discussed this image in Paul Sawyer, *Ruskin's Poetic Argument: The Design of the Major Works*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1985, p. 121. This sculpture is discussed in John Ruskin's *Stones of Venice* vol. 3 (Complete Works 11, p. 113).

Do any AGS members have a photo of this, or suggestions about how to obtain one?" Anuradha's email address is: [chatterjee.anuradha@gmail.com](mailto:chatterjee.anuradha@gmail.com).

**Websites to Check Out**

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Please take a moment to check out the five websites in the "Quick Links" section at the bottom of this newsletter. The first link is to the Pioneer Memorial Cemetery in San Bernardino, California. The website has information about the cemetery, plus transcriptions and photos of most of the stones-- they are working to have all of the stones online soon.

The second link is to the Graven Images Oracle website. New member Natalie Zaman and her partner Kat Clark have created a new system of prediction called Graven

Images Oracle. It is a unique system comprised of 71 cards depicting cemetery imagery. It's not the Tarot--the deck, the text that goes with it and the layout is new. The interpretations are based partly on traditional symbolism. The third link is to the website for Paris Graves. They conduct trips to cemeteries in Paris, along with other French attractions. You can check out schedules, pricing, and itineraries for 2006. The fourth link is to the Cemetery Project Oxford, Connecticut. The site includes inscriptions and photos from cemeteries in Oxford, Connecticut. The last link is to AGS organization member, Washington State Paranormal Investigations and Research (WSPiR), based in Seattle, Washington. Click on "Message Board" on the left hand side of the page. There is a section where volunteers can sign up to help transcribe cemeteries in Washington.

**Quick Links**

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- [Pioneer Memorial Cemetery](#)
- [Graven Images Oracle](#)
- [Paris Graves](#)
- [Oxford Cemetery Project](#)
- [WSPiR](#)

**Contact Information**

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email: [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org)  
phone: 413-772-0836  
web: <http://www.gravestonestudies.org>

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