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Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

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2008 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting



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

CALL FOR PAPERS

Proposals are solicited for scholarly papers, twenty minutes in length, to be presented during the lecture sessions. We encourage

papers on gravestone subjects from around the world as well as specific to the New England region. Presenters are encouraged to incorporate visual images in their paper through the use of slides or power point (the type of visual presentation should be stated).

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION SESSIONS

As part of the Association for Gravestone Studies Conference, we host fifty minute "Participation Sessions," programs conducted in a workshop format where cemetery scholars, preservationists and educators can exchange ideas. These programs are ideal for panels and we recommend including others in your presentation. All Participation Sessions proposals should allow time for questions and audience discussion.

Please send all proposals to: The Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS)
278 Main St., Suite 207
Greenfield, MA 01301
info@gravestonestudies.org

All lecture and participation session proposals should include the paper or session title and a 250 word description of the topic, which focuses on its value to the audience. A brief biography of the presenter should also be included. Presenters are required to register for the conference. All proposals must be received by the close of business on Friday, March 28, 2008.

2008 Conference Scholarships for Students

Three \$250 student scholarships are available for the Thirty-first AGS Conference at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. These are the:

Gary Collison Memorial Scholarship
James Toolin Memorial Scholarship
Barbara Rotundo Memorial Scholarship

Priority will be given to individuals who are presenting papers, leading participation sessions, or taking part in the Conservation Workshop. Applications can be obtained from the AGS office and returned to the office by March 28.

AGS 2008 Conference Preview

In June 2008, 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. Twenty years ago, we met at Amherst College, just a few miles up the road from Hampshire College. 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, click on www.amherstarea.com.

Here is a preview of the Conference Schedule:

Wednesday, June 18th: PRE-CONFERENCE TOUR, led by Kevin Sweeney. We will visit cemeteries in Deerfield, Northfield and Bernardston, Massachusetts, and there, view the work of 18th- and early 19th-century slate cutters, including Solomon Ashley

and John Locke of Deerfield, Jonathan Allen and the Chapin family of Bernardston, and Ebenezer Janes of Northfield. The tour will include a visit to the Memorial Hall Museum at Historic Deerfield (for a glimpse of the museum, click on (<http://www.old-deerfield.org/museum.htm>)).

Thursday, June 19th: WORKSHOPS (Conservation, Photography, Rubbing and Foil Impressions), KEYNOTE ADDRESS, LECTURES and LATE NIGHT SESSION

Friday, June 20: BUS TOURS (choose one of the following three), LECTURES and LATE NIGHT SESSION

EAST SIDE TOUR, led by Kevin Sweeney: 18th- and 19th-century cemeteries along the east side of the Connecticut River--Old Hadley Cemetery in Hadley, Evergreen Cemetery and the Old South Hadley Burying Ground in South Hadley and the Springfield Cemetery in Springfield, Massachusetts.

WEST SIDE TOUR, led by Bob Drinkwater and Rusty Clark: 18th- and 19th-century cemeteries along the west side of the Connecticut River, including Bridge Street Cemetery and St. Mary's Cemetery in Northampton, Park Street Cemetery in West Springfield, and Elmwood or Forestdale Cemetery in Holyoke, Massachusetts. (For a virtual tour of Bridge Street Cemetery, click on: www.historic-northampton.org/601081/601506/601507)

QUABBIN TOUR, led by Tom and Brenda Malloy: 18th/19th-century cemeteries in the area surrounding Quabbin Reservoir--New Salem, Templeton and Petersham, and Quabbin Park Cemetery in Ware (in the 1930s, during the construction of Quabbin Reservoir, thousands of burials, gravemarkers and monuments were moved to Quabbin Park).

Saturday, June 21st: PARTICIPATION SESSIONS, AWARDS BANQUET and ANNUAL MEETING, LECTURES and LATE NIGHT SESSION

Sunday, June 22nd: tba

Additional information on the conference will appear here, in the e-Newsletter, and on the AGS website (www.gravestonestudies.org) during the next few months. The conference registration form will be available on-line after the first of the year. A print version of the registration form will be included in the Winter issue of the *AGS Quarterly*.

AGS Acquires a New Scanner

AGS is now the happy owner of an Epson Perfection V700 scanner, which will process slides, negatives, photographic prints and documents. This has been acquired, particularly, to allow the digitizing of the vast number of slides in our collections, and, in time making them accessible to a wider public.

We are learning how to use this wonderful machine and finding it most suitable to our needs. We shall be scanning to an external hard drive for permanent storage, as well as creating CDs for special needs.

Our members may look forward to the benefit of using this scanner for their own needs. We shall be considering fee schedules for different applications.

AGS E-Newsletters Posted on AGS Website

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 We've started to add back issues of the AGS e-Newsletter to the AGS website. They are posted as PDF files on the [publications page](#). Currently the July -October 2007 issues are posted. Check back often. We will continue to add back issues.

### Query: Rapid Gravestone Deterioration

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 Vincent Luti sent in these photographs and a question:



Samuel Willis 1778. West Bridgewater, Mass. Photographed in 1980.



The same stone, photographed in December 2005, 25 years later! For comment by an expert: After 200 years, how could a stone deteriorate so rapidly in only 27 years?

Please send your comments to info@gravestonestudies.org. We'll print a follow-up with your comments in a future e-newsletter.

Request from AGS Member

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 Donna Walcovy sent in this request. She writes: "A lot of people told me they would e-mail me photos of myself dressed as the Grim Reaper at the Annual Conference banquet last June in NH. So I'm asking, if you have a photo of me, as the Grim Reaper, and/or of photo of John O'Brien as Digger O'Toole (that's a family joke I haven't even

told John) and myself.

More important, a photo of Jessie Farber and me, with or without the Grim Reaper. Meeting Jessie was, ... was awesome, it's been 5 months and I still don't have the words to express what to say; it was better than meeting the The President, and Jessie asked to meet me as the Grim Reaper! Jessie also introduced me to her son, who has been very busy digitizing the Farber collection of gravestone photos.

Donna E. Walcovy ([d.quenzel@comcast.net](mailto:d.quenzel@comcast.net))  
Cape Cod, MA"

### **New Publications by Rabbi Joshua L. Segal**

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Rabbi Joshua L. Segal, author of *A Field Guide to Visiting a Jewish Cemetery* has recently published two new books:

A Self-Guided Tour of Monuments of Jews Buried in the Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts: A History of the Evolution of the Jewish Presence in America's Oldest Garden Cemetery documents the evolution of the Jewish presence in American garden cemeteries from no Jewish symbolism in the 19th century to full comfort with Hebrew & Jewish iconography by the early 21st century.

The Old Jewish Cemetery of Newport (Rhode Island) provides a comprehensive history of the oldest extant Jewish cemetery in North America. This book includes a detailed self-guided tour of the cemetery.

Both books can be ordered through the publisher, [Jewish Cemetery Publications, LLC](#) or [amazon.com](#).

Note: Segal's *Field Guide* is available in the [AGS store](#).

New Publication: *Lakeville, Massachusetts Gravestone Inscriptions 1711-2003*

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*Lakeville, Massachusetts Gravestone Inscriptions 1711-2003* is a new publication by AGS Member Jean Douillette. All stones present in the town through the year 2003, the 150th anniversary of Lakeville, are transcribed. Cemetery locations are identified on a town map and each cemetery has its own chapter. Within each chapter, the names from the gravestones are listed alphabetically as they are spelled on the gravestones and the entire epitaph is recorded for each gravestone. The photographs included depict the variety of stones in Lakeville and provide close-up views of detailed features such as carvings, unique lettering, sculptor signatures, and even the sculptor's fee carved in the stone. Also included are references to cemetery research by previous authors, and vital records.

Details about the book and ordering information are posted on [www.jadou.com](http://www.jadou.com).

An article about the author and book is posted on [South Coast Today Online](#).

### **Graven Images Oracle Available for Purchase**

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The Graven Images Oracle is now available for purchase. The Graven Images Oracle, created by AGS members Natalie Zaman and Katharine Clark, is a new and unique system of prediction comprised of 71 cards depicting cemetery imagery. This is not the

Tarot, nor a reworking of the traditional Rider-Waite deck-Graven Images departs from the usual Tarot in suits, layout and interpretation. The images in the cards have not been altered or enhanced, but reflect the symbols and statuary as they appear in their natural condition, and are used for prediction and meditation based on their own symbolic merit.

It can be ordered directly from the Galde site, or via amazon.com:

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/193194251X/ref=cm_cmu_up_thanks_hdr/104-8757260-6983120

<http://www.galdepress.com/books/newage/gravenimagesoracle.html>

New Cemetery Website: Schumann Cemetery, Kampsville, Illinois

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 AGS Member Gregory Vogel wrote in with this information and request: "The Center for American Archeology has recently completed a cemetery documentation project with the help of a Save Our History grant from The History Channel. A website about the project is now on-line, and we would appreciate any comments or suggestions anyone might have - feel free to contact me at [gvogel@caa-archeology.org](mailto:gvogel@caa-archeology.org). The website is:

<http://www.projectpast.org/gvogel/Schumann/Schumann.html>."

### **New Rhode Island Advisory Commission on Historical Cemeteries Website**

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 The Rhode Island Advisory Commission on Historical Cemeteries has a new website. www.historicalcemeteries.ri.gov. The Commission was created to study the location, condition, and inventory of historical cemeteries in Rhode Island and to make recommendations to the general assembly relative to historical cemeteries in that state. On their site you'll find the searchable *Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Database*. The pre 20th century data is over 95% complete.

Two Articles by AGS Member Mike Bieling

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 Mike Bieling sent in two articles he wrote for *Stone Cuttings*, newsletter of the Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria (British Columbia).

[The Tomb of Victor Noir](#) - Memorial and Myth (he is buried in Pere Lachaise Cemetery in Paris).

[The Decree of 23 Prairial, Year XII](#)

These two articles appear with permission from OCS. Please take a moment to check out their website: <http://www.oldcem.bc.ca/>.

### **Article: Cemetery Center of a Faded Neighborhood**

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 This article, [posted on al.com](#), is about a 97-year old woman's efforts to preserve a cemetery in Puryearville, Alabama.

Holiday Gift Idea

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 Are you looking for a holiday gift idea? What about a membership to AGS for someone

in your extended family or an acquaintance who has expressed an interest in cemetery studies and would appreciate the benefits of AGS membership? If so, go to the membership page at [www.gravestonestudies.org](http://www.gravestonestudies.org) and print the membership form. Fill out the form with the recipient's information and write a note on the form that the membership is a gift from you. Send the form, with the appropriate payment, to The Association for Gravestone Studies, 278 Main St., Suite 207, Greenfield, MA 01301. A packet of materials will be sent to the recipient that will include a letter from the AGS president explaining that the membership is a gift from you or, if you wish, the packet can be sent to you for your personal presentation of the gift.

**Contact Information**

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