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Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

Issue 5

September 2003

We've selected three member websites to be featured in this issue -- The Chicora Foundation has recently updated their cemetery pages, Merilee Adler's site features gravestones in the "Sisters of Sorrow" section, and Sandra Hardy's website is about Pennsylvania German gravestones.

To view their sites, please see "AGS Member Websites" section below.

AGS Fall Cemetery Tours, October 18, 2003

Please join us for our fall cemetery tours in Petersham and New Salem Mass., led by local AGS members. We will meet at the Old Cemetery in Petersham center at 10:30 a.m. (rain or shine). The afternoon tour will be in New Salem. The tours are free, and everyone is welcome! Please provide your own transport and bring a lunch.

Petersham and New Salem are small, rural towns in central Massachusetts, just north of Quabbin Reservoir. Both towns were settled in the 1730's and 1740's; both were incorporated in the early 1750's. At Petersham Center we will see the work of Jonathan Worcester, the Soules, Ebenezer Felton, Samuel Chapin, Samuel Kilburn and a number of other 18th- and early 19th-century stonecutters. At New Salem Center, most of the 18th-century stones were cut by members of the Sikes and the Felton families; most of the early 19th- century stones, by Beza and Isaiah Soule. We will be accompanied by local residents who will share their knowledge of local history and notable individuals.

For more information and directions, please see the AGS website (a link is provided below), or contact us at 413- 772- 0836, e-mail: info@gravestonestudies.org.

[AGS Fall Cemetery Tours](#)

Charlie Marchant Featured in Brattleboro, VT Newspaper

Below is a link to a story in the Brattleboro Reformer about Charlie Marchant, Secretary of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association and AGS member. AGS Clearinghouse Coordinator John Spaulding is also quoted in the article.

[Nap Leads Marchant to Early Graves »](#)

Request for Information: Sedgwick Pie in Stockbridge, Mass.

We recently received an e-mail from Emily Ogden regarding the Sedgwick Pie. She is doing research for a book about the Sedwick family and is wondering if anyone can say conclusively whether the Pie was the first of its kind.

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She would greatly appreciate any information or suggestions from AGS members about how to go about answering the question. If you can help, please e-mail this office at: info@gravestonestudies.org. For more information about the Sedgwick Pie, a link is provided below.

[Sedgwick Pie »](#)

October Cemetery Workshop, Washington D.C.

The Chicora Foundation is presenting a workshop entitled: Cemetery Preservation: Making Good Choices on October 9, 2003 in Washington D.C. The workshop is hosted by the National Preservation Institute. For additional information, contact NPI at 703-765-0100 or at info@npi.org.

Touring the Tombstones, Charleston, SC

"Touring the Tombstones" is a walking tour of 18th century churchyards in historic Charleston, South Carolina. In 1776 this was the wealthiest city, per capita, in the colonies. The wealthy citizens ordered their tombstones from the great New England carvers. Therefore, Charleston has the largest collection of New England stones outside of New England. In addition, Carolina offered unfettered religious freedom, which means there are nine different 18th century graveyards representing nine faiths. This walking tour with long time AGS member Ruth Miller will include at least four of the early graveyards.

The tour will be offered three times this fall: Friday, October 17, 2004; Friday, October 24, 2004; Friday, October 31, 2004. 10:00 AM to Noon. Cost: \$16.50.

For information or reservations contact Charleston Strolls at 843-766-2080, or e-mail: tours@charlestonstrolls.com

[Charleston Strolls »](#)

Green Mount Cemetery Tours, Baltimore City, MD

Opened in 1839 as the city's first urban-rural cemetery, Green Mount is the final resting place of Johns Hopkins, John W. Garrett, Enoch Pratt, William and Henry Walters, Betsy Patterson Bonaparte, Arunah Abell, Albert Ritchie, Theodore McKeldin, Robert Oliver, John Wilkes Booth, and many others. The two-hour tours are led by Baltimore historian and educator Wayne Schaumburg.

The tours will be held on Saturdays October 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th, 2003. Meet inside the cemetery gate at Greenmount Avenue and East Oliver Street at 9:30 a.m. (rain or shine). The tour will end at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Cost is \$10 and reservations are required. For information contact: Wayne Schaumburg, 3910 Klausmier Rd., Baltimore, MD 21236 (410) 256-2180
wschaumburg@earthlink.net

[Green Mount Cemetery Tours »](#)

Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor Walking Tours

Each year the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor organizes Walking Weekends.

This year cemeteries are included in some of the walks. The first is on Saturday October 11, 10 a.m. in Preston CT -- Walk through the Long Society Meeting House

graveyard. Colonial gravestones, the carvers, and whom they commemorate will be discussed.

Sunday October 12, 10 a.m., Norwich, CT. Walk through Yantic Cemetery, visit the graves of important Civil War notables.

Saturday, October 18, 11:00 a.m., Voluntown CT. Ruthie Brown takes a two hour walk through two local cemeteries, with photographs and other items on display. Various local carvers will be discussed. Presented by the Connecticut Gravestone Network.

Saturday. October 18, 1:00 p.m., Dudley MA. 1-1/2 slow walk through two cemeteries. For more information, please call toll free 1-866-363-7226, or visit the website below.

[Walking Weekends](#) »


Forest Lawn Afternoon Symposium, Los Angeles, CA

Forest Lawn will host an afternoon symposium, "From Churchyards to Memorial Parks: The History of Cemeteries and Funeral Rituals in America," on November 1, 2003 beginning at 1:00 pm. in the newly renovated Hall of Liberty at Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills. The event is designed to explore the social, cultural, and religious history of American cemeteries and attitudes towards death.

There will be three speakers: Dr. David Sloane, Dr. Gary Laderman, and Dr. Stephen Prothero. Also, there will be a reception and book signing. For more information, call 800-204-3131, or visit Forest Lawn's website below.

[Forest Lawn](#) »

New Jersey Graveyard Restored

 John Belding, president of the Union Landing Historical Society in Brielle, New Jersey sent in an inspiring narrative. The top photo to the left is the graveyard before restoration work was done, and the bottom two are after the work was completed. To read John's story, a link is provided below. The narrative is in Adobe Acrobat-you must have Adobe Acrobat reader to view and print it. Acrobat reader may be downloaded for free from Adobe Online by visiting:
<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>

[It Was Only Yesterday](#) »

AGS Member Websites

- [Chicora Foundation](#)
- [Sandra Hardy](#)
- [Merrilee Adler](#)

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