

You are receiving this email from the Association for Gravestone Studies as part of your membership. Please [confirm](#) your continued interest in receiving email newsletters from us.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



Association for Gravestone Studies e-newsletter

Issue #53

September 2007

In This Issue:

[Obituary for Gary Collision, Markers Editor](#)

[2008 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting](#)

[AGS Connecticut Valley Fall Tour](#)

[Help Save the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery!](#)

[New Publication: *Old Canadian Cemeteries*](#)

[New Publication: *Cemeteries of the Eastern Sierra*](#)

[New Publication: *Mapping & Documenting Cemeteries*](#)

[Follow up: Placing Stones on Jewish Gravemarkers](#)

[Cemetery Preservation Class Offered at St. Louis \(MO\) Community College](#)

[Cemetery Monument Conservation Workshop: Pensacola, Florida](#)

[Exhibit: Burying Grounds: Art, History, Genealogy-Long Island, New York](#)

[October Tours: Green Mount Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland](#)

[Cemetery Directors Conference, Louisville, Kentucky](#)

[Eagle Scout Restores Section of Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs](#)

[Gravesite with Parking Meter reading "Time Expired"](#)

[Featured Website: Friends of Silverbrook Cemetery, Niles, Michigan](#)

["Strange Gravestones" Blog](#)

Obituary for Gary Collision, Markers Editor

All of us at AGS were greatly saddened to learn this week of the death of Gary Collision. Gary, who many of you will remember as a friend, editor of our journal, Markers, and frequent contributor and supporter of AGS, died of cancer at his home in York, PA on Wednesday, September, 19th.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, September 22nd, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York, followed by burial at Prospect Hill Cemetery.

Gary was a professor of English and American Studies at Penn State, York, founder and chair of the Mid-Atlantic American Culture/Popular Culture Association's 'Death in American Culture' section, author, frequent lecturer at AGS and ACA conferences, and friend and mentor to many in (and out of) his role as editor of *Markers*. He was "a nice guy" to all: kind, conscientious, fair, funny, and fun.

From all of us who knew Gary, our collective affection and sympathy to his wife, Linda, daughter Megan, and son Evan and their families. A more complete obituary memorial will appear in the *Quarterly* and in a future edition of *Markers*. For those who wish, contributions in Gary's memory may be made to the Gary Collison Scholarship Fund, Penn State, York, or to the AGS Scholarship Fund, which he helped to promote and support, from its inception. Rest in Peace, Gary.

Another obituary for Gary appears on legacy.com.

2008 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting

2008 AGS Conference and Annual Meeting

June 17-22, 2008 (a week earlier than usual)

Hampshire College Amherst Massachusetts

Here is a preview of the bus tours we are planning:

PRE-CONFERENCE TOUR, June 18th, 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



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

(<http://www.old-deerfield.org/museum.htm>).

On Friday, June 20, choose one of the following three bus tours.

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 - Bridge Street Cemetery in Northampton (for a virtual tour, click on: www.historic-northampton.org/601081/601506/601507), Park Street Cemetery in West Springfield, and Elmwood or Forestdale Cemetery in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

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-for more information, visit the Friends of Quabbin website:

<http://www.foquabbin.org/>).

AGS Connecticut Valley Fall Tour

 AGS Connecticut Valley Fall Tour, Saturday, November 17 -- Al and Betsy McKee will lead a tour of Longmeadow Cemetery (est. 1675). The McKees live across the street from the cemetery, in the house formerly owned and occupied by stonemason Hermon Newell. During the tour, Al and Betsy will tell of their research on Newell and his successor, "the follower".

Afterward, we will visit the Old Hampden Cemetery (est. 1755) to see more of the work of local sandstone cutters. See the October e-newsletter for more details.

Help Save the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery!

 This announcement comes from the National Trust for Historic Preservation:

Help Save the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery!

It's hard to believe, but officials at Arlington National Cemetery plan to replace the original Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with a new replica solely because of repairable cosmetic imperfections. This 1932 monument is nationally significant and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The 48-ton marble block has two nonstructural cracks which pose no threat to visitors or the historic structure. Surprisingly, federal bureaucrats want the replica carved from new stone that experts agree will likely again crack along its grain just as marble does naturally when exposed to the elements. Repair and proper care of the Tomb (re-grouting the cracks and using only gentle cleaning methods instead of high-pressure power-washing) is possible and is the preferred method for fixing the existing cracks.

Once the National Trust learned about this ill-considered plan, we raised the alarm with Members of Congress and tried unsuccessfully to consult with those who administer the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

A decision to determine the fate of the Tomb Monument is expected by September 30th. Your help is needed to weigh in with decision-makers to help save the memorial.

Contact [John Metzler](#), superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery and ask him to repair rather than replace the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

New Publication: *Old Canadian Cemeteries*

Old Canadian Cemeteries: Places of Memory is a new book by AGS Member Jane Irwin. She talked about it as a work-in-progress at the 2005 AGS Conference in Halifax.

In *Old Canadian Cemeteries*, Irwin invites the reader on a visual tour of historic cemeteries across Canada, examining such diverse topics as:

- Burial traditions, including customs from Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Ukranian, Quaker, Pioneer, Acadian, Chinese, Japanese, Inuit, First Nations and African-American traditions
- War memorials
- Graveyard symbols and motifs, and their meanings
- Materials used in cemeteries--stone, wood, bronze and cast iron
- Historic graveyard conservation.

Old Canadian Cemeteries is in stock at Amazon.com and also at the wholesalers used by independent bookstores throughout the United States and Canada.

New Publication: *Cemeteries of the Eastern Sierra*

~~~~~  
*Cemeteries of the Eastern Sierra* is a new book by AGS Member Gena Philibert-Ortega.

More than 20 cemeteries and burial places are featured. Philibert-Ortega also shares the history of the counties that surround them, through the 200 vintage images that fill the pages.

Highlights of *Cemeteries of the Eastern Sierra*:

- Features information on little known cemeteries in Inyo and Mono Counties
- Includes information on the 1872 Lone Pine earthquake, which almost destroyed the town of Lone Pine
- Describes the history of cemeteries in Bishop, Bridgeport and Big Pine
- Illustrates gravestones and gives information about the meaning of the Victorian imagery on them

*Cemeteries of the Eastern Sierra* is available at area bookstores, independent retailers, and online retailers, or through Arcadia Publishing at (888)-313-2665 or [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com).

### **New Publication: *Mapping & Documenting Cemeteries***

~~~~~  
Mapping & Documenting Cemeteries is a new publication by AGS Member Pamela Goffinet. Pamela led a workshop on mapping cemeteries at the 2006 AGS Conference in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

This is a practical how-to book that guides the reader through the process of mapping and documenting a cemetery, using easily available tools and basic skills.

Included are:

- Instructions on creating a map;
- Gathering an inscription database;
- Assembling a spreadsheet of related information, such as deeds

It is \$29.95 plus \$3.00 for shipping. For inquiries and book orders, contact:

PKGDeal-Pamela Goffinet
 293 Lewisville Rd.
 Elkton, MD 21921
FourDogs@gmail.com

Follow up: Placing Stones on Jewish Gravemarkers

~~~~~

In the August issue of the AGS e-newsletter, we featured information from Zena Beth McGlashan about the practice of placing stones on Jewish gravemarkers.

Rabbi Joshua Segal sent in this follow up:

"The most complete treatment I have ever seen of the issue of pebbles on Tombstones from a Jewish point of view was written by Dr. Mareleyn Schneider of Yeshiva U. She has 37 different explanations, or possible explanations of the pebble phenomenon.

The not-yet-released 3rd printing of my book, *A Field Guide to Visiting a Jewish Cemetery*, includes this article. If any AGS member owns either the 2nd or 1st printing (and I'll take their word for it), I can email them a pdf file of this article -- [segaljl@aol.com](mailto:segaljl@aol.com)."

Note: *A Field Guide to Visiting a Jewish Cemetery* is available for purchase in the [AGS Bookstore](#).

### Cemetery Preservation Class Offered at St. Louis (MO) Community College

~~~~~

AGS Member Keith Rawlings will be teaching two cemetery preservation classes at St. Louis Community College on October 20th. *Quinette Cemetery & Cemetery Preservation* will be held in the morning. Topics include history of the cemetery, mapping, probing for headstones and tombstone rubbing. *Quinette Cemetery: Hands on Learning* will be held in the afternoon. This class will meet at the cemetery.

For more information, please visit the [St. Louis Community College Website](#).

Cemetery Monument Conservation Workshop: Pensacola, Florida

~~~~~

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) is sponsoring a cemetery monument conservation workshop, October 23-25 in St. Michael's Cemetery in Pensacola, Florida. This three-day workshop will be a combination of lecture, demonstration and hands-on training in a round-robin format. The workshop is limited to 32 participants.

Details and registration information is available on [NCPTT's website](#).

### Exhibit: Burying Grounds: Art, History, Genealogy-Long Island, New York

~~~~~

The Northport Historical Society Museum on Long Island will be displaying the exhibit: "Burying Grounds: Art, History, Genealogy" beginning on October 14th and will run through March 1st, 2008. The exhibit will include colonial era through modern day art, carvers, symbols, tools, materials and more.

For more information, please visit <http://www.northporthistorical.org/>.

The Museum asks if any AGS Members have colonial era stone carving tools (or pictures of them) that they could borrow for the exhibit. Please email Terry at mcsaragon@hotmail.com.

October Tours: Green Mount Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland

~~~~~  
 Four guided tours of historic Green Mount Cemetery will be held on Saturday, October 6, 13, 20, 27.

Green Mount is the final resting place of Johns Hopkins, Enoch Pratt, William and Henry Walters, Mary Elizabeth Garrett, Theodore McKeldin, John Wilkes Booth, Betsy Patterson, Walter Lord and other famous Marylanders.

Tours begin at 9:30 a.m. from the main gate located at Greenmount Avenue and East Oliver Street. The two-hour tours are led by Baltimore historian and educator Wayne R. Schaumburg. The cost is \$15.

Reservations are required and can be made by calling 410-256-2180 or by e-mail at [wschaumburg@earthlink.net](mailto:wschaumburg@earthlink.net).

### **Cemetery Directors Conference, Louisville, Kentucky**

~~~~~  
Cemetery Directors Conference, Seelbach Hilton in Louisville, Kentucky, October 25 and October 26.

The most progressive cemeterians in the business will be doling out business tips that will help attendees stand out from the competition. The conference is sponsored by Kates-Boylston Publications.

There's still time to sign up for this conference, which has been brought back by popular demand. At the conference, you will:

- Find new revenue sources
- Learn how to evaluate the latest cremation opportunities
- Share ideas with colleagues from around the world
- Walk away with new ideas you can immediately implement

For more information or to Register, Call 800-260-1545, or visit www.katesboylston.com/CDC2007/index.html.

Eagle Scout Restores Section of Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs

~~~~~  
 Orion Howard of Colorado Springs, Colorado was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout based on his project to catalogue and restore and beautify Lot 21 of Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs. Using the AGS website as a guide on correct procedures, Orion organized a team who rebuilt nearly 10 coping walls, pulled grass and vines away from headstones and plot walls, and restored a baby's grave dating to 1898. He also arranged a team effort to raise a headstone weighing about 2-1/2 tons, knocked down by vandals nearly three years ago. Lot 21 has been mapped and catalogued as well, and names previously unknown were discovered thanks to Orion's efforts.

Photos of Orion's Eagle project can be viewed at <http://orionhunter58.spaces.live.com>.

Congratulations Orion!

### **Gravesite with Parking Meter reading "Time Expired"**

AGS Member Don Hall called our attention to this unique gravemarker. Photos and comments are posted on [snopes.com](http://snopes.com).

**Featured Website: Friends of Silverbrook Cemetery, Niles, Michigan**

~~~~~  
Please take a moment to check out the [Friends of Silverbrook Cemetery's website](#). The site features a photo album with over 5,000 photos of the cemetery, a searchable grave database, plus news and recommended links.

"Strange Gravestones" Blog

~~~~~  
The "Strange Gravestones" blog contains photos of and comments about some unusual markers. It is posted on [Mental Floss.com](http://Mental_Floss.com).

**Article: Cemetery Thefts Lead to Macon (Georgia) Man's Arrest**

~~~~~  
The article is posted on the [Macon Telegraph website](#).

Contact Information

~~~~~  
The Association for Gravestone Studies  
278 Main Street, Suite 207  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
(413) 772-0836  
[info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org)  
[www.gravestonestudies.org](http://www.gravestonestudies.org)  
~~~~~

[Forward email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to info@gravestonestudies.org, by info@gravestonestudies.org
Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Association for Gravestone Studies | 278 Main St. | Suite 207 | Greenfield | MA | 01301