Cemetery Preservation Committee Wins Award

On Saturday, June 24, 2006 the Board of Trustees of The Association for Gravestone Studies presented The Oakley Certificate of Merit to the Olde Historical Burial Ground Joint Committee of the First Presbyterian Church for distinguished achievement in promoting the mission of the Association. Mr. John O'Brien of Belvidere, a member of the Association, nominated the Olde Presbyterian Burial Ground, located on Main Street in Hackettstown, for this award. The award was accepted by Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Geiger, members of the committee on behalf of the Joint Committee.

Founded in 1977, the Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS) is an international organization headquartered in Greenfield, Massachusetts. The mission of the Association for Gravestone Studies is to foster appreciation of the cultural significance of gravestones and burial grounds of all periods and styles through their study and preservation. AGS promotes the study of gravestones from historical and artistic perspectives through its publications, conferences, workshops and exhibits. They work to encourages individuals and groups to record and preserve gravestones and expand public awareness of the significance of historic gravemarkers. The Oakley Certificate of Merit is given to groups or individuals who embody the mission of the Association.

You can learn more about ASG by visiting their site on the internet at http://www.gravestonestudies.org/. For information or opportunities on how you can help continue the restoration of the Olde Presbyterian Burial Ground, please contact the Olde Burial Ground Restoration Committee at 908.852.5941