



# Coalition Courier

“to build the future, we do not have  
to destroy the past”

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Protect Maryland  
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## Inside this issue:



Diane Nesmeyer

### The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Glenview Mansion, Rockville

On April 23, 2005, the Coalition held its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at historic Glenview Mansion in Rockville. The minutes by Secretary Jean Keenan can be found starting on page 2.

The meeting began with Eileen McGuickian, Executive Director for Peerless Rockville, who treated the audience to a brief history of Glenview Mansion.

In 1836, an attorney from Georgetown, by the name of Judge Richard Johns Bowie purchased three tracts of land to form the property he would name “Glenview”. The core of Glenview Mansion was built during the years 1836-38. No illustrations of the house exist for this time. In 1880 Judge Bowie would donate five acres of land for Rockville Cemetery. In 1889 Catherine Bowie, the Judge’s widow, would donate two more acres.

Charles J. Fox, Franklin Fox, and Emma J. Walters owned Glenview from 1904—

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1917. They made additions to the property through the years and sold it to Mrs. Irene Smith in 1917. Mrs. Smith married Dr. James Alexander Lyon. Dr. and Mrs. Lyon planned to use the property as a summer home.

The Lyons made major expansion and style transformations as well as changes to the property's landscape. Mrs. Lyon's passed away in 1950 and the property went up for sale in 1953. The Montgomery County Historical Society bought the property but had to sell it in 1957 because of the high costs for upkeep and maintenance. The City of Rockville purchased the property with plans to use the property for historical, cultural, and recreational activities. [Author's Note: I gleaned the brief history written here from <http://www.rockvillemd.gov/tours/glenview/glenviewtour/index.html>.]

I am sorry that I did not have an opportunity to walk around the mansion. There was so much happening during the meeting that there was just not enough time to wander around and admire the building.

After the business portion of the meeting concluded the Periwinkle Awards were given. See pages 6 through 9 for details and pictures of this year's winners.

Next on the agenda was Anne Brockett, Project Chair for the Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Project. [See Courier issues for Fall 2004 and Winter 2004—2005 for more information about this project.] If you, or your group, are planning to conduct an inventory project in your county I suggest that you contact Anne. The Montgomery project is almost complete, and we must say a success, under Anne's very capable leadership. Anne is very detail oriented, knowledgeable, organized, and motivational, exceptional qualities for a project of this scope and importance.

After Anne's talk we were treated to a program by Ed Okonowicz, "Tales Tombstones Tell". Mr. Okonowicz resides in Elkton, MD and teaches courses in storytelling, communications, and writing and is an editor and writer at the University of Delaware. Mr. Okonowicz is the author of 24 books and offers a number of programs including the tombstone tales. We suggest that you visit his

website at <http://www.mystandlace.com> for more information about the speaker, the books he has for sale, and the programs he offers for your group event or meeting. [Note: Ed is now a member of the Coalition.]

After lunch Eileen McGuckian provided a brief introduction to Historic Rockville Cemetery and at the adjournment the members traveled the short distance to the cemetery.

While at the cemetery, Robert Mosko discussed one preservation project that he has been contracted to do at Rockville Cemetery. The members were then guided through the cemetery by Eileen McGuckian, stopping at various markers, to discuss the deceased. Other members of Rockville Cemetery Association, Inc. were on hand to discuss the documentation project being undertaken at the cemetery.

If you were unable to attend you missed some good programs and cemetery tour. The weather even cooperated. We did not encounter rain showers until we were well on our way home. We always recommend that you mark your calendar and plan to attend these meetings. Much effort goes into the planning and execution of this event. Jim Trader has already set the date for the next annual meeting, April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Ocean City, MD. Mark your calendar today so you won't schedule something else for that weekend. We would sure like to see more members take advantage.

Diane Nesmeyer

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Glenview Mansion, Rockville, MD**  
**Saturday, April 23, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Secretary Jean Keenan, substituting for President Ed Taylor until he arrived. Eileen McGuckian, Executive Director of Peerless Rockville, welcomed everyone and gave a short history of the historic mansion.

There were 44 people present. Ten Board members present were Ed Taylor, Paul Miller, Gary Kraske, Jean Keenan, Ann Bolt, Dorothy Brault, George Horvath, Melvin Mason, Tom Mason, and Jim Trader. Members absent were Bob Lyons

(excused), Barbara Sieg (excused), Chrystie Krabal, and Janice Hayes-Williams.(unexcused).

Jean expressed appreciation for all persons attending and thanked Peerless Rockville and Rockville Cemetery, Inc., for co-hosting the meeting. She brought greetings from Barbara Sieg who was to have been our speaker but is recovering from surgery. Barbara's remarks were made available. A card was signed by attendees to send to her.

By a motion made by George Horvath, the minutes were approved as previously printed in the *Courier* with two corrections by Jim Trader: (1) Our lawyer's firm name is Honick and White of Salisbury, MD and (2) the vote taken on the motion in item 3 under new business was invalid because a majority vote was not obtained.

Gary Kraske, treasurer, reported a balance of \$7,370.91. The complete report is filed with these minutes. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by George Horvath, was seconded, and approved. Gary suggested that because the money obtained by dues is barely enough to cover running expenses, that we establish giving opportunities with the following category names:

Greenmount – equal to or greater than \$500

Congressional – equal to or greater than \$300, but less than \$500

Westminster – equal to or greater than \$100, but less than \$300

Loudon Park – equal to or greater than \$50, but less than \$100

Mt. Olivet – less than \$50

A motion to establish these giving categories was made by Melvin Mason, was seconded and approved.

President Ed Taylor arrived and assumed leadership of the meeting.

Kristin Kraske, reported that we have 89 paid members and 16 honorary memberships. There were four new members this quarter.

Jim Trader, Legislative Committee Chairman, discussed H.B. 410 and two proposed amendments introduced in the 2005 Legislature. The bill passed 136-0 in the House and by unknown vote

in the Senate, and awaits approval by the Governor. A suggestion was made that in the future, proposed legislation be explained in the *Courier* and the names of the delegates to be contacted be listed with addresses and phone numbers.

### Old Business

1. Carroll County – The Flin-Garner Cemetery situation: The attorney for Mr. Plunkert has contacted Jeffrey White, the attorney for Mrs. Rosamond Freeman, about terms of an out-of-court settlement. This will have to be approved by Mrs. Freeman and agreeable to the Board of the Coalition.

2. Family Remembrance Week – Gary Kraske reported that a proclamation is on its way from Governor Ehrlich.

### New Business

1. Jim Trader discussed the proposed March 23, 2005 changes to the By-laws that he submitted to the Board Members for their review. A Poll vote of Board Members, except for Jim Trader, resulted in 11 votes FOR (D. Brault, R. Lyons, C. Krabal, P. Miller, B. Sieg, G. Horvath, G. Kraske, T. Mason, M. Mason, A. Bolt, and J. Keenan. There were 0 votes AGAINST, 0 ABSTENTIONS. Unable to contact J. Hayes-Williams. A 2/3 vote (10) is necessary to approve a motion.

Article IV (B) Board members shall be elected by a majority vote of the qualified membership from members in good standing at the Annual Meeting.

Article IV (D) A vacancy on the Board between Annual Meetings due to resignation or

other cause may be filled by a majority vote of the Board members.

Article V (B) The term in office for elected officers shall be for one (1) year.

Article V (C) Officers shall be elected by a majority vote by the qualified membership from members in good standing at the Annual Meeting.. An officer may not serve in the same office for more than two (2) consecutive terms. To be elected for an additional term in the same office, there must be an interim period of one (1) year.

Article V (D) (new) In the event that any officer shall notify members of the Board of Directors that

he/she cannot complete the term of his/her elected office, then Board Members may elect on a pro-tem basis a replacement officer, either from the general membership or from the Board of Directors, until the next Annual Meeting at which time a full term replacement officer shall be elected. A motion to approve the was made by George Horvath, seconded, and passed by a vote of both general and Board members.

Article V (F) The Vice-President shall:

1. assist the President and carry out assigned duties;
2. preside at meetings to conduct Coalition business in the absence of the president.

Article VI (A) The President shall, from the Board of Directors or the general membership, appoint members of all standing committees at the first Quarterly Board Meeting.

Article VI (D) (Last Sentence) The general membership shall be before, but in no case later than, the Annual Meeting, notified of nominees for the Board of Directors and officers proposed for election.

Article X -1. Amendments to By-laws may be amended by a majority vote of members of the Board of Directors

2. Resignations from the Board must be by letter to the President for our records.
2. Election of Officers. Ed Taylor reluctantly announced his resignation as President due to pressing family problems.

George Horvath, chair of the Nominating Committee gave his report of nominations for one-year terms:

President – Jim Trader  
 Vice-President – Paul Miller  
 Treasurer – Gary Kraske  
 Secretary - Jean Keenan  
 Board Member – Ed Taylor

There were no nominations from the floor. Melvin Mason moved that the slate be elected unanimously. Motion was seconded and carried. Present Board members in good standing will automati-

cally serve for one year. Two Board members have been dropped: Chrystine Krabal (resigned) and Janice Hayes-Williams for unexcused absences.

3. Jim Trader reported that he wrote to the President of MD Public Television on March 13, 2005, about a series on the plight of cemeteries in Maryland, but has had no response.
4. Eileen McGuckian presented to the Coalition a packet of information on Phases I and II of the inventory of historic burial sites in Montgomery County.
5. Periwinkle Awards – Four awards were given this year:
  - a. Dr, Stephen Cromwell from Montgomery County was introduced by Dorothy Brault
  - b. Betty and Bob Fowler from Carroll County were introduced in absentia by Ann Horvath.
  - c. Jean Sunday from Anne Arundel County was introduced by Jean Keenan
  - d. Eileen S. McGuckian from Montgomery County was also introduced by Jean Keenan.

The complete texts of their introductions are filed with these minutes. Each recipient was given a framed certificate and a periwinkle plant.

6. Jim Trader reported that he wrote to the President of the MD Public Television on March 13, 2005, about a series on the plight of cemeteries in Maryland, but has had no response.
7. Eileen McGuckian presented the Coalition a packet of information on Phases I and II of the Montgomery County Inventory of Burial Sites.
8. Announcement was made by Jim Trader of the dates for the next three quarterly meetings which will be held at Miller Library in Ellicott City at 1 p.m. on July 9 and October 8, 2005, and January 14 and April 22, 2006. Jim plans to hold the Annual Meeting on April 22 in Ocean City, MD
9. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Anne Brockett gave a very informative talk on the Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Project that she chairs. This group under the guidance of Eileen McGuckian has accomplished a great deal

of work in the past year.

Ed Okonowicz gave us a very entertaining talk entitled "Tales Tombstones Tell". Ed is an award-winning storyteller and regional author of 23 books on Delmarva culture and folklore.

A delicious buffet lunch followed. Then Eileen McGuckian told us the history of Rockville Cemetery. Following that, she led us on an interesting tour of the old cemetery where Robert Mosko gave a demonstration on tombstone restoration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean W. Keenan, Secretary

### From the Editors' Desks

It seems like just yesterday we were getting ready to attend the Annual Meeting. The meeting has long ended but the memories are still fresh. Eileen McGuckian and Dottie Brault did a splendid job putting together the day's events. If you were not able to attend the meeting all we can say is, "You sure missed a good one."

There were plenty of pictures snapped as you can see throughout this issue. Jim Trader told us to reserve April 22 on our calendars for the Annual Meeting at Ocean City. Ocean City brings fond memories of all those summer vacations spent in that sunny seaside town. This visit will be a little different but sure to hold great memories after it is ended. We will keep you posted as plans are made. It would be nice to see more members take advantage.

A brave soul stepped forward at the Annual Meeting in April and has offered to help with the *Courier*. Caroline Rickerson will be helping with the typing and with writing the synopsis of the cemetery-related articles that members send our way. Her offer has been such a godsend given the fact that both our jobs have been demanding more of our attention than usual these days.

In addition to Caroline we want to thank Frank Carson, Barbara Sieg, Jim Trader, Jean Keenan, Melvin Mason, Robert Mosko, Kristin Kraske, Dottie Brault, and George and Ann Horvath for sending articles for this issue.

We have a new page on our website – Conservators. If you have the names of any organizations or

individuals that work in conserving/preserving cemeteries please pass along the information.

Member Bryan Green has included your editors as recipients of the newsletter for the "Graves Registration Committee, Maryland Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans". The Coalition is listed as a resource for preservation. Anyone interested in more information can contact the Chairman at [mdcsagraves@aol.com](mailto:mdcsagraves@aol.com).

Bryan wrote an article that was included in the last issue of the *Courier*. Bryan also provided some updated information for those of us that have a copy of *Directory of Maryland Burial Grounds*. He wanted to provide everyone with an update on the location of a cemetery in the book. Brook Grove United Methodist Church is listed under Montgomery County Cemeteries – Church. The church has a new name, Agape A.M.E. Church.

Jeff and Diane Nesmeyer

### A Word From Our President

Because I am greatly concerned about the future of the Coalition and a strongly committed general membership and board of Directors, I agreed to serve a one-year term as your President, my 3<sup>rd</sup> term in that position. As stated in my 1995 message, I ask you to place the work of the Coalition as priority over your own personal agenda and I challenge each of you to:

- 1) recruit five new members;
- 2) to see information on the Coalition is on file at county libraries;
- 3) to meet with county State's Attorneys about enforcement of Maryland cemetery laws;
- 4) to meet with the County Health Officer and determine if regulations and laws are being followed;
- 5) to meet with your elected County officials and legislative members to discuss the work of the Coalition and to seek their cooperation on legislation and efforts at the county level to identify and protect cemeteries and burial sites;
- 6) to meet with local Planning & Zoning Agency officials on provision in county ordinances on cemeteries and burial sites; and

7) to contact the news media for publicity when a cemetery or burial site is threatened or endangered.

With owner approval, you could set up a card table, appropriate sign, and distribute our brochure and copies of the *Courier* at shopping malls—a great public contact situation.

I shall endeavor and devote my energies to the Coalition as I have done since becoming a member in 1993 and look forward to the challenges we still need to overcome. Your thoughts and prayers will be helpful.

Jim Trader

### **2005 Periwinkle Award Recipients**

#### **Bob and Betty Fowler**

Bob and Betty are unable to be with us today. They retired and moved to Florida in 1994. However, they visit their families in Carroll County and continue their genealogical projects during the summer, so we will be seeing them in June.

Bob was born in Baltimore, lived in Baltimore and Calvert Counties as a child, graduated from the University of Baltimore in 1958 and worked for Ford Motor Co. for 30 years.

Betty was born in Carroll County, graduated from Towson with her Bachelor's degree and Western Maryland with a Masters. She worked for the State of MD for 34 years.

They have 2 sons and 2 grandchildren.

Bob is the genealogy enthusiast and as a result of working on his wife's Franklin genealogy found 2 Franklin Family cemeteries in Carroll County. Together, during their summer visits they have cleaned up these cemeteries. On Sunday, May 16, 2004 they had a rededication ceremony at the Gilbert Road cemetery. This cemetery sits in a housing development. There is a Thomas Franklin buried at this cemetery whose stone was removed by a descendant many years ago. Thomas was born in 1732 and died 1797. Bob has tried very hard to locate this missing stone and thus far has been unsuccessful. A new one was put in at the dedication.

The other cemetery is a few miles away on a farm off of Franklinville road, just above Taylorsville. The Fowlers located this cemetery in 1992 and re-

stored it last summer.

We have notified this couple of this award and they were very pleased. We are pleased to accept the certificate and periwinkle for them and look forward to presenting it to them when they come up in June.

George and Ann Horvath



#### **Dr. Stephen Cluskey Cromwell, Jr.**

In 1894, one hundred and fifty years after the cemetery was established, the newly-formed Rockville Cemetery Association appointed a group of women to its Executive Committee. Under the leadership of Rebecca T. Veirs, the committee cleared grounds, planted trees and beautified the deteriorated burying ground.

A century later, the cemetery was amidst another period of neglect. The community was concerned that this final resting place of many prominent Rockville citizens was in such a terrible state of disrepair. A group of interested local citizens from a variety of disciplines (Rockville Rotary Club, recreation, historic preservation, family interests) united to restore Rockville's oldest burying ground and to formed the Rockville Cemetery Association, Inc. in 2002.

Its first President is Dr. Stephen Cluskey Cromwell, Jr., a great-grandson of Rebecca T. Veirs, of the energetic 1894 Executive Committee.

Dr. Cromwell has lived in Rockville all his life. He attended schools in the area, and after serving his country and community with distinction in WWII, he entered into the practice of medicine and remained in Rockville until his recent retirement. He was among the first to join with the citizens in the ongoing cemetery restoration project and agreed to become its president. Under his leadership, historic district design guidelines were approved by the

Rockville Mayor and Council. Older and damaged tombstones in the upper section of the cemetery are being repaired. Fundraising efforts are under way one of which is the sale of burial lots that Dr. Cromwell supervises. An old access road into the cemetery has been improved, a caretaker's cottage has been restored, and the dumping of debris has been reduced with the cooperation of local police. The cemetery has community clean-up days during the year and hosts tours of the cemetery.

Under Dr. Cromwell's leadership, much has been accomplished in a short time.

Records since the 1750s have been computerized, the old access road into the cemetery has been rebuilt, the caretaker's cottage has been restored and leased, and the dumping of debris has been reduced with the cooperation of local police. The cemetery has community clean-up days during the year and hosts tours of the cemetery. Rockville Cemetery was designated a local Historic District by the Mayor and Council in 2002, and Design Guidelines for the cemetery were approved by the Rockville Mayor and Council in 2004. Leaning and damaged tombstones in the upper section of the cemetery are currently being repaired, and considerable tree work has been accomplished. Fundraising efforts are currently being organized to continue these and other priorities in the cemetery.

The Board of Directors emphasizes that, in addition to leading the organization and keeping the burial records, Dr. Cromwell is the champion salesman of burial lots in Rockville Cemetery. This activity and source of income had nearly stopped before the new Association took over.

Thanks to Dr. Cromwell and his active Board of Directors, this historic area is being restored to its original rural park-like design.

Dorothy M. Brault



### **Mrs. Jean Sunday, Anne Arundel County**

The Coalition is proud to give one of its Periwinkle Awards this year to Mrs. Jean Sunday of Anne Arundel County. Mrs. Sunday is a member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Crownsville, MD. Land for St. Stephens Church was donated by John A. Reigle and his was the first burial there in 1829. To date there have been 508 burials in the cemetery there.

Mrs. Sunday's husband, Charles was a volunteer Cemetery Superintendent from 1980 to 2000 – that's 20 years!. Jean assisted her husband. In 2000 the vestry appointed Jean as Cemetery Administrator. She established a new set of cemetery records, duplicating data from all available parochial records and verifying information with tombstones in the cemetery. Individual tombstones were photographed and are contained in a separate binder. Here is a very good idea: When burial plots are purchased, cemetery easements, assigning the grave plots and prescribing the instructions for burial and cemetery maintenance are given to the purchaser. Copies were also mailed to the known addresses of families of former burials.

When her husband died in 2001, since he had been so dedicated to the care of the cemetery, the monetary memorials received in his name were used to purchase monuments for the old graves without markers. Other memorials, gifts and contributions from St. Stephen's Guild received in the past three years has enabled the purchase of a total of 81 monuments for the unmarked graves!

In addition to the work described, Jean serves on several other church committees and has been a member of the vestry since 1982. She is a member of the committee to write the "History of Severn Parish, 1838-1988", established the parish archives and continues as the archivist. The Maryland Episcopal Diocese Archivists invited her to be a member of their group. Besides all of this she is also active in several civic associations and the Odenton Historical Society.

Jean's family consists of a daughter, son-in-law, two granddaughters and their husbands and two great-grandsons.

Jean Keenan



**Eileen McGuckian**

Where does one begin in enumerating the countless ways in which Eileen McGuckian has contributed to the preservation of cemeteries? As Executive Director of Peerless Rockville she has developed, organized, and directed countless special and ongoing preservation and educational projects in the Rockville community, involving historical buildings, parks, and cemeteries. In accomplishing this she has done research, written numerous articles and books, given speeches, organized fundraising, written grants, conducted educational programs and given tours.

Two years ago Eileen assisted the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites in forming its first county-based organization under the auspices of the Coalition. Their first goal was to begin an inventory of cemeteries in Montgomery County. Because Peerless Rockville has a non-profit status, Eileen was able to write and obtain a grant to fund this project. Anne Brockett was hired to be the project coordinator. You will hear a report of this project from Anne in a few minutes.

In gathering information about Eileen's additional involvement with cemeteries, I was given the names of five persons who each willingly told me about their association with Eileen in their particular cemetery project. Each of them highly praised her efforts to help and her willingness to work, often on her own time to attend meetings, give advice and make cemetery visits.

Beth Rodgers told how Eileen galvanized the community into action to preserve Rockville Cemetery that we shall hear about and visit this afternoon. "Eileen's experience was invaluable", said Beth, "in the restoration and in the formation of the board of the Rockville Cemetery".

Higgins Cemetery had become an illegal dump,

reported Mary Ann Barnes. In about 1980 Eileen obtained grants to restore the old cemetery which, in addition to countless other former citizens, contains graves of participants in the Revolutionary War. She was instrumental in organizing lineal descendants, local businesses and interested citizens in the restoration project.

Bulldozers had destroyed many graves in the  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre Haiti Cemetery in Rockville. Fifty to sixty slaves are known to be buried here. Warren Crutchfield praised the efforts of Eileen in giving valuable guidance in the restoration of this old cemetery.

The Autre St. Mary's/Lytton Family Cemetery was the only land remaining from the huge estate of Caleb Lytton who came here in the latter part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The city of Rockville eventually developed here and the cemetery became city property. With Eileen's help, descendants determined the names of the persons buried in the 20 by 30 feet burial site. A Boy Scout troop helped to clear the area and neighbors were informed about the project. In September of 2004 a dedication ceremony was held by the city of Rockville naming one-acre The Autre/St. Mary's Park. The park and cemetery are maintained by the city. Children are invited to play there. A teacher from a nearby elementary school brings his class to the cemetery every Halloween, during the day, to teach them about the history of the people who are buried there and the importance of respecting their graves. Eileen helped to develop the language for the historical park marker.

The Montgomery County Historical Society owned the Baptist Cemetery after the church had moved and could no longer care for it. Peerless Rockville took over ownership in 1983 and has maintained the cemetery for the past 22 years. This has involved the usual cleanups, trimming and removal of trees, and replacing the fence twice, according to Suzanne Fisher. The graves of old Rockville families can be found there, including that of a child who was killed in a train accident. Eileen has been successful in obtaining grants and in fundraising to finance the upkeep of the cemetery.

Recognition of Eileen McGuckian by the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites is long overdue. She has been a member, staunch supporter and

willing worker since the founding of our organization in 1991. Thank you, Eileen.

Jean W. Keenan

### 2005 Legislative Report

House Bill 410 as introduced proposed 2 amendments to the Criminal Law-Article, Title 10, Section 10-404 pertaining to cemeteries. The first amendment provided that it is not unlawful to remove, repair, or replace a funerary object, building, wall, fence, railing, or other object installed in a cemetery or burial site for the purpose of repair or replacement, either at the request of or with the permission of heirs or descendants of the deceased or the owner or manager of the cemetery or burial site. The second amendment states the subsection does not prohibit normal horticultural maintenance of a burial site such as trimming trees and shrubs, removal of weeds or noxious growths, grass cutting, or other routine care and maintenance. The bill was passed by the Legislature, signed by the Governor on April 26<sup>th</sup>, and becomes effective on 1 October 2005. Delegate Carol S. Petzold sent Jim Trader the pen the Governor used to sign the bill.

Jim Trader

### Family Remembrance Week

The State of Maryland Proclamation  
From the Governor of the State of Maryland  
Family Remembrance Week  
May 23-31, 2005

Whereas, It is essential that we continue a conscious and concerted effort in remembrance and reverence of our cherished roots and the contributions of our families; and

Whereas, It is an educational experience for the young people of Maryland to explore their family ties, and to learn about their ancestors and important family events; and

Whereas, This special week seeks to pay tribute to the importance of family remembrance in the lives of people, and will feature family reunions, special religious services and community activities to promote this concept; and

Whereas, Maryland is proud to join with the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Site in celebrating the importance of family ties and family heritages, as keeping the spirit of the past alive will greatly benefit our families in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim May 23-31, 2005 as FAMILY REMEMBRANCE WEEK in Maryland and do commend this observance to all of our citizens.

Given under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,

This 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May

Two Thousand and five

Robert L. Ehrlich, Governor

Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor

### Virginia Cemetery

“Freedmen’s Contraband’s Cemetary (sic)”

[Ed. Note: Several members sent the following article to us for inclusion in the *Courier*. We had an opportunity to get a picture of the cemetery on Memorial Weekend so the pictures are included with a summary of the article.]

There is a column in the *Washington Post* titled “John Kelly’s Washington”. Mr. Kelly writes about the joys and annoyances of living in Washington. On January 20, 2005, a resident posed a question about a sign on a fence that reads “Freedmen’s Contraband’s Cemetary (sic)”.

Mr. Kelly’s response: During the Civil War slaves appeared at Fort Monroe seeking freedom. General Benjamin Butler (Union forces) decided that the slaves could be considered “contraband of war” and therefore could be confiscated. The slaves would therefore have something as near freedom as they could get under the circumstances. Alexandria already had a sizable free black population called freedmen and that population increased as a result of those slaves who were trying to get to Union lines and obtain their freedom.

At the refugee camps the conditions were horrible and disease was rampant and many perished. Dis-

posing of the bodies of the freedmen and the contrabands became a concern. A parcel of land outside of Alexandria was confiscated from the owner for use as a cemetery.

The first body was buried in February 1864 and by the time the cemetery closed in 1869 it was estimated that between 1,200 and 1,800 people were buried on the 1 ½-acre site. Over time the cemetery all but disappeared. The cemetery may have stayed lost but several events occurred that involved two local historians. One historian found mention of the cemetery in an 1894 article in the *Alexandria Gazette* and another found, at the Library of Virginia, a list of everyone buried at the cemetery.

By 2008 or 2009 a park will take the place of the gas station and another building on the corner of the site. Archaeological studies indicate that the skeletons are very close to the surface so any work at the site will have to be done carefully so as not to disturb what burials remain.

Anyone wishing additional information can visit the website at <http://www.freedmenscemetery.org>

Diane Nesmeyer



### Cemetery Events

**Saturday, July 16, 2005 at 10 a.m.**

The Battle of Fort Stevens Confederate Memorial Committee presents the Confederate Monument Ceremony honoring the fallen soldiers of the "Raid on Washington" in July 1864. Grace Episcopal Church, Grace Church Drive and Georgia Ave

Silver Spring, Maryland

**Saturdays October 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th, 2005.**

Green Mount Cemetery Tours, Baltimore City.

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. Meet Wayne Schaumburg 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 requested.

Wayne Schaumburg, 3910 Klausmier Road

Baltimore, MD 21236, (410) 256-2180

[wschaumburg@earthlink.net](mailto:wschaumburg@earthlink.net)

<http://home.earthlink.net/~wschaumburg>

**Saturday, October 8th, 2005, at 5 p.m.,**

Cecil County Cemetery Walk, with Ed Okonowicz and Mike Dixon, sponsored by the Historical Society of Cecil County.

For reservations and information, call the

Historical Society of Cecil County, Elkton, Md.

Phone 410 398-1790.

### News from the Counties

#### Baltimore City

<http://www.baltimoresun.com>

Man's run to aid cemetery is temporarily put to rest, By Liz Bowie, Sun Staff, February 7, 2005

At the first of the year Warren Wiggins, a science teacher from Baltimore, planned to run from Los Angeles to New York in 254 days. The money he raised was to help defray the costs needed to renovate Mt. Auburn Cemetery, believed to be the oldest African-American cemetery in Baltimore. Wiggins ran a total of three days before he had to call it quits because of mechanical problems with the motor home he was using to sleep and cook in.

Diane Nesmeyer

### Baltimore County

#### Redevelopment and the Shealey Cemetery

Laura Barnhardt, writing in the Baltimore Sun on April 24<sup>th</sup> of this year, describes the Shealey Cemetery in downtown Towson (Baltimore County) that is in the path of a proposed redevelopment project (Towson Circle III). Heritage Properties has submitted a proposal that will include a 56,000-square-foot restaurant and entertainment complex, as well as a parking garage, a college student dormitory and additional shops. All this on a four-acre site that includes this old cemetery.

John McGrain, a Baltimore County historian, mentions in the article that the remains of perhaps as many as 18 Towson residents, including members of the Shealey and Schmuck families, are buried in the cemetery. This burial ground was part of a parcel of land once known as Molly's Industry. In 1879, Mary Ann Shealy ran a general store between York and Dulaney Valley roads, according to McGrain. The store included a floor for the Towson Guards and later became a firehouse. Shealy Avenue is probably named after the family.

These burial grounds, located at Shealy and Virginia avenues, and still separated from their surroundings by an iron fence, are nothing but a tract of weeds and grass with a single unbroken headstone – that of Catherine Schmuck (1767 to 1834, a daughter of 18<sup>th</sup>-century settler Ezekiel Towson). Darlene Dail, who traces her ancestry to Schmuck, says that the history of the cemetery comes up whenever changes are proposed in Towson's commercial district. An archeological dig was actually done in the 1990's to ascertain whether human remains were present outside of the perimeter of the grounds (after plans were submitted for a parking garage next to it). None were found.

The cemetery, according to Robert Hoffman who represents the developers is presently designed to be a focal part of the Towson Circle III enterprise. The plans are to keep the burial site where it is and continue to allow public access to it.

Ms. Dail hopes the Shealey Cemetery can be "taken care of and preserved. It is the only thing that still stands...". Caroline Rickerson

### Charles County News

#### Good Morning Webmaster,

The Charles County Maryland Genealogical Society came into existence on January 1, 2005. A grant has been received from the Charles County Historical Trust to update the circa 1976 cemetery inventory. The Charles County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans adopted, as its Join Hands Day 2005 project, to assist in the cleanup of some of the cemeteries.

In searching for and locating the cemeteries, two cemeteries have come to the attention of the society and Thriven: the Stoddert cemetery at Bryans Road; and the Good Hope Baptist Cemetery in Mt. Victoria.

While the first Secretary of the Navy, Benjamin Stoddert is not buried at the Bryans Road cemetery, other family members are. This small cemetery is in the middle of a housing development and currently owned by the neighborhood association. Prior to 1965, the Navy had cleaned up the cemetery and put up a chain around the graves. Since that time, vandals have dumped debris (including ceramic tile) and other trash, trees have fallen, etc.

The Good Hope Baptist Church was disbanded circa 1954 and that cemetery is also very overgrown and in need of cleanup and restoration.

A consultation with Scott Lawrence of GraveConcerns was planned, weather permitting, May 22nd to determine what should be the best plan to restore these cemeteries.

These two cemeteries are in need of additional volunteers to help with the cleanup. If you need additional information please contact Ms. Emond [cemond64@comcast.net](mailto:cemond64@comcast.net) who is the Coordinator of the Cemetery Transcription Project which includes necessary cleanup in order to do the digital photography of the tombstones. Ms. Wencel is President of the CCMGS [c.wencel@att.net](mailto:c.wencel@att.net)

Respectfully, Mary Ellen Wilmoth, Coordinator  
For the Join Hands Day 2005 project

### Dorchester County

[Ed. Note: In the Fall 2004 issue, Vol. 12, No. 3, page 11 there was an article about the Travers Graveyard. Another article appeared online on

March 28, 2005. A brief summary of the article follows:]

Road to cemetery needed

By Richard Kendall, *Daily Banner*

A road needs to be built to the Travers Cemetery so that material can be trucked in to save the cemetery from the erosion that is currently threatening its very existence. Broken concrete that will serve as a foundation for the road has been donated but Donald Willey needs volunteers with trucks to haul the concrete down to the cemetery.

Once the road is complete High Tide Marine of Ocean City will take care of the construction along the shoreline to save the cemetery.

Diane Nesmeyer

#### **Kent County**

At the request of Mrs. Patricia Joan O. Horsey, new Coalition member, Jim Trader spoke to members of the Old Kent County DAR Chapter in Chestertown on April 12<sup>th</sup> about Maryland cemetery laws, Coalition history and purpose, and his activities to locate and preserve cemeteries and burial sites. Subsequently, on April 25<sup>th</sup>, Jim sent Mrs. Horsey an action plan to protect cemeteries and burial sites in Kent County.

Jim Trader

#### **St. Mary's County**

There have been several articles about the St. Nicholas Cemetery restoration project. An article that appeared in the Washington Post on April 3, 2005, "Effort to Find Lost Graves At Patuxent Moves Ahead" by Mark Gail reported that Matthew S. Turner of GeoModel in Leesburg, VA used ground-penetrating radar to sweep the cemetery at the end of March. The information Mr. Turner obtained will be analyzed to determine the locations of buried headstones.

To refresh your memory, Scott Lawrence has found information from burial notices in church records that there are at least 264 more graves located at St. Nicholas then the list of 320 people that he received from officials at the naval base a couple of years ago.

In another article from Southern Maryland Online <http://somid.com/news/dyson/articles/1189.shtml>,

posted March 29, 2005. Senator Dyson proposed SB 313 would "be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of the St. Mary's County Genealogical Society for the repair and reconstruction of the historic St. Nicholas Cemetery, located in Patuxent River; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds; establishing a deadline for the encumbrance or expenditure of the loan proceeds, etc."

Senator Dyson is hoping that his bill will help complete the next phase of the project that will be costly.

The message ended that if anyone is interested in contributing to this project you can send your contribution to the St. Mary's Genealogical Society which is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, at P. O. Box 1109, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

#### **Talbot County**

Cemetery Cleanup Reveals Revolutionary Soldier's Grave Posted on October 4, 2004 to <http://www.thewbalchannel.com/news/3780712/detail.html>

A cleanup last fall at Spring Hill Cemetery uncovered the grave of Solomon Barrott who was believed to have been the last surviving Revolutionary soldier in Talbot County when he died in 1851. Volunteers were clearing away ivy and weeds during the annual cemetery cleanup when the grave was uncovered. Diane Nesmeyer

#### **Wicomico County**

As a "person-in-interest" under title 14, the Real Property Article, and under the freedom-of-information Act, Jim Trader wrote State's Attorney David R. Ruark, and requested a copy of the application, public notice required by Title 10, Section 402, Criminal Law Article, and of written approval granted by his office to disinter and reinter human remains discovered in the Robert Handy cemetery in North Salisbury. There has been no response or reply to his request. His request to the County Health Department for a copy of the application for a disinterment/re-interment permit was denied, until he provided the Health Officer again with a 1995 ruling by the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, in a similar case, that the application form and permit records are not restricted and are

public documents of which copies can be obtained. Jim subsequently wrote to Dr. Nelson J. Sabatini, Secretary of Health, about the fact that after 10 years employees in the Division of Vital Records and County Health Department as well as County Health Officers still do not know and follow applicable Maryland laws and Health Department regulations.

In January 2001, the director of the Salisbury/Wicomico County Planning & Zoning Commission presented member Jim Trader with a computer generated list by election district, tax map, parcel number, site name, road name, and owner data on burial data sheets provided by him to the Commission. Recently he was advised by an employee that his recorded data on some 550 cemeteries and burial sites will be entered into the county GIS (geographical information system) system for reference on any proposed land use. Jim previously provided the County Health Department a copy of the 2001 computer list for entry into their property records.

Member Jim Trader was recently contacted by Ms. Deborah Gates, Staff reporter on the *Daily Times* of Salisbury and was interviewed about the Coalition and his activities to record information on cemeteries and burial sites in Wicomico and Worcester counties. The article, entitled "How Final is That Final Resting Spot" appeared with a picture of Jim kneeling at a gravestone at the Hastings's Family Cemetery in Salisbury, on the front page of the May 16, 2005, edition of the paper.

Some 5 years ago in a talk to members of the Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society, member Jim Trader suggested a project to them to microfilm records on file with funeral homes, many in a fragile condition, some of which cannot be located, and to assure permanent record for persons doing family research. Mr. Barry W. Miles is currently filming records at Holloway Funeral Home in Salisbury, dating from 1895.

Jim Trader

#### Worcester County

Member Jim Trader was contacted by Mr. Don Klein, reporter on *The Courier* at Ocean Pines, regarding an interview and article on activities of the Coalition and his efforts to locate, and records

information on some 220 cemeteries and burial sites to date in the county, and efforts to protect our heritage. The article appeared in the May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005, issue of the paper and resulted in contact by a resident of Ocean Pines, a subsequent visit, and recording of a previously unknown cemetery on land owned by the Ocean Pines Association, whose manager was provided with a copy of the information. Jim also received many favorable comments on the article from residents and friends with encouragement to continue this worthwhile activity.

On May 12<sup>th</sup> member Jim Trader attended a public hearing at Stephen Decatur Middle School near Berlin (his birthplace) and testified on the proposed new comprehensive zoning code with reference to cemetery and burial sites, and subsequently filed written comments to the Planning & Zoning Commission with copy to the County Commissioners. The new zoning includes incorporation of Section 5.03, Article 66-B, Planning & Zoning as to land with an existing burial site proposed for subdivision, and provision to allow establishment of a "family burial ground" for which he helped develop criteria in the Wicomico County, Maryland Code.

Jim Trader

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Ed Okonowicz	Cecil Co.
Nancy Avers	Virginia

**WELCOME!**



## Conservation News

Update on Maryland Conservation Projects.

The conservation project for Glade Reformed Cemetery in Walkersville, Maryland was begun this spring. The ground has been discovered to contain a great amount of clay which is something we have never encountered to this degree.

Efforts to repair and restore fallen and collapsed retaining walls at the Riverside Cemetery in Williamsport, Maryland were begun in the spring. We will go in and perform another stone-by-stone, row-by-row survey and assessment of the cemetery and then initiate the treatment plan on the conditions found. It's estimated that a full-scale conservation effort will be underway in the summer of 2006.

A contract has been requested for the James Irredell Waddell Obelisk by the Sons of the Confederacy in St. Anne Cemetery in Annapolis, Maryland. We will get that project underway in September.

We have assessed the cemetery at St. Catherine Drexel School and have discouraged them from dousing the entire area with herbicide to kill the vegetation. The project is going to be a tedious one.

We have continued work on the John Harding stone in Rockville Cemetery and have successfully removed the cement without causing any damage to the stone. It was discovered that a "key" was cut into the bottom of the tablet to allow it to set in a base. That's right, the stone originally had a base. This is the very first time I have ever encountered a stone of this type from the 17th century that had a base. We are going to probe the area around it to see if we may be able to recover it. If not, we are prepared to replicate. Because of this fact, this project was now become the premier project for Mosko Cemetery Monument Services.

We are also contracted to clean a stone in the Monocacy Cemetery for the Daughters of the Confederacy.

If any one knows of someone interested in a part time job involving cemetery conservation, please send them my way. Ability to perform physical labor is a must.

Robert Mosko, Conservator

Mosko Cemetery Monument Services

866-434-7176

717-965-1772

cemeteryservices@earthlink.net

moskocemetery@earthlink.net

## Pictures from the Annual Meeting



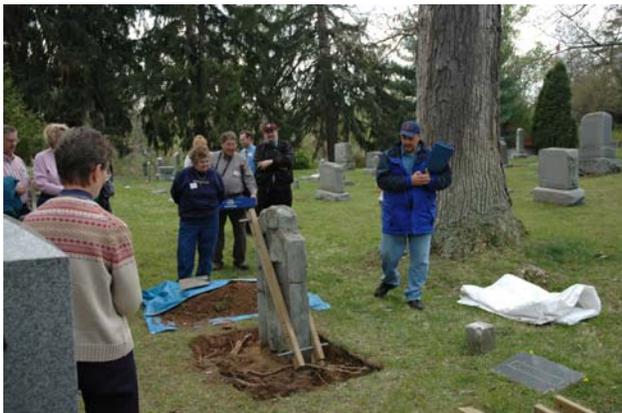
Top- Anne Brockett speaking; middle- Ed Okonowicz speaking; bottom- Coalition sale table.



Jim Trader and Ed Taylor



The tour of Rockville Cemetery begins.



Robert Mosko discussing work on the John Harding stone



Eileen McGuckian leading the tour of Rockville Cemetery



Members listen to a discussion of one of the projects.



If anyone can find this book please contact me. I have tried the Library of Congress and "Ask a Librarian" with no luck. I am interested in learning about the symbol.

Diane Nesmeyer  
nesmeyer@erols.com

**The Courier**

The Coalition Courier is published quarterly by the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Inc., P. O. Box 1533, Ellicott City, Maryland 21041, (410) 772-8602. Members of the Coalition receive the Courier as part of their membership which runs from June 1 through May 31st of each year. Individual memberships are \$10.00, household memberships are \$15, student memberships (grade 12 and under) are \$5, and organizational memberships are \$20.00 per year. Dues should be mailed to the Membership Chairperson at the address listed above.

The President, Board of Directors, and the Courier editors encourage all members to submit articles to the Courier. They further invite members to write to the Courier with questions or comments about any topic that pertains to burial sites. The topics can include preservation, protection, restoration and maintenance, historical and cultural significance, and documentation. They are also looking for questions or comments you may have about the Coalition. The questions, answers, and comments will be printed in future editions of the Courier. This is an opportunity for you to learn more about your Coalition and to have questions answered that you may have regarding burial sites.

All articles, questions, items of interest may be sent directly to the Coalition at the address listed above or e-mailed to the editors at their address listed below.

**Reprint Policy**

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**Coalition's Objectives**

The Coalition, through its members in each county, hope to reach out to all areas of the state to:

Facilitate the exchange of information among individuals and organizations concerned about the protection of Maryland burial sites.

Increase public awareness of the historic and cultural significance of burial sites and the serious threats to them.

Draft and gain passage of new laws to more effectively deal with criminal acts against burial sites and to establish effective and uniform procedures for the protection and preservation of burial sites regardless of their age, cultural affiliation or condition.

Organize support for stronger laws in Maryland to protect burial sites--Native American burials as well as traditional cemeteries.

Raise funds for statewide public education programs, focused on burial site protection, and to provide information and guidance to any government agency, group, organization or individual interested in preserving human burial sites.

**Editors**

Diane and Jeff Nesmeyer, nesmeyer@verizon.net  
14326 Springbrook Ct., Woodbridge, VA 22193-3421

**2005 Publication Deadlines**

Spring	March 15, 2005
Summer	June 15, 2005
Fall	September 15, 2005
Winter	December 15, 2005

**Board Meetings**

Board meetings are held quarterly and scheduled by the President. Meetings are first posted on the Coalition's Web Site and announced in the issue of the Courier published just prior to the meeting.

The Annual Meeting is held during the board meeting in April of each year. Election of new officers and Board members takes place as well as presentation of the annual reports, adoption of the budget for the coming year, and presentation of the Periwinkle Awards.

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<input type="checkbox"/> <b>New</b>	<b>Annual Membership Rates:</b>	Individual.....\$10
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Renewal</b>		Student (grade 12 and under)...\$ 5
		Organization.....\$ 20
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Questions? Call Kristin Kraske,  
Membership (410) 772-8602

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