



# 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:

### President's Message

I extend my sincere wish to all of you during this Holiday season for a joyous Christmas and a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year. I am thankful for a loving, caring family that instilled in me the important values in life, who supported me in my endeavors, and who provided me with a valuable education. Although I have had near death experiences from a ruptured spleen and blood clot following hip joint replacement surgery, I feel that God is not yet through with me and will continue to use me in ways of which I may not be aware.

I am also thankful for all of you who have served and continue to serve the goals of the Coalition and ask you to continue to commit your time and talents to the great cause we continue to pursue in spite of the obstacles placed in our path.

Jim Trader

#### Addendum:

I have been actively searching for sites in Ocean City for a suitable location to hold our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in April 2006. More information will be forthcoming in the Spring issue of the *Courier*.

The Coalition has received an e-mail from Lauren Bobier, an editor with Arcadia Publishing, 420 Wando Park Blvd., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464, (843) 853-2070 ext. 128, (843) 853-0044 (fax), <http://www.arcadiapublishing.com>. My name is Lauren Bobier and I am an editor with Arcadia Publishing in Charleston, SC. I hope that you can offer me some guidance and assistance. As the editor responsible for all of our Maryland titles, I'm very interested in informing area historians, genealogists, archivists, community leaders, and museums about the opportunities that we offer.

We publish a popular series of photographic histories called Images of America, which chronicles the histories of communities, towns, and neighborhoods throughout the country. I do want to emphasize that, unlike many local history publishers, we are not a vanity press. Rather, we finance the entire publication and pay royalties to the author, which makes it a great fundraiser for organizations.

I am interested in adding a photographic history of Maryland Burial Sites to our 2006 program.

If you would like to receive more information about our company and a compli-

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mentary book as a gift and a reference, I will be happy to put together a package and mail it to you. Please pass along my contact information to anyone else you know who might be interested in working on a photographic history of Maryland Burial Sites. Thank you for your time and I hope to hear from you soon!

Lauren Bobier, Acquisitions Editor

### **From the Editors' Desks**

We wish everyone a Happy New Year. Are you still keeping your resolutions? Is a cemetery related item on your resolution list? We like to think small and simple. One simple resolution you can adopt for the year is to resolve to document one or two stones every time you visit a cemetery. When you are home upload the information to <http://www.findagrave.com> or <http://www.interment.net>. The few minutes of your time may help someone else locate the final resting place of a friend or family member and if the information on the stone should become obliterated from acid rain or other such element there is a public record of that stone. This is a simple, easy way to keep a cemetery resolution for 2006.

We want to thank Jim Trader, Melvin Mason, Kristin Campbell, Gerhardt Kraske, Amanda Becker, Robert Mosko, and Scott Lawrence for sending along information for inclusion in this issue. We do want to remind members that if you have an article to submit to do so electronically. You can either send the article as an attachment to an e-mail or you can snail mail us a diskette. We will continue to write the summaries of the newspaper articles that you forward but because of our time constraints we cannot retype the articles you submit. Jim, you are grandfathered so not to worry, we will continue to type your articles but the rest will have to send their articles electronically.

The articles we have this quarter cover a wide range of topics including new technology being incorporated into gravestones (see pages 9-10). There was good news for the Shealy Cemetery in Towson. On November 10th it was approved to be placed on the Preliminary Landmarks List. See pages 4-5 for the minutes of the Landmarks Preservation Commission hearing. As we were putting

this issue together there was a flurry of e-mails received about the pet cemetery in Elkridge. We included a summary on pages 5-6.

We can't believe that the temperatures are hovering in the 40s. If the rain would go away we would have perfect conditions to get out into a cemetery or two. We hope you are able to take advantage of the unseasonably warm weather to get out into the cemeteries. Of course, take advantage when the ground is dry.

Diane and Jeff Nesmeyer

### **Standing Committees 2005—2006**

#### **Publicity**

Edward W. Taylor, Jr

Dorothy Brault

Scott D. Lawrence

Thomas R. Mason

Hazel A. Garland

Patricia J. O. Horsey

Jane D. Bunting

Melanie A. Merryweather

#### **Archives**

Ann Horvath

George J. Horvath

Barbara E. Sieg

#### **Courier**

Diane and Jeff Nesmeyer

Audrey M. Bagby

Melvin J. Mason, Jr.

#### **Finance**

Gerhardt P. Kraske

Paul L. Miller

Robert E. Lyons

#### **Periwinkle Awards**

Barbara E. Sieg

Edward W. Taylor, Jr.

Ann Bolt

**Family Remembrance Week (3/2006)**

Barbara M. Kraske  
 Gerhardt P. Kraske  
 Kristin L. Campbell

**Legislative**

James R. Trader  
 Barbara E. Sieg  
 George J. Horvath  
 Eileen McGuckian

**Fund Raising/Inventory**

Gerhardt P. Kraske  
 Robert E. Lyons  
 Paul L. Miller  
 Kristin L. Campbell

**Nominating (Jan. 2006)**

James R. Trader  
 Kristin L. Campbell  
 Ann Horvath

James R. Trader, President

**Conservation News**

We have completed an initial conservation project at Glade Reformed Cemetery in Walkersville, Maryland. The project involved 220 stones suffering from the very worst conditions. Forty-two of the stones had been previously repaired with cement. Work was initiated in April and completed in November 2005.

We have successfully reset the James I. Waddell grave stone located in Saint Anne's Cemetery in Annapolis, Maryland. The grave stone is a six tier, white marble obelisk that stands 10 feet 9 inches and weighs 5,033 pounds or 2.3 tons. The stone was leaning 2 degrees (2 inches) to the south and was at risk of falling. Due to location of the stone, it was impossible to find a crane large enough as well as cost-effective to dismantle the stone. With assistance from Spanco, Inc. in Morgantown, Pennsylvania, Mosko Cemetery Monument Services designed and engineered a portable overhead gantry that was not only tall enough but had the 1-ton weight capacity to do the job. Since the rig

was experimental, the cost for the project was very economical and though it took a week to complete the project, it has proven to be very successful. We are working on increasing the gantry's weight capacity, height, and line of travel. A patent attorney has been retained and a patent is currently pending.

A project in Prince George's County involving a farm that is being developed and contains a family plot with 9 marked graves is pending for the spring. We are working closely with the county Historical Preservation Commission as well as the developer to restore, conserve, and preserve this family plot which also includes an original 18th century, wrought iron fence. Part of our master plan is to require that the development's home owners' association be required as well as responsible for the cemetery's maintenance and condition.

Prospect Hill Cemetery located in Towson, Maryland has been surveyed and has had a comprehensive report prepared and submitted to the cemetery board. A conservation project is pending for the spring.

The Gist family cemetery located in Westminster, Maryland has been surveyed and a comprehensive report was prepared and submitted upon the owners' request.

The John Harding stone that was profiled at the last annual meeting of the Coalition has been completed along with two other grave stones located within the Rockville Cemetery. Mosko Cemetery Monument Services will be meeting with the cemetery board on January 11 to discuss the involvement of volunteer service groups for future conservation projects.

The Riverview Cemetery located in Williamsport, Maryland that was profiled at the Coalition's 2003 annual meeting is undergoing some repairs of the collapsed stone walls that run along the cemetery's rear slope. Once completed, the cemetery board will request another survey to be conducted so that the second phase of the restoration project can be initiated.

The survey of the Snowden Cemetery which is located at the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Maryland and owned by the Department of the Interior, has been postponed due to weather. Mosko

Cemetery Monument Services is hoping to get in there before the next major snow fall so that the descendants can continue to move forward with any conservation efforts. I must say, despite the bureaucracy that has been experienced with the federal government's involvement with cemeteries, the Department of the Interior is far more sensitive as well as open minded when it comes to a cemetery and its immediate needs. The National Park Service on the other hand, which deals primarily with cemeteries is the exact opposite as far as allowing any conservation activity.

A monument cleaning project in the Monocacy Cemetery, located in Montgomery County was completed in late October.

Conservation efforts involving Grace Falls Cemetery located in Reisterstown is ongoing. The initial project was completed in 2001. Another survey will be conducted in the spring.

Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery located in Manchester, Maryland is still ongoing. This project was initiated in 2000.

On April 29, 2006, Mosko Cemetery Monument Services will be exhibiting at the Building Preservation and Restoration Program's Historic Preservation Trades Fair at Harford Community College. Members from the Preservation Trades Network and other historical craftsmen will be exhibiting as well as demonstrating their skills and craftsmanship. I would like to encourage members of the Coalition to attend. [Editors' Note: We could not find any information on their website but here is the link for future reference <http://www.harford.edu/faculty/rdeeg/>].

Mosko Cemetery Monument Services has ground penetrating radar and are in the process of purchasing a new GPS. (Global Positioning System) that has a 1 centimeter accuracy rating. They will have the ability to plot and locate more than a thousand grave markers within any cemetery within a 1 centimeter radius.

If anyone would have any questions, or would like more detailed information about any of the projects discussed, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would be more than glad to talk about any of these projects as well as any project that is pend-

ing.

Robert Mosko, Conservator  
 Mosko Cemetery Monument Services  
 866-434-7176, 717-965-1772  
 cemeteryservices@earthlink.net  
 moskocemetery@earthlink.net

### **News From the Counties**

#### **Baltimore County**

In the Summer 2005 issue of the Courier there was information regarding the Shealy Cemetery in Towson. "The cemetery has been in the news lately for the effort to have the area designated as historic. It is in one of the Towson Center shopping district parking lots. It is relatively well cared for, i.e., grass is cut and trash removed.", according to Melvin Mason.

Here are the minutes of the Landmarks Preservation Commission hearing held on November 10, 2005.

Next was item 13, the Shealy Cemetery, a ca. 140 years-old burial place of the town's founders. The recommendation was to place it on the Landmarks List under criteria 1 and 5 (that it has yielded, or may be likely to yield information or materials important in prehistory or history).

Mr. Mike Davis, representing Heritage Properties, stated that his client was not opposed to the nomination. Referring to a written agreement between Heritage and the descendants of the Shealy family, Heritage committed to preserve and maintain the property. He also claimed that cemeteries were protected under State law. He continued that the reason for his appearance before the Commission was that there was a major development project for the site surrounding the cemetery. He did not wish that Landmarks Listing would impact these plans and wanted this to be reflected in the minutes. Referring to a letter prepared by Mr. David Iannucci, Executive Director of the Department of Economic Development, Mr. Davis noted that his request was within the spirit of County Plans for this site. Mr. Matthews inquired whether the proposed development would allow the existence of the cemetery to continue. Mr. Davis replied that the plans asked for enhancement and raised awareness of the cemetery.

Mr. Griffith asked who owned the cemetery. Ms. Ruth Muscari answered that John McGrain researched the property years ago, but that clear ownership was never established.

Ms. McIver moved to place the Shealy Cemetery on the Preliminary Landmarks List under Criteria 1 and 5. Mr. Stevens seconded the motion, which passed unanimously on a voice vote. [Information copied verbatim from:

[http://www.baltimorecountyonline.info/Agencies/planning/historic\\_preservation/lpc\\_meetings\\_archive.html](http://www.baltimorecountyonline.info/Agencies/planning/historic_preservation/lpc_meetings_archive.html)]

Diane Nesmeyer

### Frederick County News

The Frederick News-Post

November 13, 2005, Section C, page 1, column 4.

By Susan Guynn

Quest students research the history of a farm graveyard

There is a bit of a mystery surrounding a cemetery located on Oppossumtown Pike that contains about six or so headstones and a fieldstone crypt that has a vaulted ceiling and a cast-iron door. The cemetery is adjacent to St. John Regional Catholic School and four students in grades two through six of the school have decided to learn the history of the cemetery as their QUEST (acronym for Questioning, Understanding, Exploring, Sharing, Thinking) project. The students were not even aware of the cemetery's existence until their instructor suggested using the cemetery as their project.

The students learned of former residents of the area and put together a list of questions to ask in the hopes of learning more about the cemetery. Interview by interview the students are gaining more insight into the cemetery and the people who are buried within its fenced boundaries.

In 1960 Joseph Holdcraft visited the cemetery and documented the six graves that he found. The names appear in his two volume compilation "Names In Stone". The book is in reprint and available from the Frederick Historical Society.

The QUEST instructor believes the project will

take a couple of years to complete. The students will eventually put together all the information that they uncover and will make it available to the community.

Diane Nesmeyer

The Frederick News-Post

November 13, 2005, Section C, page 4, column 1.

By Susan Guynn

Family farm cemeteries in need of preservation

Janet Davis, county historic preservation planner, was interviewed for the article. [Editors' note: Article appeared with one above about the cemetery on Oppossumtown Pike.] According to Ms. Davis family cemeteries are very common because: 1) it is cheaper to be buried in one; and 2) family wanted to keep the deceased person in their memory by burying them close to home. Ms. Davis said, "Most people believe gravesites should not be disturbed once they are identified as such. It goes with our moral belief in leaving people at peace once they are deceased. There are laws to protect such sites and to provide access to visitors and genealogist; but owners of the property are not required to maintain it."

"Cemeteries are part of our history and cultural heritage, no matter what your religion. We need to find ways to encourage the conservation, if not the preservation of these places."

[Editors' Note: We normally do not copy the article verbatim due to copyright issues. We decided that several quotes were important to include in their entirety.]

Diane Nesmeyer

### Howard County

The Washington Post, Tuesday, December 27, 2005

Eternal Restlessness of Maryland Pet Cemetery

Lack of Upkeep Prompts Animal Lovers' Fears That Land Will Be Sold to Developer

By Amit R. Paley

Rosa Bonheur Memorial Park, founded in 1935 in Elkrigde, was one of the world's first pet cemeteries and the first in the nation to allow pets and their

owners to be buried side by side. There are 22,000 animals and 20 humans buried there. Within the last decade though, Rosa Bonheur has deteriorated into an eyesore with tall grass and beer cans and tires littering the grounds. There are rumors that the burial ground will be turned into a strip mall.

The decline of this pet cemetery brings to light the situation pet owners face with this, unregulated in most states, industry. The land is a target for developers with no laws in place to stop the sales. Virginia is one of a few states that has a tight reign on pet cemeteries. The General Assembly required pet cemetery owners to promise that they will use the land only as a pet cemetery and are required to put \$12,000 into a perpetual care fund. This requirement was put into place during the 1990s when plans were made to build a shopping center over Evergreen Pet Cemetery near Richmond. The General Assembly reacted to the public outcry once the plans for Evergreen were made public. There are no such laws in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

[The rest of the article discusses how the previous owner had civil and criminal charges brought against him by pet owners in 1996, that he was convicted of misdemeanor theft and ordered to pay restitution, that he filed personal bankruptcy, and that the pet cemetery was purchased at auction by a local businessman. The cemetery office had been closed since 2002. The reporter did speak to a woman at the office who said she was hired to renovate the building for a new tenant and that she didn't know anything about a pet cemetery.]

Diane Nesmeyer

### St. Mary's County News

I recently received the latest Courier and noticed that an attempt was made to contact Eve Love about an inventory of the burial sites in St. Mary's. I know that Eve's husband has not been well and that may account for her silence. However, I am also a member of the St. Mary's County Genealogical Society and doing a complete inventory is something I have been working on in my spare time for many years. Several efforts have been made by many to do this documentation but it has never been done completely to include transcriptions, maps, and photographs. Several years ago, Janet Tice et al made a great effort to document the sites but as far as I know, it is incomplete. I

have personally discovered burial sites that are not included in the final published book.

I would like to help. I have pictures and transcriptions of many of the sites in the southern end of the county and would be happy to share them. Please let me know how I may assist.

Scott D. Lawrence, Sr. Consultant

Booz | Allen | Hamilton

301-995-8763

scott.lawrence.bah@scrb.navy.mil

### Talbot County News

In the USA Weekend Magazine for April 15-17, 2005 there was an article about Make a Difference Day Awards and the local honorees. Make a Difference Day is an annual event created by USA Weekend Magazine as a national day of helping others and anyone can participate. There were several honorees for Maryland including Historic Cemeteries of Easton. I was unable to find what happened on October 23, 2004, to warrant Historic Cemeteries of Easton to earn the award.

While checking the web site <http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/index.html> I found that Historic Cemeteries of Easton had registered again for 2005. The plan for 2005 was to trim bushes, rake leaves, clean up trash, plant flowers, clean tombstones, and repair tombstones and sheds. The group was hoping to have at least 150 volunteers on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. According to an article that appeared in The Star Democrat on April 5<sup>th</sup>, "Spring cleaning set for April 23 in Easton's historic cemeteries" by Christine Neff, the group has been selected again as a semi-finalist for the Make a Difference Day [2005] Awards and the winners will be announced in April 2006.

In the same article I found that Historic Cemeteries of Easton, Inc. had planned a spring cleaning for Spring Hill Cemetery and Richards Memorial Cemetery. The volunteers will pick up trash, perform general maintenance work, and clean headstones with a mixture of bleach and water. John Ford, the President of the group was quoted as saying, "It takes only a little elbow grease, some bleach, and brushes to clean up headstones without damaging them." [Editors' note: We only report it,



not condone it.]

In my research I also found an article from Talbot County Public Schools about a project being undertaken by students, "The Cemetery Project – A Quiet History Lesson Showcase 2005".

Easton Middle School students, teachers, and community members are investigating the beginnings of an African-American cemetery called Richards Memorial Park. The students are learning many interesting facts about the cemetery and will work to restore the Richards Cemetery in partnership with the Easton Rotary Club.

It appears from all the news accounts that lots of good deeds (except the bleach) are being done by the citizens of Easton for cemeteries.

Diane Nesmeyer

Editors' Note: Make a Difference Day takes place every year on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in October. The next one is scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup>. May be the Coalition can get a group or groups together to make a difference.

### Wicomico County News

A search of deed records by President Jim Trader revealed an 1841 Worcester County deed from Mrs. Sarah Huston, widow of Dr. John Huston, builder of Poplar Hill Mansion in Salisbury, owned by the Mayor and Council of Salisbury, to the trustees of the Salisbury Cemetery (Potter's Field). An article in the 1938 microfilm records of The Salisbury Times details an 1886 Act of the Maryland Legislature authorizing the cemetery trustees to deed the public cemetery to the Town Commissioners of Salisbury, and authorizing them to levy and appropriate money for the support, maintenance, and care of the cemetery. Copies of this information were presented to the Mayor and Council of Salisbury and city attorney at their meeting on November 14, of which they were unaware.

Jim Trader

### Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees James Trader, Barbara Sieg, George Horvath, Jean Keenan, Paul Miller, Gerhardt Kraske, Kristin Kraske, Melvin Mason, Thomas Mason

On Saturday Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> President James Trader called the 2nd quarterly meeting to order at 1:08 PM at the Miller Library in Ellicott City. Presence of a quorum was verified.

Amanda Becker was elected by unanimous vote as Secretary Pro-Tem to fill the term of Secretary through the April meeting.

The minutes of the July Quarterly meeting were approved.

Gerhardt Kraske presented the Treasurer's Report. The organization's current bank balance is \$6,054.70 with a CD currently valued at \$1,050.00. Thus, the total financial balance is \$7,104.70. The Treasurer's Report was approved as reported.

Membership Report by Kristin Kraske noted a total of 97 members with 81 actual paying members. Everyone must remember to have our organization include a separate insert into the Spring issue of the Courier per the By-Laws, which was neglected this year.

In connection with Courier distribution, all were asked if anyone knew of a list of libraries in the state to which Couriers could be sent for posting. No such information was known at the meeting.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly meeting Barbara Sieg will make arrangements with the Miller Library for the 14<sup>th</sup> of January at 1:00PM. Booking the room for 12:30 was suggested by Kristin Kraske to accommodate set-up time. It was suggested that a weather date of January 21<sup>st</sup> also be arranged at the same time. It could be cancelled if not needed. Contact point at the Miller Library is the Information Desk in the back.

### Old Business

#1 Court case, Carroll County, Flin Garner Cemetery - CPMBS attorney Mr. Jeffery White is following; Plunkett's attorney employing delaying tactics. George Horvath with Bob Mann proposed plan for cemetery to abut road, thus no extra access needed. Health Department official approved compromise plan as proposed. Awaiting further action.

#2 Storage area needed for CPMBS Archives and Records - after much discussion and an initial evaluation of 10-15 sq. ft requirement, it was realized that for the different parties who have records

that a further specification of requirements needs to be accomplished. It is greater than 15 sq. ft.

#3 Inter-county County Connector - P. G. and Montgomery counties. - A letter was sent on July 12 2005, by James Trader expressing CPMBS concerns to Mr. Weasley Mitchell, Governor Erlich, Delegate Petzold and other interested parties. No reply has been received. It was noted on September 1 On TV news 11 that the Southern Route had been selected. A follow-up letter was sent to Ms Eileen McGuckian after that date. No response received.

#4 St. Mary's County, Proposed cemetery inventory/subchapter - Mr. Trader sent a letter to the St Mary's Genealogical Society on August 7, 2005. No reply and after one month a telecon was initiated wherein no letter was acknowledged as being received. Interest is lagging.

#5 Boy Scout Cemetery Projects, Handbook Guidelines - Barbara Sieg will have a draft by the next meeting. She is working with the participating Boy Scouts and their parents and needs an overall state contact for the Boy Scouts.

#6 Portable display Unit - update status - Unit was taken to Nova Scotia and its purpose and presentation were very well received. Sources of information are needed in order to update display meaningfully. Possible sources are - Ann Bolt, Courier photos/articles, Robert Mosko, Boy Scout Ben Will, Whipps Cemetery

#7 Directory - MD Burial Grounds (1996) covered 4 counties (Anne Arundel, Carroll, Prince George's and Montgomery) - published by Willow Bend Books of Westminster, MD. Established that the originating historical organization is out of business.

#### New Business

#1 News Release, H. B. 410, effective 10/1/2005 (Criminal Law, Title 10) - Mr. Trader and Mr. Mason have sent out notices to at least 8 television stations and to about 24 newspapers. To our knowledge - nobody has said or published anything resulting from said news release.

#2 St. James Catholic Cemetery, Frederick County, Proposed Maryland Transit authority (MTA) parking lot. Said portion of cemetery was

conveyed by the Catholic church to an individual some time in the past, said individual then sold same to the MTA. Terry Grimes researched and found 4 heirs and information was passed to Jeffery White Esq. as a result the re-internment scheduled for October 8 (day of the meeting) was delayed for two weeks to hear from the heirs.

#3 Holland's Island Cemetery Preservation Foundation, Dorchester County - Mrs. Clara M. Stephens letter of 8/22/05. In ensuing discussion, this was believed to have first surfaced about 10 years ago. As erosion of the bay islands is an inevitable geological fact proven by historical record, the best course may be to move the cemetery to the mainland rather than fighting nature.

#4 MD leading 500 foundations, 2004 publications - a copy might be sent to Ms. Stephens and to Ms Diane Nesmeyer for Courier reference.

#5 Mr. Trader was asked to talk to Jeffery White, Esq. about possibility of establishing a 501C affiliate for CPMBS so that members donating money to our causes can deduct on tax returns. This is at the request of several donators to CPMBS.

#6 Graveyard next to Ellicott Family graveyard in Ellicott City, MD - An Emily \_\_\_\_\_ of EC asked about assistance to investigate preservation of this area. It was stated unequivocally that the first hurdle is to establish who has current ownership. At the same time the latest version of our Cemetery Preservation Kit should be made available for purchase by the interested individual.

#7 Kristin Kraske showed a copy of the Lewis-town, PA newspaper giving Robert Mosko publicity, with a story and pictures, for his work in a cemetery in that locale.

#8 Kristin Kraske noted that Scott Lawrence received publicity in the "National Trust for Historic Preservation" magazine (primary source; Kristin got information through St. Mary's Genealogical Society newsletter notation) for his work in resurrecting the churchyard at St. Mary's Catholic Church on the grounds of Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

Meeting was adjourned on unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerhardt Krasks, Secretary pro tempore

### **The Silent Auction**

[Editors' Note: Each year at the AGS Conference a silent auction is held. Members donate items to be auctioned and Melvin and Thomas Mason have been responsible for running the auction for several years now.]

Quietly they sit in the neglected half of the auditorium. The rows of treasures ready to be passed on to the next caretaker.

Slowly and silently; one by one; in single file and in groups; the bidders file by as though mourners passing the deceased.

Just as they silently sat waiting to be valued, they are whisked off to another world, a world of fast-moving diners, talkers, and revelers.

Now the lonely are consumed by the rapidly escalating attention of the bidders. From one place on the table to another they move.

Names and numbers rapidly fill the pages.

Meals are hurriedly consumed or left unattended as panic sets in.

Lists are checked and the stakes are raised.

Pen hardly leaves paper as camaraderie appears to melt into intense competition that turns into spirited prodding and jostling.

Ten minutes left. The favorites draw an ever-tightening gaggle of competitive bidders.

Dinner conversations are drowned out by the crescendo of the bidders' banter.

Threats made in jest, laughter induced by territorial proclamations.

One minute left. Can I pay in American or Canadian dollars? Can I afford to bid more or can I not afford to bid higher?

As the countdown goes from 5 to 4 to 3; final bursts of energy fuel the desire to be the last to sign the sheet.

Time's up.

We walk around with a hard-won book or a print of a skull or a box of razor blades, all destined for shelves and tables and attics, most never to be seen again.

The auction is over for this year. Our suitcases are packed.

Slowly and silently, memories of auctions of the past creep into our minds and are mingled with the memories of the new and are silent no more.

The mock combat of bidding is replaced with laughter and loud retellings of this and past auctions.

The conference is over, and again the silent auction has left loud memories.

Melvin Mason

### **Dreambook Entries**

Barbara Peirson wrote on June 22, 2005, "We're just beginning the restoration planning for a Harbaugh family cemetery in Fred. Co. A committee is being formed at our family reunion and we hope to make great progress in the next year." E-Mail: [b.peirson@att.net](mailto:b.peirson@att.net)

Karen Sykes wrote on November 15, 2005, "I am with the Calvert County Historical Society and we are once again working on cemetery records." Homepage URL: <http://www.calverthistory.org>  
E-Mail: [inquiries@calverthistory.org](mailto:inquiries@calverthistory.org)

### **"Gadgets" for the Cemetery**

Video Screens to Refresh Memories at Grave Sites

By John Pain

The Associated Press, September 4, 2005

Sergio Aguirre has invented a "Serenity Panel" which is a solar-powered video panel embedded in a gravestone that can play a five- to eight-minute photo slideshow of whatever the deceased or their loved ones wish to show. Think of it as a version of "This Is Your Life".

The screen is covered with a solar panel that charges the battery and protects the screen from sun damage. The solar panel is flipped open and the slideshow starts. Visitors can listen to the audio by connecting headphones to the weatherproof jacks on the panel. [The detail about who was to provide the headphones was not covered in the article or on the web site. We are wondering if visitors have to supply their own headphones.] The LCD screen is shatter resistant and designed to last 15 years.

Aguirre claims the product is vandal resistant and

will be ready for sale in October at a cost of about \$1,500. [A check of the web site indicates that the company is taking orders. For more information visit Vidstone's web site: <http://www.vidstone.com/products1.htm>.

Diane Nesmeyer

### News Release

On September 25, 2005, President Jim Trader prepared a news release on enactment of House Bill 410 at the last legislative session and on the effect of 2 amendments to Title 10, Section 404 of the Criminal Law Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and the provisions that became effective on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

Copies were provided to members of the Publicity Committee with instructions to contact radio stations, television stations, and newspapers to seek publication of the news release to educate the citizens of Maryland regarding the maintenance and care of burial sites.

To date there has been no publication or oral announcement about the legislation by any of the media sources in Maryland, nor any attempts to contact President Trader for further information. Despite this lack of concern we will continue to act to protect our heritage.

September 25, 2005

### News Release

Owners, heirs, and descendants of burial site owners, performing routine care and horticulture maintenance, no longer may be considered to be in violation of Maryland cemetery laws as a result of passage of House Bill 410 at the last Legislative session according to Mr. James R. Trader, President, Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sity, Inc., organized in 1992 in Howard County, Maryland.

The legislation changes, drafted by Mr. Trader as Legislative Chairman, offered two proposed amendments to Title 10, Section 404 of the Criminal Law Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Legislative sponsors were Delegates Mrs. Carol S. Petzold, K. Bennett Bozman, Norman H. Conway, and Samuel I. Rosenberg. Following testimony at hearings before Judiciary Committees of the House

and Senate and receipt of a favorable recommendation, the draft legislation was approved by members of the Legislature by floor vote, was signed on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005, by Governor Ehrlich and other legislative officials, and becomes effective on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

The amendments to Title 10 provide first that removal of a funerary object, building, wall, fence, railing, or other object installed for the use, protection, or ornamentation of a cemetery or burial site for normal repair or replacement at the request of or with permission of heirs or descendants of the deceased, or the owner or manager of the cemetery or burial site is not prohibited, and secondly, that normal maintenance of a cemetery or burial site, including trimming of trees and shrubs, removal of weeds or noxious growths, grass cutting, or other routine care and maintenance are not prohibited.

Jim Trader

### Board Meeting

Sunday, January 15th, 2006

(Snow date Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>)

At 1:00 p.m.

**Miller Branch, Howard County Library**

**9421 Frederick Road**

**(across from Plum Tree Dr.)**

**Ellicott City, MD**

**All members are welcome!**

### New Members

Amy Majors

Howard County

### Periwinkle Awards

The Committee will be looking for suggestions from the Board and/or general membership for names of persons who may be worthy to receive the Periwinkle Award. If you know of a group or individual who should be recognized for outstanding personal effort and perseverance in helping to save an historic cemetery from neglect, desecration, or other illegal activities contact one of the Committee members who are listed on page 2.

**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@erols.com  
14326 Springbrook Ct., Woodbridge, VA 22193-3421

**2005 Publication Deadlines**

Spring	March 15, 2006
Summer	June 15, 2006
Fall	September 15, 2006
Winter	December 15, 2006

**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.

**2005-2006 Officers and Board of Directors****Officers**

President	James R. Trader (410) 860-2364
Vice President	Paul Miller (410) 465-9158 vp@cpmbs.org
Treasurer	Gary Kraske (410) 730-8278 treas@cpmbs.org
Secretary	Amanda Becker (301) 253-2688 sec@cpmbs.org; acedghehill@hotmail.com
Past President	Edward R. Taylor (301) 722-4624 mail@chco-online.org

**Board of Directors**

Melvin Mason	(PG County) (301) 699-5836 masonbrothers@masonbrothers.com
Thomas Mason	(PG County) (301) 736-4058 masonbrothers@masonbrothers.com
Ann Bolt	(Montgomery County) (301) 774-1960 Anncestor@aol.com
Dorothy Brault	(Montgomery County) (301) 309-0289 DottiMcBro@aol.com
George Horvath	(Carroll County) (410) 526-4878 Horvathmap@aol.com
Robert Lyons	(Baltimore) (410) 747-3271 blyons@admin1.umaryland.edu
Barbara Sieg	(Howard) (410) 465-6721 JOHNSIEG@aol.com
Edward R. Taylor	(301) 722-4624 mail@chco-online.org

**Standing Committees**

Publicity Committee  
Finance Committee  
Nominating Committee  
Legislative Committee  
Awards Committee  
Family Remembrance Week Committee  
Archives Committee  
Fund Raising Committee  
Coalition Courier Committee

**Web Site**

<http://www.cpmbs.org>

**Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites  
Membership Form**

**NOTE: This is NOT a renewal notification; it is provided for convenience only.  
Membership year is June 1 through May 31st**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

<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
		Household.....\$15

Questions? Call Kristin Kraske,  
Membership (410) 772-8602

Make Checks Payable to: **Coalition to Protect Maryland  
Burial Sites, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1533  
Ellicott City, MD 21041-1533**

Can you help us in our various efforts? Please list occupations / skills / interest. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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