



# Coalition Courier

"to build the future, we do not have  
to destroy the past"

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Protect Maryland  
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## Ocean City is the Site of the Annual Meeting!

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting is to be held on Saturday, April 22, 2006 at the Holiday Inn, 67<sup>th</sup> Street and the Ocean. Registration and refreshments will begin at 9 a.m. followed by a short business meeting and the announcement of the Periwinkle Award recipients. Speakers include Barbara Sieg who will discuss "Rehabilitating An Historic Cemetery", Robert Mosko who will talk about "Cemetery Evaluation and Restoration", and James Trader who will talk about "Methods to Record Burial Sites".

Following lunch, the group will visit the grave of Captain William Carhart on Indian Knoll Road and Windy Lane, "Captain's Hill" Subdivision, West Ocean City, North of US50. More about the Captain can be found at <http://www.ocmuseum.org/articles/carhart.asp> and <http://www.delmarvanow.com/dayinthelife/westoc/pages/wocstory6.html>.

You should already have received your registration form in the mail. Please note that pre-registration is required by April 10, 2006. For questions and directions call Jim Trader at (410) 860-2364 or visit <http://www.cpmbs.org> and click on Annual Meeting. The cost is \$20 per person and includes morning refreshments, a delicious lunch, and all programs. To register, make checks payable to CPMBS and mail to Gerhardt Kraske, Treasurer, 9425 Dartmouth Road, Columbia, MD 21045. Include the names of all persons attending and a telephone number.

**NOTE: ROUTE 90 INTO OCEAN CITY HAS REOPENED, WELL BEFORE THE MAY 12<sup>TH</sup> TARGET DATE. YOU CAN ADJUST YOUR TRAVEL PLANS ACCORDINGLY.**

## President's Message

As the end of my third Presidential term nears, I thought of George Washington's resignation as Commander-In-Chief of the Continental Army at the statehouse in Annapolis and wondered if he thought of his legacy to this newly formed country, and wondered about my own legacy. There is still the matter of the needed legislation, creation of county cemetery advisory boards, the inventory and records of burial site locations, IRS approval as a 501C(3) organization, increased membership, and other unfinished business. I am thankful for the help of my fellow officers, Board members, the Coalition membership, and our Courier editors for your

concern and dedicated service. I restate my challenges listed in the Summer 2005 Courier, and will continue my efforts to protect the heritage of Marylanders as reflected in our burial sites and also solicit your dedication and commitment to the Coalition goals. A suitable epitaph might be "He Tried".

Jim Trader

### Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee consisting of James Trader, Kristin L. Campbell, and Ann Horvath have prepared the following slate of nominees and the nominees have indicated their willingness to serve, if elected. The ballot will be presented for vote by the general membership at the Annual Meeting on April 22, 2006, to be held in Ocean City. Nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to the vote but will be subject to the nominee accepting the nomination.

#### Officers:

President	Barbara Sieg, Howard
V. President	Gerhardt Kraske, Howard
Secretary	Amy Majors, Howard
Treasurer	Barbara Kraske, Howard

#### Board of Directors:

Ann Bolt	Montgomery
George Horvath	Carroll
Robert Lyons	Baltimore
Melvin Mason	Prince George's
Thomas Mason	Prince George's
Paul Miller	Howard
Kristin Kraske	Howard

### Meeting Minutes from January 15, 2006

Attendees: James Trader, Barbara Sieg, George Horvath, Paul Miller, Gerhardt Kraske, Kristin Kraske, Melvin Mason, Amy Majors, Nancy Whitelock

On Sunday Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> President James Trader called the 3rd quarterly meeting to order at 1:15 PM at the Miller Library in Ellicott City. Presence of a quorum was verified.

The minutes of the October Quarterly meeting were approved.

Gerhardt Kraske presented the Treasurer's Report. The organization's current bank balance is \$6,406.70 with a CD currently valued at \$1,058.02. Thus, the total financial balance is \$7,464.72. The Treasurer's Report was approved as reported.

Membership Report by Kristin Kraske noted a total of 98 members with 82 actual paying members. Noted during discussion was that we must remember to include a separate colored insert, per the By-Laws, into the Spring issue of the Courier as a reminder and renewal form for the annual membership dues renewal.

#### 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. Decedent did not want to pursue case. Case dropped. Opportunity for precedent-setting action was missed.

#2 Storage area needed for CPMBS Archives and Records - From the October meeting, Barbara Sieg pursued possible County archiving /storage of records and was referred by Ann Ryder (sp?) to either the Howard County Historical Society or the County Office of Planning and Zoning. For the latter, it was emphasized that a rationale of need for storage is of paramount consideration from the County viewpoint with how much space required in second place. Further action is required, including asking Directors and other members doing CPMBS business to assess how much space they would require for storage of their items.

#3 Inter-County County Connector - PG and Montgomery counties - Update - still no response received to any of the communications referred to in the October minutes. As previously noted, the Southern Route (Option 1) is the preferred route. Leonard Becroft brought in the notice as posted in "The Laurel Leader" dated January 12, 2006, in Laurel, MD from page 36, detailing Final Environ-

mental Impact Statement (FEIS) time frame as stated by the State Highway Administrator. Computer disks may be obtained by calling 1-866-462-0020 or by request to the project website, <http://www.iccstudy.org>.

#4 St. Mary's County, Proposed cemetery inventory/subchapter - Update - no response per Oct. minutes. Another letter was sent out Nov. 30, 2005, to Scott Lawrence. Again no reply. Currently stalemated. On the same note re: inventories, noted that a letter was also sent to Ms Jennifer Taylor President of the Upper Delmarva Genealogical Society concerning the desirability of doing a cemetery inventory. No response received by Jim Trader to date. Recommended that our Secretary send a follow-up letter to both Mr. Lawrence and to Ms. Taylor after consulting with Jim Trader.

#5 Boy Scout Cemetery Projects, Handbook Guidelines - Barbara Sieg presented a first draft at this meeting. She is working with the participating Boy Scouts and their parents. The Eagle Scout who did the project for the Whipps Cemetery authored one of the pages to explain to other scouts why such projects are important and worthy of their efforts. Displayed at the meeting were some of the draft pages and before and after photos of a typical project. Eagle Scout Ben Will is another possible source of information. Barbara still needs an overall state contact for the Boy Scouts.

#6 Portable Display Unit - update status - 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 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. UPDATE - still no responses.

### **New Business**

#1. Mr. Trader talked to Jeffery White, Esq. about possibility of establishing a 501C affiliate for CPMBS so members donating money to our

causes can deduct on tax returns. This is at the request of several donators to CPMBS. Mr. White declined to comment as it was not within his area of expertise. FURTHER ACTION: Jim Trader and Gary Kraske to find alternate sources of expertise preferably NOT associated with the IRS.

#2. CPMBS Sales inventory need to understand if any items need to be ordered before the annual meeting. ACTION Kristin Kraske.

#3. Leonard Becroft also mentioned from the same source "The Laurel Leader" page 36 that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is re-evaluating dog-training at existing areas of the refuge as a compatible use. This compatibility issue is required to be re-visited every ten (10) years. The rest of the notice appears to be "conventional boilerplate" required in the issuance of a notice. There appears to be no expansion of area for training under consideration. There is no reference in this notice to the existence of cemeteries in this area. Any comments on this are required at the appropriate office within 30 days of publication date January 12, 2006. Letters to Mr. Brad Knudsen, Refuge Manager, Patuxent Research Refuge, 12100 Beech Forest Road, Suite 138, Laurel, MD 20728-4036 or e-mail to [Dionne\\_Briggs@fws.gov](mailto:Dionne_Briggs@fws.gov).

#4. Rosa Bonheur Cemetery adjacent to US Route 1 just south of MD100 was the subject of an article by Amit R. Paley in the Washington Post regarding its degrading state and stating that there are twelve humans buried in the cemetery along with the many pets. It was suggested that this cemetery which may not appear on county maps should be placed there and the Howard County laws applying to cemeteries be enforced. George Beizer is a point of contact within County government. ACTION: indeterminate.

#5. Annual Meeting venue options at Ocean City as presented by Jim Trader were discussed. It was decided that the Holiday Inn at 66<sup>th</sup> street would be selected. Jim will nail down final financial details.

#6. Barbara Sieg presented for general information the four definitions by the National Park Service in the treatment of historic landscapes. These definitions will be offered for inclusion in the Spring Courier. [See Editors' Note]

#7. Family Remembrance Week: Committee needs to contact Governor's office about proclaiming the event and issuing official documentation. Kristin Kraske sent a letter 1<sup>st</sup> week of January asking CPMBS member organizations, cemeteries, and other heavily interested individuals to create an event or activity in celebration of Family Remembrance Week.

Meeting was adjourned on unanimous vote at 4:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Gerhardt Kraske

Treasurer and Acting Secretary

February 19, 2006

[Editors' Note: In proofreading the newsletter prior to sending to the publisher we noticed this statement in the minutes. Since we were not provided the information we searched online and found at

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/hli/introguid.htm#intro> the following information: "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, this new, modified version addresses four treatments: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction." We hope this is what Barbara Sieg was to send to us.]

### Editors' Corner

There was no way to predict the winter weather this year. We woke up this morning (3/22) to a light dusting of snow. Obviously there was no snow on the streets but there was some accumulation on the grassy areas and our windshields! Hopefully, this is winter's last gasp. We are ready for Spring and for the Annual Meeting in Ocean City. Have you made your reservations?

There are many folks who contributed articles for this issue. Thanks to Jim Trader, Ann and George Horvath, Barbara Sieg, Audrey Bagby, Amanda Becker, Melvin Mason, Gerhardt Kraske, and Kristin Campbell.

Unfortunately, Carolyn Rickerson is no longer able to assist us with summarizing the newspaper articles. We thank her for her support during the last

year. We are asking for someone to step forward to help. If you are interested in lending a hand, please drop us a line and we will go into more detail all that is involved. It is not hard work and only takes a couple of hours, or less, every quarter.

The AGS Annual Conference and Workshop is going to be the closest it has been to our area since 1999. See more information about the Conference on page 10. There is no excuse for you not to attend the conference this year.

We wish all the members to have a great Spring.

Diane and Jeff Nesmeyer

### News From the Counties

#### Carroll County

Civil War Soldier Finally Getting Grave Marker

The Carroll County Pipe Creek Civil War Round Table group will celebrate this Memorial Day by placing a marker on a long-forgotten Civil War soldier's grave at the Westminster Cemetery.

Earnest Kohler migrated from Germany to New York in 1850. He was 28 years old and for several years worked around New York and New Jersey. When the Civil War broke out he joined the 57<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry. His unit saw action at Antietam and Fair Oaks. He injured a leg at Fair Oaks and in June of 1863, while marching toward Gettysburg, Pvt. Kohler collapsed near Uniontown in Carroll County.

Accounts differ as to why Kohler did not return to his unit. One account states that he suffered from sunstroke, but his pension request stated that the leg wound was the reason. He lived in a shanty northeast of Westminster for several years, but by 1890 was a resident of the Almshouse in Westminster. He was described as "weak brained".

When he applied for a pension it was denied because he was listed as a deserter. There was no money or family to clear his name. He died in 1907 and Mary Shellman, a local lady who had purchased a lot in the Westminster Cemetery for soldiers had him buried there, but his grave was never marked.

Members of the Civil War Round Table group, including Mimi Ashcraft who did the research on this man's life, felt that Earnest Kohler was not a de-

serter. They believed that his burial site should be marked and began to collect money for a marker. With the help of Mathias Monuments and many individual donors, a marker is going to be placed on this grave.

*Information summarized from two articles:*

*The Carroll County Times March 4, 2006 – “Headstone sought for soldier’s grave” by Isaac Baker*

*Carrolltonian (Quarterly Publication of The Carroll County Genealogical Society, Inc)  
“Remembering Private Kohler” by Mary Ann Ashcraft*

Ann Parry Horvath

### **Frederick County**

Baby’s tombstone heads home

The Frederick News-Post

February 26, 2006

By Kate Leckie

A former Frederick County native solved the mystery of a tombstone that was found in a Thurmont yard in January. The stone was that of 8-month old Charles Coulson that dates back to December 17, 1777 and Tara Richards of Alabama read an online article about the tombstone on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Armed with the information from the article she went to Google and learned where the baby was buried. Ms. Richards contacted the Sheriff’s Office with the information. The stone has since been returned to the Old White Church Episcopal Cemetery in Huntington Township, Pennsylvania but the mystery of how it ended up in Thurmont is still a mystery.

Diane Nesmeyer

[Note: This article reinforces our recommendation that we take a few moments when we visit cemeteries to document some of the stones and send this information to such websites as findagrave.com and interment.net. This article discusses a stone that was allegedly stolen from a cemetery in Pennsylvania and unceremoniously dumped in Thurmont. Someone was able to locate the burial record online and eventually get the stone returned to its rightful place.]

St. James Catholic Church Cemetery, Point of Rocks

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005, President Jim Trader was contacted by Mrs. Julie Cramer of Westmont, IL about plans by the Maryland Department of Transportation, Mass Transit Administration to disinter and re-inter remains from 4 unmarked graves so the site could be used as a parking lot, and later by member Terry Grimes. News about this proposal was reported in the Frederick News-Post. In October Mrs. Cramer and Ms. Grimes spoke with the Salisbury attorney Mrs. Jeffrey T. White who contacted the county States Attorney, Mr. Scott Rolle, about concerns of the heirs and for a delay in burial plans. There has been no recent contact or information and the status of this incident is unknown.

Jim Trader

Society of Friends (Quaker) Cemetery, (Bush Creek Cemetery) Monrovia.

On February 12, 2006, Mr. Joseph P Warner and wife Sarah, Coalition members, wrote to President Jim Trader about descendants in the cemetery, lack of maintenance, and potential threat from residential development in the area. Jim called Board Member George Horvath, who had data about the cemetery, sent George a copy of the letter, and George wrote to the Warners on March 1<sup>st</sup> with information on the 1786 deed, the former meeting house, tax map ownership records, and with suggestions on organizing a group of heirs and interested persons to restore and maintain the cemetery.

Jim Trader

### **Montgomery County**

President Jim Trader was recently contacted by Mrs. Eileen McGuckian, former Board Member and current Coalition member, of Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Ltd., for support of House Bill 1595 and Senate Bill 943, a bond bill that would provide \$25,000 for the preservation and restoration of Historic Higgins Cemetery, in use from 1816 to 1891. Hearings are scheduled on March 11 on SB 943 before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and HB 1595 before the House Appropriations Committee. A similar proposal was introduced in 2002 but failed to win approval.

Jim Trader

### Prince George's County

Clinton residents clean up cemetery

January 26, 2006, Gazette.net

By Erin Henk, Staff Writer

There is a small cemetery in North Clinton located at the corner of Eton Lane and Alan Drive. Members of North Clinton Civic Association have been trying to maintain this small cemetery from thick vegetation and litter. In addition to keeping the weeds and such at bay, Rita Bastek, Vice President of the Association, has been conducting some research regarding the grounds. She has been able to prove that the land is a cemetery based on court records and two tombstones found on the property. She hopes to further prove the remains are those of descendants of slaves who once lived on His Lordship's Kindness.

The Association would like to eventually preserve the area by having it designated as an historic site. They have taken the critical first step and that is to take a stand to preserve this site. They have many more steps to complete before such a designation can occur.

Diane Nesmeyer

Croom church fights to reclaim cemetery from lack of upkeep

January 26, 2006, Gazette.net

By Lester J. Davis, Staff Writer

Gloria Perry, a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, has been the organizer of fundraisers at her church. The money earned is earmarked for reclaiming St. Simon's Cemetery that is located across the road from the church. Mrs. Perry would also plan clean ups where the parishioners would go in and rake leaves and reseed. The 2-acre cemetery that dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> century is also in need of work to some of the stones that are crumbling or sinking. There is also a need to identify many of the unmarked graves. Due to the prohibitive cost of ground penetrating radar equipment the church will look to other sources to try and identify the graves. Since many of the parishioners can no longer go in to take leaves due to advancing ages, a Boy Scout troop has been enlisted to help with

the cemetery. The boys will be working in the cemetery to help complete their community service hours.

Diane Nesmeyer

The Inter-County Connector, SHA Project AT-376-B11

Following information from member Leonard BeCraft on this proposal at the last Board Meeting, President James Trader wrote on January 18, 2006, to Mr. Wesley Mitchell, Project Manager, SHA, about previous comments submitted on January 18<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005, with copies to county officials but that no response was ever received. A subsequent public notice by SHA extended the comment period to March 23, 2006, and members in the Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties were notified by Krsitin Kraske to submit comments. President Jim Trader received two calls from SHA that neither they nor the Governor's Office could find the letter sent on July 12, 2005. President Jim Trader on February 22, 2006, wrote Mr. Neil J. Pederson, Administrator, SHA with copies of all previous letters and noted that the continued lack of response to our and other comments or of a response that did not assure that burial sites within or near the proposed highway route could result in a petition by the Coalition's attorney for an injunction to stop this project until concerns are addressed and burial sties protected as provided in Maryland law. Member Leonard BeCraft wrote Mr. Pederson and Mr. Mitchell on March 3, 2006 about the FEIS study, no listing of cemeteries that may be impacted, and with information on two historic cemeteries, Bonifant Cemetery (Revolutionary Soldier Samuel Bonifant), and Oak Chapel U.M. Church and cemetery to be identified and protected.

Jim Trader

### Queen Anne's County

Cemetery Documentation and Restoration, Centreville, Nicholson and Other Cemeteries

On February 11, 2006, an e-mail was sent to the Coalition by Mary Margaret Revell Goodwin describing her work in documenting burials in the town's main cemetery, clean up and restoration of the Nicholson family cemetery, and other unidentified private cemetery. She is making a detailed

photographic documentation of each gravestone to reconcile with computerized town records, a very worthwhile project, and several samples were enclosed. She also noted plans to become a Coalition member in the near future. Member Barbara Sieg sent her an e-mail, since no address or phone number was provided, about the Coalition, upcoming Annual Meeting, and asked her to contact President Jim Trader. We have a member nearby in Chestertown for contact also.

Jim Trader

### Somerset County

Joshua Thomas Chapel and Cemetery, Deal Island, MD

The Summer 2005 issue of the Courier and the Daily Times of Salisbury news story of August 24, 2005 reported the damage by juveniles to the Joshua Thomas chapel, named for Joshua Thomas, "Parson of the Islands", buried in 1853 next to its south corner, and to gravestones in the adjacent St. John's Cemetery. Along with two church officials, President Jim Trader attended the February 22<sup>nd</sup> trial in Master's Court in Princess Anne County before Master Robert Laird. The 3 teenagers were present with their attorneys and their parents. Insurance covered most of the damage costs, so with little hope of financial penalty, President Trader suggested to the State's Attorney the imposition of a time of community service under the supervision of the church officials. After addressing the youths and the seriousness of their actions, Master Laird imposed a 9 p.m. curfew for them to be at home, and imposed on each community service time of 50 hours at 10 hours per month under the supervision of church officials. If the provisions of his ruling were not kept the charges would be placed on the "stet" docket now would be re-filed.

Jim Trader

### Wicomico County

The Salisbury Public Cemetery (Potter's Field)

Following presentation of data on the cemetery to the Mayor and Council of Salisbury, on November 14, 2005, and an 1886 Act of the Maryland Legislature authorizing the cemetery Trustees to deed the public cemetery to the Town Commissioners of Salisbury with authority to appropriate money for

the support, care, and maintenance of the cemetery, President Jim Trader has done further research. Records of the SHA district office revealed plats of the proposed route of US 50 through Salisbury, a listing of graves and reinterments for 74 known remains and 757 unknown remains, a total of 841 burials, including in 1865 some 52 or more Union soldiers stationed at Camp Upton in Salisbury who died in an epidemic of "black measles". In 1926 a small buried [sic] still of recent use was discovered on the site. Jim is working with reporter Brice Stump of the Daily Times of Salisbury on a soon to be published news story based on his research.

Jim Trader

The John Williams, Sr. Family Cemetery, W of US 13, North of Salisbury

President Jim Trader advised a realtor of Maryland law requirements to remove and rebury remains in this cemetery he recorded in 1994. The public notice required by Title 10, Section 402 located a current heir. Due to Chancery Case and 1894 deed covenant reserving the cemetery area and right of way, a quit claim deed must be obtained from the heirs of R. Frank Williams and wife Ella C. now that all remains have been removed and reburied.

Jim Trader

### Other Points of View.....

These two articles pose different views on the topic of preservation and protection of cemeteries.

#### To Clean or Not to Clean

In January an e-mail was sent to the Anne Arundel Genealogical Society, to the attention of Tina Simmons, Cemetery Chairman. A Mr. John West was inquiring about the Harman and Boyer cemetery located in his housing development. "It is in deplorable condition. Who is responsible for the upkeep? I think it should be the known relatives, no? There are at least 25 graves in this one site. It is covered by trees and undergrowth...great artwork on the tombstones, too."

Ms. Simmons informed Mr. West that she would forward his e-mail to Audrey Bagby, "a member of the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Grounds" she explained.

I remembered the old John Harman Burial Ground

well. My great-great grandmother, Susan Ann Boyer Dyson who died in 1912 is buried there. Mr. John Francis Harman was a farmer who owned about 150 acres of land in Severn, a farming community in Anne Arundel County. The homestead of Mr. Harman stood back from the old Severn Road and to the left of the house was the graveyard. John F. Harman was a descendent of the four Hermann/Harman brothers who immigrated with their parents from Württemberg, Germany to Pennsylvania and then into Maryland in 1761. They purchased 450 acres called *Wilderness* in the northern part of Anne Arundel County. There are 4 known cemeteries of the Harman family in this county.

Mr. John F. Harman lived in Severn with his wife Rachael Boyer Harman until 1901. Thieves attracted by a neighborhood rumor that a large sum of money was concealed about the house made a murderous attack upon Mr. Harman and his wife. John Harman who was 61 years old, was terribly beaten. He suffered a skull fracture and wounds covered his face and body. He died a month later and was buried in the Harman burial ground. Rachael his wife, who was childless, allowed her Boyer family to use the burial ground. It is often called a Boyer burial ground as the Boyer tombstones are more numerous than the Harman stones.

The graveyard continued to receive burials into the 1950s. The descendants cleaned and kept the cemetery well. In the early 60s the area, which is located north of Fort Meade, began to change. The farms were slowly being bought up for housing developments. The government thought this would be a good area for public housing. The low-income housing also brought the drug community to Severn. Murders became a monthly occurrence. The peaceful little cemetery became a target for vandalism. Tombstones were pushed over, broken, and some were stolen. Several stones had been used for target practice as well as fences around some of the graves were destroyed. The family reported these acts of vandalism to the police, but nothing came of it. In the late 1960s the family of those buried in the Harman Burial ground called a meeting. It was felt that continued cleaning of the cemetery only made it easy for intruders. It was sadly decided to allow the cemetery to return to

nature. They felt that briars were a good deterrent to those who would do the cemetery harm. They felt they had no choice if what was left of the cemetery was to survive.

The cemetery has remained a overgrown patch, the condition that Mr. West mentioned in his e-mail. For over 30 years the briars have done their job of protecting the cemetery. The tombstones can still be seen peaking out here and there among the undergrowth in the wintertime, but they remain untouched.

I e-mailed Mr. West information about the condition of the cemetery. I felt the family would not allow anyone to clean it off. I thanked him for his concern and explained that a day spent cleaning up a old neglected cemetery can be fun and very rewarding, but it was the maintenance that was the hardest part. Would it continue to be maintained and could it be protected?

Mr. West returned with this answer: "Wow! This information is very interesting and indeed helpful. I had no idea when I bought my home, 3 or 4 years ago that there was even a cemetery nearby. Now I'm the Vice-President of the Homeowners Association and the matter is before the board to clean it up. After reading your e-mail, I think that might not be a great idea after all. It also explains why the cemetery wasn't touched by previous board members. I am all for staying with the wishes of the families concerned and will pass this information on to the other board members."

The briars have indeed protected the cemetery, so much so that Mr. West didn't even know he lived near a burial ground. I wonder sometimes if we are not hasty in our want to clean and beautify every family burial ground. The threat to the Harman cemetery is still a very real threat. If anything, the area has become worse. Murders and drug dealing are an everyday occurrence. Are we opening these small burial grounds to vandals by making it easy for them to intrude? Can we offer protection, once they have been cleaned? Some very hard questions. The families of those buried in the Old Harman Burial ground feel they made the right decision and I have to agree with them.

Audrey M. Bagby

Melvin Mason sent an article from the Montgomery (AL) Advertiser, titled "Families Left Cemetery Behind". The article is by Anna Sessions and Hope Hull and appeared in the February 12, 2006 issue.

One of the authors' husband is a construction worker and when he arrived home one day he discussed the graves he found that day while clearing an area for a new parkway. His wife went to the site and was shocked to see the heavy brush and dense woods. Markers had fallen over and weeds and trees were overgrown. The trees had been growing on the site unchecked for years as evidenced by their size. The woman said she knelt down and asked: "How could anyone just let the dead be forgotten and disrespected so much?" Her children asked, "Why were people buried out in the middle of the woods?" The woman went on to say, "By moving these graves to a public cemetery it would insure that this would not happen again after all the publicity has died down. Don't fault the construction companies or the developers. If anything, send them praises for finding and wanting to take care of what the families left behind and forgotten about so many years ago."

Diane Nesmeyer

### News from Kansas

At the request of James N. Purman, former Board member and current resident of 715 Loomis, Winfield, KS, 67156, George Horvath, Jr. sent President Jim Trader a copy of his letter to the Horvaths and a newspaper story of September 30<sup>th</sup> in the Wichita Eagle. The article notes a lawsuit filed by Attorney General Phil Kline asking a court to declare a private cemetery in Kansas City to be legally abandoned because of neglect by the owner of the 12,000+ graves and to dissolve the corporation that runs it. Similar actions have been taken in Lawrence and Topeka in which cemetery ownership was given to the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS which maintains 11 other cemeteries. The cemetery area covers some 120 acres. There was no mention made of perpetual care provisions by burial plot owners.

Jim Trader

### Cemetery Oddity

San Francisco Chronicle

October 16, 2005

By Vanessa Hua

Poker Game Gives Cemetery a Full House.

The Italian Cemetery in Colma, CA was the scene of about 80 people playing Graveyard Games. The organizer of the games wanted people to experience the stories in cemeteries in a fun way. Other visitors to the cemetery were not amused watching players bound across tombs and others sit atop gravestones eating and dealing cards. The web site, Last Call Poker, sponsored the event and plans more in Washington, DC (was held October 22 at Historic Congressional Cemetery), Kansas City, New York, Atlanta, and Los Angeles.

For more on the event at Historic Congressional Cemetery visit

[http://www.lastcallpoker.com/allin/txt\\_DC/default.htm](http://www.lastcallpoker.com/allin/txt_DC/default.htm)

Diane Nesmeyer

### Cemetery Events

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20th, and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Green Mount Cemetery, Baltimore City

Greenmount Avenue and East Oliver Street

Four guided tours of Green Mount Cemetery will be held during the month of May. Tours begin at 9:30 am from the main gate located at Greenmount Avenue and East Oliver Street. The two-hour tours are led by Baltimore historian and educator Wayne R. Schaumburg. There is a cost for the tour and reservations are required. For information or to make reservations, contact Wayne at [wschaumburg@earthlink.net](mailto:wschaumburg@earthlink.net)

The Association for Gravestone Studies

29th Annual Conference

Delaware Valley College

Doylestown, Pennsylvania

June 22-25, 2006

There will be a pre-conference tour on Wednesday, June 21, and the regular conference tours on Friday, June 23.

The sites are tentative except where indicated with bold type.

On Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> there will be a pre-conference tour to:

**Arlington Cemetery, Drexel Hill, Pa.**

Fernwood Cemetery, Lansdowne, Pa.

**H.C. Wood Monuments, Inc., Lansdowne, Pa.**

**The Museum of Mourning Arts, Drexel Hill, Pa.**

The Woodlands Cemetery, Philadelphia.

On Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a Conservation Workshop, Digital and Film Photograph Workshops, Archival Documentation Workshop, and Creating Foil Impressions workshop. The number of participants are limited in these workshops.

On Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference Tour "A" includes visits to:

Hereford Mennonite Church, Bally, Pa.

Leidey's Burying Ground, Obelisk, Pa.

St. John's Lutheran Church, Spinnerstown, Pa.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Obelisk, Pa.

On Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference Tour "B" includes visits to:

**Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia.**

**West Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bala Cynwyd, Pa.**

On Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Conference Tour "C" includes visits to:

Princeton Cemetery, Princeton, N.J.

Riverview Cemetery, Trenton, N.J.

On Saturday, June 24th there will be participation session on campus.

From the AGS website

**Coalition Members in the News**

On March 11, 2006, Barbara Sieg lead a workshop on preserving historic cemeteries at the Historical Society of Frederick County entitled "How to Rehabilitate and Preserve an Historic Cemetery in Maryland". We were not able to attend the workshop but according to the flyer she planned to discuss various steps involved in the rehabilitation, preservation, and protection of historic cemeteries

including making inventories, to forming a "friends" group, to publicizing preservation projects. She also planned to discuss the Coalition with those in attendance.

Diane Nesmeyer

The following information was received as well about Barbara's talk at the Historical Society of Frederick County:

Coalition members Barbara Sieg and George Horvath were guests of the Frederick County Historical Society on Saturday, March 11, at the Society's museum in Frederick for a work-shop on cemetery preservation. Barbara discussed the founding of the Coalition and its mission to preserve Maryland cemeteries and to increase public awareness of the threats to these irreplaceable historical and cultural resources. She outlined ten essential points to remember in rehabilitating an old graveyard, including making a needs assessment and prioritizing work to be done, documenting everything about the cemetery, including the plants found growing there, and determining a care-taker group, such as a "Friends" group, to over-see the cemetery's up-keep in future years. [See the following article for more information.]

George and Barbara answered many questions from the interested and lively audience of about 35 people. They also showed slides of the on-going rehabilitation project at the Whipps Cemetery, c. 1855, in Ellicott City (Howard County) which Barbara has been involved with for almost 20 years. (Barbara is no relation to the Whipps family, but their family cemetery is in her neighborhood.)

A highlight of the event was the attendance of Frances Curtis Fields, whose great-grand father was Samuel Whipps, the son of William Whipps, founder of the Whipps cemetery. Barbara and Frances plan to share genealogical data in the months ahead.

Many of the Coalition's Cemetery Preservation Kits were sold at the work-shop. The Frederick County Historical Society joined the Coalition, along with one of its members.

Barbara Sieg



Frances Curtis Fields and Barbara Sieg. Photograph by George Horvath

March 18, 2006, Robert Mosko lead a workshop focusing on cemetery restoration at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Frederick for the Historical Society of Frederick County. Again, we were not able to attend the workshop but according to the flyer he planned to begin with a presentation describing common issues in cemetery restoration and ideas for what can be done. He was then to lead participants in a hands-on, outdoor demonstration of the tools and techniques used in monument restoration.

Diane Nesmeyer

#### **Essential Points to Remember When Beginning a Cemetery Restoration Project**

- Do you have permission from the cemetery owner for access to the site and for the project itself?** (See the Annotated Code of MD, Real Property Sec., 14-121 and 14-122 for more information. [Editors' Note: Or visit <http://www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/mdmanual/html/mmtoc.html>].)
- In the beginning it is wise to think your project through to the end: **How is this project to be sustained in the future?** Cleaning up an old graveyard, including: monument restoration; landscaping; renovation of fencing, ironwork or gates; and perhaps the addition of pathways and benches are all actions that 1) make the cemetery more visible; and 2) require on-going maintenance. If the rehabilitation project is not to be just a "flash in the pan" so to speak, some group of individuals should be identified as responsible care-takers, for example, a family

group of descendants, members of a local community association, an historical or genealogical society, a "Friends" non-profit organization, a patriotic or civic association, a church group, or a garden club. If such a care-taker group cannot be identified, the wisdom and feasibility of beginning such a project should be evaluated.

3. Needed next is **research and review** of whatever descriptions and documentation of the cemetery already exist, for example, deeds, wills, historical and genealogical accounts, and oral history from descendants and "old-timers" in the community. Also, review State cemetery laws (See this section of the Kit\* [Editors' Note: or visit <http://www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/mdmanual/html/mmtoc.html>] as well as local ordinances regarding cemeteries.
4. **More documentation follows.** This includes making a written record, with a map giving dimensions and photos of the site, before altering it in any way, such as weeding or clearing brush. As soon as possible, you should make a list of the persons buried in the graveyard, if the monument inscriptions are legible. In looking at your cemetery landscape, it is important to determine what exists on the site that is historically important before adding or taking anything away.
5. **Prioritize the work to be done.** Put at the top of the list, safety hazards to be removed: broken or unstable gravestones which must be dealt with immediately to prevent further damage, or deterioration (or injury to cemetery visitors); dead or fallen trees; extensive poison ivy; etc.
6. **Document the location and condition of all gravestones and gravestone fragments; DON'T move them, stack them up, or "prop" them up.** This well-intentioned action can cause damage to the fragile, old stones, and make it difficult or impossible to ever restore them in their proper position. **As a general rule, all stone work should be left to professionals.** (See the list of stone conservators in this Kit [Editors' Note: or on our website at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mdcpmb/conservat>

ors.html])

7. **List EVERYTHING growing on the site.** (See Preserving Plants in Historical Burial Grounds in this Kit.) If possible, let your rehabilitation project span three seasons (spring, summer, and fall) to be sure you have noted all plants on the site: trees; shrubs; herbaceous perennials; and annuals. If necessary, consult a nurseryman to help with plant ID. Eventually, you will want to eliminate the "invasives", and leave (or plant) historically correct or native plants. Consultation with a horticulture expert or landscape architect will be most helpful there. [Editors' note: You can also contact the Master Gardener Program <http://mastergardener.umd.edu/>.]
8. **If in doubt, don't guess!** There are many sources of information noted in this Kit about all phases of cemetery preservation and restoration. Consult them as needed.
9. **Remember the significance of your project!** You are not just cleaning up an over-grown neglected, unsightly, and perhaps vandalized cemetery. **You are, in a sense, acting as curator and care-taker of an outdoor museum**—a priceless, fragile, historical, and cultural resource. Your work, if done carefully and correctly, will enable others to learn about and appreciate their heritage and the individuals who may have played a key role in the history of their community and their State.
10. **Make sure your project, as recorded and documented, is placed in a permanent place of safekeeping and public access, such as a local library or historical society.**

\* Two excellent, really essential, resources for any group contemplating a cemetery rehabilitation project as 1) *The Historic Cemetery Preservation Kit*, prepared by the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Inc., P. O. Box 1533, Ellicott City, MD 21041-1533; and 2) *A Graveyard Preservation Primer*, by Lynette Strangstad, available from the Association for Gravestone Studies, 278 Main Street, Suite 207, Greenfield, MA 01301, (413) 772-0836. <http://gravestonestudies.org>.

Barbara Sieg

[Editors' Note:

We found two other books available for assistance with restoration projects: "Michigan Historic Cemeteries Guide" by Gregg G. King with Susan Kosky, Kathleen Glynn & Gladys Saboria. This 210-page book can be obtained by contacting Canton Township Community Services Historic District Commission at (734) 777-0894 or viewed for free at

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/hal\\_mhc\\_shpo\\_Cemetery\\_Guide\\_105082\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/hal_mhc_shpo_Cemetery_Guide_105082_7.pdf)

"Grave Intentions: A Comprehensive Guide to Preserving Historic Cemeteries in Georgia" by Christine Van Voorhies. This 98-page book can be obtained by visiting <http://hpd.dnr.state.ga.us/content/displaycontent.asp?txtDocument=199> or contact the Historic Chattooga Commission toll free at 877-766-2443.]

#### New Members This Quarter

Andrew Bass	Frederick Co.
Madeline Butler	Frederick Co.
Historical Society of Frederick County	
Frederick Co.	



Greenmount Cemetery

**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](mailto: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**

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Vice President	Paul Miller (410) 465-9158 <a href="mailto:vp@cpmb.org">vp@cpmb.org</a>
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Secretary	Amanda Becker (301) 253-2688 <a href="mailto:sec@cpmb.org">sec@cpmb.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:acedgehill@hotmail.com">acedgehill@hotmail.com</a>
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Barbara Sieg	(Howard) (410) 465-6721 <a href="mailto:JOHNSIEG@aol.com">JOHNSIEG@aol.com</a>
Edward R. Taylor	(301) 722-4624 <a href="mailto:mail@chco-online.org">mail@chco-online.org</a>

**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.cpmb.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** \_\_\_\_\_

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**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **County** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Annual Membership Rates:**

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Organization..... \$20

Household.....\$15

Questions? Call Kristin Kraske,

Membership (410) 772-8602

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**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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