



Coalition Courier

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

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the Coalition to
Protect Maryland
Burial Sites, Inc.

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Photograph Courtesy of Governor Ehrlich's Press Office

Recognition of Our Coalition by Governor Ehrlich

On Friday, June 30, 2006, CPMBS was invited by Governor Ehrlich's office to have a "photo-op" with the Governor. He became aware of our organization's efforts and purpose through very personable, helpful contacts with his office staff to obtain his signature on the formal proclamation for Family Remembrance Week. Barb Kraske, the Family Remembrance Committee Chairman, was particularly relieved and pleased his staff was so cooperative and patient no matter how much she "bothered" them.

In 1991 Atwood Barwick, one of the original officers of CPMBS, suggested initiating the concept of Family Remembrance Week to encourage public awareness and observation. When this motion was adopted it was decided to implement the family week close to Me-

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morial Day. Thus requesting the Governor of Maryland to sign a proclamation on an annual basis was begun.

Since the early 1990's each Governor in office agreed to sign and prepare this proclamation. However, it was Governor Ehrlich and his office staff who demonstrated appreciation for our Coalition's polices to protect, restore and maintain burial sites within Maryland. In fact, when Governor Ehrlich was an U. S. Congressman (whose residence was in Baltimore County), he helped CPMBS with two of our preservation projects.

As a result of this involvement, Barbara Seig, President, suggested that we honor Governor Ehrlich with the Periwinkle Award. When we met the Governor for our photo-op, he expressed his profound respect for all we are attempting to accomplish and even invited us into his personal office to make us feel much more comfortable and familiarize us additionally with his own family via pictures and conversation.

Pictured are (from left to right): Barbara Seig, Barbara Kraske, Gerhardt Kraske, Governor Ehrlich, Kristin Kraske, James Trader and Atwood Barwick.

Submitted by Barbara Kraske

In Memoriam:

On August 15, 2006, long-time member Leona (Lee) E. Espegren passed away. She sat on the committee to write the first by-laws, she was the groups' first treasurer, and she donated the large sign that the Coalition uses. Her illness prevented her from attending the Annual Meeting this year. Keep her family, especially her sister and Coalition member Audrey Bagby in your prayers.

Editors' Corner

We were planning to have a nice cemetery story to share in this issue of the Courier. Well, we didn't get into many cemeteries this quarter but we did spend one Saturday in August at the Congressional Cemetery helping to reset flat markers. We volunteered with a group from the Navy Yard who has adopted Congressional as their public service project. The next work day is scheduled for November 4th. It did us good, physically and mentally, to be a part of a project that's helps a cemetery in need. We worked in the oldest part of the cemetery, although many of the stones were not what we consider old. The work was not hard and the other volunteers were eager to help and reset the stones

the proper way. We are hoping to go back out and help on November 4th.

We would like to thank Jean Keenan, Audrey Bagby, Barbara Kraske, L. Hasan Wilson, and Ed Taylor for providing information and articles for this issue.

This issue completes our fifth year as your editors. We have enjoyed looking for articles and other information to include in your newsletter to make it as informative as possible. We have come to a point in our lives that we must divest ourselves of some of our volunteer endeavors. As such, we have given our notice to President Sieg so this will be our last issue as your editors. Hopefully, with a less hectic volunteer schedule we will be able to provide some meaningful articles for future issues.

We apologize for the tardiness of this newsletter. There were some unexpected delays at the end of September and we have had commitments every weekend in October. We were supposed to be gone this weekend, as well, but the rain dampened our plans, but gave us time to finish this newsletter.

Diane and Jeff Nesmeyer

Cumberland Historic Cemetery

Organization

The Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization is very saddened to hear of the death of Coalition member Leona Espegren. Leona was a great genealogist and cemetery preservationist. We are so proud and honored that she is buried at one of our designated and protected gravesites marked by one of our C.H.C.O monuments. Leona is buried in her family cemetery, Griffith Cemetery near Severn, MD. She will be greatly missed.

We love you Leona. May God bless and have mercy on your soul, Amen.

Edward W. Taylor, Jr., President

Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization, Inc.

Member of the Coalition since 1991

News from the Counties

Allegany County

Father, Son arrested on cemetery vase thefts

Goods were stolen for small sums of cash.

From Staff Reports

Cumberland Times-News

August 24, 2006

The Maryland State Police have arrested Fred McClure Probst, Jr. and Cody McClure Propst of Hyndman, Bedford County, PA and charged them with conspiracy to commit theft over \$500, theft greater than \$500, and destroying funerary property. The pair is alleged to have stolen 150 copper and brass graveyard vases from Sunset Memorial Park and Hillcrest Memorial Park between June 22 and July 27th. There may be additional arrests as the investigation proceeds.

The police investigation revealed that the vases, valued at \$300 each, were turned over to a recycling company for cash. Anyone who may have been a victim of theft at a cemetery is to contact the police.

Diane Nesmeyer

Baltimore City News

Posted to the MD-CEMETERIES-D-request@rootsweb.com on May 31, 2006 by kelly.koch01@comcast.net regarding St. Peters Cemetery on North Bentalou Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

I just recently found a phone number for a gentleman named Richard Farley who is part of a very small group of people who are trying to save this cemetery. His phone number is 410-467-7028. I am currently trying to gather info as to who we can get to join the effort to save this cemetery. From what I understand, although I have not been there, the cemetery is in serious disrepair. I give you this info in the hopes that you find what you are looking for, but also so that we may get more people to join the effort.

Harford County

Loving Care for Small Harford Cemetery

Summary of Article , 09/08/2006, "Keeping a Cemetery Alive" in the

"North County News" by Pat van den Beemt

What happens to a small old church cemetery after the church is forced to close by declining membership? Too often it is forgotten and neglected. Not

so for the McKendree Methodist Episcopal Church in Harford County that was torn down in 1934!

Its surrounding two (2) acres of graveyard has been maintained by surviving family members and volunteers. "Care of the cemetery had been passed down from family to family." according to Jeanie Moore whose mother and niece are buried there. Monetary assistance has been provided mainly through two sources. When church trustees sold the frame church in 1934 they established a trust fund for the burial ground's upkeep. In addition, since 60 to 70 burial plots are left, funds obtained from interments are utilized for its maintenance.

It is believed that this church was named after William McKendree who was the first American-born Bishop of the Methodist Church. This Virginia resident was selected Bishop at the Baltimore conference in 1808. Some of the area's families who are buried there include: Almonys (Almoneys), Gorsuches, Ayres, Ensors, Suttons, Norris's, Bradenbaughs, and McComases. Some of the headstones have personalized epitaphs such as that of Zipporah Ayers 1854- 1898 stating "A light from our household has gone. A voice we loved is stilled."

Organization for record keeping and loving care of this cemetery is accomplished by a volunteer board of directors composed of descendants of the deceased and other local families. Fortunately, 4-H club children have been enlisted to even beautify this burial ground located in the Blackhorse area of Harford County. Joanne Miller, a Blackhorse resident for 30 years, supervises the Homeschool Heart in Hand 4-H Club. This branch of the club donates their young aid as part of their community service. As many as 24 children have helped.

It is so commendable that so many family descendants, local residents, and children volunteers have taken so much interest, time and action to not allow such an old cemetery to deteriorate. Too often any cemetery not attached to a church or specific organization will become dilapidated or even destroyed.

Submitted by Barbara Kraske

Talbot County News

The Asbury & Green Chappel Methodist Episcopal

Church¹ was a nineteenth century African American church and cemetery located in Talbot County's Eastern Shore village of Bozman. The site has reproachfully fallen to neglect since the 1950s or 60s, when the majority of the African American community that previously inhabited the Bozman area moved elsewhere.

Many years of neglect, along with wear and tear typical to burial sites such as vandalism vegetative overgrowth have devastated this site. It is now in a dismal state in dire need of attention and care. Most of the headstones and scarce markers that do exist are damaged and illegible. It is impossible at this time to determine the exact number of graves that exist at the site due to the cemetery's desecrated physical condition and lack of records documenting the cemetery. The fact that most of the gravesites are sunken and unmarked also contributes to the complexity of the situation.

The Family & Friends of the Asbury & Green Chappel, along with our Conservation and Preservation Committee has been formed to specifically address these issues. Our goal is to establish ourselves as a non-profit corporation dedicated to restore, preserve and conserve the cemetery. The intentions of our non-profit are to inform the community about the need for restoring historic cemeteries, raise and manage funds, develop a long-term maintenance and care plan for the cemetery and to carry out all of the necessary activities associated with the preservation and conservation of the cemetery and surrounding area.

Our group also aspires to aid and assist with the restoration, preservation and conservation of efforts of other African American cemeteries located in Talbot County Maryland. We will work to advance education, awareness and appreciation of African American history and culture within the community.

The endeavor has sustained a steady pace since our initial discovery of the situation at the end of February and our first meeting to address the situation in March. The matter of ownership is convoluted and yet to be completely resolved due to many confusing intricacies associated with the disarray of records and mysterious history of the site. Master Jo Ann D. Asparagus of the Second Judicial

Circuit of Maryland has been assisting us in rectifying this situation.

Our effort has been aided substantially by positive attention and various contributions from the community. Travis Dunn, a writer of our local paper The Star Democrat, wrote a complementary front-page article about our project that has substantially increased awareness of our mission and contributed significantly to the momentum of our efforts. Lane Engineering has graciously donated an up-to-date boundary survey of the property, a document that is essential to properly inventory and record the site. Dragonfly Designs, a graphic design firm owned and operated by our local Delegate Jeannie Haddaway, has donated the service of providing a letterhead for our group. Todd's Market, a locally owned and operated gourmet deli and food market will be proving us with sandwiches for one of our first fundraisers.

Per the suggestion of the Coalitions' own Barbara Sieg, we have attained an experienced local Master Gardener, Lynn Freeburger, who is enthusiastic about helping to solve this complex problem. We have also been in contact with the Saint Michaels Rotary Club and they are enthusiastic about helping with our cause. Discussions are also underway to involve some local school's classrooms and children in the project. This is an opportunity for our communities' youth to simultaneously receive the invaluable experience of working on a hands-on history lesson while having the chance to constructively contribute to recording of our local cultures history.

Our group is dedicated to the mission of raising awareness and improving the circumstances regarding burial sites within the state of Maryland. We are looking forward to learning from and working with the Coalition on this important task.

¹ Chappel is spelled with two Ps.

L. Hasan Wilson

News from Greeley, CO

Even though she has moved out of the area, the Coalition is always in Jean Keenan's thoughts. We received a letter from her with an article about a project in Weld County, CO. Her note reads:

"I found this article in the local paper here in

Greeley. Although there are one or two DAR chapters in Maryland who have done such work, it might inspire other groups to make these surveys in Maryland counties. Howard County has done one (several years ago) along with the Howard County Historical Society. I believe.”

The article is entitled “History in a Flash” by Mike Peters of the Tribune. It appeared on June 12, 2006.

Members of the Centennial State Chapter of DAR have taken 26,000 pictures so far of stones found in cemeteries in Weld County. According to one member they shoot pictures of the stones with a digital camera, download to a computer, label, and then upload to the Internet. The DAR is making it possible for anyone who wants to look up the name of anyone buried in Weld County they will be able to see the cemetery monument.

The DAR chapter’s website can be found at <http://www.coloradodar.org/chapters/centennialstate/cemetery.html>.

The cemetery project can be found at <http://patriotdreams.us/cemeteries/>.

Jean Keenan

Dreambook Entries

From M Scherer on July 17, 2006

Just starting to rescue St. Paul's Cemetery in Druid Hill Park. It was vandalized in 1986, a fence was put up, but the church that owns it couldn't afford to restore the stones. Got a bunch of willing people doing the cleanup and I know we'll find the money to fix the stones. windrow@adelphia.net.

From Thomas Longnecker on September 9, 2006

My Wife Barbara has members of her family buried in the Oella Cemetery on Rest Ave; Miller and Boone. The Cemetery is totally a mess, high grass and brush everywhere. A local person who lives beside the area warned us not to walk inside. A dog was bitten by a copperhead snake and died. Graves are badly sunken.

Where is Oella’s pride in letting its founders grave sites be left in this state? I was told that Oella had a big celebration in app. one year and they may

clean the area up.

Why doesn’t the State Of Maryland and Baltimore County step in and have this cemetery cleaned up? guarddog515@yahoo.com.

URLs of Interest

1. <http://www.everlifememorials.com/headstones/cleaning-cemetery-tombstones.htm>

Cleaning and Preservation of Tombstones, Headstones & Gravestones by Everlife Memorials.

2. <http://bonheurepetcemetery.blogspot.com/> News updates for Rosa Bonheur Memorial Park, the pet cemetery in Elkridge.

3. <http://www.gimpydogs.com/rosabonheur.html> Main page for Rosa Bonheur Memorial Park (Help Us Save Rosa Bonheur Memorial Park and all Maryland Pet Cemeteries).

4. <http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/hstem.pdf> South Carolina’s Historic Cemeteries: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, A Preservation Handbook. Even though the focus of this online handbook is South Carolina cemeteries, there is good information regarding cemetery preservation.

5. <http://www.gravestonepreservation.info/> Grave-stone preservation information to help save Americas stone heritage.

6. <http://www.everlifememorials.com/headstones/cleaning-cemetery-tombstones.htm> Everlife Memorials site about Cleaning and Preservation of Tombstones, Headstones & Gravestones.

7. Joe Beine, who is interested in genealogy sleuthing, wandering in cemeteries, and taking pictures, has created a blog (web log) that combines all three interests. You can visit his blog at <http://cemeteries.wordpress.com/> - "Cemeteries and Cemetery Symbols: Exploring the meaning of cemetery symbols and other graveyard mysteries. For genealogy sleuths, taphophiles and goth kids."

Parting Shots:

Found in Chestertown: A stone sits at an intersection in Chestertown right at the curb. It was put there by a tombstone company and says: “Drive carefully, we can wait.”

Audrey Bagby

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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
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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.

2006-2007 Officers and Board of Directors**Officers**

President	Barbara Sieg (410) 465-6721 JOHNSIEG@aol.com
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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"/> New	Annual Membership Rates:	Individual.....\$ 10
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal		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
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Ellicott City, MD 21041-1533**

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



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