

	<h1>COALITION COURIER</h1> <p>“to build the future, we do not have to destroy the past”</p>	<p>Published by the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Inc.</p> <p>Vol. 15 No. 3  Fall 2007</p>
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**Inside this issue:**

**Coalition's Public Relations Effort Continues to Progress**

**Exhibitions Held at Port Deposit, MD and in Howard County**

In celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake Bay Port Deposit, MD held a well conceived and executed exhibition on July 21<sup>st</sup> in which the Coalition participated. The weather was beautiful and our locale was on the grassy banks of the Susquehanna River. Initially we were a little dismayed at being near the end of all the displays but everything worked for the best as one of the shuttle stops from the remote parking areas was about 75 feet south of us so that everyone dropped off had to walk by the Coalition display in order to see other events/displays. Communications with folks were quite plentiful and sales of the new inventory (thanks, Amanda) were quite fulfilling. Having at least 4 people manning our exhibit afforded us some time to explore and enjoy the rest of the celebration. An open-air National Geographic museum was featured depicting specific areas on maps such as Native American tribes, and dates of Captain John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake Bay and Susquehanna River. In addition, artifacts, journals and replicas of tools were exhibited.

In addition, the visitor became exposed to World War II re-enactors, heritage crafters (sutlers), artwork, entertaining band and singers, a computer assisted genealogical research station, cultural heritage displays, and American Revolution re-enactors and their musical repertoire. A highlight for us was the traveling team role-playing Abbott and Costello. They were so spontaneous and witty. Please see their picture in this issue. Of course it was great to eat treats of hot dogs, hamburgers, cokes and cotton candy

Overall the day was very successful and pleasant for the Coalition people attending. Afterwards we went into Perry Hall for a dinner at a very nice restaurant. Richie Campbell, Kristin Kraske, Barbara Kraske and Gary Kraske staffed the event. Two of Richie and Kristin's friends from New Jersey, Phil and Sue Schlegel came down to see the day and helped us out at the end of the day with the exhibit and breakdown. [Please see "Need for More.." Page 3]

The Coalition was present at the "Hands on History" day at the Howard County Fair on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Although we were located in an air-conditioned building, the hot outside temperature cut down on the number of visitors to the fair as a whole and to our building as a result. Brenda brought her rubbing demonstration to the exhibit and it was a hit with the children and the adults. It is definitely a "keeper" for future exhibits/demonstrations. Many thanks to Brenda and her husband for the assistance. Plenty of facilities were near by in air-conditioned buildings. The air-conditioned lunch room building was fully staffed and a full meal as well as sandwich fare could be obtained. This day is typical of the community events in which we as a Coalition need to be more involved. Brenda McLean, George Horvath, and Gary Kraske staffed the exhibit.

**WELCOME TO THE CPMBS GIFT SHOP**

We have found many unique items that we hope you will enjoy. If you have any ideas for items to sell please contact the fundraising committee, Kristin Kraske, or Amanda Becker. Special thanks to Gravestone Artware and Bernadette Loeffel-Atkins for their help in making this gift shop a success!

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### Photo Gallery



Kristin and Richie finishing set-up. Right on the grassy shore of the Susquehanna! Our first visitors of the day already present



Snow's Battery of MD Union forces has just fired!



Ann Bolt enjoying Port Deposit



"Lou Abbott and Bud Costello" with "the Press" at the Port Deposit John Smith Day 7/21/07. They knew all the routines!



Interior of replica of John Smith's shallow. Courtesy of Ann Bolt

## Need for More Volunteers to Further Our Public Relations

Having at least 4 people manning our Port Deposit's and Howard County Fair's booths afforded us ample time to explore and enjoy the rest of the celebration. In addition, more volunteers were so helpful in setting up and packing all exhibition items. Thus it became quite obvious that 4 or more in number are needed to volunteer their services at all such functions and also to enjoy the whole day.

## President's Message

This past two months while pursuing one of my other interests, trains, I attended a train convention in Missouri. In addition, I read an article on historic railway restoration in Maine. At this point you are probably saying, "So what does this have to do with cemetery preservation?" Well, after going to the website for the WWF railway and cruising through it, one item in particular caught my eye! It was the actual Long Range Plan for the railway consisting of 54 well-thought out pages. I'll have a copy of this at the October meeting. It covers all aspects of their undertaking from railway projects then continuing through membership, financing, and government interaction at local, state, and federal levels. I realized that the gentleman responsible for the convention in Missouri had also had long-range plans to construct his 5 miles of railroad. He had started saving 40 years prior to starting the project! He also set up a series of goals and projects along with the surrounding communities to realize his goal. At this quarterly meeting I intend to bring up the subject of the need for a CPMBS Long Range Plan and when agreed upon to make pertinent sections of it known to the general public and governments.

We seem to spend a substantial amount of time at the quarterly meetings discussing minutes. I would like to streamline the approval process for the minutes. In an attempt to jump-start this I e-mailed each board member in August, 2007 a copy of the draft minutes asking them to forward any comments they might have to Ms Amanda Becker, our recording Secretary. As of Saturday October 13, 2007 she had received zero comments. Please respond to the original request by affirming the minutes or suggesting changes.

To activate most of our committees we need one person in each committee to stand up and be chairperson. Most of our committees are lagging in progress.

I believe CPMBS needs more than quarterly meetings to be an effective organization. These do not have to be board meetings. Meetings can be members discussing various topics or possibly a meeting of committees whose functions somewhat overlap. The locale for these meetings can be arranged via any of the numerous communication methods that we have today. Another topic for discussion on October 27<sup>th</sup>!

I am beginning to feel the need for a corresponding Secretary in this organization. I'm not sure how to funnel all mail correspondence to an individual. Maybe the Post Office can help out. Maybe our mail should be sent to the office that

Mr. Miller has donated for our use. The problem with this is that as a statewide organization, a single physical location, would inhibit folks that might otherwise be inclined to volunteer for the position. Any suggestions??

CPMBS desperately needs to show our face at every opportunity whether at meetings, exhibits, talks, and benevolent organizations. HELP with Community Outreach!

## Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2007

COALITION TO PROTECT MARYLAND BURIAL SITES

JULY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2007 MINUTES

Thirteen attendees were present:

President Gerhardt Kraske

Vice-President Melvin Mason

Secretary Amanda Becker

Treasurer Barbara Kraske

Board of Directors:

Director Leonard Becraft

Director Ann Bolt

Director George Horvath

Director Kristin Kraske

Director Thomas Mason

Director Paul Miller

Board members excused:

Robert Lyons

Hasan Wilson

Coalition members in attendance:

Brenda McNeil Sandra Wright John Wright.

The Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites' July 14, 2007 meeting was called to order by President Gerhardt Kraske at 4:01 pm at the Miller Library in Ellicott City, Maryland.

### Secretary's Report:

The Secretary's report was reviewed. Revisions were given by Kristin Kraske and so noted by the Secretary.

President Kraske called for acceptance of the April 28, 2007 minutes. Vice-President Melvin Mason made a motion for the minutes to be accepted. George Horvath seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

### Treasurer's Report:

Barbara Kraske gave the Treasurer's report. The balance as of April 26, 2007 was \$7,577.49. Income and expenses from April 27, 2007 thru July 12, 2007 were \$730.00 and \$1,095.82 respectively. The Susquehanna Bank CD has an estimated value of \$1,106.54. The total worth of the Coalition's treasury is \$8,317.21.

The Susquehanna Bank CD renewal is scheduled for October. Treasurer Kraske with the approval of President Kraske gave the financial committee the task of discussing the validity of keeping this CD. The finance committee will report back.

The only outstanding check in the account was a Periwinkle award. The Blankenship's have not received their award. Meeting with them to present their award in person has been difficult, but will be accomplished.

The President called for acceptance of the Treasurer's report. George Horvath made a motion, Vice-President Melvin

Mason seconded the motion, all were in favor and the Treasurer's report was approved.

#### **Membership Report:**

Kristin Kraske presented the membership report. There were no new members this quarter. The total of paying members was ninety-three with sixteen non-paying members. The total of Coalition members was one hundred nine.

#### **Old Business:**

Leonard Becraft is composing a letter to Patricia Fagan Tress concerning his family cemetery at Lime Plant Road. The issue at hand is the owners are not allowing him access to the cemetery.

Leonard Becraft discussed the possible site for the next annual meeting. The Sandy Spring Museum is reserving the third or fourth Saturday in April of 2008 for the Coalition. The museum is in an historic Quaker area in Montgomery County, MD. Near the museum are the Friends Meeting House and a Slave museum, and there are many cemeteries to visit. Hotels are in Jessup and Columbia about six miles away. The Sandy Spring Museum would give us a discounted rate as Mr. Becraft is a member, and they have a large room for lectures and lunch. Lunch could be catered. A possible forty-five minute film on the Quaker religion is one program that could be viewed as well as a tour of the museum.

President Kraske called for the acceptance for the Annual Meeting to be held on April 26, 2008 at the Sandy Spring Museum in Montgomery County, Maryland. George Horvath made a motion and Ann Bolt seconded it. All were in favor and the motion carried. The information will be included in the fall Courier.

Leonard Becraft attended the awards ceremony given by Montgomery Preservation in which the Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory project and the Coalition were awarded the Outstanding County-Wide History Project. Certificates were given for this.

Robert Mosko's Cemetery Conservation and Preservation Field course will be held on September 6-8, 2007 at Harford Community College.

Treasurer Kraske and President Kraske attended the Loudon Park Confederate Ceremony where member Robert Lyons participated. They stated that it was quite moving and impressive.

#### **New Business:**

Leonard Becraft met with the new rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Olney, Maryland. St. John's is in charge of Greenwood Cemetery where Mr. Becraft's ancestors are buried. The rector seemed interested and concerned about the condition of the cemetery and lack of access to the cemetery. The rector was willing to look into this matter.

Leonard Becraft also took Amanda Becker to her ancestor's graves at Elton Cemetery in Unity, Maryland. This cemetery is in a deplorable condition. Ms. Becker had never seen this cemetery before. She has begun a study to conserve it as shown in the Coalition's handbook.

The Port Deposit celebration is on July 21<sup>st</sup> and Kristin Kraske and Richie Campbell will be showcasing the Coalition there with a booth.

The Howard County "Hands on History" Day was given pre-approval and support from the Officers and Board of Directors and the form was filed on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The Horvaths, Robert Lyons, and Kraskes will be attending to the booth.

Brenda McNeil will be teaching a gravestone rubbing seminar on August 12<sup>th</sup> at the Timonium Film Festival.

Rockville Days are coming up in September – more information will be shared through email when it becomes available.

President Kraske wrote a letter in support of the oldest African-American cemetery (Mt. Auburn) in Baltimore for LuAnn Moorman.

President Kraske wrote a letter to Ann and Lewis Clark concerning their family cemetery in Dorchester County. Development is occurring around the cemetery. The cemetery has been fenced with no access. Correspondence was also sent to James Trader.

Boy Scout, Patrick Hearn, is working towards his Eagle Scout badge by cleaning up the Welling Cemetery behind Pointers Run Elementary School. President Kraske responded to his letter.

President Kraske received an email concerning a Frederick County Cemetery, the Hodges Cemetery. Need more information to respond to their query.

The Snowden Cemetery descendants have stepped back as the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior have conflicting rules on conservation of this site. Robert Mosko sent a report of what he has done at that cemetery. More will be reported at the October meeting.

A letter was received from people in Massachusetts in regards to a Washington County Cemetery that was being trod over by horses and cattle. President Kraske was going to look more into this matter. He will also send the email that was given to George Horvath.

Recess:

There was a ten minute recess.

Brenda McNeal would like to find out more about Christ Episcopal Church in Oakland Mills. She will inquire if they would be willing to learn more about its history for their anniversary celebration, in particular finding their original cemetery and documenting it.

She also had a suggestion for a section in the Courier for members to write about their favorite cemetery, such as information regarding ownership, location, hours, etc. This could be put on the website to inform the public on cemeteries that have been restored and that could be visited and enjoyed.

George Horvath told of the Clary Cemetery in Carroll County and how in the last couple of weeks the State's Attorney's office gave its approval for its relocation. This half acre cemetery is no longer there because of development. The stones have been buried on top of the bodies and a plaque placed on top with the names and dates of those interred in this mass grave.

Committees:

President Kraske would like the committees to meet before the October meeting and for each committee to have a committee chairperson. This chairperson will give a committee report at the next board meeting.

Sandra Wright and George Horvath have been added to the Annual Meeting Committee and Brenda McNeil has been added to the Community Outreach Committee. Vice-President Mason will forward a list of names and address for the Publicity Committee to President Kraske. Amanda Becker shared with the group two catalogs of possible fundraising products. A motion for the use of two hundred dollars for the purchase of some of these products for coalition sales, on the website, and at events was made, seconded, and approved by the group.

The meeting was adjourned by President Kraske at six p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

|s|

Amanda Becker Secretary

## Newsorthy Items

### State working on guidelines for repatriation of Indian remains

BALTIMORE — Maryland Planning Secretary Richard Eberhart Hall and the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, an agency of the Maryland Department of Human Resources, have announced an agreement to work cooperatively in establishing a process that will lead to the development of a plan for the repatriation of ancient American Indian skeletal remains to an appropriate burial site.

Under federal law, any plan that is developed must be submitted to the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Review Committee and be approved by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior before it can be carried out.

The Maryland Historical Trust has been the custodian of the skeletal remains of at least 139 American Indians that pre-date the first contact between Indians and European explorers. Since the early 1990s, federal and state laws have allowed agencies and museums to repatriate Indian remains in their possession to government-recognized Indian tribes, but the lack of such recognized tribes in Maryland and the antiquity of the remains held by the Trust have to date precluded any such repatriations.

Maryland law directs that remains which cannot be linked to a modern recognized Indian tribe be placed in an "appropriate place of repose" designated by the Secretary of the Department of Planning.

To accomplish this goal, the Department of Planning recently shared a draft proposed process with the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs and invited it to work jointly with the Department in developing and implementing a process leading to the production of a plan. The Commission has accepted the invitation and looks forward to working cooperatively with the Department of Planning to ensure the respectful and appropriate disposition of all American Indian remains in the Department's possession.

The Department of Planning and Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs envision a process that includes broad consultation with interested parties including Maryland Indians, federal and other state-recognized Indian tribes with connections to Maryland, the archaeological and scientific community, and other interested parties.

The Department of Planning and the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs invited public comment on the proposed process for plan development at the Commission's September 2007 meeting. Copies of the proposed process and information on the joint informational meeting may be obtained from the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs Web site <http://www.gcia.sailorsite.net/> or by calling 410-767-7857 or 1-800-714-8813, or from the Maryland Historical Trust Web site [www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net/](http://www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net/) or by calling 410-514-7685.

## News from the Counties

### Anne Arundel County

#### Snowden Cemetery report

A date in October has been scheduled to initiate a conservation effort at the Snowden Cemetery. I'll know more as the date gets closer. I am scheduled to initiate the Snowden Cemetery effort on October 27. The Federal Government in all of it's bureaucracy has agreed to see things our way. Submitted by R. Mosko

#### Update on Nutwell Cemetery

May 2007 Audrey Bagby and Tina Simmons, Anne Arundel Genealogical Society's cemetery chairman, revisited the Nutwell Cemetery, family burial site of an old prominent county family. To their dismay, after heading down a dirt road, they found the site was gated. However, Mr, Donald Covington, owner of the property opened the gate and even accompanied them to their destination. It is located unxer the high tension wires of the Baltimore Gas & Electric company. Thus, B.G. & E. took the responsibility of mowing in and around the cemetery. Yet gravestones had been broken or poorly mended.

To their surprise, Mr. Covington informed them that B.G. & E. had recently planned to plow over the site only to find it was a graveyard. Obviously, there was poor communication within B.G. & E. He also told them that B.G. & E. committed the desecration of the stones. Hopefully, this company will save the site and rectify the damage to the gravestones.

Submitted by Audrey Bagby, Summary by Barb Kraske

#### Carroll family relic finally returned to churchyard tomb

ANNAPOLIS — Fragments of a mid-18<sup>th</sup> century stone tablet rediscovered literally by accident some 25 years ago are finally back in the tomb of one of Maryland's founding families. A brief ceremony to return the fragments and reseal the tomb at St. Anne's Church took place Sept. 22.

The marker was for John Henry Carroll, who died in his 20s of tuberculosis in 1754. It was likely his brother, Charles Carroll the Barrister — a Baltimore County landowner and businessman who was also a member of the General Assembly and Continental Congress — who had the tablet prepared in John Henry's honor.

In the mid-1980s, a painting contractor backed into the marble monument. Through the gaping hole the stone tablet fragments could be seen in the underground tomb. At that time the remains of five Carroll family members were identified by anthropologists from the Smithsonian Institution, although Charles Carroll the Barrister had been removed for reburial in his wife's tomb in the churchyard.

The tablet fragments, one of the few items remaining from a previous church, had been damaged by an 1858 fire at St. Anne's. They were still covered with greasy soot, according to Sept. 23, 2007 account in *The Sun* by reporter Melissa Harris. Over the years they remained exposed outside, and were later placed in a box and put under a table in the church's parish house.

With no consensus on how to display the tablet, church members opted to return them to the tomb. "The absolute feeling among everyone is that returning the fragments is an extraordinarily appropriate thing to do," said August Deimel, the church's communications director, as reported in *The Sun*.

The 3 foot by 6 ½ foot monument was gently lifted, and the tablet fragments were placed on the ancient bricks and 1984 cinderblocks that serve as the ceiling to the tomb. A sealed history of the tablet was also placed in the space to serve as a record for the next generation who goes looking inside.

John Henry Carroll and Charles Carroll the Barrister were cousins to Charles Carroll of Carrollton, also a Continental Congress member and signer of the Declaration of Independence. Col. A. Weems McFadden, a Carroll descendant who led the effort to preserve the fragments, was present when they were returned to the tomb.

— *As reported in The Sun, Sept. 23, 2007 and condensed by Richard Crumbacker.*

## Baltimore City

### Sad Condition of an Important Old Baltimore Cemetery

Mt. Carmel Cemetery on O'Donnell Street in Baltimore is the burial site of perhaps as many as 300 Civil War veterans as well as a few veterans from the War of 1812. It is a privately-owned cemetery visible from I-95. During the 1880s and 1890s large Memorial Day ceremonies took place there. It has had several different owners recently and its current condition is "deplorable" according to CPMBS member Bryan Green. In the past, groups such as the Sons of Union Veterans have done restoration work, but nothing is being done at present and the cemetery is in grave danger. Coalition members should take note and encourage any appropriate group to help preserve this important site.

Meetings are being scheduled to address St. Peter's Basilica Catholic Cemetery.

I also attended a meeting this past week with CHAP (Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation) concerning Mt. Auburn Cemetery. The church that over sees the cemetery has been 'playing' with the restoration effort of the cemetery for so long that state, city, and community officials are getting 'fed up'. A new 501.3C organization, called the Preservation Alliance, headed by Luann Moorman, has gain recognition by both City and State Historical agencies. Her organization is well organized, highly educated, motivated and confident in achieving their goal to get this highly historical and cultural cemetery restored. (Sharp Street Church, who administers the cemetery, has been highly resistant to this group. After Tuesday's CHAP meeting, their lack of education embarrassed them in of the commission as well as brought their plans to a stand still. After a confrontation with Miss Moorman, they are now requesting a meeting with her which Miss Moorman is going to arrange with CHAP mediating.) A meeting has been scheduled with CHAP, The City of Baltimore, Preservation Alliance Inc., and Sharp Street Church concerning Mt. Auburn Cemetery. The meeting is scheduled for November.

Old. St. Paul's Church and Cemetery, nothing else has been heard regarding this cemetery since a disagreement arose between myself and the horticulturist that they hired to assist with the overgrowth of vegetation. The English Ivy is the center of the argument. The horticulturist states that it's intrusive, detrimental to the masonry, and has ordered it removed through the use of herbicides. I disagreed, felt that it was intended, should be kept off of the stones and allowed to encompass the ground as it appears to have been intended. Evidence has been discovered that the herbicide is causing damage to some of the marble by creating a whitening effect on surfaces that have had their patina layers compromised. Funding has also become an issue.

A meeting is also pending with St. Peter's Cemetery in Baltimore to get them off the Maryland's Endangered List.  
*Submitted by R. Mosko*

## Baltimore County

### Developments in the Fitch-Murray Family Graveyard Saga

Nancy Avers of Palmyra, VA has received help from several CPMBS members (George Horvath and Jim Trader) in her quest to locate the family burial site in Fullerton, Baltimore County. She wants to gain access to it, but the current owners have refused to allow her on the property. The graveyard was in use from 1771 until the final burial about 1938, but Ms Avers believes the current deed does not mention its existence. She hopes a Baltimore County attorney can help her establish her right to search for the graveyard. There are no longer any gravestones or other evidence above ground, but she feels that a buried bronze casket could be easily located. -- *Submitted by Nancy Avers and summarized by Mimi Ashcraft*

## News from Druid Ridge Cemetery

This Pikesville cemetery is thinking of the future by installing a group of double-depth vaults in a 122-plot expansion project. When the vaults are installed, they will hold 244 bodies in half the space normally used for interments. To date the cemetery has developed 181 of its 270 acres and is not worried about crowding at present but knows that it must plan ahead.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Arcadia is initiating another phase. *Submitted by Robert Mosko*

### **Carroll County**

Greenmount United Methodist Church Cemetery and Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery are still ongoing. No further progress as of 10/10/07. *Submitted by Robert Mosko*

### **Montgomery County**

I am returning to Rockville Cemetery on the Monday after July 14<sup>th</sup> to finish their final phase of their cemetery conservation preservation project which has been on going for the past three years. Rockville has been completed with the exception of color matching which can take several days to complete. I will be returning there on Tuesday 10/15.

Damascus United Methodist Church Cemetery resumed in September 2007. I have returned to Damascus and have completed some repairs on the broken stones. I am expected to have that project completed by the 1st of November *Submitted by Robert Mosko*

### **Prince George's County**

The preservation of the Skinner Family Cemetery is currently underway. What was originally assessed to be bow tombs, has now turned out to be elaborately constructed burial crypts that contain the actual human remains. Two officials from the Historical Commission have evaluated the sight and are awaiting additional updated documentation of what has been discovered along with available options to address the new findings for evaluation and approval. The project has been put on hold pending the Historical Commission's acceptance of a modified proposal to address the structures without disturbing the remains.

*Submitted by Robert Mosko*

### **Somerset County**

#### **Cemetery desecration case continues in Crisfield**

**By Richard Crumbacker**  
Crisfield Times

PRINCESS ANNE — Three teen boys accused of desecrating human remains and funereal objects at a Crisfield cemetery appeared before Judge Master Robert Laird Jr. in juvenile court here last week.

While the Sept. 10 hearings were closed to the press, descendants of the interred individuals who had their vaults

broken and coffins pried open left the proceedings frustrated and disappointed that the case that started March 24 drags on.

"It was just as we expected," said Clifton "Skip" Mitchell of Philadelphia, grandson of Clifton S. Sterling who died in 1964. He was buried in what is now an untended section of the African-American cemetery bounded by the Asbury United Methodist Church cemetery and Bill Gaylon Road. "Murder trials are adjudicated in less time," he said.

What was particularly upsetting was that one of the juveniles had apparently not been interviewed by his attorney, and Mr. Mitchell said to come to court six months later "and then say, 'Oh, I have never seen this kid before'" — "is a joke," concluded Donald Mitchell, finishing his brother's sentence.

"No one was detained today," Skip Mitchell said, and one of them "should have been." Two "respondents" were found delinquent, court witnesses said, and the third case will be decided after what would be described in adult court as a pre-sentence investigation, Mr. Mitchell said.

One parent apparently offered to put their child on house arrest, with electronic monitoring, "and the judge didn't even acknowledge the request," Mr. Mitchell said. The next court date is Oct. 10 and he said "I'll definitely be back."

"In juvenile court, it's about being delinquent or not being delinquent," Mr. Mitchell continued. "You can be delinquent on one charge, or be delinquent on 25, you're still going to be treated the same."

Clifton Sterling was a World War II Army veteran and his grave was marked by the familiar standard issue military marker. The vandals had broken open the reinforced concrete vault and exposed its contents. His grave was one of 15 damaged or violated by the juveniles.

During the police investigation in late March, Bob Bradshaw of Bradshaw Funeral Home was called to collect remains that were scattered around. At that time, many graves were filled with water due to the high water table. Most of the graves in the disturbed section date before the early 1970s but in a nearby section that is better maintained funerals were held as late as 2004. Near one broken grave was a metal plaque engraved "At Rest."

"This could have been all cut and dried," said Azinith Williams of Crisfield, the late Mr. Sterling's niece. She said getting off work wasn't too difficult, but "it was almost a waste of time."

Mrs. Williams was prepared to offer a statement to the court on behalf of her family and other families. The goal is for restitution — replacement of vault lids, headstones, planters and other funereal objects — but more important family members want the court to appoint a panel to find a suitable location for a new grave site. Then, a mass burial and service for the 15 bodies be held, with the site marked with a memorial stone.

"Those that cannot be identified [should] be listed as unknown," she noted. "All headstones that have been damaged [should] be replaced and moved to the new location."

"I am sure that I echo the sentiments of the entire African American community of Crisfield when I say that words

cannot express the hurt, the devastation that occurred during the unearthing of the remains of our loved ones," Mrs. Williams said. "The significance of these sacred places extend far beyond the artifacts found there."

Because the juveniles, who have not been publicly named, are white, there was an interest earlier this summer in pursuing this case as a hate crime. While court observers said that did not come up, one individual close to the case suggested that religion, and not race, may be the angle for hate crime prosecution because it was alleged that one or all of these same juveniles may have been involved with damage to the predominantly white Asbury Church Cemetery nearby.

Either way, motive "was never mentioned" and was not part of the prosecution's presentation, Skip Mitchell said. "The state just went down the bullet points. No theory was offered as to a motive."

He said "motive, to me, is important. It lessens the crime now even more. It lessens it because you haven't got to the root cause of why they did it." Finding out the reason is important, he said, "so it doesn't happen again."

## Out-of-State News

### Indiana Cemetery Being Moved

Indianapolis - A small 1800s cemetery (Whitesell Cemetery) is being moved to widen Interstate I-69. At the intersection of I-69 and I-465 state crews are moving approximately 30 graves to be re-buried at Crown Hill Cemetery. However, archeologists and anthropologists are taking the responsibility of the excavation process. Steps included are headstone removal, top layer of soil removal (allowing them to identify grave shafts) and identification of any unmarked graves. At the new cemetery a monument recounting its history will be installed.

World Now and WISH-TV via 2007 Associated Press

Submitted by Melvin Mason Abstract by Barb Kraske

### Eternal Justice stirs up Georgia cemetery issue

SAVANNAH, Ga. — A national death-care rights group based in Maryland was in Savannah Aug. 24 lobbying for better documentation by Georgia funeral homes and cemeteries. Carolyn Jacobi, executive director of Eternal Justice Inc., focused on complaints concerning the Savannah Cemetery Group, which wants to require steel rather than concrete for all of its burial vaults.

Ms. Jacobi is accusing the group of restraint of trade and contends it has "cornered the market" on providing steel vaults, which she said are more expensive and do not last as long as concrete.

"We hope to bring some justice to the citizens of Savannah as well as to the state of Georgia," she is quoted as saying in an Aug. 24 story by Lesley Conn.

Savannah Cemetery Group General Manager Charlie Smith countered the complaint by saying steel vaults cost just under \$2,000 which is \$5,000 less than one of the most

expensive concrete vaults sold. And, the warranty is 22 years longer, he said.

Mr. Smith further stated that because Georgia law requires cemeteries to be responsible for the product even after it's put in the ground, the company can decide what product to use in its cemeteries. He said some cemeteries require concrete, some no vault at all. "Steel is a 100 percent better product," he said.

Georgia recently created a Cemetery Board in its Secretary of State's Office to handle complaints, and Ms. Jacobi urged consumers to file complaints there.

Eternal Justice had complained back in March that Georgia is failing to investigate funeral homes and cemeteries on issues including burial records and timely death certificate filings.

### Real Estate Speculator Charged With Destroying Cemetery

MORGAN COUNTY, Mo. — A real estate broker who purchased 80 acres of land with the intention of reselling it has been charged with knowingly destroying a cemetery located on the property. Charles Ronald Conner, 58, was charged by the Morgan County (Mo.) Sheriff's Office with one felony and two misdemeanor charges after he allegedly bulldozed the private cemetery to plant grass.

A local couple had catalogued the cemetery in the 1990s, and field stones were one indication of how it was marked. One of the stones was initialed "L.D." which may have marked the grave of Lucinda Dalton, wife of John Dalton, who preserved a half-acre plot for a family cemetery before selling the remainder in 1875.

According to a Sept. 14 report in the *Lake Sun Leader* by reporter Deanna Wheeler, the sheriff's office got a tip from a Stover, Mo., resident about the cemetery in late August. Bill and Dorothy Williams of Versailles were contacted by deputies about their cemetery data from 1996. Mr. Williams said the field stones were used to mark graves because the family didn't have the money for other monuments. And, one of them that they documented was marked L.D.

Deputies allege Conner had been advised of the cemetery, but chose to bulldoze it anyway. He was charged with knowingly disturbing, destroying, removing, vandalizing or damaging a marked/unmarked burial site, which is felony; and misdemeanor counts of institutional vandalism/property damage and vandalizing a private cemetery. He turned himself in and was released after posting \$2,500 bond.

It was a worker on the property who discovered the stone deputies are now using as evidence in this case.

— *Condensed from the Lake Sun (Mo.) Leader, Sept. 14, 2007.*

### Cambridge, Mass. Mt. Auburn

Isn't it interesting that the creation of Mount Auburn Cemetery located in the historical birthplace of our transformation of U.S government and society launched the "rural-cemetery movement" in which graveyards came to be



known as cemeteries --to be utilized as a respite for profound reflection of nature and divine mysteries.

Mt. Auburn, having created this concept of the "rural-cemetery" in 1831, became a famous historical institution. This led to the widespread use of the term "cemetery", derived from the Greek word "koimeterion" ('sleeping-place'). Emphasis of this Greek word was to initiate a "graveyard" to be transformed as a place of the living to commune with nature and history. To further this concept some cemeteries became havens of a park setting (graced by gardens, ornamented benches, ceremonies, and even family gatherings. Great examples of such sites are the Forest Lawn Cemetery, Los Angeles, CA, the Lexington Park Cemetery in Lexington, KY and certainly Whipps Cemetery (Barbara Sieg's venture) in Howard County, MD

Edward Everett, Harvard's president, in the mid-1800s took guests first to Mt. Auburn before showing the college campus. Obviously, he believed the cemetery exposed guests to the historical and cultural significance of the area more than Harvard's campus. Through the years the cemetery has attracted on the average 30,000 visitors per year. Perhaps a future goal of the Coalition and society should be to create the need and belief that more of our cemeteries should be remodeled more as national and/or historic treasures.

Source; delanceyplace.com, Submitted by Melvin Mason, Summary by Barb Kraske

## Up- Coming Events

### QUARTERLY MEETING

**Howard County Public Library  
Miller Branch  
Old Frederick Road MD 144  
Saturday October 27, 2007  
At 4:00 P.M.**

**Attendees are encouraged to have  
dinner together at a local restaurant.  
Similar outings were truly enjoyed  
by previous attendees!**

## Coalition Members in the News

Due to extensive work upcoming in Virginia in the 2008 season, Mosko Cemetery Monument Services will not be undertaking any projects in Maryland or Pennsylvania. They have been commissioned to restore six burial tombs of the grand parents of George Washington which are all located in Lancaster, Virginia.

In addition, Hollywood Cemetery located in Richmond, Virginia has commissioned us to survey and assess their 135 acre cemetery this past August. They are asking that we initiate a project in early Spring. We do not have any pending project in Maryland after 2007. - Robert Mosko, Chief

## New Members This Quarter

None: Please contact friends and neighbors to join!

## Haunting Humor

We telemarketers know we're universally loathed. Still, some people are quite pleasant on the phone. One day I called a number and asked to speak with Mr. Morgan. The woman who answered explained that he no longer lived at that address, but she did have a number where he could be reached. I thanked her, rang that number and was greeted with, "Good morning, Highland View Cemetery."

-- David Chambers

Touring Ireland's countryside with a group of travel writers, we passed an immaculate cemetery with hundreds of beautiful headstones set in a field of emerald-green grass. Everyone reached for their cameras when the tour guide said the inventor of the crossword puzzle was buried there. He pointed out the location, "Three down and four across."

-- Steve Bauer

Driving with my two young boys to a funeral, I tried to prepare them by talking about burial and what we believe happens after death. The boys behaved well during the service. But at the grave site I discovered my explanations weren't as thorough as I'd thought. In a loud voice, my four-year-old asked, "Mom?"

"Yes," I whispered.

"What's in the box?"

-- Ginny Richards

Submitted by Kristin Kraske

## Editors' Corner

Perhaps a future goal of the Coalition and society should be to create the need and belief that more of our cemeteries should be remodeled more as national and/or historic treasures.

Please take note of the insert of items that your Coalition has for sale. Contact either Amanda or Kristin with your requests as per the included order form.

There are many folks who contributed articles for this issue. Thanks to Mimi Ashcraft, Vickie Nelson, Richard Crumbacker, Amanda Becker, Melvin Mason, Robert Mosko, Barbara Kraske, Gerhardt Kraske, and Kristin Kraske.

All members - have a great summer!

Barbara & Gary Kraske

**COMMITTEES**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

Becraft Leonard  
Kraske Barbara

Start no later than

June 1

**FINANCE**

Lyons Bob  
Miller Paul

February 1st

**ARCHIVES**

Becker Amanda  
Horvath George

Continuous

**FUND RAISING /INVENTORY**

Becker Amanda  
Kraske Kristin

Continuous

**BY-LAWS**

Becker Amanda  
Kraske Barbara  
Mason Melvin  
Mason Thomas

Finish before Jan 2008

meeting October 19th

**LEGISLATIVE**

Kraske Gerhardt Chair (Current President)  
PLEASE! Contact Us 410-730-8278

September 1st

**MEMBERSHIP**

Kraske Kristin Chair

Continuous

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Ashcraft Mimi  
Wilson Hasan  
McNeil Brenda

Continuous

**NOMINATING**

PLEASE! Contact Us 410-730-8278

January 2nd

**COURIER**

Kraske Barbara (Co-Editor)  
Kraske Gerhardt (Co-Editor)  
Ashcraft Mimi  
Crumbacker Richard  
Nelson Vickie

Continuous

**PERIWINKLE AWARDS**

Bolt Ann  
Horvath Ann

January 2nd

**EXHIBIT**

Kraske Kristin

September 1st

**PUBLICITY**

PLEASE! Contact Us 410-730-8278

Continuous

**FAMILY REMEMBRANCE WEEK**

Becraft Leonard  
Kraske Barbara

December 1st

**WEBMASTER**

Nesmeyer Diane

Continuous

**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.

**Interim Editors**

Barbara and Gerhardt Kraske, [gpkbmkmd@aol.com](mailto:gpkbmkmd@aol.com)

9425 Dartmouth Rd., Columbia, MD 21045-1808

**2007 Publication Deadlines**

Spring	March 17, 2007
Summer	June 15, 2007
Fall	September 15, 2007
Winter	December 15, 2007

**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**

Acting President	Gerhardt Kraske (410) 730-8278 <a href="mailto:pres@cpmbs.org">pres@cpmbs.org</a> <a href="mailto:gpkbmkmd@aol.com">gpkbmkmd@aol.com</a>
Vice President	Melvin Mason (301) 699-5836 <a href="mailto:vp@cpmbs.org">vp@cpmbs.org</a> <a href="mailto:masonbrothers@masonbrothers.com">masonbrothers@masonbrothers.com</a>
Treasurer	Barbara Kraske (410) 730-8278 <a href="mailto:treas@cpmbs.org">treas@cpmbs.org</a>
Secretary	Amanda Becker (301) 253-2688 <a href="mailto:sec@cpmbs.org">sec@cpmbs.org</a> ;
Past President	Barbara Sieg (410) 860-2364

**Board of Directors**

Thomas Mason	(PG County) (301) 736-4058 <a href="mailto:masonbrothers@masonbrothers.com">masonbrothers@masonbrothers.com</a>
Ann Bolt	(Montgomery County) (301) 774-1960 <a href="mailto:Anncestor@aol.com">Anncestor@aol.com</a>
Leonard Becraft	(Montgomery County) (301) 774-3616 No e-mail
George Horvath	(Carroll County) (410) 526-4878 <a href="mailto:Horvathmap@aol.com">Horvathmap@aol.com</a>
Robert Lyons	(Baltimore) (410) 747-3271 <a href="mailto:blyons@admin1.umaryland.edu">blyons@admin1.umaryland.edu</a>
Kristin Kraske	(Howard) (410) 772-8602 <a href="mailto:REBELKRIS@comcast.net">REBELKRIS@comcast.net</a>
Paul Miller	(Howard) (410) 465-9158 <a href="mailto:ecpim@aol.com">ecpim@aol.com</a>
Hasan Wilson	Talbot County) (301)-739-7668 <a href="mailto:hasanwilson@hotmail.com">hasanwilson@hotmail.com</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.cpmbs.org>

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

**NOTE: THIS IS A RENEWAL REMINDER**

**Membership year is June 1 through May 31<sup>st</sup>**

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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