

	<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. 4  Winter 2007</p>
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P.O. Box 1533 \* Ellicott City, Maryland 21041 \* (410) 772-8602  
<http://www.cpmbs.org>

**Inside this issue:**

## Annual Meeting Planning in Full Swing

### Meeting to be held April 26, 2008 in Sandy Spring, Maryland

Our 16<sup>th</sup> annual meeting will be hosted by the Sandy Spring Museum at its campus in Sandy Spring on Route 108 in Montgomery County. The Annual Meeting Committee met on January 6, 2008 at the museum and accomplished a substantial amount of planning for the upcoming event. A circular for the annual meeting will follow shortly.

A full day of meetings, speeches, awards, and tours is planned. Continental breakfast, break and lunch will be available on the premises and included in the registration fees.

The design of the Sandy Spring Museum captures the architectural style and charm of the early 18<sup>th</sup> century Farm homes and barns of the area. The Museum and its Architect, Miche Booz, received the Excellence in Design Award for 1997 from the Potomac Valley chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The event will be held in the Dr. Bird room at the museum. It is a spacious 28' diameter octagonal room with high ceilings and plenty of room for up to 80 guests seated at tables.



Committee at Work!



The Dr. Bird Room



Approach from the North



Approach from the South showing Buildings

## 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, Amanda Becker, and Barbara Kraske. The fundraising committee met on January 7, 2008 and reviewed a list of books to add to our inventory for inclusion on the Gift Shop enclosure. Special thanks to Gravestone Artware and Bernadette Loeffel-Atkins for their help in making this gift shop a success! Insert will come with Annual Mtg. circular.

Board Meeting Minutes	2
Committees	5
Coalition Members in the News	5
County News	4
Editor's Corner	5
Gift Shop News	1
Haunting Humor	5
New Members	5
Newsworthy Items	3
Public Relations	2
President's Message	2
Up Coming Events	5

## Request That Each Booth/Exhibit be Staffed by at Least 4 Volunteers

From experience at staffing booths/exhibits last year it became quite obvious that 4 or more in number are needed to volunteer their services at all such functions as well as for all to enjoy the whole day. In addition, more volunteers were so helpful in setting up and packing all exhibition items.

## President's Message

Meeting Support Reimbursement -- I believe that we as an organization cannot continue to rely on the good faith expenditures of membership resources with no hope of reimbursement for travel or meals that they expend in covering meetings on behalf of needy parties. I realize that this opens the proverbial "can of worms" as to what might be an approved meeting; however, it is time for this discussion to start.

Dues -- The sad issue of a proposed (by me) dues increase. Please keep in mind that donations have kept us from going negative each year. The dues have not seen any increase since at least 1997. Since then if it is assumed that inflation was level at 3.5% over the eleven years the dues adjustment factor for inflation alone would be 1.46 resulting in calculated dues of \$14.60, rounded up to \$15.00, for individual membership and \$22.00 for household membership.

Nominating Committee -- this committee is currently not staffed and the need for volunteers is eminent. Hopefully some members will sign-up at the quarterly meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> 2008. Two committees have worked out very well the By-Laws and Annual Meeting Committees. A number of others need to start now! They include but are not limited to the Family Remembrance Week, Community Outreach, and Publicity committees. We need to plan for exhibit season before the annual meeting if at all possible. I know Maryland has a calendar that publishes the various events around the state in short form. This is a starting point.

## COALITION TO PROTECT MARYLAND BURIAL SITES OCTOBER 28, 2007 MINUTES

Fifteen attendees were present:

President	Gerhardt Kraske
Vice-President	Melvin Mason
Secretary	Amanda Becker
Treasurer	Barbara Kraske

Board of Directors:

Leonard Becraft

Ann Bolt  
Kristin Kraske  
Thomas Mason  
Paul L. Miller

Coalition members in attendance:

Bill Fields, Brenda McNeal, Sandra Wright, John Wright

And guests:

James Lanier and Candy Warden

The Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites' October 28, 2007 meeting was called to order by President Gerhardt Kraske at 4:02 PM at the Miller Library in Ellicott City, Maryland.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The SECRETARY'S REPORT was reviewed. Brenda McNeal noted that her name was misspelled in the last report and this was so noted. President Kraske called for acceptance of the July 14, 2007 minutes. Vice-President Mason made a motion for the minutes to be accepted. Director Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Director Kristin Kraske gave the membership report. She stated that the Coalition has 90 members of which 74 are paying members. We lost 7 Frederick members who did not renew their memberships. (After the meeting Director Kraske in an email to Secretary Becker amended the membership report stating we have 89 members of which 73 are paying members.)

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The TREASURER'S REPORT was then given. The bank balance as of October 23, 2007 was \$7,211.67. Income was \$574.70 and the expenses were \$749.61. The bank balance as of October 28, 2007 was \$8,116.20. New fundraiser items helped to increase our revenue. Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was called by President Kraske. Director Miller made a motion for the report to be accepted and Vice-President Mason seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

## AGENDA/OLD BUSINESS

President Kraske spoke about the need to create a long range plan for the Coalition. He gave as an example of a train group he knows of where they have a 54 page plan. They have also implemented the projects detailed and are in good shape financially. It is a model we could look at to copy.

President Kraske, George Horvath, and Brenda McNeal attended the Howard County Fair for the Coalition. The day was hot and not many people were out that day, but many still came by the booth. They were interested in Brenda McNeal's tombstone rubbing demonstration. The proper way and precautions in tombstone rubbing were shared with the public during this time.

President Kraske then told of cemeteries that he and others of interest have been working on. They are as follows:

Becraft Family Cemetery in Frederick County (Leonard Becraft)

Clarke Cemetery in Dorchester County (James Trader)

Fitzmurray Cemetery (George Horvath)

Mt. Auburn (LuAnn Moorman)

Parker-Hall-Lee Cemetery (President Kraske)

Rosa Bonheur (Candy Warden)

President Kraske suggested that a separate flyer be sent out or put in the Courier of cemeteries that need help. President Kraske asked for more help from the Coalition Board of Directors, members and concerned people.

Guest and new member, Candy Warden, spoke about the Rosa Bonheur Cemetery which she has been cleaning and restoring for almost seven months. This is a pet cemetery, but humans have been buried there as well. She is worried about the potential loss of access to this because of its location. She would like to make sure it is preserved and protected as it has historic animals and people buried there. The Coalition gave her advice on what to do to start a friends group and other suggestions to help restore and keep this cemetery open.

A friend in Connecticut asked the State Highway Association about a cemetery in the medium strip, south of the Baltimore Beltway and 95. This cemetery has the founding families of Arbutus and Catonsville and has one stone, but about 20 people buried there. The Arbutus Oak is fenced off in this area. If you look closely when driving on the Beltway there is a sign by the service road stating that there is a cemetery nearby. This cemetery is in no danger as it is being cared for by the state and as to date was mowed and in good condition.

#### BY-LAW COMMITTEE

After a brief break the BY-LAW COMMITTEE presented their report. Vice-President Mason spoke that the committee held a meeting and revised the by-laws. The committee wanted to correct the by-laws and show "viability through a paper trail". A review of the by-laws commenced with questions and queries. It was

decided that another by-law committee meeting would be held to work on the questions that were asked during the Coalition's meeting.

#### ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE

The ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE chairman Leonard Becraft gave a brief report that the annual meeting will be held at the Sandy Spring Museum and that a visit to the Sandy Spring Slave Museum will be included.

#### FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Amanda Becker of the FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE then requested five hundred dollars to purchase books to sell for the gift shop. The President asked for a motion for this to be accepted. Ann Bolt made a motion for this to be accepted and Melvin Mason seconded this. All were in favor and the motion carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Fields has been working on a cemetery in Anne Arundel County. About fifty persons and possibly a slave cemetery are on this naval property. As it is an historic site within the naval grounds it should be protected.

Leonard Becraft then reported on the Becraft Family Cemetery property in Frederick County. The farm is for sale for 1.4 million dollars.

He also reported that Greenwood Cemetery in Montgomery County has been cleaned up and that possibly the one hundred-year old boxwoods were removed. This has to be verified.

Mr. Becraft and Amanda Becker are also working on stabilizing Elton Farm Cemetery in Montgomery County.

The President made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned and Vice-President Mason made a motion for this to occur. Director Tom Mason seconded this. All at the meeting were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Amanda Becker

## Newsworthy Items

### Poor Cemetery Maintenance in Delaware

Maryland Law - Possible Guide to Assist

Throughout Delaware there are many poorly neglected cemeteries. Not only are they eyesores to the

families but also to their surrounding communities as well as to the general public.

State Senator Margaret Rose Henry, leader of a new Cemetery Study Committee, has formed a task force to hopefully remedy the situation. This group consists of citizens, funeral directors, cemetery operators and legislatures.

They hope to model the proposed law (2001) of Senator Harris B. McDowell's which utilized portions of the Maryland law on cemetery maintenance. Unfortunately, McDowell's report was not passed. Much of the cemetery industry opposed its passage due to the requirements that the state's cemeteries be licensed and that a \$10,000 amount be placed in trust within a perpetual care fund.

However, Senator Henry is promising progress by June 2008. Contacts for the Senator are: telephone (302) 744-4191; e-mail margaretrose@senatorhenry.com. According to Jim Trader, Delaware might establish a Cemetery Oversight Board based on Maryland law.

Wilmington News Journal 11/9/2007  
Editorial by the Journal's Editorial Board  
Submitted by James Trader  
Abstract by Barbara Kraske

## News from the Counties

### Baltimore City

#### Sad Condition of Mt. Auburn Cemetery

Concerning Mt. Auburn Cemetery, the church that oversees 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 gained 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. To continue the battle, a meeting was held January 9th by Ms. Moorman at 3007 Koppers St. in Baltimore with members of the National Historic Trust to obtain some assistance. Other attendees were: Robert Mosko, Leonard Becraft (representing our Coalition) and a public television representative. National Historic Trust could offer no monetary support. However, the efforts of the Preservation Alliance could possibly be televised on a local public television channel.

### Baltimore County

#### Fitch- Murray Family Graveyard in Baltimore County

Since 2005, Nancy Avers, residing in the Charlottesville, VA area, has been battling bureaucrats and a private owner to gain access to her Fitch/Murray family graveyard as well as to determine as to whether it still exists there. Ancestors of hers have been interred in this Fullerton location since the early 1770s.

Coalition members have attempted to help her through various suggestions. They include Jim Trader, George Horvath, Barbara Sieg, and the Nesmeyers. Thus, much research was undergone on her part to pursue documents, deeds, genealogy, government, Baltimore county Police department, death certificates, property deeds, tax records and even lawyers. With all of this exhaustive approach there is still no solution. There is even serious concern as to whether the cemetery and the buried bodies have been desecrated.

Hopefully, the second lawyer (from Baltimore County) contacted by Nancy will provide a resolution to this disgraceful situation.

Compiled from letters by Nancy Avers, other Coalition Members and lawyers. Abstract by Barbara Kraske

### Howard County

#### News Gems from Barbara Sieg

From July 2007 Master Gardner Newsletter  
submitted by Barbara Sieg

The Friends of Whipp Cemetery, of which Barbara is the founder, is constantly working on and improving the park-like graveyard, now known as Whipp Garden Cemetery on St. John's Lane. In May, a plant sale was conducted which raised \$2,000 before sales taxes. Such a successful venture will be repeated.

A much more convenient water source for the area is now provided by a recycled 55 gallon apple juice barrel fitted with a faucet and venting system to fill water containers. "Master Gardener" Tom Gardner a guest lecturer facilitated this convenience to satisfy a long-standing need of the cemetery. A county Council representative refused to waive or reduce the county fee for hooking up a water tap for the "garden". The fee costs between \$6,000 and \$8,000.

Exciting news was reported in the August 2007 Newsletter. A woodland theater patterned after the one

at Jefferson's Monticello is being constructed as an Eagle Scout project by Eric Suydam and Boy Scout Troop 1997. It will be named the A. J. Downing Memorial Theater. Mr. Downing, the renowned horticulturist and landscape architect (19<sup>th</sup> century) designed New York Central Park, White House grounds and D. C.'s Smithsonian Institution's area.

As if Barbara is not sufficiently and excessively busy, she is now volunteering Master Gardner training and hands-on opportunities in the horticultural shop at the maximum security Patuxent Institution. Eight to ten female inmates have participated in the class with the aspiration that such a program will tap their inner souls to help them turn their lives around. Mrs. Sieg was thrilled as to how her students responded with genuine interest and appreciation!

Cheers for Barb Sieg!

Summarized by Barbara Kraske

**Up- Coming Events**

**QUARTERLY MEETING**  
**Howard County Public Library**  
**Miller Branch**  
**Old Frederick Road MD 144**  
**Saturday January 19, 2008**  
**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**

Mr. James Trader will be undergoing critical surgery this month in Salisbury, MD. We ask for your prayers on his behalf. Many of you know Jim for his active participation in this organization and his strong efforts on its behalf. Jim just does not stop his many efforts to help people.

His latest is assisting the Clark family (Lew and Ann) in painstaking research to locate a Clark relative dating from the latter 1700s in the hopes that the Clark's ancestors' cemetery will be located.

**New Members This Quarter**

Ms. Candy Warden and Mr. James Lanier  
 Dennis and Denise McDermott

**Haunting Humor**

On a visit to her father's grave recently, my mother noticed this disquieting notice posted in the cemetery:

"Please carry out what you bring in"  
 -- Kim Covatis Reader's Digest

Submitted by Barbara Kraske

As a proposed partial epitaph for a Coalition Member,

"I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS  
 I HAVE SO MUCH TO DO"

Submitted by Gary 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.

Sorry for the brevity of this newsletter, but Barb and I have been fighting health battles this past fall. Time really flies when you are in those battles. There are many folks who contributed articles for this issue. Thanks to Mimi Ashcraft, Nancy Avers, Jim Trader, LuAnn Moorman, Barbara Kraske, Gerhardt Kraske, and Kristin Kraske.

Barbara & Gary Kraske

**COMMITTEES**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

Becraft Leonard  
 Kraske Barbara  
 Becker Amanda

**Start no later than**

June 1  
 Bolt Ann  
 met January 5th

**ARCHIVES**

Becker Amanda  
 Horvath George

**Continuous**

**BY-LAWS**

Becker Amanda  
 Kraske Barbara  
 Mason Melvin  
 Mason Thomas

**Finish before Jan 2008**

met October 19th

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Continuous

Ashcraft Mimi  
Wilson Hasan  
McNeil Brenda

REMAINDER OF PAGE LEFT BLANK

COURIER

Continuous

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

EXHIBIT

September 1st

Kraske Kristin  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY REMEMBRANCE WEEK

December 1st

Becraft Leonard  
Kraske Barbara  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FINANCE

February 1st

Lyons Bob  
Miller Paul  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FUND RAISING /INVENTORY

Continuous

Becker Amanda met Oct 28 after meeting  
Kraske Kristin met January 6th  
Kraske Barbara

LEGISLATIVE

September 1st

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

MEMBERSHIP

Continuous

Kraske Kristin Chair  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATING

January 2nd

PLEASE! Contact Us 410-730-8278  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PERIWINKLE AWARDS

January 2nd

Bolt Ann  
Horvath Ann  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PUBLICITY

Continuous

PLEASE! Contact Us 410-730-8278  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

WEBMASTER

Continuous

Nesmeyer Diane  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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) 461-6313 <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 ONLY!!!**

**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) 461-6313

Make Checks Payable to: **Coalition to Protect Maryland  
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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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