



**Membership:** Kristin Kraske reported 88 members of CPMBS, 10 non-paying, and 7 new members for the calendar year. Representation in a new Maryland County has been added.

#### **CPMBS Leadership and Future Directions:**

The Board launched into a lively general discussion on a variety of topics.

Following David Zinner's suggestion at the **2012 annual meeting**, Melvin Mason organized a CPMBS listserv entitled Maryland-Cemetery-Protection on yahoo. Sarah Warner volunteered to maintain the listserv and moderate discussion.

Gerhardt Kraske proposed that a planning committee be formed now to organize the 2013 **annual meeting**. The group discussed the concept of a broad **annual conference** that would go beyond CPMBS to assemble friends' groups, churches and other cemetery owners, vendors, etc. A "mission statement" is needed, along with 18-24 months to plan such an event (theme, proposals submitted by local groups, logistics, volunteers). Tom and Melvin Mason, both of whom have served on AGS conference planning committees, agreed to help explore this idea for Maryland. After much discussion, the Board agreed that CPMBS should take about 6 months to research and report back. Eileen also volunteered and offered to contact David Zinner for his assistance.

Melvin Mason introduced the idea of an **AGS (Association for Gravestone Studies) chapter in Maryland**. He explained that an inaugural meeting of the MD chapter will be held on July 8 in Silver Spring and that all Coalition and local AGS members were invited. AGS was formed in New England in the 1970s to share cemetery research and documentation, conservation methods, and other cemetery-related topics among scholars and interested parties. As interest increased over the years, AGS has encouraged groups in other areas to open chapters and pursue their concerns. This should be viewed as a partner organization for CPMBS, with potential for an AGS conference in Maryland at a future time. AGS plans to meet in Salem, Oregon, in 2013 and in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 2014.

**Old Business:** Melvin distributed copies of a proposal for a By-Laws change to add a Vice President for Legislative Matters at CPMBS. As it was closing time, the group agreed to take this matter up at the next quarterly meeting. Eileen and Kristin agreed to complete revision of membership categories, also for that meeting.

**New Business:** Nancy Whitelock asked about a specific Maryland law that is omitted from the CPMBS Guide. Brenda McNeal and Melvin explained that MD Annotated Code information in the guidebook came from the Office of Cemetery Oversight. Additional information and revisions can be added to the relevant appendix and distributed at any time. Nancy agreed to follow up with specific language and information to the Outreach Committee.

**Election of Officers and CPMBS Board Members:** It was moved and seconded that **Edward W. Taylor, Jr.** become Vice President and that **J. Patrick Warner** and **John E. Higgins, Jr.** be elected members of the Board of Directors. Following discussion and Brenda McNeal's offer to resign in order to maintain the maximum number in the By-Laws, these individuals were unanimously voted into the offices.

**Adjournment and Next Meeting:** All agreed to hold the fall meeting in October. Brenda will reserve room at Miller Library for October 13 (preferred) or October 20. There being no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen McGuckian, Secretary, CPMBS

#### **Editors' Corner**

That was some storm that roared into the Washington Metro area on June 29<sup>th</sup>, knocking out power to so many and causing an untold amount in damages to property not to mention the loss of life. We monitored the news for reports about Maryland cemeteries. So far we have found only one article about extensive damages to a cemetery in the mid-Ohio Valley. How did your cemeteries fair during the "derecho"?

We found an online article in Tourism Review about the top five cemeteries in the USA to visit.

<http://www.tourism-review.com/top-5-most-interesting-us-cemeteries-news3333>. We laughingly discussed adding the cemeteries to our bucket list and then we both said, "Why not come up with a list of the 5 top cemeteries in Maryland?" Greenmount is our number 1 choice. We then agreed on Westminster Cemetery in Carroll County, St. Anne's in Annapolis, Mt. Olivet in Frederick County, and St. Stanislaus in Baltimore. What cemeteries would be your candidates? Send us your nominations and we will provide your responses in a future issue of the Courier.

[The cemeteries that made the news article list were: Mount Auburn, Cambridge, MA; St. Louis No. 1, New Orleans, LA; Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY; Lone Fir Cemetery, Portland, OR; and Forest Lawn, Los Angeles, CA.]

We posed two questions in the last issue of the Courier. The first dealt with caretakers and the second involved publishing pictures of markers in the Courier and on our website. No one responded.

We would like to thank Eileen McGuckian, Melvin Mason, Stephanie Town, Kristin Kraske, Ann Horvath, and Kelly Ann Rane for their contributions to this issue.

Diane and Jeff Nesmeyer

### Outreach Committee Report

The Coalition was invited to an event at Sunny Side Cemetery on the grounds of Springfield Hospital in Sykesville. The event was to dedicate a memorial plaque that identified by name the deceased patients buried at Sunny Side. The burials were previously identified only by a number carved on a small gravestone. Additional information about this event can be found on page 6.

George Horvath graciously stepped forward and agreed to represent the Coalition. A heartfelt thank you goes out to George.

Kristin and Gerhardt Kraske and Paul Miller set up a table for the Coalition at the Hands On History Day at the Howard County Fairgrounds. This is a popular event and another opportunity for the Coalition to be in the public eye. Kristin indicated that the children enjoyed the rubbing demonstrations.

Melvin Mason assisted the Anne Arundel Genealogical Society with their inscription days at St. Anne's Cemetery in Annapolis and he has attended meetings of the Friends of St. Vincent Cemetery in Baltimore City.

The Coalition was represented at "Happy Birthday Montgomery County" in Rockville on September 9th. Joining the "cemetery table" were representatives from Higgins Cemetery (John Higgins and Mary Ann Barnes) and Rockville Cemetery (Eileen McGuckian).

Diane Nesmeyer

### Quarterly Board Meeting

Next Quarterly Board Meeting is scheduled: Saturday, October 13, 2012, 1:15-3:15 p.m.

Miller Library Branch of the Howard County Library System

9421 Frederick Rd  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Check the library website

<http://www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=20> for directions from your location.

### News From the Counties

#### Allegany County



The Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization invites all members of the Coalition to a monument unveiling on Friday, November 2, 2012, All Souls Day, at Rose Hill Cemetery, Fayette Street, Cumberland, MD. The organization will be unveiling an information monument at the grave of American Revolutionary War Soldier Reverend John Butler. Mr. Butler served in the Revolution from 1775 to 1783 and he began his preaching career during the war. He was a well known clergyman throughout the mid-Atlantic region. The monument to be unveiled will contain many facts of his life for future generations to read.

The CHCO since 1983 has erected well over 800 monuments in honor of those heroes of two centuries of American history. The organization for

many years has flown the US flag and the Revolutionary War "Don't Tread on Me" flag at the Butler grave. This will be the second monument in Rose Hill to honor a Revolutionary War veteran. To learn more about many of the monuments erected and restored over the past 29 years by the CHCO, please visit our website [www.chco-online.org](http://www.chco-online.org).

Edward Taylor, Jr.  
President

### **Anne Arundel County**

Crownsville couple discover veterans' grave markers in backyard

By Earl Kelly

[www.Capitalgazette.com](http://www.Capitalgazette.com)

Posted July 16, 2012

Brian Miller was digging up his patio to make room for a new one when he began unearthing rectangular pieces of granite that appeared to be veterans' headstones. Mr. Miller kept digging up marker after marker and his wife Tracy copied the inscriptions. They began to notice errors on the stones such as the marker for Cynthia Mae Purnell who was listed as an Army technician in World War II but was born in 1948.

The Millers live very close to Crownsville Veterans Cemetery and learned from Cynthia Mason-Posey, of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, that prior to 2000 state veterans' cemeteries received little guidance from the Federal Government on how to properly dispose of markers that were no longer needed or contained errors. Cemeteries let the public help themselves to the stacks of unwanted stones.

Crownsville Cemetery intern and Loyola College student, Claire Okrongly, located all 40-plus names unearthed by the Millers using the cemetery's directory.

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

### **Baltimore City**

Progress made in cleaning up St. Vincent Cemetery

Baltimore Sun, September 2, 2012

By Jacques Kelly

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-city/bs-md-ci-kelly-column-cemetery-20120914,0,6364819.column>

Two years ago Jacques Kelly wrote an article about the plight of the St. Vincent Cemetery in Baltimore City. Now, two years later, Mr. Kelly has written an informative piece summarizing the progress that has been made in the two years since his last article. Since the Fall 2010 issue of the Courier information and articles have appeared in the Courier regarding the status of St. Vincent's Cemetery and the activities of the Friends' group that was formed. We will not summarize the progress written about by Mr. Kelly. The link to the article appears above if you are interested in reading the article directly.

Diane Nesmeyer

### **St. Vincent Cemetery**

#### **Burial Records**

Joyce Erway, archivist for Friends of St. Vincent Cemetery, released the latest list of burial records for the cemetery. The remains of 3,200 people are buried in St. Vincent Cemetery.

### **Baltimore Heritage Preservation Award**

In July 2012 Baltimore Heritage awarded Friends of St. Vincent Cemetery with the annual Preservation Award for work done to rescue and preserve an abandoned historical cemetery in Baltimore City.

### **Status of St. Vincent Cemetery**

Baltimore Municipal Golf Corp. and Baltimore Rec and Parks authorized mowing of the weeds in the two open fields. One can now walk through the cemetery to the golf course. We are very grateful to Ron Rudisill, Russell Bateman, and Joe Szkalak for their assistance with this project.

### **Blue Water Baltimore**

A representative of Blue Water Baltimore was referred to Stephanie by Baltimore Municipal Golf Corp. Blue Water Baltimore is in the process of implementing the Clifton Park master park plan. Plan implementation is paid for by a grant from BGE.

The master park plan includes comments regarding improving the tree canopy in St. Vincent Cemetery. They asked permission to plant 12 native hardwood trees along the stream on the cemetery property where it is currently being maintained by the golf course. The stream has been covered over with turf. Consequently rain water is not diverted out of the area, and flooding occurs during and after storms. Planting trees near the stream will help soak up the water and prevent future flooding in that area.

The tree planting will take place on October 6th during the cleanup event that will coincide with Rickey Meyers Day of Service. Stephanie asked the Blue Water Baltimore representative about possible assistance removing some of the invasive Ailanthus trees growing in the cemetery. The Blue Water Baltimore representative said he would request to have two of their volunteers help remove some of the Ailanthus trees on October 6th.

#### Ailanthus Trees Growing in Cemetery

The group discussed the large grove of Ailanthus trees growing in the cemetery as a result of many years of neglect and abandonment. These trees are short-lived and considered an invasive species due to their aggressive root systems. If left unchecked, these trees would eventually engulf the entire cemetery property. Two very large dangerous sinkholes three feet deep and wide resulted from two of those trees that died and fell over taking a large section of root system and soil. It has been recommended by the Director of Operations at the Golf Course and the District Park Manager that maintenance of the cemetery, specifically mowing, would be easier if the Ailanthus trees were removed. When a plan is drawn up, we will ask Father Lawrence for permission to move forward and remove the trees in a way that will not result in soil disturbance.

It was reported that Warden John Rowley suggested that we recruit volunteers to cut down the trees with chain saws. He said he could send in a crew of inmates to clear up the trees once they are cut down.

After discussing various methods of tree removal and the cost involved, it was decided to consult with the Archdiocese of Baltimore and inquire if

they could offer us resources such as an arborist and tree removal assistance that will not result in soil disturbance. We will also need their assistance with stabilizing the area when the trees are removed. Jea Chapman recommended that we contact Baltimore Rec and Parks for advice regarding the TreeBaltimore campaign and replacement native hardwood trees in other areas of the cemetery.

Stephanie Town

#### Baltimore County

Marks calls for open space designation at Prospect Hill Cemetery, former swim club site.

Baltimoresun.com

By Jon Meoli

August 6, 2012

Fifth District County Councilman, David Marks has recommended downzoning the tract of land that contains Prospect Hill Cemetery. The cemetery contains 3,000 burials on six acres of land in the central part of Towson. Marks is requesting that it be zoned DR-1 NC which is an open space classification reserved for publicly held land.

Prospect Hill Board President Carolyn Parker Knott indicated in a letter to Marks that the Board appreciates, "the cemetery included in the designation as an additional means of preserving historic Prospect Hill."

A vote by the County Council will take place on August 28, 2012.

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

Balto. Co. pet cemetery poses challenge for neighbors, officials

County councilman plans legislation to limit development, protect pet owners' rights

Baltimoresun.com

By Alison Knezevich, The Baltimore Sun

August 13, 2012

Oakleigh Pet Cemetery contains 2.5 acres and is located near Loch Raven Blvd. The current owner, who purchased the property in 2009, has been assessed nearly \$30,000 in unpaid county fines for problems such as overgrown vegetation and junk on the grounds. The property went to sale for a tax

lien and code violations in 2010. Azure Capital Management, LLC purchased the lien and filed papers in early 2012 to start the foreclosure process.

Unkempt pet cemeteries are a challenge for local jurisdictions around the country. In Maryland the Office of Cemetery Oversight does not monitor pet cemeteries and Maryland law makers have tried unsuccessfully to push legislation to regulate the pet cemeteries in the state.

Baltimore County Councilman David Marks is planning to introduce legislation to protect the rights of pet owners. He also plans a zoning change that will limit future development of the Oakleigh Pet Cemetery site.

The article reminded pet owners to ask the cemetery if there is a perpetual care fund to help maintain the pet cemetery prior to purchasing a lot.

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

### Carroll County News

Springfield Hospital gives names to unmarked graves

Service dedicates memorial plaque at Sunny Side Cemetery

Baltimoresun.com

By Mary Gail Hare, June 26, 2012

There are small gravestones, 908 in all, lined in rows, spread over the hillside of Sunny Side Cemetery. The cemetery is located on the grounds of Springfield Hospital Center in Sykesville and beginning in 1899 the unclaimed bodies of the patients were buried there.

The gravestones are carved with only a number. About eight years ago staff of the hospital and volunteers began the task of searching through records to link the numbers with names. It was a monumental task that included working with dusty, often illegible records. Once a match was found then a cross-check of other records began.

The project culminated with a ceremony that took place on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 200 attended the dedication of a plaque that memorializes the names of those buried at Sunny Side Cemetery.

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer



Photographs were taken by Ann Horvath. It is hard to see but the white markers are on the hill to the side of the canopy. Below is a picture of the plaque containing the names of the 908 patients buried on the hillside.



Coalition member George Horvath in front of the memorial plaque.

### Harford County

Three arrested for damaging cemetery

Posted 07/06/2012

Abc2news.com

In the Summer issue of the Courier (pages 8 and 9) an article can be found about the vandalism at Grove Presbyterian Cemetery. Police have arrested Robert Farrington and two juveniles for knocking over 126 headstones and causing more than \$20,000 in damage. The charges against Farrington are vandalism, malicious destruction of property, and defacing of religious property.

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

### Montgomery County

Montgomery County resident brings cemetery to life

By Sarah Cutler, July 11, 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/montgomery-county-resident-brings-cemetery-to-life/2012/07/10/gJQAflivW\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/montgomery-county-resident-brings-cemetery-to-life/2012/07/10/gJQAflivW_story.html)

Glenn Wallace of Montgomery Village is an amateur genealogist who spends 6 to 8 hours per day archiving the approximately 5,500 burials in Beallsville's Monocacy Cemetery. This project is in addition to his day job as a graphic illustrator.

The archiving project began six years ago when he volunteered on FindAGrave to take photographs of gravestones. Wallace went to Monocacy Cemetery and thought, "Wow, I could stand out here forever photographing these graves." He has, at least until the project is completed, by his estimation, in 2013. Wallace uses a digital camera to take the photograph and an iPad to record the name and other information.

The cemetery has burials dating back to before the Revolutionary War and has had many different affiliations and names during its long history. The history of the cemetery can be found in a book by Elizabeth Frain entitled Monocacy Cemetery: Beallsville, Montgomery County, Maryland. Wallace has been able to compile a history of Poolsville based on his research for the burials at Monocacy.

The information that he has compiled can be found on FindAGrave <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gsr&GScid=81192>. There are photographs of the deceased, family links, spouse's names, and children's names.

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

### Prince Georges County

Greenbelt residents seek repairs of historic cemetery

Gazette.Net

Monday, August 27, 2012

By Beth Moszkowicz

The Hamilton Cemetery in Greenbelt contains a display case that includes broken marble tombstones and yellowing, crumpled papers describing the importance of the site. The display case is rotting and moisture is seeping in whenever it rains.

The stones are for John Hamilton, his wife, and their son and the son's two wives. Mr. Hamilton senior owned a 240-acre plantation that is now part of Greenbelt.

The city is planning to build a better display case and is attempting to determine the proper cemetery boundaries and if the site has any other historical significance such as slave burials before it actually replaces the case.

[Editors' Note: We were very confused about boundaries, historical significance, and gravestones in a display case. I did find pictures online but could not find the owner of the blog to obtain permission to reprint the pictures in this issue. Visit the link below and scroll through the pictures. You will eventually see some very good pictures of the display case containing the broken tombstones for Mr. Hamilton and his family.

<http://greenbelt2012.wordpress.com/2012/08/16/three-greenbelt-cemeteries-and-indian-springs/>

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

This column has been intentionally left blank.

Your cemetery-related article can appear in this column in the next issue.

**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.

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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, de\_nesmeyer@yahoo.com

14326 Springbrook Ct., Woodbridge, VA 22193-3421

**2012 Publication Deadlines**

Spring	March 15, 2012
Summer	June 15, 2012
Fall	September 15, 2012
Winter	December 15, 2012

**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.

**2012-2013 Officers and Board of Directors****Officers**

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Vice President (2012-2014)	Edward W. Taylor, Jr. (301) 722-4624 vpres@cpmbs.org
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Sandra Wright (2011-2013)	(Montgomery) (301) 520-9557 swrightplace@msn.com
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Kristin Kraske (2011-2013)	(Howard) (410) 461-6313 rebelkris@comcast.net
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J. Patrick Warner (2012-2014)	(Montgomery) warnerjp@verizon.net
Melvin Mason (2012-2014)	(Prince Georges) (301) 325-1248 Melvin.mason@gmail.com

**Standing Committees**

Archives	Awards	Events	Courier
Finance	Fund Raising	Legislative	Nominating
Outreach	Publicity	Family Remembrance	

**Web Site**

<http://www.cpmbs.org>

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

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

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

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>New</b>	<b>Annual Membership Rates:</b>	Individual.....\$ 10
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Renewal</b>		Student (grade 12 and under)...\$ 5
		Organization.....\$ 20
		Household.....\$ 15

Questions? Call Kristin Kraske,  
Membership (410) 461-6313

Make Checks Payable to: **Coalition to Protect Maryland  
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Can you help us in our various efforts? Please list occupations / skills / interest. \_\_\_\_\_  
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