



Coalition Courier

“to build the future, we do not have
to destroy the past”

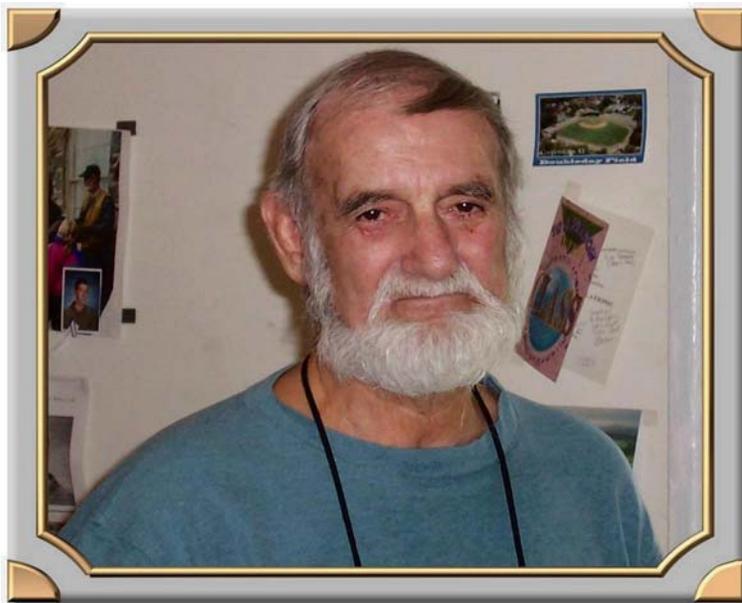
Published by
the Coalition to
Protect Maryland
Burial Sites, Inc.

Vol. 12 No. 4

Winter 2004-2005

P.O. Box 1533 * Ellicott City, Maryland 21041 * (410) 772-8602
<http://www.cpmb.org>

Inside this issue:



Jim Purman

According to Jean Keenan, Jim Purman was a long-time and valuable member of the Coalition. He retired from his position of archivist at the Gate House Museum in September and moved to Winfield, Kansas to be closer to one of his three remaining children. The Board voted at the last meeting that this issue of the *Courier* be dedicated to him.

James Purman served in World War II in the Army's infantry division. He studied history at Berea College in Eastern Kentucky and moved to Sykesville in 1956. He became rector at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church and held an office on Main Street for many years. He has affected many lives over the years and will be missed. The curator for the Gate House Museum, Kari Greenwalt, said, “There isn't anybody that is going to be able to replace him.”

The Board and membership wish him well as he begins this next chapter of his life. According to the newspaper article [“Purman celebrates last day at the Gate House, by Katie Champion, September 10, 2004, *The Gazette*] used to prepare this dedication, Mr. Purman already has his foot in the door of the museum in

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Winfield. He is planning to volunteer there and is looking forward to learning the history of his new locale. Sykesville's loss is Winfield's gain.

Diane Nesmeyer

Picture from George Horvath.

From the Editors' Desks

We have been steadily receiving articles for inclusion in this issue of the *Courier*. We went to thank Jim Trader, Jean Keenan, Terry Grimes and Knight A. Kiplinger (Chairman and Co-Chairman of Zion Church Preservation Committee), Anne Brockett (new member and coordinator for the Montgomery County Inventory Project), Kristin Kraske, Melvin Mason, and George Horvath. Articles were also sent in by Nancy Whitelock and Audrey Bagby. We will hopefully be able to use their articles in the next issue. The fall was very busy for us and as our last commitment was concluded we began preparations for the Holiday Season. We thank all for their contributions and just want to say, "Keep those articles coming."

Don't forget that the Board meeting is January 15th. We understand that plans are already underway for the Annual Meeting. It will be held in Montgomery County this year. We hope to see more members in attendance since the meeting will be in a central location. Any suggestions for talk topics, speakers, workshops can be sent to Jean Keenan, who I am sure will gladly forward your ideas to the committee.

Speaking of Montgomery County Ann Brockett has provided an update of the Cemetery Inventory Project taking place in that county. If you want to help or have information about a cemetery that may not have been inventoried you need to contact Peerless Rockville at (301) 762-0096. See page 10 for the article from Anne.

There is substantial information in this issue about Zion Church Preservation Committee. I have only been corresponding with Ms. Grimes for about a month now and I already find her to be a dedicated individual committed to preserving Zion Church and its burial ground. Any group needing guidance in forming an organization to protect a burial site need only look to ZCPC for an example of dedicated individuals who have formed a plan of

action and are diligently following the plan. Just before putting the final touches to this issue we received the first edition of the *Zion Quarterly*. It was an informative issue. We know we will continue to see good things happen for Zion Church and look forward to keeping the Coalition members abreast of the Committee's progress. The article and pictures begin on page 6.

Diane and Jeff Nesmeyer

COALITION TO PROTECT MARYLAND BURIAL SITES

**Regular Quarterly Meeting, Miller Library,
Ellicott City, MD
October 30, 2004**

The meeting was called to order by President Ed Taylor at 1:05 pm. Those board members present were Ed Taylor, Jim Trader, Melvin Mason, Tom Mason, Bob Lyons, Gerry Kraske, Ann Horvath (representing George Horvath), Jean Keenan, Barbara Sieg, Paul Miller and Kristin Kraske. Also in attendance were CPMBS members Leonard Becraft and Terry Grimes, as well as guests Mel Collins and Jim Klipstein from Cumberland.

The minutes were approved as were printed in the last *Courier*. Treasurer Gerry Kraske reported that our net worth as of 10/23/04 is \$6,370.49. The complete report was filed with these minutes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Ed Taylor reported that of all of the newspapers contacted around the state by several board members, only the Cumberland paper published the article and picture about the election of new board members. He stressed the need for all board members to be persistent in calling and/or sending news articles to the local papers.

2. Ed Taylor suggested that, since our organization is involved with both church and veteran's cemeteries and that since we encompass both high moral standards and the sanctity of the dead, it would be appropriate for us to say a prayer (used by the organization he heads in Cumberland) and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag before each of our meetings. Barbara Sieg made a motion to that effect which was seconded by Melvin Mason and passed unanimously.

3. Ed Taylor asked for suggestions as to where our next annual meeting might be held. After discussion it was decided that the 2005 Annual Meeting will be held in Montgomery County. Ed will contact Dottie Brault and Ann Bolt to ask if they will co-chair a committee to plan the event. Leonard Becraft will help them. It was also suggested that CPMBS members from Montgomery County be included in the planning

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Membership – Kristin Kraske reported a current membership of 97 with 81 of them being paid members. She has not been successful when calling those with lapsed memberships to ask them to renew. It was suggested that she give the list of unpaid members in each county to board members in those counties, asking them to make calls.

2. Legislation – Jim Trader explained that because two persons at the state level believe that the cemetery law should not be changed, our chances for the passage of our legislation are slim this year. After a lengthy discussion, Gerry Kraske moved that Jim Trader contact Delegates Robert Zirkin and Carole Petzold and ask them to sponsor our amendment this year to a bill that would allow routine horticultural maintenance of a cemetery or burial site. He then amended his motion to include that all Maryland House and Senate members of the Judiciary Committee be visited by a team of Coalition board members sometime during the coming year to acquaint them with CPMBS and what we hope to achieve with legislation. The motion and amendment were seconded by Melvin Mason and passed unanimously.

Tom Mason suggested that in addition to this tactical plan, CPMBS should develop a strategic plan/mission statement that could be presented when the visits are made to the legislators. Ed Taylor asked Barbara Sieg and Jim Trader to develop such a plan.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Carroll County – Regarding the Flin-Garner Cemetery problem, Jim Trader read a letter from Mr. Gregory Harthausen, president of the Maryland Board of Morticians, saying that nothing illegal has been done in the development on the

cemetery site. Jim has been in contact with Mr. Jeffrey White, a lawyer from Salisbury, who has studied the situation and said that we (or a plaintiff from the family) would have 180 days (March 16) to file suit. Mr. White presented a proposed contract to the board for his services in this case. There would be no charge for his services unless the case went to litigation in which case only the court/legal expenses would have to be paid by the Coalition. Jim Trader moved that we accept the services of Hornick and White of Salisbury, MD to represent us. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

2. Baltimore County – Mt. Carmel Cemetery – Chrystie Krabal sent a suggestion, by way of Jean Keenan, that the board members from Baltimore County (Chrystie and Bob Lyons) visit the Baltimore County Genealogical Society and ask for their help in forming a Friends of Mt. Carmel Cemetery group. The cemetery is in deplorable condition. Bob will call Chrystie and see what can be done to move forward with helping this situation.

3. There is nothing to report on the up-date of the CPMBS exhibit board.

4. Jean Keenan reported that she had written an ad for the free *Legal News* published in Annapolis. Janice Hayes-Williams sent the ad to the paper. The ad was to find a lawyer who might do some pro bono work for the Coalition. There has been no response to date.

5. Bob Lyons reported that 25 new grave markers have been placed by the Harry W. Gilmore Camp, SCV, in Loudon Park Cemetery. This brings the total of nearly 100 so far that have been installed next to the illegible markers of Civil War veteran's graves.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Montgomery County – We have been asked by the Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Project to add the Coalition's name to the list of supporters including Peerless Rockville and Historic Takoma Park, Inc., in asking for a grant from Montgomery County Historic Preservation, Inc., to complete their cemetery inventory and to look into preservation issues. Barbara Sieg moved that CPMBS support the Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Project in their request for the afore-mentioned

grant. Paul Miller seconded the motion which was unanimously passed.

2. Allegany County – Polish Mountain Cemetery Issue – Ed Taylor reported that the tombstones in several small, rural cemeteries have been severely damaged by cattle running through them. He is in the process of sending letters to the farmer owners of these cemeteries telling them of the problem and offering suggestions about what might be done to correct it.

3. Frederick County – Mrs. Terry Grimes, chairman of the 24-member Zion Episcopal Church Restoration Committee, brought concerns about the cemetery there. Although the church is in ruins, there is a cemetery there that is estimated to have 230-240 graves, some dating back to 1816. Many graves are those of prominent families in the history of the Frederick area. A great many of the stones have disappeared. Substantiated by wills, a great amount of money was given over the years for perpetual care of the cemetery. The property is owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland who says that there is no accounting for the money and that there is no money available from the Diocese to assist in restoration. The committee is concerned about the growth of development in the area and how it will affect the cemetery. A deed to the cemetery does exist. The advice given to Mrs. Grimes was that their committee should become incorporated, obtain the deed, and seek legal counsel.

4. Prince George's County – Leonard Becraft reported that Ebenezer Church at the intersection of Powder Mill Road and Old Gunpowder Road in Beltsville is being encroached upon by a new ramp coming off of Route I95 at Ammendale Road. He is keeping watch on the situation.

5. Barbara Sieg reported that she, her husband, and the Horvaths attended the farewell party on October 24 for Jim Purman who is moving to the midwest to be near family. Since Jim has been a long-time, faithful member of CPMBS and has done a great job in the preservation of Holy Trinity Church Cemetery in Eldersburg, Barbara suggested that the next issue of the *Courier* be dedicated to Jim. Everyone heartily agreed.

6. Gerry Kraske reported that he and his wife re-

cently toured Lexington Cemetery in Lexington, KY. They were very impressed with the design, landscaping, and policies of this exemplary cemetery.

7. The next meeting is set for Saturday, January 15 at 2 pm at Miller Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Keenan

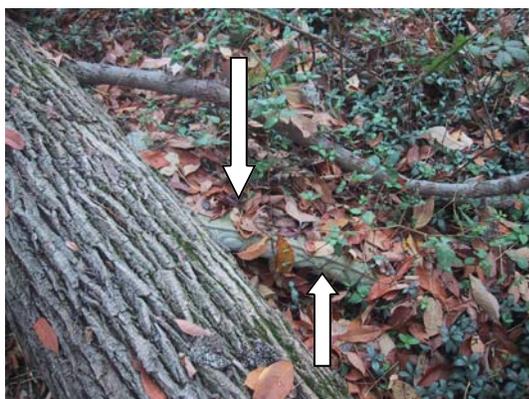


Following the meeting most of the attendees drove to the St. James Methodist Church Cemetery, located at Slack's Corner that is the intersection of Routes 32 and 99. CPMBS members Martha and Davis Streaker met us there and escorted us through the old cemetery. The original church was next to the cemetery but is now located about ½ mile away. Although the church owns the cemetery it makes no provision for the care of it – either physically or financially. Restoration of the cemetery is a labor of love for the Streakers who have ancestors buried there. In the past some Boy Scouts have assisted in the cleanup. A great deal of restoration remains to be done. At the CPMBS Annual Meeting in 2003 the Streakers received a Periwinkle Award for their work done at St. James.





Board Members at cemetery.



Arrows point to a stone under the tree.

All four pictures of St. James Methodist Church Cemetery were taken by Melvin Mason and reprinted here with permission.

A Word From the President, Ed Taylor



Ed Taylor was not able to provide a message this quarter due to a sudden family crisis. The emergency will require all of his time and emotional energy over the next couple of months. He appreciates the understanding of the Coalition Board

and its Members and prays that his absence from active participation and leadership will be as brief as possible.

I am sure the Board and Members join us in wishing Ed well in his time of crisis.

Diane Nesmeyer

Grant Money Available

“‘Taken For Granted’ ” (partially reprinted from the October 2004 issue of *Family Tree Magazine*, page 10.

“Got a genealogy pet project? Every month, *Honoring Our Ancestors* <http://honoringourancestors.com> Webmaster Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak awards a \$200 to \$250 grant to a society, library, or individual who serves family historians.

‘There’s a need that’s not being addressed,’ Smolenyak says. ‘A Grant a month doesn’t make a colossal difference, but each restored cemetery, set of rescued records, or indexing project makes a difference... It’s also a way for me to give back to the genealogical community and to honor my ancestors.’

The Virginia-based researcher favors innovative projects—those that are the first of their kind, entail collaboration among groups or use new technology. ‘A few I have pending involve using ground penetrating radar in cemeteries,’ she says. Visit her site to learn more.”

Is your group looking for money to fund your cemetery-related project? Here is an opportunity for your group to earn up to \$250 for your project. We recommend you check Mrs. Smolenyak’s website for more information.

Diane Nesmeyer

Board Meeting

Saturday, January 15th, 2005

At 2:00 p.m.

Miller Branch, Howard County Library

9421 Frederick Road

(across from Plum Tree Dr.)

Ellicott City, MD

All members are welcome!

Frederick County News

Zion Church Preservation Committee is a new member of the Coalition. Terry Lynn Grimes, Chairman of the Committee has been so kind to send along copies of articles, a history of the church, some information regarding their Committee, and pictures of the cemetery and church ruins. Welcome to Terry and Zion Church Preservation Committee.

A Brief History of Zion Church

in Urbana, Frederick County, Maryland

1802-1961

By: Knight A. Kiplinger

Zion Church was the first church--indeed, the first civic or religious structure--to be built in the southern Frederick County region today known as Urbana. It was a focal point of community activity in the area for more than 150 years. In its cemetery are buried many of the founders and leading families of Urbana.

Episcopalianism--the American version of Anglicanism, the Church of England--was the dominant religion of the English-speaking settlers of Frederick County, who migrated to the area from tidewater regions of southern Maryland in the early 18th century. (The other early settlers of the county were mostly German--Lutherans, Dunkards, Mennonites, Amish and other sects--who came south from Pennsylvania.)

The creation of a parish on this site in rural southern Frederick County was authorized--but not implemented--by an act of the Maryland colonial legislature in 1770; it was named Eden Parish, after the last British colonial governor of Maryland. Another attempt to create a congregation in this vicinity was authorized by the Maryland State Assembly after the Revolution, in 1790. But with British culture no longer popular in the new Republic, the name of the proposed parish was changed from Eden to Zion.

Despite these early attempts to found an Episcopal parish in southern Frederick, no active congregation was actually formed until 1802, when the simple fieldstone chapel, consisting of one almost-square room, was built near the corner of the Fre-

derick-Georgetown Road (today's Route 355) and Fingerboard Road (Route 80). The new church was consecrated by the illustrious bishop of Maryland, the Rev. Thomas John Claggett, the first Episcopal bishop to be consecrated in the new United States (in 1792).

At the time there was no village of Urbana, but only a few large farms, such as Hampton and Fat Oxen, just north of the new Zion Church. About two years after the founding of Zion, John "Dutch" Rine would begin operating a tavern and inn nearby (on the site of the later 1855 Dixon house, today part the Peter Pan/Cracked Claw restaurant). Some of the local families who were active in the earliest days of the parish included those named Beall, Johnson, Ijam, Sprigg, Burgee, and Simmons.

In 1831, Charles Johnson, a scion of the prominent Frederick County family of politicians and entrepreneurs (and nephew of Maryland's first elected governor, Thomas Johnson), laid out a new development of 14 lots along the Georgetown-Frederick Road in Zion's neighborhood. He named the new town Urbana, from the Latin word for "city."

Around 1846, the rector of Zion, the Rev. Richard H. Phillips, established a girls' boarding school, called the Shirley Female Institute, in the nearby mansion called Landon. (Landon, parts of which date to the mid 18th century, was shipped in sections from the Rappahannock region of Virginia and reassembled in Urbana; during the late 1850s, until the outbreak of war in 1861, the same building would be the home of a boys' school, the Landon Academy and Military Institute.)

The natural fieldstone exterior of little Zion chapel was dressed up with a coating of stucco around 1850. Sometime in the mid-19th century a rectory-residence for the minister--was built on church property next to the chapel. (It was abandoned and burned in the mid-20th century.)

Zion figured prominently in local Civil War doings, including (according to local lore) use as a hospital after the Antietam campaign of 1862. Among the many graves in the Zion cemetery are markers for two Confederate casualties, one from the Battle of Monocacy (July 9, 1864) and a subsequent cavalry skirmish in Urbana soon thereafter.

Monocacy was the famous "Battle That Saved Washington," where Union forces under Gen. Lew Wallace--later author of the best-selling novel *Ben Hur*--valiantly delayed the march of Gen. Jubal Early's rebel troops towards a lightly defended Capital City.

These fallen Confederate officers were Lt. Col. William Cabell Tavenner and Major Frederick F. Smith, both of the 17th Virginia Cavalry. Tavenner was wounded at Monocacy and died two days later. Smith was killed in action during the skirmish with Union cavalry in Urbana and buried at Zion. (Tavenner's body was later reinterred at his family's cemetery in West Virginia.)

Around 1882, as the Zion congregation grew, there was a desire to make the church larger and fancier, so the western wall of the chapel was taken down and the sanctuary enlarged with a wood-frame extension. The new sanctuary at that end featured a gothic-arched window and three interior gothic arches framing the recessed altar. A tall, square, wood-framed belfry with a hipped roof--standing a little higher than the gable roof of the old chapel--was attached on one side, with a new entryway to the church at its base.

In 1958 the dwindling number of Zion parishioners made a plan to restore the Victorian church to its simpler 1802 lines. This effort, dubbed the Zion Church Restoration and Improvement Fund, envisioned removing the 1882 bell tower and Victorian extension. But not much progress had been made on this plan when, on Nov. 19, 1961, the church was badly damaged by fire. It was never rebuilt.

Nineteenth-century Urbana saw the founding of two other churches in the village, one Methodist (1833) and one Catholic (1876), whose congregations continue to flourish today.

But all that remains of Zion Church are the three walls of the original 1802 stone chapel, with the cemetery in disrepair. The top surface of the walls have been covered with roofing paper, and the window and door openings are braced with timbers, to slow the effects of weather on the ruin. The property continues to be owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland.

A walk through Zion's cemetery today acquaints

the newcomer with the names of many early settlers of Frederick County and Urbana--families such as Worthington, Murdoch, Cockey, Dronenburg, Delaplaine, Dutrow, Strube, and many more.

Zion Church and cemetery continues to be the most important historical resource of Urbana.

[Knight A Kiplinger is Co-Chair of Zion Church Preservation Committee and President of Kiplinger Washington Editors, Inc.]



Inside the ruins of Zion Church.



Ms. Grimes sent two transcriptions of articles that have appeared in papers throughout the years:

Transcribed (partial) from the following article: "Church Turns to Original Plan," by Robert G. Breen, *THE NEWS*, Frederick, Maryland, 1958 - "The congregation of Zion Parish held a tea on the grounds of the church to debut plans to restore Zion to its original structure of native stone. The Rector, Rev. Tom C. Akeley, led the

evening prayer in the manner of the first service held in the church in 1802. It was not until this year, in March, that an ordination was held in the church. At that time the present rector was ordained by the Rt. Rev. Noble C. Powell, Bishop of Maryland. The Parish hopes to work from a master plan, so that each phase of the work will be a part of the finished product. Nothing will be done piecemeal. Because the church occupies a historic place in the growth of Frederick County, the congregation hopes that it will be joined at the tea by all persons wishing to preserve the old sites of the county... Thus it is that "The Zion Church Restoration and Improvement Fund" has had its inception."

Transcribed from the following article:
"Historic Church Damaged," THE NEWS, Frederick, Maryland, Monday, November 20, 1961
 - "Fire of an undetermined origin gutted Zion Episcopal Church in Urbana Saturday, causing heavy damage to the roof, bell tower, and read of the church which was of frame construction. Seven pieces of equipment from Independent, Carroll Manor, New Market, Hyattstown, and Fort Detrick fire companies answered the call which sounded at 3:45 p.m. While on the scene, Hyattstown trucks received a call on another fire at Gaithersburg.

Some furnishing Saved - Apparently starting in the sacristy, the fire burned upward into a wooden sub-roof which supported the main slate roof. The blaze was well advance by the time firemen arrived, but the pews, organ, and some of the furnishings were saved and placed in the old rectory adjacent to the church. Firefighters were on the scene for four hours. A member of the church said he could not understand how a fire could have started since the building is not heated until Sunday morning prior to the noon service. No one was in the building at the time of the fire. Rev. Charles A Bryan is the priest in charge. Fireman reported that although the main structure of the building which is of stone construction was saved from the amount of damage the whole church could be considered a loss. The church was built in 1802. Insurance on the structure is understood to be in the amount of \$2,500."

[Ed. Note: The following information was gleaned from several more recent articles that appeared in local papers during 2003 and 2004.]

"Woman laboring for past", by Nancy Hernandez, June 2, 2003 *The Frederick News-Post*.

Terry Grimes started her cemetery interests, like many of us did, as a genealogist in search of her ancestry. Her quest led her to the graveyard for Zion Church that, in addition to some of her family members, contains the remains of soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War, as well as many prominent citizens of Frederick County.

In her research of the graveyard and church she uncovered several former parishioners who had left trust funds for perpetual care. She was surprised to learn of the funds since the church and graveyard had not been taken care of in a very long time. The church suffered a fire in 1961 leaving only three walls standing. Of the 247 burials only 90 stones remain upright.

According to the article Ms. Grimes hopes to restore the cemetery. To fulfill her hopes she is searching for funding and trying to drum up support for the project by local residents.

Her plan, according to the article, is to create a non-profit organization, seek financial donations, spearhead restoration efforts, locate people willing to serve on the board, conduct an archeological study to determine the location of the gravesites, and obtain permission from the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland to begin the restoration work.

"Historic Urbana church left in ruins, Residents hope to restore buildings, cemetery" by Brad Pierce, November 28, 2003, *The Gazette*.

The graveyard at Zion contains the burials of average citizens, alongside pillars of the community, and not far away soldiers who had fought in the Civil War – this Nation's bloodiest war. There are 240 known burials at the graveyard but only 118 headstones remain standing. The missing stones are believed to either have been carted away for other uses, been tossed in the nearby woods, or sunk into the ground and eventually covered with dirt and grass. The church records do not include the location of the burials in the yard so restoration

of the burial ground is going to be “tricky business” according to Knight Kiplinger, a local developer and publisher of various business and investment magazines.

“Church falling into ruin, Help on horizon, but it may come too late” by Nancy Hernandez, December 3, 2003, *The Frederick News-Post Staff*.

Some headstones are in danger of toppling, others lie broken on the ground, and many are missing entirely. There are some remains only inches from the surface in the graveyard of the Zion Episcopal Church. In portions of the burial yard bushes and other shrubbery are overgrown. The church records list that black funerals had taken place although the records do not indicate where the bodies were laid to rest. Historians believe that the blacks are buried in the cemetery, probably in a remote section, near where soldiers’ graves are located. Ms. Grimes is seeking permission from the diocese to begin clearing the area and searching for graves and headstones before any further damage is done to the graveyard or any other stones disappear.

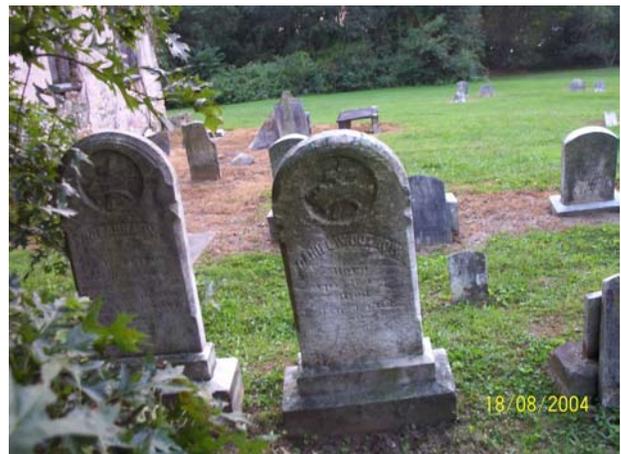
On a separate front at this site the Episcopal diocese is exploring the possibility of renovating the chapel site. There must be a determination if the location would have a viable use in the 21st century. The diocese is collecting facts and considering uses including: using the chapel as an addition to a new structure; or using the chapel as a separate building.

“Group tries to save old Urbana church” by Nancy Hernandez, April 2, 2004, *The Frederick News-Post*.

A 20-member committee comprised of genealogists, archeologists, historians, and descendants of the original parishioners of Zion Church was formed in Urbana. Terry Grimes will serve as the chairman and Knight Kiplinger as co-chairman. The group will research historical documents and attempt to fill in the missing pieces of the site’s history such as when burials began. A database is being developed by the group to include church records that are uncovered and land ownership information.



Broken stones in the Churchyard



Stones that are leaning



Other toppled and broken stones

All five pictures were provide by Terry Grimes and reprinted here with permission.

New members

Donald E. Beck	Montgomery
Anne O Brockett	Montgomery

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY PROJECT

Montgomery County has hundreds of historic graveyards ranging from large for-profit cemeteries to churchyard burial grounds to small family plots. These cemeteries provide a tangible link to our past and offer important historical information on the settlement patterns, genealogy, and development of the county. And yet many of them face an uncertain future.

In June 2003, members of the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites identified several goals towards preserving historic cemeteries in Montgomery County. The most urgent goal was to create an inventory and map of all known cemeteries in Montgomery County.

The Coalition teamed with Historic Takoma and Peerless Rockville and was awarded a grant from the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to create the inventory and map. With a dedicated team of volunteers, this work has been progressing throughout 2004. Volunteers have been busy surveying and photographing of all of the county's cemeteries. A database has been created that gives such information as location, condition, and description. In addition, a GIS map will be produced that pinpoints the location of each cemetery.

The project received a second grant award from the HPC for 2005 to analyze the information collected during the first phase and take the cemetery preservation effort to the next level. The data gathered in phase I will be fused with the county's planning process. A list of at-risk or threatened cemeteries will be developed and cemeteries worthy of nomination as historic sites will be identified.

This continued work will provide for the preserva-

tion of Montgomery County's historic cemeteries for generations to come. We are always in need of information on Montgomery County cemeteries and volunteers to help with this effort! If you would like to become involved, or if you know of an obscure cemetery, please contact Peerless Rockville at 301-762-0096.

Anne Brockett

News of Our Members

From the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Dear Kristin Kraske,

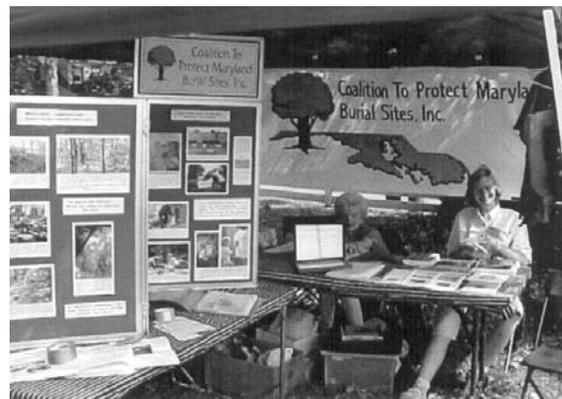
The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and the Montgomery County Historical Society would like to thank you for participating in the annual Happy Birthday Montgomery County Celebration on September 12th. The more organizations that have displays the more successful the event is for both the county and the individual organizations and we really appreciate your effort.

Signed by:

Susan Soderberg, Education and Outreach Planner for M-NCPPC

Karen Lottes, Directory of Education, Montgomery County Historical Society

[Kristin and Barbara Kraske represented the Coalition at the celebration.]



Article that was printed here has been deleted.

Editor

Carroll County News

“Vandals, thieves target family-owned cemetery, Family estimates repairs will cost about \$5,000” by Athima Chansanchai, December 8, 2004, *The Baltimore Sun*.

A resident of Westminster reported the theft of five footstones and the vandalism of eight tombstones at a family cemetery on Federal Ann Court in the city. The cemetery has never experienced theft and vandalism in its almost 170 year-history. Harriet Zurl who has about six generations of family buried in the gated cemetery said, “It looked like a herd of cattle had been there. They really tore the place up.” It is estimated that \$5,000 in damage was done. Some of the older marble and granite stones may be too fragile to restore. The Carroll County Sheriff’s Department said that possible charges would include “malicious destruction

of property, criminal trespass, theft and the desecration of a cemetery”. Anyone with information is urged to call the sheriff’s office at (410) 386-2900.

Diane Nesmeyer

Dorchester County News

“New Memorial for Veterans Unveiled”, by Rebecca Gannon, WBOC TV 16, November 13, 2004.

The Eternal Flame Memorial that honors all branches of the military was unveiled at the Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery in Beulah. Governor Ehrlich unveiled the new memorial as well as a new license plate for World War II veterans. The Governor told those attending the unveiling that he understands the sacrifice veterans face and hopes that the new memorial will bring more people into the cemetery.

Diane Nesmeyer

Queen Anne’s County News

“Grasonville cemetery still an orphan”, by Becky Ehmann, December 22, 2004, *The Capital*

Grasonville Cemetery contains weathered, leaning headstones, scattered rubber tires and other debris, and a fence damaged by a recent car accident. The cemetery located on Main Street is in dire need of a cleanup and the county does not know who is responsible for the century-old cemetery.

The County Attorney was asked to research the ownership of the land. In 1947 Murray’s Methodist Protestant Church and Simperts Methodist Episcopal Church united to form Immanuel Methodist Church of Queen Anne’s County. The cemetery does not appear to have conveyed so the current church does not own the property.

Neighbors have been acting as the caretakers through the years, taking turns cutting the grass. There have been visitors to the cemetery to visit the graves of loved ones. County Commissioner Gene Ransom said that he is committed to finding an answer to the party responsible for the cleanup and care of the cemetery; either through the county or a resident group.

Diane Nesmeyer

Talbot County News

Skeletal remains found may be of early settlers

Appeared in *The Daily Times* Salisbury on 7 November 2004

By Harleigh Knoll

A team of anthropologists and archaeologists from the Smithsonian Institution excavated some sites and located the graves of what they believe to be 17th century European and African settlers. The remains were found in less than 4 feet of sandy soil and very well preserved given the age of the skeletons.

Students and teachers from Talbot and Queen Anne's counties assisted the team with excavation work. Other work included dusting, photographing, and measuring each set of remains before the remains were stored in plastic bags and cardboard boxes.

The remains found in Talbot County will become a part of a study that the Smithsonian Institution is conducting on 300 sets of remains found in Colonial-era burial sites in Virginia and Maryland.

In 2007 the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History will feature an exhibit about the 400th anniversary of Jamestown and the research from the study will be featured in this exhibit. The team leader, Dr. Douglas Owsley wants to include the differences, if any, of how the Eastern Shore lived from their counterparts on the western shore and in Virginia. Written records are rare and incomplete and the bones can, according to Dr. Owsley, "...give up their secrets when examined using modern technology to analyze carbon and nitrogen isotopes and other mineral components."

Diane Nesmeyer

Words to the Wise

An article appeared in *The News Journal* (Delaware) by Terri Sanginiti about cemetery visitors becoming crime victims while visiting the graves of loved ones. According to the article both vehicles were left unlocked while the owners paid their respects. Leaving an unattended vehicle unlocked is usually not a wise move. However, in a cemetery we usually walk only a short distance to a grave so most of us may find it unnecessary to lock the car. The two victims in Delaware can attest to quite a different scenario. Thieves are quick, so be vigilant and lock those doors.

When Jeff and I were in Savannah two years ago we were told about several volunteers who parked and locked their cars at a cemetery and went about their business either documenting the cemetery or doing some restoration work. Their work took them a great distance from their cars and during the time they were away the cars were broken into and the contents stolen. The situation begs the question, "Can you hear glass shatter in an almost deserted cemetery?" I am sure it depends on how far away you are from the glass and how fast you can run. If you are moving about the cemetery taking photographs or documenting the information on the stones, make sure you periodically move your vehicle so that it will be close to where you will be.

Both stories provide some food for thought. Don't leave your car unlocked while you are in a cemetery, regardless of how close you will be to the car and park your car as close to your work area as possible.

Diane Nesmeyer

Cemetery Miscellaneous

While Jeff and I were in Connecticut for the AGS Conference in June we had the opportunity to visit a number of cemeteries. There is a theme common among the stones of the late 1700s and that is that death is inevitable. We have seen many different versions of the Stranger Cast an Eye epitaph and the following is one that is found on the stone for Mrs. Rebeckah Tomlinson in Congregational Church Cemetery, Stratford, Ct:

I have Been what thou are now
And am what thou shall shortly be
How Loved how valued once avail me not
To whome Related or by whome begot
A Heap of Dust alone Remains of me
Tis all I am and all that you must be.



The Courier

The Coalition Courier is published quarterly by the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Inc., P. O. Box 1533, Ellicott City, Maryland 21041, (410) 772-8602. Members of the Coalition receive the Courier as part of their membership which runs from June 1 through May 31st of each year. Individual memberships are \$10.00, household memberships are \$15, student memberships (grade 12 and under) are \$5, and organizational memberships are \$20.00 per year. Dues should be mailed to the Membership Chairperson at the address listed above.

The President, Board of Directors, and the Courier editors encourage all members to submit articles to the Courier. They further invite members to write to the Courier with questions or comments about any topic that pertains to burial sites. The topics can include preservation, protection, restoration and maintenance, historical and cultural significance, and documentation. They are also looking for questions or comments you may have about the Coalition. The questions, answers, and comments will be printed in future editions of the Courier. This is an opportunity for you to learn more about your Coalition and to have questions answered that you may have regarding burial sites.

All articles, questions, items of interest may be sent directly to the Coalition at the address listed above or e-mailed to the editors at their address listed below.

Reprint Policy

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Coalition's Objectives

The Coalition, through its members in each county, hope to reach out to all areas of the state to:

Facilitate the exchange of information among individuals and organizations concerned about the protection of Maryland burial sites.

Increase public awareness of the historic and cultural significance of burial sites and the serious threats to them.

Draft and gain passage of new laws to more effectively deal with criminal acts against burial sites and to establish effective and uniform procedures for the protection and preservation of burial sites regardless of their age, cultural affiliation or condition.

Organize support for stronger laws in Maryland to protect burial sites--Native American burials as well as traditional cemeteries.

Raise funds for statewide public education programs, focused on burial site protection, and to provide information and guidance to any government agency, group, organization or individual interested in preserving human burial sites.

Editors

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2005 Publication Deadlines

Spring	March 15, 2005
Summer	June 15, 2005
Fall	September 15, 2005
Winter	December 15, 2005

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.

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

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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ County _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____ Date _____

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

Questions? Call Kristin Kraske,
Membership (410) 772-8602

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



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