COALITION TO PROTECT MARYLAND BURIAL SITES, INC.

Miller Library, Ellicott City, Maryland

JULY 19TH, 2009, MEETING MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE OFFICERS: President Melvin Mason, Vice-President Jeff Nesmeyer, Recording/Corresponding Secretary Amanda Becker, Treasurer VACANT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Gerhardt Kraske, Kristin Kraske, Thomas Mason, Brenda McNeal, Paul Miller, Robert Mosko, Sandra Wright

MEMBERS AND GUESTS: Diane Nesmeyer, John Wright, Bridget Blake, Beverly M. Griffith

EXCUSED: James Lanier, Lu Moorman, Candy Warden

The Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, July 19th, 2009 meeting was called to order by President Melvin Mason at 1:12 pm. A quorum was noted and the minutes of the May 9th, 2009 meeting were presented by Recording Secretary Amanda Becker. Kristin Kraske, a member of the board, corrected the minutes in the fifth paragraph to read, “The Coalition has eighty-eight members”. Vice-President Jeff Nesmeyer made a motion for the Recording Secretary’s minutes to be approved with the correction, and Director Paul Miller seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by all.

A Corresponding Secretary’s Report was given by Ms. Becker. Ms. Becker and Diane Nesmeyer wrote thank you letters along with certificates of appreciation to the 2009 Annual Meeting helpers and participants. Secretary Becker has written letters on behalf of the Coalition for events in which the Coalition participated or will be participating. Ms. Becker asked for reimbursement for printing costs, paper, stamps, certificates, etc. used for Coalition business. The Officers and Board of Directors authorized the Secretary to buy a roll of stamps for incidental letters and other mailings for the Coalition. She is also to write a letter to former President Edward Taylor to inquire if he has any Coalition letterhead and envelopes.

Gerhardt Kraske, Past President and previous Treasurer, told us that our new Treasurer, Agnes Boerner, had sent a resignation letter to the Coalition. President Mason is the only person with a signature on file with the bank and the only one authorized to sign Coalition checks. Gerhardt Kraske agreed to be Treasurer pro
tem until the next Annual Meeting. Mr. Kraske handed out the treasurer’s report. The total the Coalition has as of the beginning of the meeting was $9,627.59. A $65.50 check was given to Mr. Kraske. This was the income generated from the Strawberry Festival which the Coalition attended. Income and expenses of the previous quarter were $950.62 and $1,407.66. Cash in hand and Bank CD was $124.18 and $1,147.77. Director Kraske will go to the bank to change the Treasurer’s signature status.

Director Kristin Kraske shared with the group the Membership Report. As of July 19th, 2009 the Coalition has seventy-eight paying members. The total non-paying members is thirteen.

OLD BUSINESS:
Diane Nesmeyer, Chair of 2009 Annual meeting gave that meeting’s report. The speakers and workshops were well attended. The weather was beautiful after a week of rain. The food was delicious, and St. Georges Church and Spesutia Cemetery was the perfect place to have everything for everyone in one place. The Silent Auction was a great success and will be continued for future fundraising. The Senior Warden, vestry, and church members were helpful in allowing us access to their church and cemetery. Mrs. Nesmeyer was thanked for all her diligent and timeless work on this project.

Ms. Becker reported on the 2010 Annual Meeting. An article in the Courier written by Mrs. Nesmeyer shared a list of where Annual Meetings in the past were held. President Mason had suggested Queen Anne’s County. Dates and sites were suggested. April 10, 17, and 24, 2010 are possible dates for the meeting. Suggested speakers were also discussed such as a history of Kent Island, a speaker on mourning ephemera, or a Maryland author on cemeteries. Lora Lake, Brenda McNeal, Melvin Mason, Robert Mosko, Diane Nesmeyer and Amanda Becker have agreed to serve on this committee.

The Outreach Committee Report was given by Mrs. Nesmeyer. The next meeting for the Outreach Committee was decided to be on August 2nd at 11:00 am at the Wheaton Masonic Lodge. This will be about a four-hour meeting in which the Preservation Kit is to be worked on.

The Finance Committee/Gift Shop report was given by Ms. Becker. A gift shop summer sale flyer was made for the Courier. The gift shop received a portable clothes hanger for free to use to hang items sold at events. The complete gift shop brochure with photos will be put on the Coalition’s website in the near future. Jewelry and magnets created by the Gravestone Girls were passed around at the meeting. These small items could be sold at events at a nominal fee. Ms. Becker shared with the group thoughts on selling Coalition books on eBay, which was discussed and decided against. Another idea presented was a basket bingo. Director Paul Miller stated that non-profits have made up to $3,000 a night at these events. Arcadia, the book publishing house, sent out packet which President Mason is looking over.

Guests Bridget Blake and Beverly M. Griffith were introduced.

Ms. Griffith inquired about how to go about approaching the owners of the St. Paul’s Methodist-Episcopal Church in Granite, Maryland about a concern. Members of the church that owns it now (a Missionary Baptist) have cut the grass with high power mowers, and about a half dozen stones are broken behind a shed. Some stones are also intact, but have been removed for unknown reasons and are also behind the shed. The community is proud of the cemetery which she had researched in the 1960s. The deed makes no mention of the cemetery. New burials are slated for one part of the cemetery, but one burial in question is situated in the older section. There is a concern that the church would also like to expand their parking lot. How does one question the legality of the burial when there is no apparent cemetery plat, and what are the Maryland laws? These were Ms. Griffith’s concerns. President Mason and Mrs. Nesmeyer are to send her written information that would help. Ideas from Directors Robert Mosko and Sandra Wright were also given. [Pictures of St. Paul’s that were taken by Melvin Mason can be found on page 12.]

The Mt. Carmel Cemetery was next on the agenda. Mrs. Nesmeyer will formulate a response that the Outreach Committee can review.
The Courier will continue to be written by the Vice-President and Mrs. Nesmeyer and Ms. Kraske will continue to mail it out.

Events that the Coalition will attend in the future were brought up by Treasurer pro tem Kraske and Ms. Becker. Member Lora Lake and Ms. Becker along with Ms. Frances Becker attended a Strawberry Festival in May. Fun was had by all and the Coalition received publicity, income and potential members. Ms. Becker has contacted and researched various events. Many of these events were already filled, but we could continue working towards attending them next year. These included Maryland’s Annual Preservation and Revitalization Conference. The Coalition was on a waiting list for this. Boonsboro Days in Washington County, an Arts Festival in Cumberland, and an African-American history day in St. Mary’s County are also potential events for the future. Events procured include Hands on History Day, August 12, 2009 at the Howard County Fairgrounds; a Peach Festival in Dorchester County on August 8, 2009; Montgomery County Birthday, early September; Princess Anne Days, Princess Anne County on October 10 and 11, 2009; and an Apple Festival in October. Members are encouraged to participate at these events or nominate an event to attend.

President Mason’s and Director Kristin Kraske’s phone numbers have changed and the changes will be reflected in Coalition publications. The Nesmeyers’ e-mail address has been discontinued.

That concluded the Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Peerless Rockville is holding a cemetery workshop on October 10, 2009 and December 5, 2009 at the Red Brick Court House in Rockville, MD. There will be space for thirty-five participants. Anne Brockett, Eileen McGuckian, and Robert Mosko will be the presenters. Cemetery preservation issues and the best cemetery conservation practices will be discussed. The Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites will be one of the sponsors for this event.

Sunday, October 4, 2009, is our next business meeting. Director McNeal will procure the Miller Library for this meeting.

The Periwinkle Awards Committee needs to be formed. President Mason is to ask Ann Horvath and Directors Candy Warden, James Lanier and Robert Mosko if they would like to be on this committee.

The By-Laws committee had three issues to discuss. The Outreach Committee will be included in the By-Laws. Here is the wording for the By Laws:

L. Outreach Committee shall:
1. arrange for the Coalition to appear at festivals, fairs, special events, and the like throughout the state;
2. be responsible for writing and/or updating any material published by the Coalition;
3. be responsible for maintaining and updating the Coalition's display board; and
4. arrange for members to speak on behalf of the Coalition at any public meeting where the Coalition has been invited to speak.

President Mason asked for a motion to be made on this issue. Vice-President Nesmeyer made the motion and Director Mosko seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Elimination of the Corresponding Secretary’s position and to include its description with the Recording Secretary’s position and name it “Secretary” was discussed. President Mason asked for a motion, Vice-President Nesmeyer made the motion and Director Mosko seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Terms for President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer were discussed. The wording for the by-laws is as follows:

C. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote from members in good standing at the Annual Meeting. The President and Vice President shall be elected in even-numbered years and the Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. At the 2010 Annual Meeting all officers’ terms will expire and an election will be held for all four officers’ positions. The newly elected President and Vice President will begin a 2-year term, such term expiring at the 2012 Annual Meeting. The newly elected Treasurer and Secretary will begin a
1-year term, such term expiring at the 2011 Annual Meeting. At the conclusion of the elections at the 2011 Annual Meeting the officers will be elected in the respective two-year cycle as outlined in this section.

A motion was called for by President Mason, Treasurer Kraske made the motion and Director Thomas Mason seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The Outreach Committee will decide on a speaker for the upcoming Prince George’s County Genealogical Society’s meeting. Bill Wood (410)-414-9533 of the Society needs a speaker for any of the first Wednesdays of the month. The meetings are held at New Carrollton Municipal Center, 6016 Princess Garden Parkway, New Carrollton, Maryland 207847. A discussion regarding the standard Coalition presentation followed. Director Kraske and Treasurer Kraske will try to find the materials previously used in presentations and Secretary Becker will look in the office for the slides used in the presentation.

The Dreambook entry concerning the place of the Lowes Burial Family Cemetery near Reisterstown was discussed. The outcome was to tell the party interested that since no one from the Coalition knows where this cemetery is it is best for the interested party to contact the Baltimore County Historical and Genealogical Societies.

Director McNeal brought up the issue of publicizing in the local paper the business meeting. This would bring in potential members. This would be advertised as a business meeting, but perhaps in the future a brief speaker or cemetery activity could be included. The Coalition discussed ways to invite, be polite, and continue new relationships with potential members. An appropriately worded announcement will be crafted by the Outreach Committee at their next Meeting and this will be used for newspaper submissions. The Membership Committee needs more members to explore ways of promoting membership, sending letters, packets, etc.

Discussions began about having four Board meetings and one Annual Meeting each year. The Annual Meeting would meet the by-laws requirements, but have committee reports instead of dis-

...cussions. Within 30 days of the Annual Meeting the first business meeting of the year would be held. This discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

At 3:30 pm the business meeting was adjourned by President Mason. Motions by Directors Thomas Mason and Mosko were stated and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,
Amanda Becker
Recording/Corresponding Secretary

Editors’ Corner

We are late getting this issue out to you. The Board Meeting for this quarter was already held on October 4th. You will find the minutes for the July 19th Board Meeting in this issue and the minutes for the October 4th meeting will be included in the Winter issue of the Courier.

We recommend that you read the article about the Cemetery Workshop scheduled for December 5th found on page 8. The workshop is being hosted by Peerless Rockville, the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, and Historic Takoma. You and your cemetery do not have to be located in Montgomery County to participate.

We found a National Park System quiz on the Internet with 12 questions about cemeteries in our National Parks. We try to include only information about Maryland cemeteries in the newsletter but the quiz intrigued us so much we wrote and obtained permission from the author to reprint the quiz. The quiz begins on page 5. Good luck.

Saturday October 24th is USA Weekend Magazine’s Make A Difference Day. According to their website, “Make a Difference Day is the most encompassing national day of helping others—a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors.” The site further states, “Your project can be as large or as small as you wish! Look around your community and see what needs to be done.” For more information about this day visit http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/aboutmadd.html. Cemeteries can be included. A few years ago on group in Easton was listed for their clean up of a local cemetery. [See the Winter 2005—2006 issue,
We would like to thank Amanda Becker, Brenda McNeal, Melvin Mason, Melanie Ayres Merryweather, Denise McDermott, and Scott Lawrence for their contributions to this issue.

Jeff and Diane Nesmeyer

National Park System
Quiz 66: Cemeteries

Posted on August 5, 2009
by Bob Janiskee

1. True or false? The National Park Service is responsible for keeping the eternal flame lit at John F. Kennedy's grave in Arlington National Cemetery.
2. True or false? Battleground National Cemetery in Rock Creek Park is one of America's smallest national cemeteries.
3. True or false? Most of the national cemeteries maintained by the National Park Service remain open for additional burials that meet strict eligibility criteria.
4. True or false? There are more than 20 cemeteries in Mammoth Cave National Park.
5. True or false? People are prohibited from visiting historic cemeteries within Great Smoky National Park unless they have the express written permission of the National Park Service and designated family or community representatives.
7. True or false? St. Paul's Church National Historic Site has one of the oldest cemeteries in the United States.
8. True or false? The enabling legislation for Yosemite National Park specified that all cemeteries situated within the park's borders had to be removed before the park could be opened to the public.
9. Which of the following U.S. Presidents is buried in a cemetery located within a National Park System unit that bears his name?
   a. Lyndon B. Johnson
   b. Harry S. Truman
   c. Abraham Lincoln
   d. Theodore Roosevelt
10. On November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address at the formal dedication of the ______, which was later renamed Gettysburg National Cemetery.
   a. Soldier's National Cemetery at Gettysburg
   b. Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery at Gettysburg
   c. Cemetery Ridge National Cemetery
   d. Seminary Ridge National Cemetery

Extra Credit Question:

11. A footpath that leads up a hill near the house takes you to a gravesite. Mounted on a stone monument there is a grave marker that reads: "I got few things to live by: Don't say nothing that will hurt anybody. Don't give advice -- nobody will take it anyway. Don't complain. Don't explain." The sculpted face of the grave's occupant adorns the top of the plaque-like grave marker. The man's name is there too, of course. Who was this man?

Super Bonus Question:

12. If Congress were to establish a "Famous American Burials National Historic Site," a good place to do it would be in Colma, California, a tiny San Francisco Bay community with 1,191 live residents and about 1.5 million dead ones. Among the permanent residents of Colma's 17 cemeteries are all of the following EXCEPT:
   a. William "Buffalo Bill" Cody (1846-1917)
   b. Wyatt Earp (1848-1929)
   c. Levi Strauss (1829-1902)
   d. Joe Dimaggio (1914-1999)

Answers can be found on page 8. No cheating!

Reprinted by permission of the author and http://NationalParksTraveler.com

Outreach at the Hands on History Day

It was a steamy day on August 12th when Brenda McNeal and Amanda Becker set up the Coalition’s display and gift shop at the Howard County Fair-
grounds. Hands on History Day showcases history groups and interactive participation for children and the young at heart. Brenda had a gravestone rubbing exhibit for the visiting children to try out. Magically a message appeared on the paper when the children rubbed the stone with black chalk. “Cool, awesome and sweet” were some of the children’s responses. People asked questions about the Coalition and what we do, and shared cemetery stories and where cemetery help is needed. As a nice surprise our exhibit was next to the exhibit about Sykesville, MD which members Ann and George Horvath were manning. At four o’clock a taste of funnel cake from the fair ended the successful day.

Amanda Becker

News From the Counties

Baltimore City

Morgan’s Students Bring New Life to Cemetery

Gigi Barnett, Baltimore (WJZ), June 12, 2009


Mount Auburn Cemetery was founded in 1872 and is the oldest black owned and operated cemetery in Baltimore. Inmates have been cleaning the grounds for the last year and there is now a partnership between Morgan State University and the cemetery in the hopes of preserving history and bringing visitors back to the cemetery. Robin Howard, the coordinator for the partnership, says that both students and visitors can learn everything from horticulture to history from the cemetery. Students at Morgan planned to present a theater performance depicting the lives and times of the people buried at the cemetery. The performance was to have taken place on June 20th.

[Note: Other articles about Mount Auburn have appeared in the Winter 2007 and Winter 2008-2009 issues of the Courier.]

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

Dorchester County

Melanie Merryweather, a member from Cambridge, is a great cemetery record keeper. She maintains the graveyard records of Old Trinity Episcopal Church in Church Creek, St. Paul’s in Vienna and St. Paul’s in Berlin, and her church, Christ Church in Cambridge.

This is a summary by Dr. David Hastings that Melanie gave us about Old Trinity Episcopal Church. All of her research from the past five years at the Old Trinity Church cemetery will be put on GIS (geographic information system). An interactive computer cemetery map and an ongoing database will help people find out about those buried in the cemetery, long-term planning of cemetery and how to manage the cemetery. “Layers” in this computer database will begin with the boundary of church property, next the footprint of roads, walkways, parking lot and buildings. One will be able to click and zoom to each item. Then one can see each gravesite and tombstone location by the click of the mouse. Gravesites will be color coded such as occupied graves, sold graves and available graves on the screen. Click on the site and “information about the person buried there, a picture of the tombstone and any other information such as a link to his or her obituary” will be shown. This undertaking is a wonderful contemporary way to bring history to all in an easy to maneuver computer system.

Dr. David Hastings

Mr. and Mrs. James Kiernan, new property owners of the Dail Farm at Cassons Neck in Dorchester County, who have a keen appreciation for restoration and respect for those who have gone before them have raised, repaired and cleaned every tombstone in the cemetery on their property. There are approximately 150 stones dating from the 1820s to 1960. This venture is especially noteworthy because the Kiernans have no genealogical link to any of those at rest in what was an aged and neglected cemetery on their land.

Melanie Ayres Merryweather

Harford County

Coalition members Robin Quinn and Denise Smith are still keeping up with the Merryman Cemetery.

Amanda Becker

St. Mary’s County

The St. Nicholas Cemetery Restoration Project, in
its seventh year, is almost complete says Coalition member Scott Lawrence of Grave Concerns. St. Nicholas Church 1795 property called Cedar Point was acquired by the Navy in 1942. The Navy buried all the foot and headstones, but made a map of burials and data. Scott petitioned the Navy to “recover, repair and re-erect all known monuments”. St. Mary’s County Genealogical Society, archaeologist, Dr. Jim Gibb and many volunteers and paid professionals have been great help in the project. One hundred forty-six stones have been found, fixed and put back up to honor one hundred sixty-five people. About sixty-four markers are left to unbury. Scott wishes that the Navy at some time will allow guests to visit and “assist in the recovery and repair of this monumental (pun) effort”.

Getting the word out on cemetery projects is a tremendous resource in gaining time, money and help.

Amanda Becker

[Note: Pictures and other articles appear in Spring and Summer 2004 and Spring and Summer 2005 issues of the Courier.]

Washington County

Civil War battlefield sends Union soldier home, 1 year after visitor finds remains

By Mike W. Brantley

September 15, 2009, 3:17PM


Sharpsburg, MD

Almost one year ago a visitor to Antietam National Battlefield spotted human remains in a cornfield. The remains belonged to an Unknown Soldier believed to be from New York. The bone fragments were found near a ground hog tunnel. Regional archaeologist Stephen Potter of the National Park Service and his crew excavated the area and recovered a total of 400 bone fragments, 13 uniform buttons, small pieces of fabric and leather, and a U.S. belt buckle. Potter and a forensic anthropologist from the Smithsonian studied the bones and estimated that the soldier was between 18 and 21, most probably not lived long enough to see his 20th birthday. There was a ceremony at the battlefield cemetery where the park superintendent placed the remains into a pine coffin donated by a funeral home in the Albany, NY area.

Six National Park Service rangers and two Union soldier re-enactors placed the pine coffin draped with a U. S. flag containing 34 stars into a black SUV for the 330-mile trip to the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery in New York. Two members from the New York Army National Guard and a volunteer motorcycle escort accompanied the remains on the trip.

Once reburied, the soldier will be identified as an unknown Civil War soldier who died at Antietam.

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

Worcester County

Coalition member Denise McDermott has been busy with taking care of the Jones/Massey cemetery in Ocean Pines. Weeding, mowing, raking and checking on headstones is of course an ongoing cemetery project, but her husband and fellow Coalition member, Dennis also helps out. Neighbors by the cemetery, Stephen Palmer and Marge and Jim Nail, keep a watchful eye, mow on the edge of the cemetery, pick up branches, take down trees that are a menace to life, limb and headstones, and share a delicious drink of ice water when breaks are needed. Phyllis East, of the town of Ocean Pines, makes sure the staff picks up the branch pile. This is a great cemetery example of the neighborhood helping and caring for a cemetery.

Denise McDermott

Denise is also in the process of working on another cemetery. This should give all Coalition members incentive to do many cemetery projects – not just one! Thanks to all of our great members for all their hard cemetery work and sharing these stories with us.

Amanda Becker

Events

Green Mount Cemetery Walking Tours

Saturday, October 10, 17th, 24th, and 31st.

Green Mount Cemetery, Baltimore City

Greenmount Avenue and East Oliver Street
Four guided tours of Green Mount Cemetery will be held during the month of October. Tours begin at 9:30 am from the main gate located at Greenmount Avenue and East Oliver Street. The two-hour tours are led by Baltimore historian and educator Wayne R. Schaumburg. There is a cost for the tour ($15) and reservations are required. For information or to make reservations, contact Wayne at wschaumburg@earthlink.net.

Historian moves among the movers and shakers of oldtime Baltimore

By Greg Rienzi, The Gazette (Johns Hopkins)

As a volunteer for the Baltimore City Life Museums, Wayne Schaumburg began giving tours in Green Mount in 1985. It was a good fit: Green Mount, the final resting place of Who’s Who of Charm City; and Wayne, a lover of history and of Baltimore and a teacher of history for 39 years. After the museum closed in 1997, Wayne began offering the two-hour tours of Green Mount on his own. He now gives tours during May and October of each year.

Wayne provided the reporter a brief history of Green Mount. Samuel Walker, a Baltimore tobacco merchant, visited Mount Auburn cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and upon his return led a movement to establish a rural cemetery in Baltimore. Walker and his group purchased 65 acres of land from the estate of Robert Oliver. The hilly land was located on the northern boundary of the city. The property was known as Green Mount and Green Mount cemetery was established on March 15, 1838.

Benjamin Latrobe, Jr., a civil engineer with the B & O Railroad laid out the early design of the cemetery. The cemetery was known for its shady avenues, gardens, and Victorian monuments and mausoleums. The rural cemetery movement concept was popular and as a result of the opening of Green Mount Cemetery, three more cemeteries in the Baltimore area were developed: Loudon Park, Baltimore, and Mount Olivet.

The first burial was that of Olivia Cushing Whi-

Cemetery Preservation Workshops
Rockville Maryland
December 5, 2009

Peerless Rockville, the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, and Historic Takoma will be hosting its second preservation workshop for cemetery owners, caretakers, and historians. The session will cover researching your historic cemetery, seeking funding, cemetery preservation planning, stone cleaning and repair, landscaping issues, and best practices for the conservation of historic cemeteries.

The second session will be held on Saturday, December 5 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Square, Rockville, Maryland with a visit to nearby Baptist Cemetery.

Presenters are Anne Brockett, Eileen McGuckian, and Robert Mosko of Mosko Cemetery Monument Services.

Each session is FREE, but limited to 35 participants. Registration is required.

For more information or to register, contact Peerless Rockville at 301-762-0096 or info@peerlessrockville.org

Answers to the National Park System Quiz 66:
Cemeteries found on page 5:

(1) False. Arlington National Cemetery is not situated within an NPS unit. It is a military cemetery administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
(2) True. Battleground National Cemetery was established to honor Union soldiers killed in the Battle of Fort Stevens while defending Washington, DC, in July 1864. It is just one acre in size.

(3) False. There are 14 NPS-maintained national cemeteries, and 12 of them are closed. The only ones not yet closed are at Andersonville National Historic Site and Andrew Johnson National Historic Site.

(4) True. In fact, more than 70 cemeteries and family plots were associated with the hundreds of small farms and dozens of small communities acquired to create the park. One of the park's most interesting burial grounds is the Old Guides Cemetery, which is located along the Heritage Trail by the Mammoth Cave Hotel.

(5) False. Park visitors may visit any of the park's historic cemeteries, provided that they behave respectfully. As of 2008, about 160 cemeteries had been located and mapped within the park.

(6) False. This NPS unit preserves a 6.6-acre site in Lower Manhattan that was used for the burial of both free and enslaved Africans from about the 1690s to the 1790s. Accidentally discovered in 1991, the site was proclaimed African Burial Ground National Monument in 2006 and is scheduled for completion later this year.

(7) True. The cemetery in St. Paul's Church National Historic Site has about 6,000 graves dating as far back as 1665. The cemetery's oldest headstone is apparently one erected in 1704.

(8) False. Yosemite Valley's little Pioneer Cemetery, which existed long before the park was established, is located across the street and to the west of the Yosemite Museum. Among the people interred in this graveyard are the first white child born in the valley, a man who was killed by renegade Indians, the first man to climb Half Dome, and a number of people who succumbed to accidents or illness while visiting the park.

(9) a - President Lyndon B. Johnson is buried in the Johnson family cemetery on the LBJ Ranch in Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park near Johnson City, Texas. (Harry S. Truman is buried at the Harry S. Truman Library & Museum in Independence, Missouri. Abraham Lincoln is buried in the Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois. Theodore Roosevelt's grave is in Youngs Memorial Cemetery near Oyster Bay, New York.)

(10) a - Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg address at the formal dedication of Soldier's National Cemetery at Gettysburg.

(11) These things mark the grave of Walter "Scotty" Scott, better known as Death Valley Scotty. Scotty's burial site overlooks Scotty's Castle in Death Valley National Park.

(12) a - William Cody is buried on Lookout Mountain near Golden, Colorado. Coloma was founded in 1924 as a necropolis for the city of San Francisco. The list of famous people buried there is absolutely amazing, and the associated stories are quite fascinating. For example, Wyatt Earp (who was never so much as even nicked in a gun battle, including OK Corral) is buried in Coloma's Eternity Memorial Park next to his wife Josephine, who was from a prominent Jewish family in San Francisco.

Grading: 9 or 10 correct, rest on your laurels; 7 or 8 correct, pretty darn good; 6 correct, passable fair; 5 or fewer correct, you need to enroll in America's National Parks (GEOG 370), Prof. Robert Janiskee's online/correspondence course offered through the University of South Carolina's Distance Education division, phone 803-777-7210.

Reprinted by permission of the author and http://NationalParksTraveler.com

Highlights from the public Office of Cemetery Oversight meeting September 24th, 2009
[Note: Brenda McNeal graciously offered to attend the public meetings on behalf of the Coalition.]

- Some discussion about the FTC looking into regulating cemeteries (all cemeteries) nationwide. This is just in the discussion stage brought about by recent issues in Chicago, Los Angeles, and elsewhere.
- The Office of Cemetery Oversight has created and will soon begin distributing a twice-yearly newsletter. They discussed making this available on their website as well possibly mailing paper copies should there be a request.
- They will be transitioning to a new website
soon. The current website has not been updated recently. (Meeting minutes up to May 2009 are available online.)

- Currently there are 2 bills before Annapolis about regulating Crematoriums. One references the Mortician’s Board being given oversight for those owned (or mostly owned) by Funeral homes. The other bill has the Cemetery Oversight board regulating crematoriums located on cemetery grounds. There was discussion about some testimony presented from organizations wishing to keep status quo – no regulations. The two bills are different enough that some kind of consensus will need to be reached. Some of the discussion about Crematoriums resulted from bodies being turned away that do not come directly from Funeral Directors (meaning no "at home" services without some Funeral Director's oversight). This seemed to stem, partly, from Crematoriums not having personnel to verify documents.

- New regulations start Oct 1 for “re-interring” remains. These now require additional paperwork and posting in newspapers. "Final disposition" and possible needs if the body is temporarily “stored” was discussed. The new regulations exempt the paperwork requirements if the re-interment takes place in the same cemetery grounds but not if they have to be moved from a funeral home to a different cemetery.

- Maryland is moving to an automated Death Certificate on-line to allow Funeral Directors to print these online. It is not yet operational.

- Due to time constraints, they tabled discussion of perpetual care in cemeteries.

- An article from “Time” magazine: “Death in Recession: More Bodies Left Unburied” was discussed and what, if anything, is available to folks who are without funds and need to bury someone. It was noted that there is now a higher default rates on payments for pre-needs as well as an uptick in cremations.

- The Investigator gave a report from her recent Death Care Regulators conference on Fraud. She noted that one of the speakers mentioned using the RICO Act to prosecute if a pattern of fraud can be documented.

Brenda McNeal

New Members This Quarter

There were no new members joining the Coalition this quarter. An organization cannot thrive with stagnant membership levels. Do you know of someone who has an interest in cemeteries that would benefit from joining our group? Pass along our website URL so that they can download an application to complete and send to our membership chairperson, Kristin Kraske.

Thank you,
The Officers and Board

Periwinkle Award Nominations Sought

Each year the Coalition designates one or more persons or organizations to receive its Periwinkle Award. The Award is given in recognition of outstanding personal effort and perseverance in helping to save an historic cemetery from neglect, desecration, or other illegal activities. The Coalition chose the periwinkle plant (vinca minor) as the name of the award because periwinkle had been typically used in 18th and 19th century cemeteries throughout the state of Maryland as a maintenance-free flowering ground cover. The recipient receives a monetary award as well as a framed certificate commemorating the award.

The Periwinkle Award Committee consisting of Candy Warden, James Lanier, Robert Mosko, and Ann Horvath are seeking nominations for the 2010 Periwinkle Awards. If you know of an individual or group who should be recognized for their efforts and activities in Maryland cemeteries please forward your recommendation to a committee member. Contact information can be found at http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdcpmb/board.html. The recommendation should include a brief summary of the nominee’s activities that you believe warrant consideration of this award, the cemetery or cemeteries that have benefited under their care or activities, and any other information that will assist the Committee and the Board in making an informed decision.

The Annual Meeting is to be held in Kent County in 2010. Periwinkle Award Committee
RAVENS ROOST AUTUMN SURPRISES

Great books for fall reading:
Chesapeake Book Of The Dead for $30.00
Preservation Of Historic Burial Grounds for $9.00
Widow’s Weeds And Weeping Veils for $8.00
NEW SOAP: A new wonderful scented soap, ROOTS TO FRUIT, is a refreshing fall special. Oils of ginger, lime, clove and patchouli added with a touch of ginger root make this soap the must have for all Coalition members and friends. $3.50 a cake.

SHIRTS: REMEMBER IT IS POE’S 200TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION THIS YEAR. Don’t forget to honor him with a QUOTE THE RAVEN NEVERMORE black or plum short- or long-sleeve shirt.

Remember “TEMPUS FUGIT” so before you know these item will be gone. Don’t be left out in the cold buy, this black short sleeve t-shirt and the other listed items ASAP.

SEND ORDER TO: CPMBS, P.O. BOX 1533, ELLICOTT CITY, MD 21043

Gallery of Pictures

Brenda McNeal set up her equipment to show visitors how to rub a tombstone at the Hands On History Day.

Amanda at the Hands On History Day at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Story is found on pages 5 and 6.

Amanda showing the publications that we have for sale. Hands On History Day.
Pictures of St. Paul’s Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery in Granite, MD, courtesy of Melvin Mason. Story in the minutes on page 2.

Below are the before and after pictures of the cemetery on the Kiernan property in Dorchester County. Story on page 6.
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
Permission is granted for noncommercial reprint of any material in this newsletter provided credit is given to the author and this newsletter. This excludes copyright material for which this newsletter has permission to publish.

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

2009 Publication Deadlines
Spring March 15, 2009
Summer June 15, 2009
Fall September 15, 2009
Winter December 15, 2009

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.

2009-2010 Officers and Board of Directors

Officers
President Melvin Mason (301) 325-1248
pres@cpmbs.org
Vice President Jeff Nesmeyer (703) 680-7724
vp@cpmbs.org
Treasurer Gerhardt Kraske (410) 730-8278
treas@cpmbs.org
Recording Secretary Amanda Becker (301) 253-2688
sec@cpmbs.org
Past President Gerhardt Kraske (410) 730-8278

Board of Directors
Thomas Mason (PG County) (301) 736-4058
thomas@masonbrothers.com
James Lanier (Baltimore County) (443) 341-6433
rosabonheursociety@juno.com
Paul Miller (Howard County) (410) 465-9158
ecpim@aol.com
Kristin Kraske (Howard County) (410) 461-6313
REBELKRIS@comcast.net
Luann Moorman (Baltimore City) (443) 386-8424
lumoorman1@msn.com
Candy Warden (Baltimore County) (443) 341-6433
rosabonheoursociety@juno.com
Brenda McNeal (Howard County) (410) 917-3257
mcnealb@hotmail.com
Sandra Wright (Montgomery County) (301) 520-9557
swrightplace@msn.com
Robert Mosko (717) 633-8092
robertmosko@embarqmail.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_________________

____New                   Annual Membership Rates:          ____Renewal
                                          Individual………………………$ 10
                                          Student (grade 12 and under)…$  5
                                          Organization………………$ 20
                                          Household……………………..$ 15
Questions? Call Kristin Kraske,            Make Checks Payable to:           Coalition to Protect Maryland
Membership (410) 772-8602

Can you help us in our various efforts? Please list occupations / skills / interest. ________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Coalition Courier
P. O. Box 1533
Ellicott City, MD 21041-1533

Forwarding & Return Postage Guaranteed
Address Correction Requested