We Are Going To Thurmont This Year!

Apples United Church of Christ is the location of our meeting.
The 20th Annual Meeting is to be held on Saturday, April 16, 2011, at Apples United Church of Christ, 7908 Apples Church Rd, Thurmont, MD 21788. Registration and refreshments of bagels, pastries, fruit and morning drinks will begin at 8:30 a.m. as well as gift shop sales and commencement of our third annual silent auction. At 9 a.m. the Officers and Committee Chairs will present their annual reports. Our next item of business will be the election of Officers and Directors. We will be electing a Treasurer and Secretary this year as well as a number of Directors’ positions. The Periwinkle Award Committee will announce the recipients of the awards for this year and the recipients will spend a few minutes discussing their projects with the group.

At the conclusion of the business meeting the group will attend one of two activities being held this year. Robert Mosko will be conducted a preservation workshop in Apples’ Cemetery. This year the workshop will be held regardless of rain or shine so if you plan to participate dress for the weather.

Robert will begin the preservation workshop by discussing the findings of his assessment. His plan, as time permits, will be to: 1) straighten a simple tablet; 2) level a tablet that is on a base; 3) stabilize a marker with putty; 4) repair a broken stone; 5) set a marker upright using a tripod; and 6) remove a marker from its foundation using a gantry, install a new foundation, and set the marker on the new foundation.
The second activity will be a discussion of symbolism found in cemeteries. At the conclusion of the talk the participants will take a brief walking tour of the Apples’ Cemetery to discuss some of the symbols found there.

A box lunch will be provided by Panera. Lunch is your choice of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sandwich Box</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Served with potato chips, a pickle &amp; a cookie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salad Box</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Served with a portion of French or Whole Grain baguette &amp; a cookie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Half Sandwich, Half Salad Box</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Served with a portion of French or Whole Grain baguette &amp; a cookie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your sandwich options are as follows:
- Sierra Turkey - Smoked turkey, chipotle mayo, field greens & onions, on our Asiago Cheese Focaccia
- Mediterranean Veggie - Zesty sweet Pepperpadew™ peppers, feta, cucumbers, lettuce, tomatoes, onions & cilantro hummus, on our Tomato Basil
- Smoked Turkey Breast on Country, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, salt and pepper
- Smoked Ham & Swiss on Stone-Milled Rye, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, salt and pepper
- Tuna Salad on Honey Wheat, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, salt and pepper
- Roast Beef on Country, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, salt and pepper

Your salad options are as follows:
- Greek - Romaine, tomatoes, feta, onions, peperoncini,
- Kalamata olives, pepper & Greek dressing
- Caesar - Romaine, Asiago, homemade Asiago croutons &
- Caesar dressing

Register as soon as possible since space is very limited this year. If you have not received your registration form in the mail one can be printed from our website at http://www.cpmbs.org and click on Annual Meeting.

For questions call Diane or Jeff Nesmeyer at (703) 680-7724 or e-mail me us at vp@cpmbs.org or visit http://www.cpmbs.org and click on Annual Meeting. The cost is $50 per person* and includes morning refreshments, lunch, water, and the preservation workshop or the symbolism talk. To register, complete the registration form found on the website and mail it with your check payable to CPMBS and mail to Kristin Kraske, Treasurer, 5114 Meadow Creek Terrace, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

Note that space is limited so register early.

We will absolutely not be able to accept any registrations after April 8th, 2011, due to planning purposes.

* If you are not a member of the Coalition your registration fee is $65. To avoid the additional cost you can join the Coalition by adding the appropriate amount of dues to the member registration fee. Dues are $5 for students; $10 for individuals; and $15 for households.

Editors’ Corner

We are both very excited over the activities of the Coalition the last several months. Read the Outreach Committee Report on page 4 to learn why we are so excited and to learn of the cemetery-related activities that are coming up in the next couple of months.

The date for our Annual Meeting is just around the corner. We are meeting at the Apples United Church of Christ in Thurmont this year. This meeting is very important for the Coalition as we elect
Officers and Directors to lead us through the next year. Plans are well under way for an activity-filled day. More information about the Annual Meeting and the activities can be found starting on page 1.

If the nomination committee calls you to consider joining the Board of Directors or to help fill the Treasurer or Secretary’s positions please step up to the plate. Over the last few years members who have faithfully served on the Board are “retiring” from their positions. This is definitely leaving a void. We are hoping that a few of you can step forward to help bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the governing body.

We always end our message thanking those members that have helped us with the Courier. There is one unsung hero in this whole process of getting the Courier into the hands of the members and that is Kristin Kraske. We put together the Courier and send it off to the printers but Kristin is the one that addresses, stamps, and mails the printed copies and if a copy comes back in the mail she diligently tries to ascertain a correct address. Thank you Kristin for all your help with the Courier.

We would like to thank Amanda Becker, Brenda McNeal, Tina Simmons, Stephanie Town, Dennis Green, Melvin Mason, and Kristin Kraske for their contributions to this issue.

Diane and Jeff Nesmeyer

President’s Message

With spring almost here, we look at what has happened and say wow! Bitter cold, snow, rain, wind, floods, and ice have beset the state and left a swath of destruction. It wasn’t the worst winter on record. It did a lot of damage, none-the-less.

Many people are assessing the services that support society and whether there needs to be a change. Did the power company respond in a timely manner? Is the power grid even up to the demands that the rate payers are paying for? Were the streets cleaned of ice and snow in a timely manner? Were the streets and infrastructure even up to par on a good day? Many questions are floating about. Most answers will end up costing the citizens more, more in taxes, more in consumer price goods, more in travel time and expenses.

There are other questions out there; who is responsible for the deplorable condition of St Elsewhere Cemetery? Someone should take care of that burial ground back in the woods where the old country church was. Where did the Smith family Burial Ground go, all I see is a gas station? Then there are the questions that we don’t hear too much; what should WE do to bring back this cemetery? How can WE restore the old family burial ground. What do I do to clean up that cemetery over the bridge?

People bury their dead. People memorialize their departed. People move away. Grave sites start the journey back to nature helped by natural growth, vandalism, development or just plain neglect. It is unfortunate that the graves once cared for out of respect for those buried within are now considered an eyesore or an impediment to growth or even unforgotten.

In reality, only those sites that have active participants working to keep them in existence will survive. Best case for the others is that they will remain hidden in the underbrush. Worst case is they become the mega-mart parking lot.

Our annual meeting in April will stress what WE can do to help the survivability of the abandoned and abused burial sites. The WE being the normal citizen, CPMBS member or not. Our organization was founded by a group of citizens that had made the effort to protect a site and banded together to help others do the same. The CPMBS is not a group that contracts out to do the work; we are a group that helps others start on the best path for their group and site. We lend our experience and expertise to those that have stepped up to the task of getting something done.

Over the past year, a core group of members has responded to the queries and concerns of many people. That group has made trips across the state to
look into sites and issues of concern. In some cases we have made a positive impact on the situation. In more, we have been unable to intercede and help the situation, they are too mired in legal issues. We see that the CPMBS is making a difference if only by trying.

The programs, exhibits, and opportunities planned for the annual meeting will emphasize what can be done to start the improvement of the neglected, abandoned or abused burial grounds. The long promised handbook will be available. At least two of the groups nominated for the Periwinkle Award this year are groups that have started with an impossible situation and have become models for the rescue of burial sites of the type they are dealing with.

They asked the questions, received many answers, some they didn't like or didn't think were doable; they pushed on none-the-less and have made great strides in improvement and sustainably.

We, the CPMBS, hope the questions keep coming in. We hope the answers we give will be of use.

Melvin

**Outreach Committee**

The Outreach Committee is very excited. After almost three years of meetings we are in the final stages of completing the Preservation Handbook. The handbook will be unveiled at the Annual Meeting. The page count is over 100 and covers such topics as determining ownership of a cemetery to cemetery symbolism. The Committee has spent many hours creating an outline, writing the chapters, and reviewing the content once the chapters were completed. The Committee is proud of their product and looks forward to presenting the handbook to the rest of the membership.

Do you like to visit cemeteries? Are you interested in helping out an organization that is in the process of transcribing the gravestones throughout Anne Arundel County? Do you like a good time and have a few hours to spare? If you answered yes to any of these questions we have an offer you can’t refuse. Tina Simmons and the Anne Arundel Genealogical Society have scheduled three inscription days. See pages 5 and 6 for more information about this very worthwhile endeavor.

Our Events Committee is planning to once again appear at a few events around Maryland this summer and fall. There is a need for people that can help man the Coalition's booth at: the Maryland Faerie Festival at the Patuxent 4H Center, 18405 Queen Anne Road, Upper Marlboro, MD on May 14th and 15th from 10 a.m to 6 p.m.; Hands on History Day in August at the Howard County Fairgrounds; and Olde Princess Anne Days at the Treakle Mansion in Somerset County on October 8th and 9th. Even if you can't commit to the whole day come out for an hour or two to help relieve other volunteers. If you are able to help out contact Amanda Becker at (301) 253-2688.

Committee members are planning a field trip to Dorchester County to see firsthand the Anchor of Hope Cemetery. See story on page 10. We are hoping to meet with our Dorchester and surrounding area members while we are there. If you are interested in the field trip or live in the area and can meet us at the cemetery please send an e-mail to vp@cmpbs.org with the subject line “Dorchester Cemetery”. The field trip will be scheduled on a Saturday or Sunday sometime after the Annual Meeting.

Outreach Committee

**Silent Auction Items Needed**

What is a silent auction? We have items such as a basket, candles, plates, cemetery books, etc.
and each item has a bid slip next to it. Write your bid for that item on the paper and the next person who wants that item (quietly) enters a higher bid on the slip. It continues like that until the auction is ended and the highest bidder wins that item.

It is a great activity and all proceeds will be given to the Coalition to help Maryland cemeteries. If you have any new or gently used items such as candles, cemetery-related stuff, plates, quilts, trains, seashells, picnic baskets, etc. that you no longer need or use please consider passing the item along for use in our silent auction. Please bring your items to the annual meeting or contact me at acedgehill@hotmail.com or 301-253-2688 for more information or for the items to be taken off your hands!

BE CREATIVE!
Amanda Becker

**Nomination Committee Report**

The Nominating Committee consisting of Diane Nesmeyer and Robert Mosko has prepared the following slate of nominees and the nominees have indicated their willingness to serve, if elected. The ballot will be presented for vote by the general membership at the Annual Meeting on April 16, 2011, to be held in Thurmont, Frederick County, MD. Nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to the vote but will be subject to the nominee accepting the nomination.

**Officers: Treasurer, and Secretary are up for election.**

- Treasurer: open (2-year term)
- Secretary: Eileen McGuckian (2-year term)

**Board of Directors (new two-year term):**

- Thomas Mason        Prince George's
- Paul Miller         Howard County
- Kristin Kraske      Howard County
- Brenda McNeal       Howard County
- Sandra Wright       Montgomery County
- Gerhardt Kraske     Howard County
- Brenda McNeal       Howard County
- Robert Mosko

**Board of Directors beginning their second year and not up for re-election:**

- Candy Warden       Baltimore County
- James Lanier       Baltimore County

**Officer Bio:**

Eileen McGuckian (Rockville, Montgomery County) has been interested in the history and preservation of cemeteries for decades and is a charter member of CPMBS. She retired recently from Peerless Rockville, the local preservation nonprofit that conducted an inventory of historic burial grounds in Montgomery County over the past five years. She currently serves on the boards of nonprofit associations that govern Rockville and Higgins cemeteries.

**Cemetery Events**

**Rockville Union Cemetery**

There is a walking tour scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2011 at 10 a.m.
The tour is free but reservations are required.
http://www.montgomeryhistory.org/education_calendar

**Anne Arundel Genealogical Society**

**Cemetery Inscription Days**

Who: YOU and your friends
What: Help the Society to transcribed information from very old tombstones for use by genealogy researchers.

**Where:** Cedar Bluff Cemetery, Annapolis
**When:** Saturday, May 15, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
**Directions:** Rt. 50 to Rowe Blvd. Go through 2 traffic lights then bear right to Calvert Street. Go right on Clay Street and right again on Washington St. Park along Northwest Street. Enter the cemetery through the chain link fence - cemetery is on the left side if facing the creek (St. Anne’s cemetery is on the right)
**Questions/raindate:** Tina Simmons at 410-978-7167
| When: Saturday, July 9, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | News from the Counties |
| Directions: Rt. 50 to Rowe Blvd. Go through 2 traffic lights then bear right to Calvert Street. Go right on Clay Street and right again on Washington St. Park along Northwest Street. Enter the cemetery (brick walled one) from the back entrance, closest to the water. | Anne Arundel County |
| Questions/raindate: Tina Simmons at 410-978-7167 | Patuxent Research Refuge, |

**Greent Mount Cemetery Walking Tours**

Saturday, May 7, 14, 21, 28.

Opened in 1839 as the city's first urban-rural cemetery, Green Mount is the final resting place of Johns Hopkins, Enoch Pratt, William and Henry Walters, Mary Elizabeth Garrett, Theodore McKeldin, John Wilkes Booth, Betsy Patterson, Walter Lord, and other famous Marylanders. Tours begin at 9:30 a.m. from the main gate located at Greenmount Avenue and East Oliver Street, and are led by Baltimore historian and educator Wayne R. Schaumburg. Reservations are required. For information, call 410-256-2180, or email: wayne.schaumburg@gmail.com.

**The Association for Gravestone Studies Conference**

The 34th Annual Conference and Meeting for the AGS will be held at Colby College in Waterville, Maine on June 14-19, 2011. More information will be posted in the coming months at http://www.gravestonestudies.org/conference.htm

**Patuxent Wildlife Refuge North Tract Cemetery Tour**

On February 26th a small group from the Coalition met Dennis Green and Tina Simmons at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge North Tract. Dennis Green is the primary volunteer maintenance person for the cemeteries located in the North Tract. The sites we visited were mostly family burial grounds that were part of the eminent domain proceedings that changed land ownership to the Federal Government in 1917 and eventually became part of Fort Meade. The home sites have disappeared and the cemeteries are slowly being uncovered by the persistence and commitment of Dennis Green.

Patuxent Wildlife Refuge was established in 1936 but the North Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge was a military training area for Fort Meade. In 1991 the 8,000+ acres was transferred to the Refuge. Most of the North Tract is open to the public but the cemeteries we visited are mostly hidden from the main roads.

We met Dennis and Tina Simmons at the gate off Route 198 in Anne Arundel County. After signing waivers the group headed out in two vehicles and spent the next 3 hours visiting a total of 8 burial grounds. One of the 8 was a pet cemetery. Some in the group believe the area may have one time contained the veterinary clinic for Fort Meade. The
markers were in two rows, evenly spaced, and for the most part similar in design. The markers contained a cement base with a metal plate announcing the pet’s name, the family that owned the pet, and the date of death. Most of the pets died in the late 60s, early 70s.

We asked Dennis how many cemeteries there are and he responded, "When people ask me how many cemeteries there are on the North Tract I generally say at least 10 with maybe 5 or 6 unknowns or those that in all probability have not been seen in over 40 + years, total = 16. I also mention the one pet cemetery on the North Tract.". When time permits Dennis hikes off the main roads looking for evidence of the old home sites that may lead to the uncovering of yet another burial ground.

Pictures of the cemeteries can be found at:
Woodward Burying Ground  
http://www.flickr.com/photos/melvis/sets/72157626184336910/show/  
Hopkins Cemetery  
http://www.flickr.com/photos/melvis/sets/72157626184397338/show/  
Duvall Cemetery  
http://www.flickr.com/photos/melvis/sets/72157626184434498/show/  
Snowden Cemetery  
http://www.flickr.com/photos/melvis/sets/72157626059139747/show/  
Biggs and Waters Cemetery  
http://www.flickr.com/photos/melvis/sets/72157626184553182/show/  
St Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church Cemetery  
http://www.flickr.com/photos/melvis/sets/72157626059221805/show/  
Pet Cemetery  
http://www.flickr.com/photos/melvis/sets/72157626184613876/show/  
D-E Road Cemetery  
http://www.flickr.com/photos/melvis/sets/72157626184634672/show/  
The group was impressed with Dennis’ commitment to the cemeteries and appreciated the opportunity to see these sites and to hear the stories of the work being done by the volunteers at the North Tract.

Diane Nesmeyer  
Baltimore City  
St. Vincent Cemetery Restoration Group  
February 12, 2011  
Three members of the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites attended the meeting for the St. Vincent Cemetery Restoration Group on February 12, 2011, at the historic Clifton Mansion in Baltimore City. In addition to the members of the St. Vincent’s group, City Councilwoman Mary Pat Clark and Jeavonna Chapman, Director, Friends of Clifton Park were in attendance.

The group discussed developing the cemetery into a memorial park, the problems with erosion and sediment control, and the invasive vegetation, especially the trees. The group also discussed the need to locate more descendants who still reside in the Baltimore area.

The group discussed the necessity for funding through grant assistance. In order to obtain grant funding it was found to be necessary for the group to reorganize as a nonprofit corporation in the name of Friends of St. Vincent Cemetery.

Stephanie Town volunteered to begin the process of organizing and incorporating, with the intention of applying for a 501(c)(3) status through the IRS, the Friends of St. Vincent Cemetery. Jeavonna Chapman, with her extensive experience with nonprofits, volunteered to help find grants and to write the applications for said grants.

The next meeting will be held on March 12, 2011, at Clifton Mansion.

Minutes submitted by Stephanie Town were summarized here by Diane Nesmeyer  
German Family Burial Ground  
Northern Parkway and Hilltop Avenue  
Baltimore City  
In November the Coalition was contacted by Lance McPherson about the German Family Burial
Ground. Mr. McPherson and neighbors have been trying to protect the burial ground for the past year or so. Mr. McPherson reports that markers have gradually disappeared over the years, that lots have been subdivided, the mention of the burial ground has been removed from the city plats, and it appears that when the economy improves a building will be built on the site. Neighbors monitor the site and the marker for a War of 1812 veteran, Moses A. Dysart, is on an adjoining property.

Notice provided at the site of the German Family Burial Ground

An e-mail was sent to Mr. McPherson telling him that we would be able to visit in the afternoon of February 12th and that any information on the history of the property would be appreciated. We have not heard back from Mr. McPherson but did visit the German Family Burial Ground on February 12th. Here is a link to Melvin Mason’s pictures that he posted on Flickr. http://www.flickr.com/photos/melvis sets/72157625917135289/

We were able to discern indentations that could very well be burials. We saw periwinkle growing on the lot and some bricks that could have at one time been used as a base for a marker or part of a vault. No one challenged us while we were on site. The yellow house nearby is a new construction that has an active listing with Value First Realty.

According to online research we found the following posting from late 2009 about this burial ground.

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/starspangled200/message/80 The advice given was to contact the State Attorney’s office in Baltimore. It appears that there are a couple of people interested in this site. We do not know if the people have connected and what action, if any, has been done.

We will continue to attempt contacts with Mr. McPherson and any update will be included in future editions of the Courier.

Diane Nesmeyer

The following is information received from Mr. McPherson soon after my article was written. It is being reprinted here with permission.

There is a fairly long (recent) history on the legal aspects of the burying ground. I was drawn into this because the German’s are part of my ancestry (this line through marriage). One of the neighbors of the property contacted me in fall of 2009 because the property had been mis-characterized by Baltimore City as a building lot and accrued property taxes. Those taxes went unpaid and an individual bought the lot for $4500 in back taxes. They took a backhoe to the lot and turned up much of it. Their action probably disturbed many of the graves. Neighbors stopped their action by calling WBFF-45 TV. A news story was aired twice on Memorial Day 2009. The new owners then followed the legal path and a hearing was held in Baltimore City Circuit Court in October 2009. I testified and the judge recognized that the lot was a burying ground. Unfortunately, the judge also declared it to be an abandoned burying ground and allowed the sale of the lot as a building lot. The new developer paid $24K and listed the property “to be built.” The judge may not have issued clear instructions to the new owners on how to locate and relocate graves and we are waiting for the next shoe to drop. Neighbors keep an eye out for construction equipment and have posted signs that may alert future buyers to the graves still being present. So far, no building.

The next step would be to ensure that anyone digging there has the appropriate permit from the Baltimore City State's Attorney for removal of the graves. The direct line relative (Al German) lives in Ocean City and I keep him apprised of the situation. He is one of 3 who would have “standing” before the courts. The other 2 are not interested in preserving the burying ground.
I had sought the support of members of the Star Spangled 200th anniversary group and they have offered suggestions as well. I'll have to check out their posting. With the anniversary coming up, more public support may be available.

In the category of interesting tidbits, someone came by years ago and removed all of the tombstones but one. That stone is the tombstone of Moses A Dysart, a War of 1812 veteran located near the site.

We'll keep fighting the good fight.

Lance

**Baltimore County**

Catonsville Times

Mystery surrounds displaced headstones in old Catonsville cemetery

By Lauren Fulbright

January 7, 2011

Historian Louis Diggs wrote about the “Harristown Cemetery” in his 1995 book entitled “It All Started On Winters Lane”. The book discusses black American history in the Catonsville area. According to Mr. Diggs some of the headstones that he wrote about in his book are now missing and others are propped on top of other markers or lying face up in the dirt. Mr. Diggs claims that stones are not going to stand for 100 years and then fall such as he witnessed at the site in November.

The owners of the adjacent property admit to working on their property by cutting down some trees and undergrowth but claim they did not touch the gravestones. An inspector from the Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management visited the site and noted that tree cutting had occurred and found evidence of two exhumed grave plots. Unfortunately due to the overgrowth it was difficult to determine the status of these graves.

A county spokesperson referred the matter to the Office of Cemetery Oversight who was unable to provide assistance because they cannot regulate the site since it is not an active cemetery. The OCO referred Mr. Diggs to the Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office. The State's Attorney wrote to the property owners regarding the removal of funerary objects being a criminal action.

[Note: The beginning of the article indicated that the Kims were owners of the adjacent land and were trying to clean up their property. The letter sent to the Kims by the State’s Attorney states, “It has come to my attention that concerns have been raised over headstones and grave sites located on your property”. It is not clear if the burial ground is on the Kims’ property or not.

There did not appear to be any resolution to Mr. Digg’s problem. The entire article can be found at http://www.exploreharristowninbaltimore.com/news/110608/mystery-surrounds-displaced-headstones/]

[See additional information on page 7 of the Winter 2010-2011 issue of the Courier.]

[http://www.louisdiggs.com/lane/]

Summary by Diane Nesmeyer

baltimoresun.com

Neighbors see threat to Pikesville cemetery “park”

State's highest court to hear Baltimore County case

By Arthur Hirsch, The Baltimore Sun

February 16, 2011

Neighbors, community associations, and cemetery plot owners filed suit in 2006 claiming that the provisions of a 100-year old deed says that the Druid Ridge Cemetery in Pikesville can only be used for burials and mausoleums. The Baltimore County Circuit Court and Maryland Court of Special Appeals has rejected their arguments but the Maryland Court of Appeals has agreed to hear the case.

The 209-acre cemetery currently has 41,515 people interred there. 96 acres remain undeveloped and 36 acres of the 96 is at the center of the suit. The acreage is along Parke Heights Avenue and Druid Ridge LLP wants to purchase from Druid Ridge Cemetery Co. this land for the development of 56 semi-detached single-family houses.

Summary by Diane Nesmeyer

Catonsville Times

Book corner: Interest in genealogy led to Catonsville cemetery

By Brian Conlin
December 22, 2010

Michelle Miller took pictures of the tombstones in Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery and conducted substantial research for the book of the same name. According to Miller, “The cemetery has been there since 1849 and records have been more or less kept, but there is no single source of information for all the burials. I thought it would be interesting to have a complete listing of the burials.” The main work of typing and putting the book together took the last year to do in her spare time. The target audience is people interested in the history of the church and those researching their family trees.

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

[Note: The book is for sale for $20 with $3.50 postage and packaging. Checks should be made payable to Historical Old Salem, Inc. c/o Michele Miller, 6207 Beechwood Road, Baltimore, MD 21239. Please remember to include your full name and address for mailing. Please call Michelle at 410-377-4169 or Sharon at 410-744-8724 for more information.]

**Dorchester County**

Maryland Life Magazine
Anchor of Hope Cemetery
Posted 2/28/2011
by Jennifer Keats Curtis

Anchor of Hope Cemetery is the final resting place of 150 Marylanders. The cemetery was nominated by Donald Willey as an Endangered Maryland site because if erosion cannot be controlled the remains will soon be washed into the Chesapeake Bay. Willey owns adjacent acreage and is hoping to find enough funding to obtain a state permit to install support material to help retain the area. The funding would also be used to purchase the materials and labor necessary to install the supporting material and shore up the property.

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

[Note: Eileen McGuckian is a member of the Coalition.]

**Office of Cemetery Oversight**

The dates for the next few OCO Advisory Board meetings:
- April 28 - 10:00 AM - 01:00 PM
- June 23 - 10:00 AM - 01:00 PM
- July 28 - 10:00 AM - 01:00 PM
- September 22 - 10:00 AM - 01:00 PM
- October 27 - 10:00 AM - 01:00 PM

I can't make the June meeting. If there is a member willing to attend the meeting which is historically held at the downtown Baltimore DLLR office. The address is: 500 North Calvert Street 2nd Floor Conference Room Baltimore, Maryland 21202. If
anyone has any questions about the meetings they can call or e-mail me. My contact information can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Brenda McNeal

**Legislation**

HB 865 and SB 352
Office of Cemetery Oversight - Cemetery Financial Statement – Requirements
Requiring a specified financial statement of an existing cemetery business that sells burial goods to contain a copy of the balance sheet from the last federal tax return filed by the business or a balance sheet on a specified form; and repealing a provision that requires a specified cemetery business to submit as a part of a required financial statement a specified statement and review prepared by a certified public accountant.

HB 556
Business Regulation - Cemeteries - Forfeited Rights to Interment
Authorizing a cemetery to initiate proceedings for the forfeiture of the right to interment under specified circumstances; requiring a cemetery that initiates a proceeding for the forfeiture of the right to interment to provide a specified notice; authorizing an owner or family member of the owner of a right to interment to suspend specified forfeiture proceedings in a specified manner; etc.

HB 469 and SB 353
Cemeteries - Perpetual Care and Preneed Burial Contracts Trust Accounts - Report Filing Deadline Extension
Authorizing the Director of the Office of Cemetery Oversight to grant to specified persons subject to specified trust requirements under provisions of law a specified extension of time in which to file specified reports relating to the perpetual care trust fund of a cemetery and the preneed burial contracts trust account of a seller of preneed goods and services; etc.

**Minutes of the November 14, 2010 Board Meeting**

1:15 PM Miller Library, Ellicott City, Maryland

Because there were not enough officers and board of directors for a quorum an unofficial meeting was held.

In attendance – President Melvin Mason, Treasurer Kristin Kraske, Board of Directors Brenda McNeal, Robert Mosko, members and guests – Leonard Becraft, Dennis Green, Diane Nesmeyer, Tina Simmons, Stephanie Town, Marianne Greenfield and Amanda Becker.

Guest speakers were Stephanie Town of St. Vincent Cemetery and Tina Simmons of Anne Arundel Genealogical Society.

Minutes of past meeting were published in the Courier.

Treasurer’s Report (Kristin Kraske) 88 total members, 2 new members and paying members 78
Estimated worth of bank account through November 14, 2010 $9,861.21.

Courier and Web Page Report (Diane Nesmeyer) Courier has been sent to printer. New members will be put in next Courier. The web site has new up to date pages.

Archives Report (Amanda Becker) No one showed up at two meetings to work on Archives hence no report.

Annual Meeting Report (Diane Nesmeyer) Pending group meeting at Apples United Church of Christ in Thurmont, Maryland for review of space and potential site.

Leonard Becraft expressed ideas for VFW 2012 in Ellicott City for potential site.

Tri-Board Report (President Mason) Tri-Board was accidently destroyed on trip to event. President Mason to take it home to work on new tri-board.

Awards and Scholarships (President Mason) 2 Periwinkle awards are up for nomination per Candy Warden

Fundraising (Amanda Becker) Sold $171.00 from Ravens Roost Gift Shop at 2 autumn events.

Outreach (Diane Nesmeyer) Outreach Handbook in final stages. Next meeting set for January 30, 2011 in Wheaton, MD
Minutes of the January 30, 2011
Board Meeting
Miller Library, Ellicott City, Maryland

In Attendance:
OFFICERS: President Melvin Mason, Vice-President Jeff Nesmeyer

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

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXCUSED: Treasurer Kristin Kraske, Director Candy Warden and Director James Lanier

MEMBERS AND GUESTS: Diane Nesmeyer, Barbara Seig, Tina Simmons, John Wright, Amanda Becker and Aleta Gravelle

The Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Inc. board meeting was called to order by President Mason at 1:15 pm. A quorum was noted.

Guest speaker and founding member, Barbara Seig, shared with the group the purpose and update of the Whipps Garden Cemetery, Ellicott City, MD. She introduced Aleta Gravelle, a Master Gardener, who will be in charge of the Whipps Garden Cemetery as Mrs. Seig is stepping down as leader.

This cemetery was purchased in 1855 by William Whipps as a family burial ground. Later lots were sold to other families. The last burials were in the early 1900’s. From then on the cemetery had become in disrepair, overgrown and forgotten. In 1987, members of the St. John’s Community Association and the Whipps family changed all that. They formed a friend’s group, the Friends of the Whipps Cemetery with volunteers, Master Gardeners, and dedicated cemetery enthusiasts.

The group works once a week taking care of the cemetery from April to November. This cemetery has become a garden cemetery in the style of garden cemeteries in the 19th century. Mrs. Seig spoke of the beauty of the cemetery with its wandering paths and tranquil gardens (Rose, Herb, and Butterfly) and how this special place has become a meditative area for visitors.

The Whipps Garden Cemetery is a way to have perpetual care of a cemetery in an unique way.

It was suggested that during our Annual Meeting the Whipps Garden Cemetery pamphlets be given out and that time be allotted for a brief introduction by Ms. Gravelle.

Next on the agenda was last meetings report. There was no quorum at the last meeting, November 14, 2010, so no business meeting was held. Instead notes were written about the meeting.

Treasurer’s Report was given by Board member, Gerhardt Kraske, substituting for the Treasurer.

Estimated worth of the bank account through January 30, 2011 is $10,187.00. Income and expenses were $642.15 and $307.12. Cash in hand $130.00 and the Susquehanna CD being $1,777.55.

The Coalition has 3 new members this quarter along with 81 paying members and 10 non-paying members. Total listed including new members in 91 members. A quarter of the Coalition’s members are from out of state. Montgomery, Howard, Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties and Baltimore city are were where the majority of the rest of the members are from.

Courier and Web Page Report were given by member Diane Nesmeyer. The Courier article deadline will be March 15, 2010. Please email articles to Mrs. Nesmeyer. The web site has been updated as of January 7, 2010, and the county pages are in the process of being updated.

Annual Meeting Report given by Mrs. Nesmeyer. Members for this committee include President Mason, Vice-President Nesmeyer, Board members Thomas Mason, Robert Mosko and members Mrs. Nesmeyer and Amanda Becker. Apples United Church of Christ in Thurmont, Maryland is the site for the April 16th meeting. This is a 6-acre cemetery with more than 250 gravestones. There will be a cemetery workshop given by Mr. Mosko, and an iconography workshop given by Mrs. Nesmeyer. The Periwinkle awards will be given, a silent auction will be held and the Ravens Roost will present their wares for sale. If weather per-
mits we will have lunch outside the church at their pavilion. In the morning breakfast snacks will be available with a catered lunch later in the day.

The Outreach Committee report was given by Mrs. Nesmeyer. The Outreach Handbook in nearing its completion. This handbook is more than 121 pages without the index. The Outreach Committee has written this book over the last two years. The group has been meeting at the Wheaton Masonic Lodge. Vice-President Nesmeyer made a motion for a donation of $100.00 to be given to the Wheaton Masonic Lodge for the use of its room. Mr. Mosko seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Outreach Committee is set for January 30, 2011 in Wheaton, MD. All are welcome.

Fundraising efforts have been going well this quarter. About $161.00 of sales from the Ravens Roost Gift Shop had been made this past quarter according to member Amanda Becker. Final tallies will be made when all checks are given to the Treasurer. Discussions about getting a credit card account for the Coalition were met with favor. The credit card account would be especially helpful at events. The Officers and Board want to see a total net of the Ravens Roost. Treasurer Kraske will be asked to review this.

President Mason responded about the tri-board project. The tri-board was accidently destroyed on a trip to an event last year. President Mason has researched local businesses and on-line stores to replace the board for the upcoming events and Annual Meeting. Costs of boards and flyers of what they look like were passed around. Vice-President Nesmeyer made a motion as to the Coalition buying a new tri-board not to exceed $1000.00. Mr. Mosko seconded it. None were opposed and the motion passed. President Mason requested that everyone send in photos and new verbiage to him so he can add it to the new tri-board.

As Board members and Periwinkle Awards Chairs Candy Warden and Jim Lanier were not able to attend the meeting, President Mason relayed the message that there are 3 nominees for the award. One nominee did not get back in touch with the Coalition. Guidelines had been made for this award. The Coalition prefers nominees to have safe conservation methods used for their projects.

Events for the upcoming season were being worked on by Ms. Becker. Princess Anne Days and Hands on History Days are two events the Coalition has been invited back to. Final dates of those have not been finalized. Board member Brenda McNeal has volunteered to help at Hands on History Day. Peerless Rockville, Anne Arundel cemetery transcribing days, Farmer’s markets and county and state fairs have been mentioned for the Coalition to attend.

Mrs. McNeal has been diligently attending the Office of Cemetery Oversight Advisory Board meetings. This committee has created a draft of cemetery legislation and ideas. They would like political backing for this measure. Having county cemetery coordinators, grants for cemeteries, adopting a cemetery, and a fund for Maryland cemeteries are some of the draft of this project. It was decided that the Coalition would like to learn more about this and add suggestions if allowed. The next OCO meeting is March 24.

Mrs. Nesmeyer of the Nominating Committee along with Mr. Mosko will be contacting members to gather a slate of Officers and Board of Directors.

The CPMBS Brochure has been worked on by Vice-President Nesmeyer. Help is needed for this pamphlet.

The St. Mary’s County Historic Preservation Commission is in the process of cataloging the cemeteries within St. Mary’s County. There are currently 186 known cemeteries and the Commission is asking the public to share information about burials that they are aware exist either on their land or located elsewhere within the county.

St. Vincent’s Cemetery Restoration Group will be meeting on February 12 at the original Johns Hopkins Estate, Clifton Mansion in Baltimore City.

The Coalition has been invited to a tour of the cemeteries located at the Patuxent Research Refuge (North Tract). The February 26th tour will be led by Dennis Green and will begin at 9:00 am. There are spaces for eight members.
Member Tina Simmons and the Anne Arundel Genealogical Society will be holding three inscription days in 2011. The tentative dates are May 14, July 16 and September 17. The locations will be St. Anne’s and Cedar Bluffs in Annapolis and Holy Cross Cemetery in Brooklyn Park. All members are invited to attend and help collect the data from the grave markers.

Tina Simmons discussed a burial ground at the Maryland House of Corrections in Anne Arundel County. She found a plaque erected about the burial ground but has been unable to locate who erected the plaque, who is buried there, or where the burial grounds are located. Death certificates have been researched as well as other records. The Department of Corrections was contacted but had no information for Ms. Simmons. She is looking for a fresh perspective on her research.

President Mason received an e-mail from Mr. Lance McPherson about the German Family Burial Ground located at the intersection of Hilltop Avenue and Northern Parkway in Baltimore City. Mr. McPherson provided copies of plats that show the burial ground in the records from 1931 but the notation disappeared in the 1985 plat. The property has been sold and the purchaser wishes to develop it. There is a veteran from the War of 1812 buried there.

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting in Thurmont on April 16th. The next time the Board will meet will be May 1st at the Miller Library.

The meeting adjourned at 3:11 pm
Respectively submitted,
Amanda Becker
Secretary Pro-tem

New Members this Quarter
Mrs. Bridget Black Montgomery County
Mr. Karl J. Parrish Wilmington, DE

Quarterly Board Meeting
Sunday, May 1, 2011, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m.
Miller Branch of the Howard County Library
9421 Frederick Road

Ellicott City, MD
This is the first meeting after the election of officers and directors. The President will set the agenda for the next year and make committee assignments.

All members are encouraged to attend and learn more about what the Coalition has planned for the next year.
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

2011 Publication Deadlines

Spring  March 15, 2011
Summer  June 15, 2011
Fall    September 15, 2011
Winter December 15, 2011

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.

2010-2011 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    Kristin Kraske (410) 461-6313
treas@cpmbs.org
Recording Secretary   Vacant
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
Gerhardt Kraske  (Howard County)  (410) 730-8278
gpkbmkmd@aol.com
Candy Warden  (Baltimore County)  (443) 341-6433
rosabonheursociety@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  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
___Renewal

Annual Membership Rates:
Individual………………………$ 10
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 Burial Sites, Inc.
P.O. Box 1533
Ellicott City, MD 21041-1533

Can you help us in our various efforts? Please list occupations / skills / interest. ____________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________

Coalition Courier
P. O. Box 1533
Ellicott City, MD 21041-1533

Forwarding & Return Postage Guaranteed
Address Correction Requested