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

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Apples United Church of Christ was the setting for the 20th Annual Meeting

On Saturday, April 16, 2011, the members descended on Apples United Church of Christ for the Coalition’s 20th Annual Meeting. There were a total of 33 people that braved the torrential rainstorms to attend the meeting.

The members arrived, registered, and collected their gift bags that included a tote bag, the Coalition’s 20th Anniversary water bottle and notebook, pens graciously donated by Union Cemetery, a postcard of the monument to Barbie Fritchie, and Frederick County Tourism magazine, event calendar and covered bridge flyer. Amanda Becker was responsible for planning the gift bags as well as collecting the items that were included in the bag. The members enjoyed refreshments of bagels, pastries, muffins, fruit, and juices.

The silent auction table opened early in the morning with many items, donated by the members, available for bidding. Frances Becker graciously manned the gift shop again this year while Amanda Becker helped to make sure everything for the meeting ran smoothly.

At 9 a.m. President Melvin Mason opened the meeting. He welcomed all who made the trip to Thurmont and gave his report. His message can be found beginning on page 3. Kristin Kraske gave the Treasurer’s report. The minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved. The Outreach Committee presented the members with a copy of the Coalition’s Guide to Burial Site Stewardship. The 132-page handbook came to fruition with the combined efforts of Melvin and Thomas Mason, Amanda Becker, Robert Mosko, Brenda McNeal, and Jeff and Diane Nesmeyer over an almost 3-year period. Various other committee chairs reported their committee activities for the year.
The elections were next on the agenda. Secretary Eileen McGuckian and Treasurer Jac Knust were each elected to a two-year term. President Melvin Mason and Vice President Jeff Nesmeyer will begin the second year of their two-year term. Thomas Mason, Paul Miller, Kristin Kraske, Sandra Wright, Brenda McNeal, Gerhardt Kraske, Barbara Kraske, and Robert Mosko were each elected to a two-year term as Directors. Candy Warden and James Lanier will begin the second year of their two-year term as Directors. Candy Warden and Kristin Kraske announced the recipients of the Periwinkle Awards for 2011. Candy and Melvin Mason presented the award to Dennis Green and Tina Simmons for their work at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge North Tract. Kristin and Melvin Mason presented the award to Edward Taylor and the Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization for the work in cemeteries in Allegany County. Additional information regarding their work can be found beginning on page 4. Each recipient spoke about their projects and/or organizations.

The Outreach Committee led a discussion of the issues involving the St. Vincent’s Cemetery Restoration Group in Baltimore. Several members stepped forward with ideas and suggestions and planned to attend the next board meeting to meet directly with representatives of the group. The Committee also discussed the German Family Burial Ground in Baltimore (last reported in the Spring issue of the Courier).

Mr. Mel Allen of Your Country Coffin attended the meeting with his wife. He brought and set up one of his coffins to which he had added bookshelves. The idea is to use your coffin as a home furnishing until you need it at the end of your life. Mr. Allen’s website is http://yourcountrycoffin.com/index.html

Before lunch the church’s historian, Roger Troxell (pictured below) discussed the history of the church and after lunch showed the members some of the church’s artifacts.

I presented my Cemetery Symbolism program, to include a slide show of common and not-so-common symbols found in cemeteries, and Robert Mosko discussed his plan for the cemetery. The advertising for the Annual Meeting indicated that the Robert’s workshop would be held no matter the weather but the rain came down so hard and the ground was so saturated that it would not have been safe to conduct the preservation workshop outside. Safety is a number one priority for Robert (and the Coalition).

At 3 p.m. the gift shop closed and the silent auction ended. Both endeavors were declared a success. A further report on the silent auction can be found on page 6.

At the conclusion of the meeting the members sloshed their way to their cars and drove home under the threat of severe thunderstorms in the area.

The Annual Meeting was a success. There was a fair turnout. Our treasurer reported a profit. The Coalition’s Guide to Burial Site Stewardship was unveiled. We have a full Board of Directors and the
Officer positions are filled for the coming year. Your Board is ready to tackle the coming year.

Diane Nesmeyer

[Note: Eileen McGuckian and Gary and Barbara Kraske have graciously stepped forward to serve on the 2012 Annual Meeting Committee. The date and location will be announced later.]

Editors’ Corner

We are still very excited over the activities of the Coalition the last several months. At the Annual Meeting the Outreach Committee unveiled the new Coalition’s Guide to Burial Site Stewardship. This guide updates the Preservation Handbook that was first printed in 1997 and culminates almost three years of meetings by the members of the Committee. The Outreach Committee Report begins on page 8 will bring you up-to-date on our current activities and to report on the cemetery-related activities that are coming up in the next couple of months.

The date for the Annual Meeting has come and gone. Thirty-three members braved the weather and came to Thurmont. We held elections and the new Board is in place with one meeting already under their belts. A more detailed report about the Annual Meeting, the Periwinkle Award recipients, and the Silent Auction activities can be begins on page 1.

Please remember to submit your articles in electronic format and photographs should be in digital format. We regretfully don’t have much free time between our jobs and other Coalition activities to type articles and scan pictures. Your cooperation is appreciated.

We would like to thank Melanie Ayres Merryweather, Amanda Becker, Melvin Mason, Eileen McGuckian, Robert Mosko, Kristin Kraske, Candy Warden, Ed Taylor, Jr., Tina Simmons, Dennis Green, Pat Warner, and Stephanie Town for their contributions to this issue.

Diane and Jeff Nesmeyer

President’s Report
Presented at the Annual Meeting

Welcome to the 20th Annual Meeting of the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites. I am thrilled with the attendance and the enthusiasm that the members have shown in both coming today and in the activities we have participated in this year.

We have seen an increase in participation by the membership; we have increased our visibility in the community; and we have volunteers for both the secretary and treasurer.

I have to express my sincerest thanks and appreciation for the members of the Outreach Committee; Jeff Nesmeyer, Diane Nesmeyer, Robert Mosko, Amanda Becker, Brenda McNeal and Tom Mason. It has been a long and arduous journey for the committee as they worked diligently on the Outreach Manual; they have made many road trips to investigate the issues that the Coalition receives; for their time and efforts in answering the high volume of questions posed to the Coalition; and for being the active voice and face of the coalition.

As we move forward, we have to take the coalition to the next level of stewardship and mentoring for those who seek our assistance and guidance.

In the coming year, we have plans to actively make presentations to the various groups that seek us out; we are in the initial stages of developing workshops in basic cemetery rescue and stone resetting as well as other areas of outreach.
A sampling of some of the ideas we have include: “I HAVE FALLEN AND I CAN'T GET UP”, a workshop with basic cemetery marker repair, recording information, and taking photographs of stones; “HERE'S THE DIRT - FINDING A LOST TOMBSTONE FIND ITS WAY HOME” The research involved in finding the home for lost tombstones. How did it get from where it was to where it was found? Can we find where it belongs? Making arrangements for returning the stone to its proper place; “KEEPING OUR HEADSTONES ABOVE WATER. “WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF BURIAL SITES BEING LOST TO EROSION IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY?” Includes basic recordkeeping and visits to a bay-side cemetery in danger.

Thank you Amanda for developing the outline for these projects.

We already have plans to visit the Travis Anchor of Hope Cemetery in Dorchester County. This is one of the Endangered Maryland sites for 2011 and a featured article in the Maryland Life magazine.

It has been suggested that we beef up the quarterly meetings with presentations and speakers. We are lining up interesting presentations and looking for speakers.

These are ambitious undertakings and the success of both the projects and the coalition rests on the participation of the members. We call on each one of you to participate in some way and help us help those who place their trust in us.

The 2012 Annual Meeting and election of officers is a topic we cannot ignore. We will need to start planning before the end of the summer. For 2012 we will need to advance the Vice President (if he so accepts the challenge) or elect both a President and Vice President.

I believe the Coalition is in a very strong position to continue its work in the community.

Today we will release the long awaited “handbook”. Version two is already in the works.

We are recognizing two groups of people for their active roles in promoting the goals and objective the coalition was formed to do. Two other groups that drew our interest and admiration could not be here today; they may be recognized in future awards ceremonies. In the past we had a small sampling of award candidates to choose from; we now have many worthy exemplars, too many to process in the short time and within the resources we have available. This is a good thing.

This afternoon we will break into two groups; one to take us on a journey of stone repairs and stabilization led b Robert Mosko and a series of lectures on symbolism, gravestone rubbings, photography, and the handbook led by Diane Nesmeyer.

The weather notwithstanding, we will cap a very successful and fruitful year and embarking on an even more ambitious and purposeful one.

I hope you enjoy today's meeting and are able to take something of value from it. I, as well as the rest of the Outreach Committee, look forward to working with you in making the Coalition the “go to” organization in the state.

Thank you,
Melvin

**Periwinkle Award Recipients for 2011**

The Coalition, in its efforts to bring the plight of historic cemeteries to the forefront, has created the Periwinkle Award as its annual award for recognition of individuals and organizations that have helped to save Maryland’s burial sites from neglect, desecration, and other illegal activities. The Coalition looks for individuals or groups who have shown outstanding personal and/or organizational efforts, who are committed to continuing the protection of their burial sites, and who have persevered with their mission even when facing insurmountable odds. The periwinkle plant (also called vinca minor) was chosen because it was planted in 18th and 19th century cemeteries as a beautiful flowering ground cover that was both durable and maintenance-free.

Two of our winners this year were Dennis Green and Tina Simmons. During the first week of April 2009 Dennis Green contacted the Coalition regarding a pet cemetery that he had discovered in the Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge North Tract. Dennis has been volunteering with this group since 2004. James Lanier and Candy Warden visited with Dennis at the North Tract the following week and...
toured the pet cemetery with him. After finishing the tour at the pet cemetery Dennis mentioned that he also took care of other cemeteries on the grounds. The tour then extended to visiting the other cemeteries, which in all totaled around 7 cemeteries including the pet cemetery. Dennis was performing all of the maintenance work for these cemeteries and tried to encourage other volunteers to also perform maintenance on them. Needless to say we were impressed by the amount of work that Dennis was performing and still performs as a volunteer at the North Tract.

Tina Simmons showing her well-worn Anne Arundel County Map

During the last two years Dennis (pictured at the top of the next column) has teamed up with Tina Simmons. Tina has also performed significant work over the years in the area of cemetery preservation. For over 20 years Tina has been a member of the Anne Arundel Genealogical Society. She has written books on African-American and slave cemeteries, catalogued cemetery grounds and burials, and given presentations about cemetery preservation. Tina has been performing research work for Rosa Bonheur Society that is ongoing to today after a chance introduction during a holiday party. In teaming up together Dennis and Tina spend time virtually every week visiting and working for the preservation of Maryland cemeteries. They both continue their separate areas of cemetery work, but have also worked together in researching the cemeteries of the North Tract. They also attend workshops to broaden their knowledge of cemeteries. In addition, they also have joined and are active members of cemetery preservation groups, such as, the Coalition.

Our second winner this year was Edward Taylor, Jr. and the Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization, Inc. (CHCO). Ed and the Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization, Inc. (CHCO) need no introduction to the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Inc. (CPMBS). As founding and charter members of the Coalition, Edward Taylor and the efforts of the CHCO around Cumberland, MD, are well known to many of our members.

Edward Taylor (pictured below) is currently president of the Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization, which he founded in 1983 along with the late Katherine Wolford. Their purpose has been to support grave-sites in all manner of ways using only private effort and funds. Those efforts include adopting graveyards in the region for restoration and maintenance, restoring existing individual gravesite monuments, providing new individual monuments which also provide funding for the CHCO, and protecting, maintaining and honoring these individual sites through their protected gravesite program. All sites are maintained and honored (e.g., decoration) all year long. To
date, 11 graveyards are adopted and some 800 monuments have been restored or created.

CHCO also regularly holds memorial services in honor of the dead in the area, in addition to special Federal Memorial Day services at veterans’ sites, and memorial services in honor of Confederate History Month at Confederate veterans’ sites.

In an effort to help spread the preservation and protection of gravesites state-wide, the CHCO helped to found CPMBS in 1991 and was active from the start at efforts to better protect all sites in our state of Maryland.

Edward Taylor and the CHCO have worked almost weekly for some 25 years helping their local gravesites, as well as being active in CPMBS from the first.

Periwinkle Award Committee

Our Third Silent Auction was a Success!

At the Annual Meeting we held our third Silent Auction. I asked for donations and you answered my call. We would like to thank Leonard Becraft, Brenda McNeal, Amanda and Frances Becker, Nancy Willett, Candy Warden, Sandra Wright, Allen’s Woodwork (Your Country Coffin) Melvin and Thomas Mason, and the Nesmeyers for their donations.

There were a couple cemetery-related items including miniature wooden coffins made by Allen’s Woodwork and a gravestone rubbing by Brenda McNeal. Other items included other books, a baby blanket, a table runner, a cookie jar, glasses, Christmas items and beautiful jewelry. Thanks to all who donated and all who bid on the items. The Coalition made $277.00 and a $15.00 donation.

Amanda Becker

New Members for this Quarter

Change is good but sometimes there is a learning curve. We were unable to include new members in this issue of the Courier. Hopefully, all the communication kinks will be worked out by next issue and we will report the new members for this quarter as well as the next quarter.

If you are a new member thank you for your patience.

Minutes of the Board of Directors, Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Inc.

Quarterly Meeting of May 1, 2011

Miller Library, Ellicott City, Maryland

In attendance:

Officers: President Melvin Mason, Vice President Jeff Nesmeyer, Treasurer Jac Knust, Secretary Eileen McGuckian

Directors: Barbara Kraske, Gerhardt Kraske, Kristin Kraske, Thomas Mason, Brenda McNeal, Paul Miller, Edward W. Taylor, Jr.

Directors Excused: James Lanier, Robert Mosko, Candy Warden, Sandra Wright

Members and Guests: Laurie Becraft (Union Cemetery), Aleta Gravelle (Whipps Cemetery), Diane Nesmeyer, Barbara Sieg (founder), Christina Taylor, Stephanie Town, Pat and Sarah Warner, John Wright (Union Cemetery).

President Melvin Mason called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m., noting presence of a quorum.

Guest Speakers:

Joseph “Pat” Warner, attending with his wife Sarah, provided a history and condition assessment of Bush Creek Meeting House cemetery in Monrovia, Frederick County. The property, with 60+ known burials dating from the 1760s through the 1950s, is overgrown and subject to unwelcome traffic. The Warners, who have ancestors here, have attempted to clear out brush and trash and to garner interest from nearby Societies of Friends in Frederick and Sandy Spring. The meeting house (no longer standing) and cemetery sit on 4 acres of a 25 acre parcel shown by SDAT as owned by Rise Development Co. LLC of Clarksville. However, ownership is disputed and more documentation is needed.

Stephanie Town reported on concerns about St. Vincent’s Cemetery in Baltimore City. She leads a friends group that is organizing as a nonprofit to clean up and protect the cemetery, which now is surrounded by a public golf course and connected to a parish where the demographics and size of the congregation have changed incrementally since
1854. She described efforts to attract funds and facilitate maintenance. In discussion, endowments and perpetual care funds were mentioned as possible sources of assistance.

Diane Nesmeyer updated information about the German Family burial ground, located at Northern Parkway and Hilltop in Baltimore City. A judge had declared this to be an “abandoned” burying ground and allowed sale as a building lot. However, the property, which contains a house as well as the cemetery, is no longer for sale.

Barbara Sieg stated that CPMBS convinced the Maryland General Assembly to pass laws in the 1990s to protect cemeteries. The challenge today is to ensure that States Attorneys and County officials enforce laws that are on the books. She cited St. Mary’s Cemetery in Howard County as an example of how laws can be enforced and noted that a cemetery is not “abandoned” until the last burial is removed. Board members suggested that tightening up definitions such as “abandoned” and “accidental discovery” might be worthy legislative initiatives.

Treasurer’s Report: Outgoing treasurer Kristin Kraske presented her report. As of May 1, 2011, the bank balance is $9,430.17, with all known expenses paid to date. She was pleased to note that the 2011 Annual Meeting brought in about $500 more than it cost.

Standing Committee Reports:
President Mason noted that several committees are in need of volunteer staffing.

Diane Nesmeyer, chair of the Outreach Committee, described new initiatives: holding classes and workshops (starting with basic cemetery repair and symbolism) at Apples Church in Thurmont, weekend travelling repair workshops, a speakers bureau, and a rescue class using basic strategies. She proudly reported that the new handbook “Coalition Guide to Burial Site Stewardship” had been introduced at the annual meeting and was ready to be offered to libraries and cemetery caretakers. There was consensus that this long-awaited publication should continue to move forward for publicity and distribution.

The 2011 annual meeting was a success, despite the all-day rain. There were 33 attendees.

Gerhardt and Barbara Kraske and Eileen McGuckian volunteered to serve on a committee to organize the 2012 annual meeting.

Jeff Nesmeyer passed around copies of a proposed revision of the green multi-fold flyer that has been distributed by the Coalition for many years. He requested comments and ideas so this can be revised in time for participation in spring and summer events throughout the State.

Unfinished Business:
President Mason described contents of the panels of the reworked tri-board, used to present information about the Coalition as representatives attend various functions. He noted planned road trips and upcoming events for which Amanda Becker requests help with coverage. There was insufficient time today to fully discuss proposed changes to Coalition by-laws.

Action Items:
All board members send to Melvin their preferred date(s) for 2nd quarter 2011 board meeting.

Jeff Nesmeyer will send draft of the revised flyer to board members for comment.

Agreed to begin approaching libraries, historical societies, etc. regarding purchase of stewardship handbooks.

All board members should review the proposed changes to the by-laws in both the membership categories and clarification of meeting dates. Input on content and verbiage are needed before the next meeting.

Adjournment: There being no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen McGuckian, Secretary

Board Meeting
Sunday, July 31st, 2011
Silver Spring B & O Railroad Station
12:30 until 3:30 p.m.
The Station is a 1945 era historic building (National Register of Historic Places and locally designated).

Location: 8100 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The station is about 2 or 3 miles south of the Capital Beltway -- Georgia Avenue (MD route 97) exit, going south to Silver Spring.

Going south, the station is on the right side of Georgia Avenue. From the Beltway, you will pass Colesville Road (Route 29) -- so that's one way to come in from Howard County -- also the Silver Spring Metro station property, the large Discovery building, and other smaller shops along Georgia Avenue.

Get in your right lane after you cross Wayne Avenue, and you will then cross Bonifant and Ripley streets. Just before you get to the RR bridge that goes across Georgia Avenue, there's a new, large fire and police station on your right, and that's where you turn in. Park in spaces around the small historic brick B & O Station. There is ample parking.

Go to www.montgomerypreservation.org to see the station, which is owned by Montgomery Preservation, Inc. MPI is allowing us to use the station free of charge for our meeting.

There is a great variety of restaurants in the area if you want to come down earlier. I will provide basic refreshments for our meeting.

Eileen McGuckian

[Note: The following information was received from Mr. Pat Warner: “While in the area, the board may want to visit the old St John the Evangelist Catholic Cemetery in Forest Glen (just off of Georgia Avenue) which dates back to the 18th century when the property was the estate of the family of Daniel Carroll, a signer of the U.S. Constitution and the Articles of Confederation. A replica of the small chapel of Rev John Carroll, first Catholic bishop in the United States, is located in the cemetery.”]

[Note: All members are welcome to come to the Board Meeting.]

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**Outreach Committee**

We did it! The Coalition’s Guide to Burial Site Stewardship was printed and a copy given to the attendees of the Annual Meeting. The committee first met in August 2008 and continued to meet as often as our schedules allowed in the ensuing two and half years to work on the handbook. The 132-page guide is the collaborative efforts of Tom and Melvin Mason, Amanda Becker, Brenda McNeal, Robert Mosko, and Jeff and Diane Nesmeyer. We are in the process of making a few changes, mostly photographs, and plan to print and make available copies to Maryland libraries and historical and genealogical societies. Ann Horvath made the suggestion that we offer the guide to those entities as there is no reference book of this kind available for Maryland cemeteries. Ann also suggested that we use an “on demand” printer/publisher in Pennsylvania, which is being researched by the Committee.

Jeff and I attended the Inscription Day at Cedar Bluff Cemetery in Annapolis. We met Tina Simmons and Dennis Green at the cemetery and between rain showers were only able to transcribe the information from a few rows of grave markers. At 1 p.m. we left Tina and Dennis and headed to the Faerie Festival held in Prince Georges County. Amanda and Frances Becker were already there manning the Coalition’s booth. We arrived and spent about 3 hours helping out. See Amanda’s report and the pictures beginning on page 9. What she didn’t tell you is that the two sisters spent the entire weekend on site and brought in over $500 (gross) in sales.

Jeff and I, as well as Melvin Mason have been attending the St. Vincent Cemetery Restoration Group’s monthly meetings whenever our schedules permit. All the progress that the group made last year in removing the overgrowth and trash is beginning to regress. The church failed to hire someone to mow the weeds and the grass and weeds are getting higher with each new rainfall. Stephanie Town is working with Father Lawrence to come up with a solution. Some pictures we took of the cemetery can be found at http://www.flickr.com/photos/25903886@N00/sets/72157626783254242/.
Melvin and Thomas Mason and Jeff and I drove to Dorchester County to see firsthand the Travers Anchor of Hope Cemetery on Hooper Island. We met with Donald Willey, the man who has taken on the task of trying to prevent this burial ground from eroding into the Chesapeake Bay. We gave him a copy of the Coalition’s new Guide, copies of our newsletters, and membership applications. We listened to a 60-minute history and summary of his actions and activities. We then drove to the site and toured the cemetery. Visit http://www.flickr.com/photos/25903886@N00/sets/72157626970344769/ and http://www.flickr.com/photos/melvis/sets/72157626846982196/ for pictures of the cemetery.

On the drive home the four of us discussed the plight of the burial ground and came up with a list of activities and concerns that Mr. Willey should consider. We have composed a letter with advice that will be mailed shortly. We, in part, are suggesting that Mr. Willey create a master plan for his activities with a contingency plan for the inevitable, he should create as complete an inventory as possible of the burials, including those that have been lost, from all available records. He should incorporate as a Friends’ Group, create a website, create a brochure about the burial ground, and attempt to locate family members who may be willing to help. We hope he joins our group and continues to keep us apprised of the status of our suggested considerations.

If you like to visit cemeteries and are interested in helping out an organization that is in the process of transcribing the gravestones throughout Anne Arundel County then see page 10 for more information. Tina Simmons and the Anne Arundel Genealogical Society have two more inscription days scheduled.

Our Events Committee is planning to once again appear at a few events around Maryland this summer and fall. 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.

Diane and Jeff Nesmeyer
Outreach Committee

MARYLAND FAERIE FESTIVAL

May – the month of flowers, butterflies and faeries. What does the Coalition have to do with faeries? The Coalition was asked to attend the Maryland Faerie Festival. This festival celebrates the folklore and pageantry of faeries and love of people, the earth and spirits. Diane and Jeff Nesmeyer and Frances and Amanda Becker attended the Coalition’s booth. The Coalition’s sign was hung and foamboard tombstone shapes with epitaphs and information about the Coalition were created and likewise hung around the tent. The sign and the tombstones drew the festival goers to stop by to see “what our booth was all about”. There were plenty of visitors, purchasers, and people asking questions about the organization.

The messages on the tombstones [that Amanda created] included:

Maryland Cemeteries – Here lies a historic, artistic, irreplaceable burial site – FORGOTTEN, VAN-DALIZED, DESTROYED.

What can I do?????
(To get involved and help the plight of Maryland burial sites)
Don’t moan – use your might
Keep watch over a Maryland burial site.
Photography and record gravestones
You’ll learn much and be in the know.
Conserve and preserve
For those buried there – they deserve
And it is a must
Please join us!

Mermaids were the theme this year of the Maryland Faerie Festival. (See below article on Mermaids). Wee winged folks, strolling musicians, artist vendors from soap to jewelry, and mermaids walked and slithered throughout the festival. A labyrinth, maypole, puppet show wagon and moving trees also were on the grounds. This three day event had the visitors excited about what the Coalition is doing. Many people shared that they too were “cemetery trekkers” and were happy to see this booth at the festival. Visitors were given gold star pins that symbolized a lost and forgotten Maryland cemetery. The overflowing basket of stars gave the visitors pause on the plight of Maryland cemeteries. The Ravens Roost Gift Shop made $555.00 for these two days – the most we have ever made at an event.

Mermaid’s carvings were found on gravestones in the New England area. Mermaid iconography meant “fully” man and Christ as man. Mermaids carrying urns symbolized man’s last step on Earth. While finding images on mermaids I found that the mermaids had wings and scroll type tails. They also showed a little more that could be a little racy for some! What unusual iconography can you find on gravestones? Share please.

Amanda Becker

Cemetery Events
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: St. Anne’s Cemetery
When: Saturday, July 9, 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 (brick walled one) from the back entrance, closest to the water.
Questions/raindate: Tina Simmons at 410-978-7167

Where: Holy Cross Cemetery, Brooklyn Park
When: Saturday, September 17, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Directions: Rt. 2 (Ritchie Hwy.) north of Rt. 695 (Baltimore Beltway). The cemetery is located at crest of the first hill, on the left. We will be working in the third section on the left with ground markers, not tombstones.
Questions/raindate: Call Tina Simmons at 410-978-7167

Greent Mount Cemetery Walking Tours
Saturday, October 8, 15, 22, 29
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.
For the Memorial Day holiday members decorated all of the organization’s designated and protected gravesites. These graves are marked with monuments of all styles and were erected and restored by the C.H.C.O. The designated and protected gravesites are located in cemeteries from Cumberland, Maryland to Micanopy, Florida.

The monuments are engraved with as much history about the person buried at the site as possible. Also prayers for the deceased are engraved.

The public can order monuments from the Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization. Many Coalition members have done so over the years. To order please call (301) 722-4624.

For more information on the Cumberland History Cemetery Organization visit http://www.chco-online.org

Edward Taylor, Jr

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<th>Photo: Cumber Historic Cemetery Organization members Simon Taylor and Leland Taylor place flowers at the C.H.C.O monument of Ryan Myers at St. Paul Cemetery, Clear Spring, MD. Ryan was the son of Maryland Delegate Leroy Myers.</th>
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### Baltimore City

St. Vincent Cemetery Restoration Group, Baltimore MD

Members of the St. Vincent Cemetery Restoration Group met at Clifton Mansion on Saturday, June 18, 2011.

Stephanie reported that Father Lawrence said he attempted to call the landscape contractor to ask that he start mowing the cemetery. However, the contractor did not return calls. Stephanie’s request for assistance from the golf course did not materialize either.

Stephanie reported that she called Warden John Rowley of the Inmate Public Works Department, which is part of the MD Department of Public Safety. After discussing the situation at St. Vincent Cemetery and the desperate need for mowing the weeds, Mr. Rowley said he was very interested in the project and would like to set up a meeting. He would like to go over the property and assess the need. Mr. Rowley said members of his department have helped other cemeteries in bad condition such as Mt. Auburn Cemetery, which is owned by Sharp Street Methodist Church. Stephanie also reported that she called Fr. Lawrence and asked his permission to pursue assistance to mow the cemetery weeds from the Inmate Public Works Department. Fr. Lawrence was highly enthusiastic and supportive.

A member suggested that the group consider Eco-Goats as a method for clearing the weeds from the cemetery. Eco-Goats have been used on public lands in many areas including public lands in California. Some members discussed how goats were used to clear weeds from St. Peter’s Cemetery. A member is going to look into a local Eco-Goat service in the Baltimore Area and report her findings to the group. All were in favor of looking into the concept of using Eco-Goats as another means to help with clearing weeds from the cemetery.

Jea Chapman, director of the Friends of Clifton Park urged the group to continue to look for and apply for additional grants. Jea suggested that the group consider applying for a Partnership Grant through Parks and People Foundation. Jea said we should be looking for grant money to raise funds for clearing and improving the cemetery property. Stephanie said she would investigate the requirements and the application process for the Partnership Grant through Parks and People Foundation.

Members of the group discussed the need to continue the pursuit of nonprofit status for our group. All agreed that it would make fundraising easier if we had the nonprofit status.

Submitted by Stephanie Town

### Carroll County

Police investigating vandalism at St. John’s Cemetery

By Ryan Marshall, Staff Writer

Carroll County Times March 19, 2011
Behind the Westminster branch of the Carroll County Public Library is the St. John’s Cemetery. Sometime between March 3rd and March 17th, 17 headstones were either broken or knocked over. As of the date of the article there are no suspects or witnesses. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Westminster Police Department at (410) 848-4646.

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

**Dorchester County**

Historic Monuments Preserved at Christ Church Cambridge

The earliest dated monuments in Dorchester County are those of William and Magdalen Stevens which were moved to Christ Church in 1940 from the Huffington Farm where the Cambridge County Club is now located on the banks of the Choptank River. In 1997, the stones were removed from the churchyard, underwent restoration underwritten by Mr. Robert Stevens, and were placed inside the church for safekeeping. Magdalen Stevens died in 1678 and her husband William Stevens died in 1684. The Stevens family came to Maryland in 1651 first settling in what is now Calvert County before moving to Dorchester. William Stevens became one of the first justices of Dorchester County in 1669. The Stevens were ardent Quakers and good friends of George Fox, the founder of the Quaker religion. Many meetings of the Quakers were held at the Stevens home on the Choptank.

Stones from Weston on the Nanticoke

The cemetery at Christ Church Cambridge is a magnet for those interested in the colonial history of not only Dorchester County but the State of Maryland. Many colonial political figures including four governors are at rest in this hallowed ground. There is a large memorial monument to a fifth governor whose remains and monument were lost due to erosion at Weston.

Tours are given on request by calling the Church Office at 410.228.3161. The church and graveyard are located on the corner of Church and High Streets in Cambridge. Visitors are welcome and the cemetery is open from dawn to dusk.

Submitted by Melanie Ayres Merryweather, including photographs

**Montgomery County**

Higgins Cemetery

The board of directors of Higgins Cemetery Historic Preservation Association happily announces return of Mary E. Gott’s grave marker to Rockville. Observed by researchers in 1970 and 1981, the marker was missing decades later when volunteers began to rescue the 19th century burial ground. After taking title in 1999, the new non-profit group removed 12” of trash, trees, and debris from the property, uncovering more gravestone bases and markers with each work session. The cemetery was listed in the Montgomery
County Master Plan for Historic Preservation in 2010.

In May, a realtor notified Ann Horvath of the Carroll County Genealogical Society that on a property about to be foreclosed in New Windsor was a grave marker. Ann contacted the Montgomery County Historical Society who in turn alerted John Higgins, president of the cemetery association. John, his grandson Jack, and Mary Gott’s descendant Knowles Little retrieved the marker on June 7.

Mary Eleanor Higgins Gott was born July 25, 1812. When she died 79 years later in Rockville, she was buried beside her brother Darius Higgins on the family farm that today is a stone’s throw from the Twinbrook Metro station.

Higgins Cemetery Association hopes that other gravestones which have disappeared over the years will find their way back to Rockville. For further information visit www.higginscemeterymaryland.org

Eileen McGuckian

Rockville Cemetery

On a cool Saturday morning in April, Rockville Cemetery was the venue for an experimental tour entitled “Ornithology and Epitaphs.” Co-sponsored by preservation group Peerless Rockville and the City of Rockville, a historian and a naturalist led a group around the old burial grounds. Descriptions of an ancient Chapel of Ease and burials of notable Montgomery Countians from 1752 to the present were interrupted when raptors soared above, a family of red belly woodpeckers chased a predator from their nest, and the group chanced upon a patch of Jacks-in-the-Pulpit.

Eileen McGuckian

Photos courtesy of Eileen

**Prince Georges County**

Markers stolen from Pr. George’s cemetery
By Matt Zapotosky
The Washington Post
April 27, 2011

Two men have been charged with theft and other related counts in connection with stealing 11 grave markers from Maryland National Memorial in Laurel. According to the police report it is estimated that the markers have a value of approximately $3,000 and were found stored in a barrel near a work shed at the cemetery. Police were tipped off by a Capitol Heights scrap yard who reported that the two men were trying to sell the markers.

Jessica McDunn, a spokesperson for Service Corporation International, which runs the cemetery said, “We hope that scrap metal dealers will continue to be watchful for people selling bronze metal vases and Memorials from cemeteries.”

Summary by Diane Nesmeyer

**Periwinkle Award Nominations Sought**

Every 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, commitment, 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 and James Lanier are seeking nominations for the 2012 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 recommenda-
tion to a committee member. Contact information can be found at http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdcpmbs/board.html.

The recommendation should include a brief summary of the following criteria: duration of effort (1 or more years); quality of effort (has change been effected?); physical work (e.g., landscaping, mowing); archival work (e.g., recording and mapping); legislative work (e.g., contacting legislative office holders, submitting bills); group and/or society formation; and fundraising activities. The candidate should be available to make a 5 to 10 minute presentation at our Annual Meeting. The date and location of the Annual Meeting has yet to be determined.

Periwinkle Award Committee

[Note: Candy and Jim could really use some help. If you are able to volunteer your time on this valuable committee please contact them at: rosaborheursociety@juno.com.]
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

**2010 Publication Deadlines**

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>September 15, 2011</td>
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<td>Winter</td>
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**Coalition’s Objectives**

- The Coalition’s mission is to protect burial sites, and to provide information and guidance to any government agency, group, organization or individual interested in preserving human burial sites.
- The Coalition receive the Courier as part of their membership which runs from June 1 through May 31st of each year. Individual memberships are $10.00, household memberships are $15, student memberships (grade 12 and under) are $5, and organizational memberships are $20.00 per year. Dues should be mailed to the Membership Chairperson at the address listed above.

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

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

**Reprint Policy**

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**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.

**2011-2012 Officers and Board of Directors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Melvin Mason  (301) 325-1248  <a href="mailto:pres@cpmbs.org">pres@cpmbs.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Jeff Nesmeyer  (703) 680-7724  <a href="mailto:vp@cpmbs.org">vp@cpmbs.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Jac Knust  (410) 465-8900  <a href="mailto:treas@cpmbs.org">treas@cpmbs.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>Eileen McGuckian, (301) 468-7331  <a href="mailto:sec@cpmbs.org">sec@cpmbs.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Gerhardt Kraske  (410) 730-8278</td>
</tr>
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**Board of Directors**

- Thomas Mason  (PG County)  (301) 736-4058  Thom.mason@gmail.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@embralmail.com
- Barbara Kraske  (Howard)  (410) 730-8278  gpkbmkmd@aol.com
- Kristin Kraske  (Howard)  (410) 461-6313  rebelkris@comcast.net

**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, 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. _______________________________________
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