Remembering our Deceased Loved Ones 
During the Holiday Season

Photos by Melvin Mason

Next Quarterly Board Meeting 
Sunday, January 30, 2011, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. 
(We have the meeting room until 5 p.m.) 
Miller Branch of the Howard County Library 
9421 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD

At the last Board Meeting Tina Simmons discussed the cemetery documentation project in Anne Arundel County and Stephanie Town discussed issues and provided an update of the work being done at St. Vincent Cemetery in Baltimore City. President Mason presented three brief presentations on St. Vincent Cemetery, St. Peter Cemetery in Baltimore, and C. Whites Cemetery in Howard County. Meetings are not all about the Coalition business. All members are therefore encouraged to attend and learn more about what is happening with Maryland Cemeteries and meet the people behind the successes.
New Members

I would like to apologize to all our new members from the last quarter. Kristin Kraske duly provide your names and I promptly failed to add the information in the Fall issue of the Courier. I extend a very belated welcome to each of you.

- Marianne Greenfield, Delhi, NY
- Charles Willis Hammond, Jr., Ft. Myers, FL
- Ronald W. Long, Mount Airy, MD
- Stephanie Arthur & Leslie R. Town, Landenberg, PA

I am sorry to report that we had no new members for this quarter. Do you know anyone that has an interest in cemeteries that would benefit from a membership in the Coalition? If so go to our website and print the application form and pass it along.


Diane Nesmeyer

Editors’ Corner

A belated Seasons Greetings to all. We can’t believe how quickly the year is passing. Plans are already under way for the next Annual Meeting. Information can be found on page 7.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for January 30th. The Officers and Board would like to remind everyone that the meeting is open to all members. The notice of time and location can be found on page 1.

Mr. Michael Lewis of the St. Vincent Cemetery Restoration Group wrote a very informative update of their group’s progress. They have done so much in such a short period of time. I told the members, “The way the St. Vincent's Group has successfully used the Internet and social sites to bring together relatives, descendants, and like-minded individuals will become a model for all similarly situated individuals/groups wishing to save a cemetery.” Mr. Lewis’ update begins on this page.

Tina Simmons of Anne Arundel Genealogical Society has been documenting cemeteries in the county for over 20 years. She knows that there are other cemeteries out there that need to be located and documented. Her story [and that of the Anne Arundel Genealogical Society] and can be found on page 4.

The St. Mary’s County Historic Preservation Commission is in the process of cataloging cemeteries within their county. We were able to obtain more information from Scott Lawrence about the project because we were not able to find much information on the Internet. Their story can be found on page 6.

We would like to thank Amanda Becker, Brenda McNeal, Eileen McGuickian, Tina Simmons, Michael Lewis, Stephanie Town, Melvin Mason, and Scott Lawrence for their contributions to this issue.

Diane and Jeff Nesmeyer

St. Vincent’s Cemetery Restoration Group Update

[The following update was posted to the SVC Yahoo Group website on December 12, 2010. It is reprinted here with permission from Mr. Michael Lewis and Mrs. Stephanie Arthur Town.]

Greetings to our SVC site members. We thought it would be timely to provide you with an update on our group’s progress in pursuing our goals for SVC. We have accomplished so much in 2010—all of it because of volunteers from our group who have given their time and expertise in working on various projects. And, of course, the holiday season—as a season of giving—is a good time to ask again for your financial support for maintaining our Cemetery and planning/building a memorial to our ancestors and friends. You will find the information for making a donation of any amount at the end of this email.

In the following report, we have tried to acknowledge those members who have volunteered time and expertise for specific projects related our SVC group goals. If we have forgotten anyone, please “shout out”. We want our members to know what you have done on behalf of our family buried in SVC. Any and all of you are welcome to help. Of course we need money to keep the Cemetery clear and clean and to build a memorial. But there also is manual work in the Cemetery itself; community meetings to attend; research needing someone's attention in old records and in newspapers—all of them opportunities for involvement.
Here is a short summary of what has been accomplished and what is “in process”:

1. Overall Summary of Accomplishments: In 2010, we raised $1450--funds that were matched by the Parish--to clear and clean the cemetery grounds. Our efforts were given a terrific boost by Jacques Kelly of the Sun, who wrote two articles about SVC, and by Father Richard Lawrence, who worked with us and supported our efforts during these hard economic times. Stephanie worked with Father Lawrence to locate, reproduce and disseminate the only map ever located of the Cemetery. We know for the first time the layout of the Cemetery and how it looked before its destruction. Joyce and volunteer members continued to document burials into SVC and volunteers have documented the stones uncovered during the clearing of the cemetery grounds. The research has expanded to include obituaries for those in SVC, which are being upload to our site. Joyce reports that this research by our team has led to the identification of approximately 1000 previously unknown burials into SVC. Our group site, hosted on yahoo, continues to grow as a resource for our members and as a means for creating a virtual St. Vincent's Cemetery. We now have over 50 members.

2. Recent Progress in SVC, Including Work with Friends of Clifton Park (FOCP), Baltimore City Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke, and Clifton Golf Course Officials: In an attempt to build bridges between SVC and the neighborhood community, members of our group contacted Baltimore City Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke. Councilwoman Clarke has been very supportive and responded by directing Stephanie Town to contact Jeanvonna Chapman, Director of Friends of Clifton Park. Ms. Chapman immediately stepped in and has been very generous with her time advising Stephanie and group member Fran Lane and her husband, Tom, on ideas to develop plans to improve SVC and to develop it into a memorial park. They have also met with representatives of the Baltimore Dep't of Recreation & Parks as well as the Clifton Park Golf Course.

Joann Wheeler has given so generously of her time, visiting the MD State Archives to research burials into SVC from St. Leo the Great Church. After finding burial records from St. Leo’s, Joann worked with Bonnie Mitchell and Ernestine Dubois to secure death certificates that would confirm burial into SVC. These records were forwarded to Joyce Erway to include in the master burial list for SVC. Joann also has been visiting the Cemetery to record gravestone information. Mary Neale, a new member, met Joann at the Cemetery to assist. Pictures of the gravestones were uploaded to a new Photobucket website. In addition, Joann set up a Facebook page and designed the new SVC website.

Mary and Terry Vincent have done a wonderful job cleaning out weeds and cutting down all the vines growing over the gravestones. Mary Vincent also gathered information on the gravestones and researched obituaries. She forwarded her records to Joyce and MDGenWeb.

In early October, members of our group participated in Civic Works Ricky Martin Day of Service in Clifton Park by working in the Cemetery. Approximately 14 people showed up with tools in hand to help with clearing the weeds and vines from around the existing gravestones and photographing them. Some of the participants included members of the St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Friends of Clifton Park, the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites and Civic Works. Our Cemetery now is clear and clean!

3. Progress in Documenting Burials into SVC: Joyce continues to work with a team of members to recreate the burial records for SVC. The work to document burials actually began in 2000 when Joyce, Joann Waldon and Anne Marie Willis found each other--and their common interest in SVC--on the internet. From that beginning, the team of researchers looking into SVC burials has grown. Nancy Bramucci-Sheads of the Archives provides assistance the links to her work at the Archives. Stuart Ott and Mary Vincent searched sources, including old newspapers for article, names and obituaries for our SVC family. Anne Marie Willis provided assistance in rechecking submitted material to ensure that what is uploaded is completely accurate. Joann Wheeler went regularly to the Archives in Annapolis to go through all the records of St. Leo the Great Parish to document burials into...
SVC. Marie Newman searched the records of St. John the Evangelist for our group. The records of St. Joseph and St. Vincent de Paul have been searched as well. All this work contributes to the reconstruction of SVC online—a virtual St. Vincent's Cemetery that lists all the departed, their names, dates and, as available, their obituaries.

4. New Resources for SVC Group: Michael just received from the Maryland State Archives (MSA) CD's of the interment records for St. Ann and St. Ignatius parishes. He intends to search the records this winter for burials into SVC from those parishes. He already has found examples of his own family members buried into SVC out of St. Ann's. If you wish to search for yourself, a link to MSA church records is below. Email Michael if you need help navigating to the records. Also, if any members wish to help MSA fund the digitizing of records from other parishes and put those records online, the cost is $60. Michael can help you through the process of requesting the records. Once MSA digitizes the record for a researcher, it then puts it online for the world to use! St. Ann's and St. Ignatius' interment records are now online. Here's the link:

http://speccol.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/catalog/religion/cfm/dsp_countyresults.cfm?county=BC

5. As promised, here's the donation information: Checks should be made out to ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH. ON THE MEMO LINE OF YOUR CHECK, IT MUST SAY "ST. VINCENT CEMETERY RENOVATION FUND". Mail your contribution to St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Attention: Rev. Richard Lawrence, 120 North Front Street, Baltimore, MD 21202. We know that times are hard—and anything you can give will help. Father Lawrence also has suggested that our members consider donations to the St. Vincent Cemetery Renovation Fund in their estate planning.

Joann Wheeler offered a great suggestion. Those of us who are seniors often receive holiday gifts that are—shall we say—unnecessary. Joann's suggests that we might ask our loved ones to consider a donation to the Cemetery Fund as our gift this holiday season and for other special occasions.

Our group should be very proud of what we have accomplished this year—pushing back against over 40 years of neglect. Happy Holidays to you all.

Michael John Lewis
Joyce Erway
Stephanie Arthur Town

[The following e-mail was received by President Melvin Mason and myself. It is reprinted here with permission from Mrs. Town.]

Greetings,

I wanted to let you know that I really appreciated being able to attend the CPMBS quarterly meeting last Sunday. Thank you very much for the attention you gave to St. Vincent Cemetery. The slideshow was great. Thank you again for those pictures.

I really appreciate the suggestions you offered as well. Your meeting was very informative. Just hearing how others deal with situations around abandoned cemeteries is helpful.

My immediate goal is to plan meetings and more cemetery events to help organize our Baltimore members so that we can at least keep the weeds cut and hopefully move forward.

Thank you again for your assistance and encouragement.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Stephanie Town

Links for St. Vincent provided by Mrs. Town:
St. Vincent Cemetery website:
http://stvincentcemetery.tripod.com/
Facebook page:
http://www.facebook.com/group.php?id=141137732589849
MDGenWeb page for St. Vincents:
http://www.mdgenweb.org/baltimorecity/Cemeteries/st%20vincents/stvincents.htm
Yahoo Group:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/StVincentCemeteryRestorationGroupBaltimoreMD/

News From the Counties

Anne Arundel County

Researcher haunts cemeteries seeking clues to the past
By Wendi Winters for the Maryland Gazette
Published 10/30/10
HometownGlenBurnie.com

Tina Simmons of Laurel is the cemetery inscription chairwoman for the Anne Arundel Genealogical Society [Note: and a member of the Coalition]. Simmons has been haunting county cemeteries for over two decades. Her mission and that of the Society is to help people research their ancestry and one way is to find relatives buried in the county.

Society members and Ms. Simmons have documented more than 500 cemeteries or burial grounds in Anne Arundel County over the years. The burial information has been disseminated to people researching their family histories in Anne Arundel County and the information being gathered will eventually be published.

After all these years of searching and documenting Ms. Simmons continues to find previously unknown burial grounds. Grave sites have been found under new buildings, on golf courses, and on Fort George G. Meade. Many sites have been abandoned or neglected.

The Anne Arundel Genealogical Society and Kuethe Library is located at 1 Crain Highway, S.E., Glen Burnie. A telephone number is (410) 760-9679. [If you are aware of a burial ground in Anne Arundel County contact the Society with the location and other information.]

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

**Baltimore City News**

Posted to the MD-Cemeteries site on Yahoo.

From: John S Wilkinson
<jwilkins@twcny.rr.com>

Date: Sat, 27 Nov 2010 08:55:09

Subject: Re: [MD-CEMETERIES] Trinity Lutheran Cemetery - Baltimore City

My Grandparents are buried at Swartz's Cemetery, 6115 O'Donnell St., Baltimore, MD. The last time I was there it was in horrible condition. Roads sinking stones falling. I could find no one who knew anything about records. Who in Maryland would know the owner of the cemeteries?

**Montgomery County News**

Higgins Cemetery

[Editor’s Note: This is a follow up article to the one that appeared in the Fall issue of the Courier, on page 8.]

On October 26, 2010, the County Council voted unanimously to designate Higgins Cemetery in Rockville as a historic site on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation. The burials of Revolutionary War soldier James Higgins and his wife Luraner Becraft Higgins on their farm in the early 19th century were followed by three more generations, including Luraner Higgins...
Knowles and her husband George Knowles, whose land became the town of Kensington.

The Board of Directors of the Higgins Cemetery Historic Preservation Association, Inc. thanks all who have worked to rescue this historic site since the mid-1990s. It has been a labor of love and community spirit for commercial and residential neighbors of the cemetery, a widening circle of Higgins family members, and groups such as the Chevy Chase Chapter of the DAR, Peerless Rockville, and Kensington Historical Society.

Historic designation will help to protect the cemetery as it maintains its place in changing surroundings. The nonprofit Higgins Cemetery Association looks forward to working with private parties and public agencies to develop ideas for enhancing the setting (a stone's throw south of Twinbrook Metro station) and to interpret the site for public enjoyment.

Eileen McGuckian

St Mary’s County

In-depth look at grave matters
Hunt under way for lost cemeteries
Friday, October 29, 2010
By Jason Babcock, Staff Writer
SoMdNews.com

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.

There is a database that will provide surnames but not given names. Church cemeteries generally won’t appear in the database since the Catholic Church maintains its own records and death registries. [Note: We found information online that the database can be viewed at the St. Mary’s County Library however we could not find any information about the database at http://www.stmalib.org/. We were unable to locate a website for the Commission.]

Three members of the Commission: Scott Lawrence, president of Grave Concerns, Robert Gibbs, and Ruth Mitchell, special projects archaeologist for Historic St. Mary’s City made a presentation at the Lexington Park Library in early November about the project and other aspects of historical cemeteries.

Summary by Diane Nesmeyer

[Editors' Note: We contacted Scott Lawrence and obtained the following information:

The Commission is indeed trying to document all cemeteries in St. Mary’s County. The main purpose is so that the Land Use and Growth Management department is aware of graveyards when a permit for the property is being considered. Obviously, this helps preserve these sites and makes developers aware. The database is not online, but resides in several notebooks in the County public libraries. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Commission after reviewing the notebook and see if they know of burials sites not currently in our inventory. Because we are technically a government entity, we are bound by certain rules. We cannot organize volunteers to document unless we have written permission from land owners. Indeed, we cannot publish details that we have in order to protect the privacy of the owners. This makes it somewhat difficult because some folks DO NOT want ANYONE on their land and around their cemeteries. I attempted to document one a few years ago and was very curtly told to leave. Currently, we are not doing a thorough documentation, but noting their existence with coordinates, prominent names, and dates. We would like to do more later. If you know of anyone with information, please have them contact me.

Scott D. Lawrence, 301-904-9561
info@historicalgraveconcerns.com;
http://historicalgraveconcerns.com/]

Office of Cemetery Oversight

Advisory Board for the Office of Cemetery Oversight – Meeting December 2, 2010

This meeting mostly covered administrative issues pertaining to the operations of the Advisory Board: cutting the annual number of their meetings from 10 to 8; discussing the actual purpose of the Board; moving the December 2011 meeting to the first Thursday of the month with the possibility of hold-
Other issues discussed include: ongoing problems with timely processing of Licensing Sales personnel for cemeteries particularly pertaining to payment processing; an upcoming Internal Summit meeting within the DLLR to examine processing procedures; problems covering all agenda items in the time allotted; highlights from the recent IC-CFA (International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association) Trade Show which covered, among other items, a new "Cremation Light" method called alkaline hydrolysis process that involved 600 gallons of liquid per processing; talks with the Maryland Archives about a possible partnership to help update and maintain a database of Maryland Cemeteries (currently up to an estimated 5200 cemeteries); and the Investigator has been looking into an increased number of complaints relating to timely work at one particular cemetery with the cemetery agreeing to increased oversight by the OCO.

Brenda McNeal

Dreambook Postings

From: Louis S. Diggs
E-mail address: louisdiggs2@verizon.net
Homepage URL: http://www.louisdiggs.com

You have a very interesting web site. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. I am wondering if your coalition could render some advice on the destruction of an African American cemetery in the Winters Lane community of Catonsville in Baltimore County? Several weeks ago while searching for information on a book that I plan to write about African Americans at rest in Baltimore County, I noticed that the Cemetery on Winters Lane was in the process of being destroyed. I contacted the appropriate office in Baltimore County and the work has ceased because the owner was clearing the property without a permit. I have contacted MHT, the Attorney General's Office, the Office of Cemetery Oversight as well as the Baltimore County's State's Attorney's Office. One of the gravesites that was bulldozed and placed in rubble is the headstone of a former slave who served in the 39th Regiment Infantry, United States Colored Troops, Maryland Volunteers. He was wounded in action and provided a pension. I have photographs of all of the headstones when they were standing in the Cemetery along with photographs of them bulldozed over and placed in a rubble pile. an you provide me with some suggestions on how to resolve this situation? This is the second African American cemetery in Catonsville that has been destroyed. Thanks you for a response. Louis S. Diggs, Local Historian and Author.

Posted to the website on December 21, 2010.

Member Lu Moorman said that she would contact Mr. Diggs.

Annual Meeting 2011

The Annual Meeting Committee met on November 27, 2010, to view the facilities at Apples United Church of Christ in Thurmont. The Committee Members agreed that this is a good location for the Coalition’s next annual meeting. The address of the church is 7908 Apples Church Road, Thurmont, MD 21788-1301. The meeting will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2011. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Robert Mosko will be holding a preservation workshop in the church cemetery. Unlike 2008, this workshop will be held rain or shine. For those unable to attend the preservation workshop we will hold a second presentation on cemetery iconography. After the presentation the group will move to the cemetery grounds to discuss the symbolism found on the stones. The Committee is considering a third workshop but no information was finalized at press time.

Final plans will be included in the Spring issue of the Courier as well as the separate mailing sent a few weeks before the event. The website will be updated with the details as they become available.

The Annual Meeting Committee and the Board look forward to seeing you in Thurmont on April 16th.

Annual Meeting Committee

The following pictures were taken in the cemetery. President Mason is relaxing in the memory garden and the other photo is a view of some of the monuments.
Apples United Church of Christ Cemetery
Photos by Diane Nesmeyer

Very Interesting Iconography

Photograph used with permission from Jim Clatterbaugh.

Brenda McNeal brought this marker to our attention. The photograph is by Jim Clatterbaugh, editor of Monsters from the Vault Magazine. Mr. Clatterbaugh said of his brother, “Growing up we both loved the classic monsters, and continued to do so to this day. He was always so proud of Monsters from the Vault and couldn't believe his brother could publish such a fine magazine.” The stone can be found in the Thornrose Cemetery in Staunton, VA.

At the Annual Meeting we are planning a presentation on symbolism and the Dennis Clatterbaugh stone is a fine example of someone proclaiming in death what his interests were in life. We recognized the monsters, how about you?

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 and perseverance in helping to save an historic cemetery from neglect, desecration, or other illegal activities. The Coalition chose the periwinkle plant (vinca minor) as the name of the award because periwinkle had been typically used in 18th and 19th century cemeteries throughout the state of Maryland as a maintenance-free flowering ground cover. The recipient receives a monetary award as well as a framed certificate commemorating the award.

The Periwinkle Award Committee consisting of Candy Warden, James Lanier, and Kristin Kraske are seeking nominations for the 2011 Periwinkle Awards.

If you know of an individual or group who should be recognized for their efforts and activities in Maryland cemeteries please forward your recommendation to a committee member. Contact information can be found at on our website. 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 Committee that is scheduled to be held in Thurmont on April 16, 2011. If you have other information that will assist the Committee and the Board in making an informed decision please include it as well.

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

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

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

Reprint Policy

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Coalition’s Objectives

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

- Facilitate the exchange of information among individuals and organizations concerned about the protection of Maryland burial sites.
- Increase public awareness of the historic and cultural significance of burial sites and the serious threats to them.
- Draft and gain passage of new laws to more effectively deal with criminal acts against burial sites and to establish effective and uniform procedures for the protection and preservation of burial sites regardless of their age, cultural affiliation or condition.
- Organize support for stronger laws in Maryland to protect burial sites—Native American burials as well as traditional cemeteries.
- Raise funds for statewide public education programs, focused on burial site protection, and to provide information and guidance to any government agency, group, organization or individual interested in preserving human burial sites.

Editors

Diane and Jeff Nesmeyer, de_nesmeyer@yahoo.com
14326 Springbrook Ct., Woodbridge, VA 22193-3421

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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.

2010-2011 Officers and Board of Directors

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<td>Brenda McNeal (Howard County) (410) 917-3257 <a href="mailto:mcnealb@hotmail.com">mcnealb@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Robert Mosko (717) 633-8092 <a href="mailto:robertmosko@embarqmail.com">robertmosko@embarqmail.com</a></td>
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Standing Committees

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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. _______________________________________
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