21st Annual Coalition Meeting to be held in Columbia on May 5th!

Old Brick Church

The Coalition is pleased to announce that our 21st Annual Meeting will convene at historic Christ Episcopal Church in Columbia on Saturday, May 5, 2012. The day – from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. – is planned to be educational, interesting, fun, and full of collegiality!

Two speakers will share their expertise at the meeting. David Zinner, Maryland cemetery advocate and director of an organization that provides educational resources on Jewish burial, mourning and cemeteries, will speak about strategies to protect historic Maryland burial grounds. Susan Lenz, a creative fiber artist, will show and talk about her art quilts that combine grave rubbings with vintage household items through meticulous hand and free-motion embroidery; her presentation is entitled “The Cemetery in Stitches”.

The day also includes opportunities to present issues and discuss concerns, a short business meeting and election, and a delicious lunch. Our silent auction will feature an art work by Susan Lenz and a variety of other items and the gift shop will be open for business. Deserving volunteers will be honored with the coveted Periwinkle Award. The day ends with a special tour of the 200-year-old Brick Church.
and the parish cemetery. Christ Episcopal Church is located on Oakland Mills Road in Columbia, Howard County. In addition to the historic church and extensive burial grounds, we’ll use the lovely new church building and have plenty of parking. Cost for the day is $50 per person for Coalition members, $65 for non-members. Registration forms will be available on http://www.cpmb.org and space must be reserved by April 26. For further information, contact Gary or Barbara Kraske at 410-730-8278. Please tell your friends and colleagues about this great event! Eileen McGuckian and the Annual Meeting Committee

Editors’ Corner

The date for our Annual Meeting is just around the corner. We are meeting at the Historic Christ Episcopal Church on Oakland Mills Road in Columbia 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. The Committee has been very busy and additional information about the Annual Meeting and the activities can be found beginning on page 1.

We need a few good members. If the nomination committee calls you to consider joining the Board of Directors or to help fill the President or Vice President’s positions please step up to the plate. There is a void as a result of retiring board members and only you can help fill the void and bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the Coalition.

We would like to Kristin Kraske, Eileen McGuckian, Melvin Mason, Stephanie Town, Dave Mills, Charlie Hessler, Aleta Gravelle, Jim Jones, Tina Simmons, Ann Horvath, and Richard Waterhouse, for their contributions to this issue. Don’t forget to view the Courier on the Coalition’s website. You can link directly to the Internet articles and websites and you can see the pictures in color. http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdcpmb/newsletter.html

Diane and Jeff Nesmeyer

Welcome New Members

Aleta Gravelle Howard County
Lloyd and Betty Whitehead Worcester County

President’s Message

It is a myth that swans sing as they die. I believe that my song will be of bewilderment and celebration. Bewilderment that I didn’t get more accomplished; celebration for what I was able to accomplish – for what we accomplished.

For the bewilderment, I take full responsibility for not doing more and accomplishing more. The celebration belongs more to the Officers, Board members, the Outreach Committee, and all of the members who helped further the goals and ideals of the Coalition since I became president in 2008. I am proud to have been at the helm when they did all that they have done.

Knowing the members as I do, we will continue to strive for that elusive goal of protecting the burial grounds of Maryland.

The big threat to the Coalition is the Coalition itself.

The Coalition is not self-destructing, verily, it is suffering from a malady affecting all modern civic organizations; the loss of membership, especially those active within an organization. Robert D. Putnam, as presented in his book Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community, describes the reduction in all the forms of in-person social intercourse upon which Americans used to found, educate, and enrich the fabric of their social lives.
Wikipedia further summarizes the book noting: “… the act of individual membership has not migrated to other, succeeding organizations. To illustrate why the decline in Americans’ membership in social organizations is problematic to democracy, Putnam uses bowling as an example. Although the number of people who bowl has increased in the last 20 years, the number of people who bowl in leagues has decreased. If people bowl alone, they do not participate in social interaction and civic discussions that might occur in a league environment. … This data shows an aggregate decline in membership of traditional civic organizations, proving his thesis that U.S. social capital has declined. He then asks the obvious question ‘Why is US social capital eroding?’ … He believes … demographic changes have made little impact on the number of individuals engaging in civic associations. Instead, he looks to the technological ‘individualizing’ of our leisure time via television, Internet and eventually ‘virtual reality helmets’.”

At a recent cemetery friends’ meeting I was asked if the Coalition would accept the assets of a friends’ organization if the organization had to cease existence under. The caveat is that those assets be used for the continuance of the object cemetery.

This seems to fit into the original premise that the Coalition would assume ownership of cemetery assets. What I balked at was the thought that the Coalition would be able to fulfill a commitment to an asset for any duration.

Back to the bowling analogy, and the theory that any organization generally has about 10% of its membership active at any time; the Coalition has about 90 members, with somewhere between 8 and 13 members active. Sounds about the norm. We, however, have not been able to field a quorum for the last two board meetings.

This is not a criticism of the membership, it is lamenting the lack of an active membership that can adequately serve the goals and principles that we have selected to present as an organization. And that is indicative of society as we know it.

The same society that lacks the ability to preserve and protect a heritage space also destroys that space.

So I ask myself, “Why we do it?” I think filmmaker Naomi Koibhauer’s statement, in an interview in the February 2012 issue of American Cemetery, stated in reply to a question on why she took on the Burr Oak Cemetery story for her documentary, parallels exactly why we keep the Coalition alive. She stated the following:

“To remember the contribution of those who came before us, we wouldn't be where we are without them. How we honor people and their memory is important. Visiting cemeteries provides an understanding and connectedness – everyone here had challenges and opportunities just like me, even if I didn't know them.

I want people to have a real appreciation of all cemeteries because it will be up to future generations to make sure that a ‘Bur Oak’ never happens again.”

The Coalition faces “Burr Oaks” on a regular basis. Often we are unable to do little more than offer guidance. What our future generations do with the Coalition will be determined by how we set and promote the appreciation of all burial sites and how we show our future generations how and why to honor the memory and importance of these Maryland Burial Sites.

The Coalition must remain active in the Protection of Maryland Burial Sites and must strive to bring more people into the civic sphere that promotes and provides that protection.
Let us bowl as a league for those we protect.

Melvin

Board of Directors Gathering
Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Inc. East Columbia Library, Columbia, Maryland - January 15, 2012

In attendance:
Officers: President Melvin Mason, Vice President Jeff Nesmeyer, Secretary Eileen McGuckian
Directors: Kristin Kraske, Brenda McNeal, Robert Mosko
Guests: Stephanie and Les Town, Diane Nesmeyer, Aleta Graville

President Melvin Mason called the group to order at 1:15 p.m. Because no quorum was present, this was not an official meeting. Minutes were not taken, and business that required an official board vote was not conducted.

Reports:

There was no Treasurer’s Report. Draft minutes of the October 23, 2011, meeting could not be acted upon.

Kristin Kraske presented her Membership report. She goes to the post office regularly and keeps membership up to date, as well as coordinating with the Treasurer. Currently CPMBS has 81 members.

Eileen McGuckian reviewed plans thus far for the 2012 Annual Meeting, to be held at Christ Episcopal Church in Columbia, Howard County, on Saturday, May 5. She proposed David Zinner to speak about strategies to protect historic cemeteries. The group discussed workshop topics, including documentation, rubbing techniques, and stone conservation. It was agreed to conduct a silent auction if items are donated and to place a notice in the next Courier. Complete Annual Meeting details will be sent to members in early spring 2012.

No formal reports were available from Periwinkle Awards and Nominating Committees. President Mason noted that 4 Periwinkle nominations had been received thus far and reminded the group that a new President and Vice President must be elected at 2012 annual meeting.

Diane Nesmeyer reported that the Blair County PA Genealogical Society can reprint the Coalition’s Guide for Burial Site Stewardship for $6.88 per copy. She plans to order one copy of the Guide to determine the quality before ordering a larger quantity or seeking another printer.

Diane reported on a field trip to Bush Creek Quaker Cemetery in Frederick County on November 6. Melvin Mason and Jeff and Diane Nesmeyer met with descendants of the Morsell and Davis families. Recommendations involving the protection and preservation of the site will be made by the Outreach Committee to the family members shortly.

Robert Mosko presented Amanda Becker’s report for the Outreach Committee. She suggested that a budget is needed for expenses of attending events on behalf of the Coalition. The Board requested a detailed budget from Amanda. The Board expressed no interest in requesting a proclamation for Family Remembrance Day in 2012 if we do not concurrently promote the idea to the public.

Stephanie Town reported on current issues at St. Vincent Cemetery in Clifton Park, Baltimore City. Concerned about significant encroachment by the golf course, she has scheduled a meeting with park officials. Employees of the Maryland Penitentiary system and the District Park manager will cooperate this spring to accomplish some clean-up, for which Stephanie has applied for a modest grant to
cover expenses. CPMBS agreed to submit a letter of support for her grant application. She is organizing a 501(c)(3) nonprofit group and will work toward a concrete plan for cemetery maintenance.

Unfinished Business includes rewriting and further discussion of proposed revisions of by-laws, in the sections on membership, meetings, and descriptions of officers. These topics will be on the agenda for our next board meeting for discussion and action.

The next scheduled meeting is the Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 5, 2012. The first quarterly meeting of the new Board of Directors will be scheduled within a month of the May 5 Annual Meeting.

Adjournment: There being no further business at this time, the unofficial meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen McGuckian, Secretary

Newsletter Correction
Correction to the Winter 2011 - 2012 issue of the Courier.
In your cemetery videos article on p. 10 of the last newsletter you cite a YouTube site as “St. John's Episcopal Cemetery in Laurel”. Beautiful Decay misidentified the cemetery. The photos are actually from St. John's Episcopal Cemetery in Beltsville. The Episcopal cemetery in Laurel is St. Philip's.

Charlie Hessler
Coalition member & Registrar,
Laurel Historical Society

Cemetery and Other Events
Greenbelt is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year. Visit their website to check out all the events scheduled to celebrate this milestone. http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/75/

Dave Mills

Whipps Garden Cemetery Dedication on June 2

When 2010 came to a close, Barbara announced she would step down as primary caretaker of Whipps Garden Cemetery. It was 25 years ago when Barbara spearheaded the monumental task of restoring Whipps Cemetery from an overgrown bramble patch covered with vines and poison ivy and broken grave stones to a spectacular garden cemetery. To say thanks to Barbara for her dedication and devotion to Whipps, an parterre sectioned Herb Garden was created in her honor. A special Dedication will be held at Whipps Garden Cemetery on Saturday, June 2, 2012.

In 1987, the transformation began, the cemetery site was overwhelming. Weeds and vines made it impossible to walk more than a few feet at a time without clearing a path with pruning shears. Most of the grave stones were pushed over and broken. “The cemetery already was virtually abandoned from its functional character, but there were early headstones, going back to Revolutionary times, funeral pines, with some lots enclosed by cast iron ropes fashioned with hollow tassels in which wasps male their nests.”

Over the years, the forlorn place of weeds and destruction turned into a park-cemetery with inde-
scribable beauty and tranquility. Many paths were defined connecting the sections creating a delightful walk throughout the cemetery. With much hard work, donations and time, transformation over the years turned this overgrown cemetery into place of tranquility and beauty.

Whipps Garden Cemetery is a one-acre site, located at 3651 St. John’s Lane, about 2 city blocks south of the Frederick Road intersection. It was purchased by William Whipps in 1855 to serve as a family burial ground for the Whipps family of Howard County. The Whipps were well-known farmers and merchants of the day who also served as blacksmiths at Oakland Manor—now Oakland Mills in Columbia, Maryland. In the later 1800s burial lots were sold to other families. The last burials took place in the early 1900s. Today it a “hidden jewel” with a Rose Garden, Herb Garden, Butterfly Garden, Iris Garden, Compost Bins, a Riparian Buffer and much more tucked away on St. John’s Lane. Whipps is open to all every day of the year. Everyone is welcome to visit.

Everyone is invited to the Herb Garden Dedication on Saturday, June 2.

Aleta Gravelle

| Herb Garden | Photos by Aleta Gravelle |

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**YouTube**

I have been doing short videos on YouTube called “LOST MARYLAND”. One of the main purposes that I began doing this was to bring attention to some of the plights forgotten family cemeteries are facing in the light of overdevelopment and greed. I am beginning to work on a book about the problems some of the small cemeteries face in Maryland, and am in the planning stage of working on an independent documentary in showing some of the most decrepit, and how volunteers are trying to save these final resting places. I have been taking as many photos of all of the cemeteries as I can, and hope to cover the whole state.

Jim Jones

Here is a link to all his YouTube videos: [http://www.youtube.com/user/jaj4764/featured](http://www.youtube.com/user/jaj4764/featured)

**Outreach Committee**

Melvin Mason continues to participate in the monthly meetings for the St. Vincent’s Cemetery Group. See page 9 for more information about a clean-up event that is scheduled at St. Vincent’s on April 21st.

In the last Courier we reported that Melvin Mason and Jeff and Diane Nesmeyer met with several descendants of the Davis/Morsell family including members Pat and Sarah Warner on November 5th. We toured the Bush Creek Quaker Cemetery in Monrovia, Frederick County. The Committee has since sent a letter to the descendants with several recommendations for protecting and preserving this site.

Tina Simmons notified the Committee about another cemetery being lost in the Chesapeake Bay area due to erosion. She received the information from the Cultural and Historical Resource Department for Anne Arundel County Zoning. Tina gave the Department the inscriptions that she collected.
back in 1993 and 2004. The County is trying to locate and contact family members regarding disposition of this cemetery.

The Coalition’s Guide to Burial Site Stewardship is available in our gift shop. There were a few edits made to the first edition as well as a change to the cover and binding. On recommendation from Ann Horvath we used the services of the Blair County Genealogical Society in Pennsylvania. The Society produced a very nice product for the Coalition at a very reasonable price. Thanks to Robert Mosko who took the time out of his busy schedule to pick up the Guides from the Society.

Diane Nesmeyer

Symbolism Question, Part II

In the last issue of the Coalition Courier we reported a symbolism mystery in Carroll County (page 6 of the Winter 2011-2012 issue). No one has submitted any ideas or suggestions regarding the symbols. A few of us discussed the symbols before the last Courier was published but withheld our thoughts until this issue.

According to Ann Horvath, “the person for whom the tombstone was made was Peter Erb. He was born the 14th day of April 1738 and died the 1st of March 1774. The tombstone is in the old part of St. Mary's Lutheran/Reformed cemetery in Silver Run. We do not know of any other stones in the area with this type of symbolism. Peter Erb's wife's stone is there also, but does not have any symbols. She died in 1809. They also have several children buried at this cemetery. The marker is made of sandstone and was recently pieced together by volunteers. The script is German and the cemetery is near York County in Pennsylvania.”

I suggested that the symbols represent heaven and hell. At first I thought the top symbol could be clouds and the skull at the bottom obviously represents hell. Richard Waterhouse responded, “The fist is definitely the fist of God and I don't think your interpretation of heaven and hell is far off the mark. Gravestones prior to the 19th century were definitely more doom and gloom than the stones of the mid-19th Century. The ministers at that point were preaching hell and brimstone and if you did not change your ways, you were going to straight to hell. For that reason, the symbols on the stones were pretty dismal like skulls, weeping willows, and urns.

It is also fascinating to see it in sandstone because this type of material doesn't last as long as marble and granite. Are there a lot of sandstone stones in this cemeteries? Another reason for sandstone is that it is probably readily available in the community and was easy to carve into.”

Richard also forwarded the photographs and description to Jim Blachowicz, author of “From Slate to Marble: Gravestone Carving Traditions in Eastern Massachusetts 1770-1870”. Jim made the following observations and comments on the gravestone. “I've never seen this in the New England contexts I'm used to. But the image IS some sort or resurrection symbol (in contrast to the skull/death below). Rather than a fist, I'd guess a crudely rendered hand reaching for heaven - or even emerging from the grave? There are, of course, a LOT of pointing hands on gravestones.

Interesting...”

Diane Nesmeyer with assistance from Ann Horvath and Richard Waterhouse

Guest Book posting on our Website

On January 28, 2012, the following posting appeared on our Guest Book from Betty M.

Does anyone know the condition of the private burying ground near Lusby in Calvert County? This might be where a few ancestors of Millard Ty-
dings are buried. I believe it's on the grounds of the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear facility. 
I would certainly volunteer for you if I still lived in Maryland. Our family burial sites range from Dorchester to Carroll Counties.
On January 29, 2012, Betty provided the following additional information via e-mail:
The cemetery is called “Private Burial Ground in Lusby on Cliffs Park Site”. I found it in a book at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. It was compiled by Jerry & Mildred O’Brien and Merle L.Gibson and printed in 1986. Title is Calvert Co. Maryland Old Graveyards. LDS FHL Salt Lake City, Utah, US/CAN 975.244 V38.O.
I've been looking for the hard copy I made which might have a little more information as to its location – must have misfiled it. One of the Calvert Co. historical societies might have it though.
Then on March 1, 2012, Betty provided more information via e-mail:
Another name for the cemetery is Dixon Cemetery - that's how it's listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. Location in 1978 was off Camp Conoy Road, Calvert Cliffs State Park, Lusby. There are maps and photos on their website (url below). A Tydings cousin sent me photos of the cemetery and some of the tombstones that were taken in 2000 and it certainly needed TLC then. I'll send those to you separately. The Dixon identified on the MIHP website is incorrect – it's Richard, not Robert, who died in 1812. Take a close look at the stone. Captain James A. and Mary (mnu) Younger are buried here – they were the great-grandparents of Senator Millard Tydings.
http://mdihp.net/dsp_county.cfm?
search=county&criteria1=D&criteria2=CV&criteria3=&id=25218&viewer=true
It is probably off the beaten path and may not be easy to find. It also could be part of the nuclear facility.
Betty M.
If anyone has any information for Betty I will be happy to forward the information to her.
Diane Nesmeyer

**Nomination Committee Report**
The Nominating Committee was still in the process of preparing a slate of nominees at the time the Courier was ready for publication. The ballot will be presented for vote by the general membership at the Annual Meeting on May 5, 2012, to be held in Columbia, Howard County, MD. Nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to the vote but will be subject to the nominee accepting the nomination.

Nominating Committee Report

**News From the Counties**

**Allegany County**

Public Safety Works Rescues Another Neglected Cemetery
October 11, 2011
http://www.dpscs.state.md.us/publicinfo/features/Oak-Hill-cemetery/feature.shtml
Minimum-security inmates from Western Correctional Institution in Cumberland spent seven days in Oak Hill Cemetery in the tiny town of Lonaconing. The 5-man crew waded into the waist-high overgrowth and “restored the cemetery to respectability”.
Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

**Baltimore City**

‘Poe Toaster’ Tradition Ends After No-Show
Posted January 18, 2012
Since the 1940s someone has been leaving three roses and a half-empty bottle of cognac at Poe’s
The toaster hasn’t been seen since 2009, the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Poe’s birth. January 19th, 2012, was Edgar Allan Poe’s 203rd birthday and the tradition that lasted over a half century has been declared over by the Poe House Curator, Jeff Jerome.

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

**St. Vincent’s Cemetery**

**Volunteer Opportunity**

Saturday, April 21st from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Friends of St. Vincent Cemetery will have a volunteer clean-up event

Meet at the cemetery, directions follow.

Please bring a rake, work gloves, sun screen, and bug repellant with you. It is suggested that you wear long pants, a long-sleeve shirt, and sturdy shoes.

The Cemetery is located at 2401 N. Rose Street, Baltimore, MD 21213.

- Go to intersection of Harford Rd. (Md Rt. 147) at The Alameda and St. Lo.
- Enter Clifton Park by turning onto St. Lo Dr. Drive, and drive toward very large old building known as Pump House/Valve House or Gate House.
- From St. Lo Drive, turn LEFT onto Indian Head Drive in front of the large old building known as Pump House/Valve House or Gate House.
- Follow Indian Head Drive as it winds around and goes downhill to Rose Street.
- Turn RIGHT on Rose Street which is the drive in front of fence along golf course.
- Drive up Rose Street to top of hill.
- Turn LEFT at gate in front of old maintenance building (2401 N. Rose St.)

- Cemetery entrance is located to the RIGHT of the maintenance building.

**Parks and People Community Greening Grant for SVC Clean-up Event on April 21st**

Stephanie Town, Friends of St. Vincent Cemetery, applied for a $250 Community Greening Grant from Parks and People Foundation to help with providing supplies for the cemetery clean-up event. A representative of Parks and People Foundation notified Stephanie on March 13th that they were awarding the $250 grant to St. Vincent’s along with an additional $200 to be used to advertise the cemetery clean-up event.

**Removal of weeds from SVC**

Friends of St. Vincent Cemetery held a series of meetings with Warden John Rowley of the MD Department of Public Safety regarding having a crew from MD Inmate Public Works Department help with clearing out the weeds engulfing the cemetery. Warden Rowley had difficulty obtaining the equipment necessary to clear out the high weeds. Following installation of survey boundary markers, it became obvious that Clifton Park Golf Course was encroaching on St. Vincent Cemetery. Reverend Richard Lawrence concurred with Friends of St. Vincent Cemetery that it would make sense to ask the Clifton Park manager and the golf course superintendent to compensate for the encroachment by assisting with cutting and mowing weeds.

A meeting was held on February 29th. Those in attendance were: Reverend Richard Lawrence, Pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church which owns the cemetery; Chris McCullough, pastoral associate; Ron Rudisill, Manager Clifton Park; Joe Szkalak, superintendent Clifton Park Golf Course; Les Town and Stephanie Town, Friends of St. Vincent Cemetery.
Stephanie Town stated that she plans to have a volunteer clean-up event at St. Vincent Cemetery on April 21st. However, the current condition with high weeds engulfing the cemetery prevents volunteers from entering the property. Stephanie asked for help from the group to cut weeds to make the property accessible for volunteers to clear around existing gravestones so they can be recorded into a database.

Warden Rowley said he had a crew of inmates ready to start, but lacked the equipment. He also stated that Baltimore Solid Waste agreed to provide a roll-off dumpster to remove debris. Reverend Lawrence offered to purchase some of the light equipment. Ron Rudisill, park manager, said once inmates clear the high weeds, he could have a staff person use a bushhog mower to mow the weeds down close to ground. Joe Szkalak, superintendent of Clifton Park, golf course offered to have a staffer help with limited mowing. The inmate crew is scheduled to begin work at St. Vincent Cemetery on Monday, March 19th.

Stephanie Town

**Baltimore County**

Baltimore.com

Century-old family cemetery is unlikely tenant for Towson Circle III

Plot dating to 1800s will be preserved as a small plaza near movie theaters

By Jon Meoli

February 8, 2012

Excavation is set to begin for an underground parking garage for a movie theater planned as part of the Towson Circle III development. In the middle of the development is the Shealey and Schmuck Cemetery. A spokesperson for the company developing the site stated that the cemetery will be protected and handled in a respectful manner during construction. A county representative indicated that the development company told her “that the cemetery is going to be protected during construction and afterwards.”

Fifth District County Councilman David Marks believes that, “the cemetery will be better maintained than it is right now.”

The land for the cemetery was once owned by Mary Shealy. She went bankrupt in the 1880s. There is no known deed for the cemetery and it is unclear how many people are actually buried there.

Some report as many as 18 and others report as little as 3 graves. When the area was targeted for redevelopment an archaeological dig took place confirming there were no remains outside the fenced boundary of the cemetery.

[Editors’ Note: View Lost Maryland: Forgotten Cemeteries of Towson http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8z5nv8MTUyc for pictures of the site.]

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

**Calvert County**

SoMdNews.com

Southern Maryland Newspapers online

December 23, 2011

Citizens urged to protect cemetery interests

By Meghan Russell

Southern Maryland Memorial Gardens has been foreclosed and the owner Badtec, Inc. filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy in early December 2011. The Calvert County attorney and the Board of County Commissioners were urging parties who had paid for their burial, their gravestone, and other services to attend this meeting.

[Editors’ Note: Previous articles regarding this cemetery have appeared in the Spring 2010 and Fall 2011 editions of the Courier. We are sure as
the case proceeds through the bankruptcy court that more articles will appear regarding the status of the cemetery.]
Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

**Charles County**

SoMdNews.Com
Southern Maryland Newspapers online
February 22, 2012
County panel lauds 2 local history projects’ creators
By Erica Mitrano
Charles County Historic Preservation Commission recognized two Southern Maryland historical projects with their Preservation Service Award.
Joyce Clerico, chairwoman of the Charles County Genealogical Society’s Cemetery Transcription Project, was acknowledged for her work in researching and preserving small historic cemeteries. The Society’s project has been running for five years and Ms. Clerico and Society member volunteers have successfully documented 160 historical cemeteries. The project’s objective is to document cemeteries “anywhere they can find that someone has been buried.” The Society plans to publish cemetery locations by the end of 2012.
The second recipient included adults and high school students who produced a file, “The War of 1812 in Charles County’s Backyard—A Virtual Tour”.
The Washington Post
Cemetery owners use dog to comfort grieving customer
By Lindsay Renner
February 15, 2012
Trinity Memorial Gardens and Mausoleum in Waldorf is using Sadie, a 5-year old black Lab to bring comfort to people that are grieving. Sadie is undergoing the training process but is already offering comfort to the grieving and she seems to know who needs comforting the most.
Both articles summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

**Dorchester County News**

[Editors’ Note: Previous articles for Anchor of Hope appear in the Spring and Summer 2011 editions of the Courier.]
Inmates Bring Hope to Anchor of Hope Cemetery
http://www.dpcs.state.md.us/publicinfo/features/Anchor-of-Hope/feature.shtml
Inmates from the Poplar Hill Pre-Release Unit of the Division of Corrections conducted two one-day cleanups at Anchor of Hope Cemetery on Hooper’s Island over the summer. The overgrown burial ground that Coalition members witnessed in early May 2011 was transformed with all their hard work.
The Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services Public Safety Works will continue to explore ways to help preserve the historic cemetery but they are unable to help Mr. Wiley with the erosion control.
Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

**FrederickNewsPost.com**

Saving the cemetery
Project documents county’s early African-Americans
By Karen Gardner
February 26, 2012
Rick Smith is a chemistry professor and chemistry department chairman at McDaniel College in Westminster. In July of this year he began a project with the goal to document the names of all those who are buried in African-American cemeteries in Frederick County.
He has always been interested in family history and his interest in African-American cemeteries began in Chincoteague, VA where he has a summer home. His focus in Virginia and Frederick County is on 18th and 19th-century African-American genealogy. He augments the documentation of the graves with a little history of the deceased by using whatever documentation he can find: deeds, wills, obituaries, and church, school, and cemetery records.

His mantra is “do no harm” and he obtains permission before entering any cemetery property. He does have assistance from students at McDaniel College who are receiving credit for the work they complete. He is currently working in Mt. Olive Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery between Libertytown and Union Bridge.

“Every one of these people has an interesting story to tell.” Mr. Smith hopes that he will be able to tell those stories.

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

[Editors’ Note: Mr. Smith reported that he uses flour to bring out the faded letters. This appears to conflict with his “do no harm” rule.]

Somerset County

Body exposed at historic cemetery

By Liz Holland

October 21, 2011

John Wesley United Methodist Church on Deal Island closed 10 years ago. The cemetery and church building remain on the site and former members of the church have taken on the role of caretakers for both the building and the cemetery.

The site is next to a marsh and the cemetery is often flooded. Because of the flooding concrete slabs were placed over the vaults so that the coffins did not surface during flooding. These concrete tops do collapse and one of the oldest graves in the cemetery was damaged when the top of the vault caved in. Since the coffin is no longer intact the human remains became exposed.

The caretakers are looking at their options regarding the repair the damage of the collapsed vault. Usually the family is contacted for money to make the necessary repairs but the caretakers do not know who to contact for this grave.

Summarized by Diane Nesmeyer

[Editors’ Note: We searched the Internet trying to find additional information about this site. There is a John Wesley Methodist Church Renovation Project on Facebook http://www.facebook.com/SaveJohnWesleyChurch?sk=wall. Part of the information for the site: “If you can help with donations of time, money or materials...Please contact Lorraine White, at 410-784-2678, or you can send your donations to: John Wesley United Methodist Church, 23312 Ballard Road, Deal Island, MD 21821. No information could be found regarding the exposed remains or the damaged grave.”]
The Coalition Courir 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.

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2010 Publication Deadlines

Spring March 15, 2012
Summer June 15, 2012
Fall September 15, 2012
Winter December 15, 2012

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

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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______________________
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___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.
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Can you help us in our various efforts? Please list occupations / skills / interest. ______________________________________
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