

Coalition Courier

*"To build the future,
we do not have to destroy the past"*



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DID YOU KNOW?

- In 7 cycles, the Trader Foundation has approved \$30,950 for 26 grants. Next deadlines are July 1, 2020, and January 1, 2021. See www.cpmbs.org/trader-foundation/ for application and details.
- The Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History in Salisbury hosts the James Trader Collection that documents cemeteries in Wicomico and Worcester counties. www.salisbury.edu/libraries/nabb
- Presentations by knowledgeable speakers are available at www.cpmbs.org/annual-meeting-statewide-conference/

COALITION CALENDAR

Deadlines for Trader Foundation grant applications:

- July 1, 2020, and January 1, 2021

Southern MD Genealogy & History Conference

- June 27 301-752-5298

Anne Arundel Genealogy Society Inscription Day

- August 8 www.aagensoc.org

Board of Directors meetings 2020:

SUMMER ... August 8	1:15-3:15 pm virtual
FALL..... November 14	1:15-3:15 pm TBD

2021 CPMBS Annual Meeting & Conference:

- Saturday, May 1
In historic Havre de Grace

CPMBS hopes that you and your loved ones are safe and well. In these unprecedented times, many full-scale spring activities have been cancelled or postponed. Missing this year are Daffodil Day, inscription days, cemetery workshops, neighborhood clean-ups, and Memorial Day ceremonies. Even so, resilient advocates are monitoring their burial sites, connecting virtually with resources, and planning programs, even as we adapt to new situations. In this issue are articles to help and challenge you while you stay safe and looking to the future

Eileen McGuckian, CPMBS President



Memorial Day at Monocacy Cemetery in Beallsville, photo by Glenn Wallace

Where to Look for Cemetery Information

By Tina Simmons, May 2020

Online Research

Many people expect that information about specific cemeteries will be found online. The most common sources of information on specific individuals and cemeteries are on FindaGrave (www.findagrave.com/), BillionGraves www.billiongraves.com/, and Interment.net (www.interment.net/Default.htm). All of these should be considered with caution as much of the information is inaccurate. Such inaccuracies include: maiden name listed as married name, misspellings, wrong dates, and not recording everything on the tombstone. Often information is submitted only for the individuals in one or more families, not for the entire cemetery. Information is often copied verbatim from someone else's records without fact-checking for accuracy.

The Maryland Historical Trust (<https://mht.maryland.gov/mihp/MIHP.aspx>) located in Crownsville has an online site searchable by county, property name, or ID number. A limited number of cemeteries are listed with their own ID numbers but sometimes historic homes mention family burial grounds on the property. Even with sites listed as "No documentation," information may be available in person in the library after making an advanced reservation (410) 697-9546.

Online searches should be done using several different browsers, not just Google. Try using variations of words such as cemetery, cemeteries, graveyard, burial ground, interment, death, and died with the name of a town or county where you are searching. If a cemetery or town is made up of two words (e.g. Mount Calvary), put those in quotation marks. Search for "Mount" and "Mt." as well as "Saint" and

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Historic Designation of Maryland Cemeteries Sites

Part One – Introduction and Designation in Maryland Counties and Cities

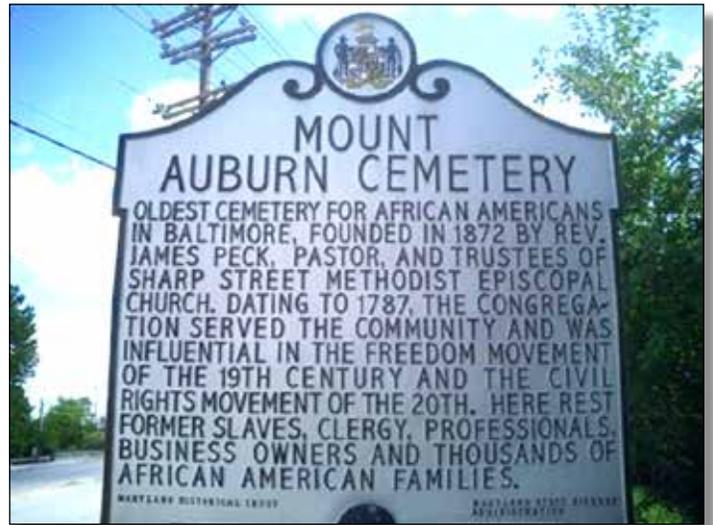
By Eileen McGuckian, May 2020

One effective way to protect cemeteries is through historic designation. This is the formal process of registering a property as a historic site in a local, state, and/or national inventory. It is a vital tool in the preservationist's toolbox, but often cemeteries fall through the cracks because they aren't the traditional type of listing – such as buildings, battlefields, or historic districts. And they don't quite fit into either architecture or archaeology, depending on whether anything shows above ground or not.

Often Maryland cemeteries have been designated because of their association with a larger property, such as a burial ground next to a historic church (e.g., St. Anne's in Annapolis or Mt. Zoar AME in Cecil County) or in a family plot on a historic estate (Dorsey cemetery at Belmont in Howard County or Bowie family at Fairview in Prince George's), or telling the stories of a community (Prospect Hill in Towson in Baltimore County, Parson's in Salisbury, or Rose Hill in Hagerstown). However, Marylanders now realize that cemeteries are important historic resources that require protection – and excellent candidates for designation in their own right.

Why designate a cemetery as a Historic Site?

The purpose of historic designation is to protect and preserve a specific building, site, streetscape, or landscape. It is of public value to maintain its exterior appearance so history can be enjoyed by future generations. Besides connecting us to our past, designated sites may be eligible for certain financial benefits and can receive protection from the threats



Mount Auburn Cemetery in Baltimore City

of development or abandonment. Designation provides status, special attention in planning future projects, and enforcement of Historic Preservation laws.

For cemeteries, designation favors preservation and survival. A cemetery documented and designated historic is generally in better condition than one that is not.

The most common objection to designation has been from property owners, who must request approval of major exterior changes from their local historic review commission. Major changes to cemeteries might include removal or planting of large trees, infrastructure improvements such as new roads, drainage, electric or water supply, signage, or the design of additional acreage.

How it works:

Historic designation at the local level – through the county or city – affords the most protection. First, the case

Major Actions of the CPMBS Board of Directors Annual, Summer, and Fall 2019 and Winter 2020 Meetings

At the 2019 Conference, held on May 4 at the historic Old Greenbelt Theatre in Prince George's County, the business meeting included reports and election of Officers and Directors. Presentations by Architectural Historian Anne Brockett on African American Beneficial Societies in Montgomery County, MD and Washington DC and by Historian Susan Pearl on Cemeteries in Prince George's County, MD were enthusiastically received. Ella LaGrange graciously accepted her Periwinkle Award, and a lively Open Forum heard attendee announcements and concerns. The day ended with a tour of Bowie Family Cemetery at Fairview.

The Board met in Howard County libraries on August 10 and November 9, 2019, and on February 1, 2020. The Coalition is in modest but solid financial condition.

Votes were unanimous to adopt the PRINCE outreach project that will match Maryland prisoners with needy cemeteries, to submit an Amicus Curiae brief in a Montgomery County cemetery appeal, to testify for protection of a Baltimore County burial site, and to raise membership dues for the first time in a decade. Consensus was not to pursue state legislation in 2020, rather to use experience gained from impacts of 2018 laws as implemented locally to inform future proposals. Updated Coalition rack cards are available for distribution. This year, the Coalition mourned the passing of Barbara Sieg, Pat Warner, Gary Kraske, and John Wright, stalwart individuals who greatly improved the situations of Maryland burial sites through CPMBS service. The Board voted to cancel the 2020 Annual Conference and to meet next year in Havre de Grace.

must be made that the cemetery has historic, architectural, or cultural significance. Does the cemetery help tell the story of a community? Are important people buried here? Is the cemetery design a product of a certain time, or an evolution over many years? The nomination to designate a cemetery would also include a full description of its essential features and elements like topography, layout, landscape and hardscape, systems of roads and pathways, entry features, and an overview of gravestones, structures and sculptures.

The nomination must be reviewed by the local Historic Review Board at a public hearing, and ultimately the decision is made by elected officials of the jurisdiction. Following designation of a cemetery, any planned alterations that may affect its significant features must be reviewed by the Historic Commission to make sure they are appropriate to the historic character of the cemetery.



Baptist Cemetery in Rockville, photo by Peerless Rockville

Historic Commissions in Maryland:

Local laws are by far the most effective means for preserving historic cemeteries. Some counties and towns have included burial sites in Historic Districts, but thus far few jurisdictions designate them as individual landmarks or have passed legislation to protect them. Most municipalities and counties receive authority for historic designation via the Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and some have tailored specifics to fit their situations. Charter counties use different preservation formats from other jurisdictions.

Currently there are 47 local Historic Commissions in Maryland that oversee thousands of historic sites and districts. Designated properties range from large districts in Baltimore, Havre de Grace, and Chestertown to individual sites in Frederick and Washington counties, plantations on the Eastern Shore and burial sites in Montgomery County. To learn more, check the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions at www.mahdc.org

To review local cemetery programs in Maryland, visit:

Prince George's County: https://issuu.com/mncppc/docs/cemetery_preservation_manual

Howard County: www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Planning-and-Zoning/Conservation-and-Preservation/Historic

Montgomery County: www.montgomeryplanning.org/planning/historic/montgomery-county-burial-sites-inventory/

Anne Arundel County: www.aacounty.org/cemeteries

Examples of Maryland cemeteries that would benefit from historic designation:

North Point Battlefield Cemetery (Baltimore County) – acknowledgment of existence of a known War of 1812 burial site when no grave markers are visible

Rosa Bonheur Memorial Park (Howard County) – as change comes to this valuable property, how can the pet cemetery survive development all around it?

Moses Morningstar Cemetery No. 88 (Montgomery County) – well-documented but overgrown site where few markers are visible and title is cloudy

Designation at the State and National Levels affords different and often additional protection to cemeteries. This will be covered in Part Two of this article. ♦

Preservation Maryland (PM) is committed to supporting, sharing, and amplifying the work of the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites because historic cemeteries, like historic buildings and landscapes, provide critical connections between our past and future.



PM is proud that since 2013, its Heritage Fund grant program has awarded eight grants for cemetery preservation-related projects awarding close to \$25,000 in support for these sacred places. PM also recorded recent Coalition annual conference speakers, which have received over 2500 views on YouTube.

Last year, PM partnered with the State Highway Administration to document 100 threatened cemeteries in right-of-ways across Maryland. With lessons learned from this project, the historic cemeteries of Anne Arundel County were named by PM to be a Six-to-Fix priority project. In partnership with the Anne Arundel County Cultural Resources Division, PM will tackle the next steps of creating, releasing, and implementing an app-based public documentation program – and making citizen-driven cemetery documentation a reality.

To stay up to date on Preservation Maryland's cemetery work, go to: presmd.org/signup.

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(Where to Look for Cemetery Information - Continued from pg 1)

“St.” Common names such as Mount Calvary, Mt. Zion, Hope Chapel, Asbury, and John Wesley may be found for multiple cemeteries within the same county.

MEDUSA- Maryland Cultural Resource Information System at mht.maryland.gov

Click on the property you are researching. Click one of the links at the bottom of the box to pull up short descriptive information from the Maryland Historical Trust. You can open scanned inventory forms for the full MHT documentation. You may also set up accounts for archeological and architectural information.

Online aerial searches can be done free using GoogleEarth Pro and can show historical views to the early 1990s, distance measurements, latitude and longitude readings, and elevations. Geographical Information System (GIS) (<http://mdpgis.mdp.state.md.us/mris/pi/index.html>) allows you to add filters, show property boundaries, and ownership information. Johns Hopkins maps (<https://jscholarship.library.jhu.edu/handle/1774.2/36423>) allow more historical, albeit somewhat blurred views of the region. USGS has a large collection of maps (www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/national-geospatial-program/maps) including topographic maps both online (see historic topo and aerial maps) or as hard copy maps from 1884-2006.

Genealogical and Historical Societies

Local and county genealogy or historical societies are apt to have information about area cemeteries. They may have photographs, information in surname files for specific cemeteries, files for specific cemeteries, published books of cemetery inscriptions, or transcribed information from other sources. Check to see if there are old maps showing cemetery locations

or any old tax assessment map books. The Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society has active Maryland chapters in Central Maryland, Montgomery, Prince George’s, and Baltimore. Visit www.AAHGS.org for links.

Libraries

The Maryland Room at Enoch Pratt Free Library at 2001 N. Wolfe St. in Baltimore (www.prattlibrary.org/locations/maryland/?id=4860) has information about cemeteries in various locations. The Gold Star Collection in the Annapolis West Street library houses books about areas all over the state. Some county libraries have family, cemetery, or burial information, including published genealogies on local families

or old maps showing cemetery locations.

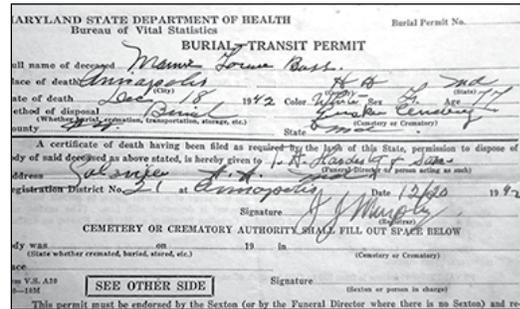
The Maryland State Law Library at 361 Rowe Blvd. in Annapolis (www.mdcourts.gov/lawlib/research/research-guides/history-and-genealogy) has a large genealogy component and contains cemetery information, also access to old newspapers. The Jesus Christ Church of LatterDay Saints (LDS/Mormons) has family heritage centers in multiple Maryland locations. While most information is computerized, some branches have books with local information as well.

Funeral Homes and Memorial Companies

Staff in funeral homes and memorial companies may be familiar with small family cemeteries not known to others.

Cemetery caretakers and gravediggers may work for multiple cemeteries and know of smaller sites. Additionally, older men who dug wells by hand often worked as gravediggers as well.

Funeral homes generally have a sheet or two with general and genealogical information about the deceased person, arranged by the date of service. It may show where they lived, length of time at that location, cemetery and plot information. They may have a copy of obituaries, permits required, or

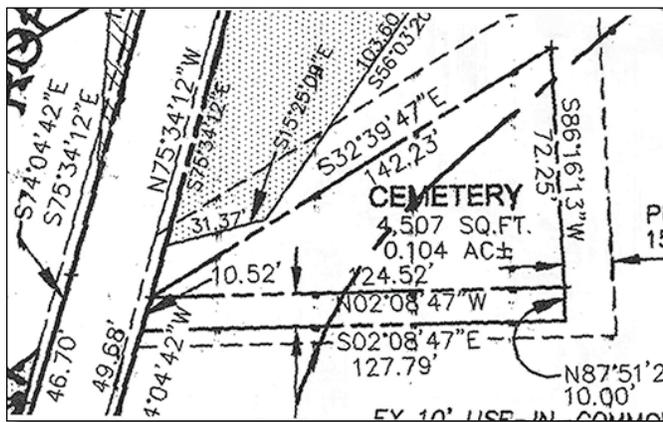


correspondence with the family contact. Be aware that funeral homes may be happy to share information on a single individual but not for general research.

Religions

Churches usually hold their own records of funerals and burials. The exception is when the church has closed; records for these churches are generally held by a major church office. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese has an archives at St. Mary’s Seminary which can be visited by appointment at 5400 Roland Ave., Baltimore (410-864-4074). The Episcopal church holds records in their diocese office at 4 E. University Pkwy, Baltimore (800-443-1399/410-467-1399). Many Maryland Methodist church records are housed at Lovely Lane Museum (<http://lovelylanemuseum.org/archives.html>) and Sharp Street Memorial U.M. Church (African American records) at 500 Dolphin St. Baltimore. Be aware that some churches may not be open to sharing their records.

The International Jewish Cemetery Project (<http://iajgscemetery.org/>) lists burial sites throughout the world. The Jewish Museum of Maryland has a database of burials in Baltimore Jewish cemeteries, funeral home records, and



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an obituary index from the Baltimore Jewish Times. The JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry is a database searched by surname.

Specialty Museums

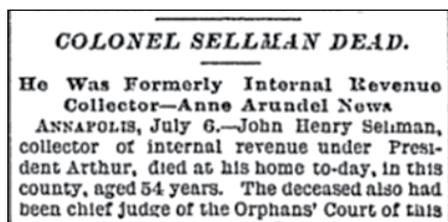
There are specialty museums around the state. Examples for African American cemetery information are Reginald Lewis Museum (<https://lewismuseum.org/>) in Baltimore and Banneker-Douglass Museum (<https://bdmuseum.maryland.gov/>) in Annapolis.

Organizations-Civic, Fraternal, and Military

A number of organizations have published cemetery transcriptions. One widely known is Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Several Maryland chapters published cemetery transcriptions, mostly in the 1940s. There are also fraternal and civic groups that transcribed cemeteries. Many military groups post information on websites, such as burial locations of veterans of specific wars or in specific states or counties.

Newspapers

Newspapers may not contain much information on cemeteries in general unless they were “re-discovered” or vandalized but older newspapers often wrote lengthy obituaries and contained notices of local residents’ deaths under segments about happenings within a community. They may have published notifications of Orphan’s Court updates on the deceased, creditors’ notices, and sales of property.



Schools

The University of Maryland has a large collection with many different types of maps. The print collection is available in the Maryland Room but much is available online.

The largest collection of maps at Johns Hopkins is found in the GIS area of the Eisenhower Library building. It is the most comprehensive collection of Baltimore City maps, atlases, and aerial photography found anywhere, with thousands of printed map sheets and digital images. All maps of Baltimore City, the State of Maryland and places within, are listed in the library’s computer catalog [Catalyst](#). Digital copies of maps, when not copyright-restricted, are available for free downloading via the institutional repository ([IScholarship](#)).

Government

Federal websites offer a variety of topographical maps—during a multitude of time periods—showing placement of cemeteries and burial grounds. These can be found at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), an agency of the Department of the Interior.

The Maryland State Archives (<https://msa.maryland.gov/>) in Annapolis has death certificates available only onsite on their computers. They have a limited number of records in

Special Collections such as church funeral and burial records. They also have published books of cemetery inscriptions for various cemeteries, and of inventoried cemeteries in certain counties. They have administrative accounts relating to inventories and disposal of goods and property after a person’s death, with or without a will. Newspapers are also accessible on their computers. The 1850, 1860, and 1870 census years included a “mortality schedule” listing individuals who died within a year of when the census was taken. Deeds and plats that sometimes mention cemeteries or show map locations are available from any computer location using a free password (<https://mdlandrec.net/main/>).

County Planning and Zoning offices should know what is available in their county pertaining to burial sites. In several counties the Parks & Recreation Department is in charge of maintaining cemeteries. Maryland Assessment and Taxation’s website (<https://sdat.dat.maryland.gov/RealProperty/Pages/default.aspx>) allows you to track deeds of individual properties, and the map view may show the general location of a cemetery.

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission has an excellent publication for Prince George’s County entitled Historic Sites and Districts Plan (https://issuu.com/mncppc/docs/illustrated_inventory_of_historic_sites_and_distri) It includes information about various cemeteries as well as showing their locations. Incorporated cities may have their own Planning and Zoning offices as well as those dealing with historical and cultural resources.

Utilities

Check to see if local utility companies know of any cemeteries located within their rights-of-way or easements.

Individuals

Never overlook networking with individuals. Long-time residents, people with hobbies or occupations taking them into areas off the beaten track such as hunters, surveyors, road operations personnel, local archeologists, horseback riders, and fishermen, are possible sources.

In the field

Even going to a potentially known cemetery site may offer issues. Can you find ownership of the property to get permission to go there? Can you determine the cemetery boundaries? Is there vegetation indicative of a cemetery? Are there tombstones or fieldstones? Does each fieldstone represent a person’s grave or do stones mark both the head and foot of a single grave? Has the area been probed for additional tombstones? Is the area conducive to other methods of testing such as ground penetrating radar or an archeological survey?

While there are a seemingly endless number of areas that can be searched for cemetery information, there is still no guarantee that positive results will happen. There are times when “probable cemetery” may be the closest you can come, or you may come across a cemetery with multiple tombstones that offer no information on who is buried beneath the ground.





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• Where to Look for Cemetery Information
• Designation of Maryland Cemeteries

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Name/Organization: _____

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City, State, Zip: _____ County: _____

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- New Renewal — Membership year is June 1 through May 31
- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Individual membership | \$ 20 per year | Household, \$30 per year | \$ 30 per year |
| Student (grade 12 and under) | \$10 per year | Organization..... | \$ 40 per year |

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To pay by credit card, visit: www.cpmbs.org/membership/

Question? Contact membership chair Kristin Kraske (410) 461-6313 • rebelkris@comcast.net