

Sharps Meeting May 28, 2024

Attendees: Tom Swan, Jerry Hendricks, Pam Goffinet, Bud Moore, Mary Voshell. – Recording Secretary

Urn burial for Ann Sellers on April 29, center section, row 11, lot 8. Placed behind flat monument and marker for husband James in 20' Sellers lot. Two cornerstones located and marks in ground indicate previous removal of cornerstones. Pam and her husband provided the dig. Payment obtained from Hicks Funeral Home.

Urn burial for James "Jake" Null on May 1, center section, row 12, lot 19 Joseph "Joey" Mackie marker, his mother Judith Null cremated remains behind the marker, Jake behind her. Question from Hicks on May 7 as to location of remains in order to place a flat stone monument for Judith and Jake. Judith was originally to have remains placed over her mother Margaret Johnson, but upon the death of her son in a car accident, location was moved. Mary met Don Hicks at the location and observed the placement of the monument.

Foard owes \$50 for Mackie urn burial in April. They were unaware of the price increase to \$250. Tom will follow-up and remind them.

May 8th Tom received a call from Crouch regarding a small booklet discovered when cleaning out Pauline Mackie's house. The book contains records of many burials at Sharp's in the 1960's and 70's. Mary picked up the book for Jerry to compare our records and update if needed.

Mary attended the Maryland Cemetery Conference in Havre de Grace on May 4. Networked with Hope Metzler, a board member for the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites. Information provided from National Park Service on conservation of historic cemeteries, such as cleaning stones, repairing ironwork and safety in cemeteries. Trader Foundation provides matching grant funds up to \$3,000 for projects with applications accepted twice a year on January 1 and July 1. The Catoctin Furnace project and HDG history presentations were interesting. Information provided to board members.

Thursday May 16th Tom got a call from Diana Mackie. She and her husband are getting divorced and she wants to sell her half of their lot back to us, but there is a stone with both of their names set in the center so we would not be able to re-sell it. Original price was \$1200 for the double lot. She was to contact Foard about the cost of removing.

One invoice received for mowing in April, 2 cuts and 1 trim. Two payments made to Cooper Wilber, one from February, invoice received late and one for Louise Mackie burial in April. \$25 received for Rayburn stone, monument size to be updated from 12 to 14" in procedure manual.

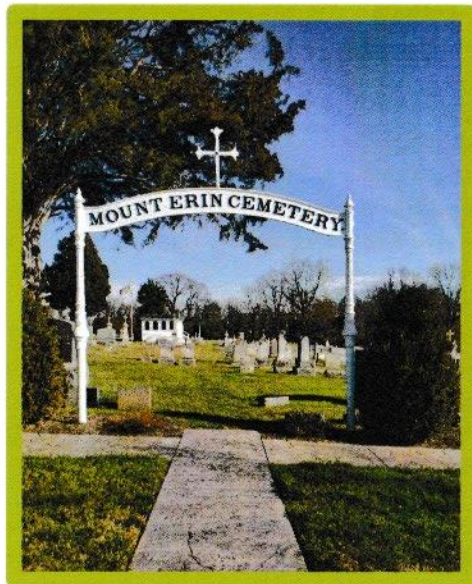
E-mail question from Bill Ayers forwarded from Pam to Jerry regarding a question from a friend regarding burial location of relatives Robert, Asa and Mabel Skinner.

Next meeting Monday June 24 @ 7pm.



**Maryland
Cemetery Conference
and CPMBS Annual Meeting**
May 4, 2024

The State Theater of Havre de Grace



Havre de Grace, Harford County, Maryland

CPMBS Officers and Directors

Eileen McGuckian, President
Glenn Wallace, Vice President
Reginald Bishop, Treasurer*
Anne Brockett, Secretary*

Directors: Glenn Blackwell, Kristin Kraske, James Lanier,* Elizabeth Larney,
Melvin Mason,* Hope Metzler, Katie Meyers,** Luann Moorman, Robert Mosko,
Tina Simmons, and Candy Warden*

**Nominated to continue on Board for 2024-26 term*

*** New Nominee to Board*

The Periwinkle Award recognizes outstanding effort by an individual or group to help save a historic cemetery. Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), a durable flowering ground cover, was often planted in burial grounds from the 18th through the 20th century. Over the years, CPMBS has honored over 60 individuals and organizations for cemetery projects throughout the State of Maryland.



Congratulations to our 2024 Periwinkle Award recipients
Friends of Oella Cemetery
Janice Hayes-Williams

The Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Inc. organized in 1992 to promote the preservation and protection of burial sites, cemeteries, and graveyards in Maryland. Participation and membership are open to all who care about their heritage, and donations are welcome.

P.O. Box 1533, Ellicott City, MD 21041 www.cpmbs.org

The Trader Foundation for Maryland Burial Sites, Inc. was established in 2015 to provide financial assistance for worthy cemetery projects. Grant application deadlines are January 1 and July 1 of each year. Funding is sustained through donations and bequests. traderfoundationmd@gmail.com

Special thanks to Reggie Bishop, Kristin Kraske, Elizabeth Larney, Anne Brockett, and Glenn Wallace for their contributions to this year's conference.

AGENDA

10:00 a.m. **Welcome**

Eileen McGuckian, President, CPMBS

CPMBS Annual Business Meeting

Reports

- Membership: Kristin Kraske
- Treasurer: Reginald Bishop
- Trader Foundation: Glenn Wallace

Coalition Highlights – News and Events

Election of 2024-2026 Directors and Officers

10:30 a.m. **History of Angel Hill Cemetery, Havre de Grace**

Amy Rosenkrans, PhD, Friends of the Concord Point Lighthouse and Maryland Women's Heritage Center

11:15 a.m. **Catoctin Furnace Investigation: A Search for Ancestry**

Dr. Douglas Owsley, Curator of Biological Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution
Elizabeth Comer, President of the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society

12:00 p.m. *Lunch Break*

1:00 p.m. **Presentation of 2024 Periwinkle Awards**

1:15 p.m. **Open Forum and Group Discussion**

This is your opportunity to ask for advice and assistance from colleagues, to let everyone know what is going on at your cemetery and in your area, and to propose initiatives and directions for burial site preservation and advocacy now and in the future.

3:00 p.m. *Tour of Mount Erin Cemetery and St. James Cemetery!*

A map has been provided to guide you to these adjoining cemeteries.

SAINT JAMES CEMETERY

Saint James was the first African American church cemetery established in Havre de Grace by parishioners of Saint James A.M.E. Church. Burials date back to at least 1907. Extensive recent preservation work has been done to reclaim the land that was once merged with the city dump and water station in the 1950s.

MOUNT ERIN CEMETERY

Mount Erin was the home of Havre de Grace's first Catholic church, a small mission called Saint James the Lesser, erected here in 1843. The mission quickly outgrew its quarters and moved downtown to become Saint Patrick, which continues to own and operate the cemetery today.

HISTORIC HAVRE DE GRACE is situated on the upper Chesapeake Bay at the mouth of the Susquehanna River in Harford County. Founded by Godfrey Harmer in the 17th century on lands inhabited by the Susquehannock, the settlement became an important transportation link after ferry began service in 1695. The town was officially named when it incorporated in 1785, apparently after the Marquis de Lafayette remarked on its similarity to the French port of Le Havre.

Much of Havre de Grace was burned by the British in 1813; buildings that remained are now marked with bronze plaques. The town rebounded with the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal in 1840 and later arrival of the Columbia and Port Deposit Railroad. Known for high activity on the Underground Railroad, many African Americans risked crossing the river here on their way to freedom in Pennsylvania. Typical river-focused businesses included fish packing, mills, canning, whiskey making, and, of course, shipping.

From 1912 to 1950, the famed racetrack "The Graw" operated here, hosting the Havre de Grace Handicap, an important race in the northeast for many years. Its winners include U.S. Racing Hall of Fame inductees Roamer, Crusader, Seabiscuit, Sun Beau, Equipoise, Challedon, and Man o' War, widely regarded as one of the greatest racehorses of all time.

Today, the charms of Havre de Grace abound. From the conference location at the historic State Theater, there are many opportunities for riverfront shopping and dining and visiting the town's museums, lighthouse, and of course its historic cemeteries!

THE STATE THEATER OF HAVRE DE GRACE

Entrepreneur J. W. Bauer opened the New Willou Theater on St. John's Street in 1908 to compete with the highly popular City Opera House on Union Avenue, which then exhibited moving pictures. In 1910, M. E. Lindsay opened the Bijou Dream Motion Picture Parlor next door to the Willou, soon selling it to Mr. Bauer, who built a passageway between them so film prints could be exchanged between showtimes. The Willou succumbed to fire in 1925, but after an extensive re-build, it reopened in 1927 as The State and became a prominent feature of Havre de Grace's entertainment scene. After ups and downs, and two years of renovations, the State reopened in 2020 better than ever! More information is available at www.statetheaterofhdg.com.

Coalition Courier



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

Volume 31, Number 1, Spring 2024

The mission of the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites is to promote the preservation and protection of the burial sites, cemeteries, and graveyards in Maryland.

2024 Cemetery Legislation Updates

Several bills pertaining to cemeteries were introduced this legislative session, and the Coalition has been actively involved in proposing amendments and providing testimony in person and in writing. These bills are very much in flux, and we will keep our members apprised via our website and at the Annual Conference.

Successes include the forward movement of HB 593, which would increase the statute of limitations for prosecuting the destruction of funerary objects and landscapes from 1 to 5 years. This bill passed in the House Judiciary Committee on March 15 without a proposed amendment that would raise penalties (with proceeds going to the Office of Cemetery Oversight).

Also moving forward is SB 224, which pertains to what information is required on Burial Transit Permits. This bill passed 46-0 in the Senate without amendments proposed by CPMBS, which sought to consolidate laws related to burials, increase notification requirements to descendants and the public, allow OCO to take the lead in non-criminal matters, and increase penalties for vandals. The bill was referred to the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

HB 828/SB 647 establishes an Abandoned Cemeteries Fund to provide for the care, preservation, maintenance, and restoration of abandoned cemeteries and offers an easy check-off box on Maryland income tax returns to contribute to the fund. Both bills were heard in committees in February, but no action has been taken yet.

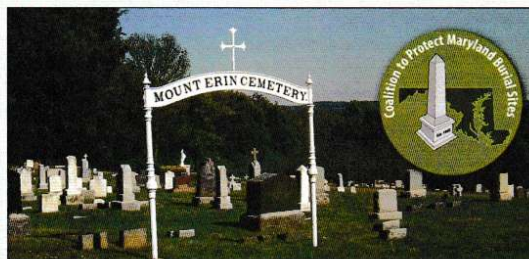
Unfortunately, SB 836/HB 870 was withdrawn. This precedent-setting bill would have authorized Washington County Commissioners to acquire a cemetery by purchase or condemnation when ownership cannot be determined and to transfer ownership to a nonprofit organization that agrees to preserve the cemetery.

The Coalition has not yet weighed in on SB 105, which seeks to provide protection and access to burial sites of the enslaved. As requested by the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, the bill would establish an Office of Burial Sites of Maryland Enslaved with a mandatory annual provision of \$2.5 million. The bill would require owners to identify and allow visitation to burial sites of enslaved persons and prohibit construction on them.

2024 CPMBS Statewide Cemetery Conference

The Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites is pleased to announce our 32nd Statewide Conference and Annual Meeting to be held Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 10 am to 3 pm. This year's host venue is the historic State Theater in Havre de Grace. The day will include talks, conservation guidance, and a tour of two adjacent local cemeteries.

Registration is \$50 for members, \$55 for non-members, and includes lunch. For more information and to register, see <https://bit.ly/3vgMcKd>.



COALITION CALENDAR

Periwinkle Award nomination deadline ~ April 1

Statewide Conference and Annual Meeting ~ May 4

Spring cleanup application deadline ~ May 10

Trader Foundation grant application deadline ~ July

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Statewide Preservation Grants Include Five Cemeteries

Governor Wes Moore announced the FY 2024 African American Heritage Preservation Grants Awardees in January, following his program funding increase from \$1 million to \$5 million last year. Of the 24 projects selected, five are cemeteries. All grants go to non-profits and cover acquisition, construction, or improvements to sites related to Maryland's African American heritage.

Bryan's Chapel and Cemetery, Queen Anne's County \$250,000 for Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), headstone conservation, and foundation and masonry repairs of the Chapel.



Brewer Hill Cemetery, Annapolis \$250,000 for overall cemetery conservation, including fence and stone repairs.

Mt. Calvary United Methodist Church, Meeting Hall and Cemetery, Anne Arundel County \$186,000 to establish a heritage center, conduct GPR, site work, and foundation and masonry repairs.

Ridgely Methodist Church and Cemetery, Prince George's County \$111,000 for cemetery conservation efforts, GPR, and fence installation.

Bushy Park Community Cemetery, Howard County \$63,500 for cemetery conservation efforts, vegetation removal, and GPR.



For more information, see <https://bit.ly/4alfciD> and <https://bit.ly/3Pubpb4>.

Brewer Hill and Bushy Park photos courtesy of MHT website.

Filing Cemetery Complaints With the OCO

The Office of Cemetery Oversight (OCO) is Maryland's agency with regulatory authority over burial grounds, goods, and services. As part of its mission, the OCO "provides a responsive complaint/resolution process for consumers" and "a fair and effective regulatory enforcement system."

Anyone may submit a written complaint to the OCO against a registered organization or company involved in burials or cremations. The staff will then alert the registrant or permit holder of the nature of the complaint and work with the parties to address the issue(s). If necessary, mediation, binding arbitration, and/or a formal investigation will occur, with disciplinary action taken as warranted.

For more information, see <https://bit.ly/3TIEztZ>.

Barbara Kraske • 1937 – 2024

The Coalition sadly announces the passing of former Coalition President Barbara Kraske on February 24, 2024. Barbara, her late husband Gerhard, and daughter Kristin joined the Coalition in 1997. Barbara and Gerhard were very active in the organization, and Kristin still serves on our board. We offer our condolences to Kristin and her family.



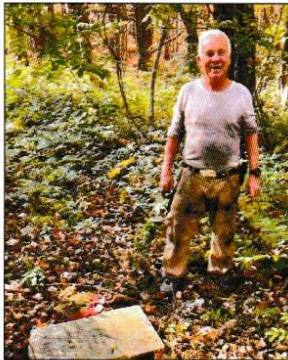
CPMBS Volunteers Cleanup Baltimore County Cemetery

This past November 19 and 26, the Coalition hosted a fall clean-up at the Lowe Family Cemetery in Owings Mills, which was significantly overgrown. The family burial ground has headstones that range from 1799 to 1911. We had 16 volunteers bring their rakes, chainsaws, hacksaws, wheelbarrows, and other equipment to take on the vines, weeds, and volunteer trees and shrubs. Metal stakes were used to mark stones, and spray paint and plastic tape were used to mark trees.

We got so much done that we could clear out almost all of the overgrowth (filling two dumpsters) and identify which stones needed repair. We also identified 12 previously unknown graves, some with small field stones. As often is the case, we still have work left to do – remove the dead trees, continue removing overgrowth, document the headstones, and geolocate them on a map. If you want to help with this cemetery, please contact Hope Metzler at hmetzler@cpmbs.org. For more information on the Lowe Cemetery, visit <https://bit.ly/3THESQb>.



Mullikin Tombstone Returned



Mr. Treas with Martha's found tombstone.

In November 2023, Mr. George Treas, III, contacted the Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning to report finding a tombstone lying in the woods in the Curtis Bay area near the Baltimore City line. The County called Coalition board member Tina Simmons, who visited the site with Coalition member Dennis Green and found the stone face up with the information legible. It belonged to Martha A. Mullikin (1822-1897), wife of Benjamin O. Mullikin.

Dennis and Tina probed the area for other stones but found none. Their research also showed that no other Mullikins were buried in the vicinity. When they widened their search, a surprising discovery was made. The tombstone had been missing for 50 years from a family cemetery on the Patuxent Research Refuge, more than 20 miles away! There had been two tombstones at that location, a husband and a wife, and both stones had been missing since at least the early 1970s. Benjamin's obituary stated that the couple were buried next to each other, although his headstone is still missing.

Over Thanksgiving weekend, Mr. Treas, Dennis, Tina, and her able-bodied son placed boards on either side of the tombstone, wrapped it in a moving quilt, secured it to a hand truck, and loaded it into a pickup truck. It was moved to a secure warehouse until permission could be obtained to return it to its rightful location.

After a failed attempt due to weather, the stone was returned to the Mullikin Family Cemetery in Laurel in mid-December, with the hope that Benjamin's stone would also turn up someday.



Tina and Dennis at the Mullikin Cemetery.



Since 2016, organizations and individuals wanting a better future for Maryland cemeteries have turned to the Trader Foundation as a source of financial assistance. Twice a year, the foundation invites proposals for projects and programs to benefit burial grounds. Grants were recently increased up to \$3,000 and are available for a wide range of projects, including documentation, planning, and restoration. Creativity and innovative projects are encouraged, and a minimal match is required to confirm commitment.

The Trader Foundation is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, more of whom are welcomed. Also appreciated are donations to keep this financial assistance available for worthy projects around the state.

Grant application deadlines are January and July of each year.

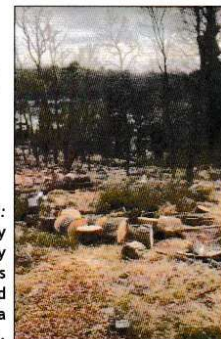
For more information and application form, see

<https://cpmb.org/trader-foundation/>



Above:

Friends of Halfway African American Cemetery used Trader funds to install a new fence, clean markers, and other work at this Washington County burial ground.



Right:

The Oella Historical Society project at Oella Cemetery removed dead and fallen trees and invasive plants, established pathways, and created a landscape master plan.



Coalition Courier

P.O. Box 1533

Ellicott City, MD 21041-1533

News from St. Anne's Church Cemetery

New homeowners in Eastport, Maryland recently found a pile of wrought iron fencing in their backyard. A gate with a surname on it allowed researchers to tie the fencing to St. Anne's Episcopal Church Cemetery across the river in Annapolis. The fencing had surrounded a family plot but was removed by the cemetery to allow for easier mowing. The Church's records even showed that the original purchaser of the fencing still owed the church \$200! St. Anne's is interested in having the fencing returned for its historical interest and possible use in a new memorial garden.

The St. Anne's Cemetery Committee is currently looking to do the first major cemetery update in years for both St. Anne's and St. Anne's Cedar Bluff cemeteries. If you have information about individuals buried in either cemetery (name, death date or place, plot information, cemetery deed, burial plot receipt, funeral home, or obit), they are interested in hearing from you!

Spring Cleanup - Send Us Your Ideas!

The CPMBS Board and volunteers are searching for a cemetery that needs our help to cut small trees and shrubs, clear overgrowth, locate and clean markers, map, and/or photograph. Previous cleanups have taken our core crew to Williamsburg in Dorchester County, Smithsburg in Washington County, and Owings Mills in Baltimore County. Please note that owner permission is required, and local volunteers are needed. We'll bring the dumpster and the tools! Contact mail@cpmbs.org for more information or to suggest a cemetery by May 10.

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