

~ *The Friends of Old Trinity Cemetery* ~

Spring Newsletter  
March 2018



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Friends of Holy Trinity,

Greetings once more to our friends of Holy Trinity! I am looking forward to Spring, as I am sure many of you are also tired of winter as well. A few warm days get one spoiled.

I am sure you are also tired of hearing me beg for people to help us with the cemetery. Each year the urgency of that request becomes more apparent. We are down to 3 people who attend board meetings. I do so by phone. If the jobs we have were time consuming I could understand peoples' reluctance, but at the most it is a few hours here and there throughout the year. So, please give careful consideration to what you may be able to do for us

That leads me to the sad news that one of our faithful board members and liaison with St. Barnabas is moving to Virginia. Butch Willard has been very faithful in attending meetings and in preparing for Visitation. He has been one to help with whatever comes up. He will be sorely missed. He has promised to keep doing our Facebook page, even though he will do so at a distance. Thanks, Butch for all your help and encouragement.

Butch was instrumental in getting our visitor for last year's Visitation, Hannah Olsen, who portrayed a teenaged Mary Hollingsworth (1844-1863). It is only the second time in my memory that our program at the cemetery was rained out. But, that didn't stop us. We were kindly welcomed into Bob Evans Restaurant by manager, Nicole Costly, for our program. Everyone enjoyed Hannah's performance, Blair Radney's message and a piece of apple pie to top it all off.

And that leads me to one last thing. Blair Radney has brought the message at

Visitation for the last 3 years and we have been blessed by his ministry. I just learned this week that his long years of effort are paying off. He will be graduating from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kentucky, with a Masters degree in Christian Ministry on May 18, 2018. We want to congratulate him and thank him for all the years he has also put into the care and upkeep of Holy Trinity Cemetery.

Jane Ward, Board President



*Ann Horvath, Jane Ward and Hanna Olson, who portrayed Mary Hollingsworth at Visitation 2017*



*HTC faithful Butch Willard*

## SHERVETT'S CORNER:

"Hmmm?" you say. "What on earth could Shervett's Corner have to do with Holy Trinity, and what is it anyway?" Well, there is a close connection.

Today Shervette's corner is an unincorporated community in Carroll County, Maryland, lying about 3 miles from Eldersburg at the junction of MD Rt. 26 (Liberty Road), and Oakland Mills Rd. How it came by the name, I believe, is from Shervette's garage being located at that corner of Liberty Road. Although the garage remained for a while there were big changes to the area about 1950.

Oakland Mills Road originally went to the town of Oakland Mills, site of the Melville Woolen Mills. The land was purchased from the Melville family in the 1930s. A rumor swirled that Oakland would be destroyed, but few left. The government bought the Melville Woolen Mill for \$1.5 million. It bought the farms and houses that were in the way of the lake and tenant workers were forced to leave by 1951.<sup>1</sup>

Prior to the building of the dam for drinking water for Baltimore City, Liberty Road followed the route of what is now a service road north of the current road. It extended across the north branch of the Patapsco via a steel bridge near the Beam Grist mill on the Baltimore county side. A concrete bridge was built about 1915 to replace a wooden covered bridge which crossed the Patapsco at the same location. The covered bridge had been built about 1850,<sup>2</sup> and burned down on July 8, 1914. A fire company from Pikesville was not able to save the bridge, but concentrated on saving the North Branch Rolling Mills and Hotel.<sup>3</sup> In 1938, a steel bridge was built at the same location. Perhaps this was the time when Rt. 26 was straightened out so that the easternmost portion where the Williams and Fites lived became Old Liberty Rd. I visited there often as a child in the 1940s and 50s and never remember that being the main road.

Historically this area was occupied by a large tract settled by John Baptiste Snowden, a

native of the Eastern Shore, who built the first part of his house known as Branton Manor in the architectural style of early Tidewater Maryland about 1766. The property accrued to about 390 acres on both sides of the road. His son added another 954 acres to the estate and a wing to the house. The house stood along the south side of this main east-west travel route between Baltimore and Libertytown. The Snowdens owned the property until 1817.

Branton passed into the hands of the wealthy Hollingsworth family in 1825. Edward Ireland Hollingsworth in turn sold about 182 acres of it to Jesse Hollingsworth in 1826<sup>4</sup> The Hollingsworth family lived at Branton until 1858.<sup>5</sup> Edward Ireland's home was situated north-west of Shervette's corner at the edge of what is now Lakeview Memorial Cemetery.

Edward Ireland sold another portion of his land in 1847 to John N. Fite,<sup>6</sup> who also built his house along Liberty Road on his 167 acres. He left his property to his nephew, John Fite Ware, who lived there at the crest of the hill overlooking the river. Caroline Ware and husband, John H. Williams, lived down the hill closer to the river. Both the Fite and Williams homes were razed to make way for the new road over the Liberty Reservoir.

Hopefully you can now see the connection of Shervett's Corner to the cemetery. At the time of internments at the cemetery and into the early 1900's the community was known as North Branch.

So the North Branch community was the home for many who were associated with Holy Trinity church. A number of Hollingsworths and Irelands reside in the cemetery. Catherine Beam, whose father owned the mill on the Baltimore county side, was married to Zebulon Hollingsworth. John Fite's sisters, Barbara, Mary E., and Rebecca Jane are buried there. John Fite Ware became the church registrar and his daughter, Caroline, and grandson; John W. Williams were confirmed at Holy Trinity.

By Jane Ward

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland Route 26, Wikipedia,

<sup>2</sup> *Baltimore Sun*, April 6, 1848, advertisement for bridge builders.

<sup>3</sup> North Branch Bridge Burned, *Baltimore Sun*, July 9, 1914

<sup>4</sup> From a map by George Horvath

<sup>5</sup> U. S. Dept of the Interior, National Register of Historic Places : Branton Manor

<sup>6</sup> George Horvath.



*Branton Manor*

### **CARETAKER'S REPORT:**

We have a major challenge ahead with the declining health of the large, old oak tree at the corner of the cemetery. I have now had three different tree companies evaluate the tree and all agreed that it needs to come down. The part that is still living presents a significant danger to the cemetery. It is the part that leans toward the tombstones and once the leaves come out could easily fall toward the cemetery in a storm. Taking down this tree will be complicated and costly. Special equipment, such as a crane will be needed. The estimates range from about \$3,000 to \$4,000. For me, this is very sad. This is the tree with the bench around part of the base. It has looked over us at spring cleanups and annual visitations. It was old even when the church was still active and our ancestors sought its shade.

Ann Horvath



*Phyllis Vetter at the base of the old oak tree in the HTC.  
The bench was given to the cemetery by St. Barnabas with  
support from Rev. Mullins*

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### **SPRING CLEANUP DAY**

We will need your help for Spring Cleanup! Bring family, friends, neighbors, light refreshments or money to help with the tree expenses. Volunteers should come with rakes, gloves and be dressed for work and the weather. Please note the rain date. If there are questions call Ann Horvath at 443 - 328 - 6226

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Jane Ward, President  
Ann Horvath, Caretaker & Archivist  
Jane Cohen, Treasurer  
Butch Willard, Liaison with St. Barnabas  
Jennie Ruby, Book Editor  
Don Vetter, Newsletter  
Blair Radney

Here is your Spring newsletter!

Mark your calendar

**Spring Cleanup – April 7<sup>th</sup> at 10am    Rain Date April 14<sup>th</sup> 10am**

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<http://oldtrinitycemetery.org/>

Local contact: Ann Horvath (443 – 328 – 6226)

Gifts and Contributions: Jane Cohen, 5909 Oakland Road, Sykesville, MD 21784

*Friends of Holy Trinity Cemetery*

c/o Don Vetter

11624 Jerome Ave

White Marsh, MD 21162

