



~ *The Friends of Old Trinity Cemetery* ~

Spring Newsletter

March 2017



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Friends of Holy Trinity,

As I sit here looking out the window at the bright sunshine I am reminded that spring is not far away.

We had our February meeting with only two in attendance and me on the phone from Pennsylvania. So, again I must say that we could use a few more board members with fresh ideas. I spoke with Jennie Ruby shortly after and she was bubbling with ideas. That is what we need, as us old folks get burned out after a while.

I am sorry to tell you of the passing of our newsletter editor, David R. Myers on Nov. 17, 2016, after a battle with cancer. As sick as he was, he managed to put out our October newsletter. He was always so conscientious about doing it. David also helped with music at Visitation several times. He will be sorely missed. (See obituary)

We are privileged to have Don Vetter volunteer to take over as our newsletter editor starting with this issue. Don has been a long-time supporter of Holy Trinity Cemetery, even before me.

Jane Ward, Board President

CARETAKER'S REPORT:

The cemetery will look a little different at Spring Cleanup this year. We are grateful to Beth Bitzel and to her son Justin's landscaping company, Mill Valley Contracting, for the tree work they did after the Annual Visitation. They took down one evergreen that was squeezing out the large holly tree. They cut the lower branches of the other evergreen, so now the bench under it is visible again. They also cut down the two small holly trees in the center of the cemetery. The cemetery now feels more open and inviting. They cleaned up the leaves and hauled away the brush. As a result, cleanup should be a little easier this year. There has been no significant damage during the winter, but there are lots of small branches down and still plenty of leaves waiting for us.

I hear that Blair Radney or his brother James will keep the cemetery mowed again this year. Their loyalty to this site, during a busy time in their lives, is amazing. Hopefully, they find this work a special release from some of the other challenges life presents.

Cemetery cleanup is scheduled for April 1st at 10a.m. to about Noon. The rain date is April 8th at the same time. Dress for working outside, bring work gloves and a rake. We will have snacks and drinks available. We look forward to having "Friends" participate, so come if you can. If

the weather is uncertain, please call me at 443 – 328 – 6226. (Please note that I put my new phone number in the last newsletter incorrectly)

Ann Horvath



Teresa McGuire portraying Barbara Fite
Visitation 2016

ARCHIVES REPORT:

As you know, our archives are stored at the Gate House Museum in Sykesville. We have research materials, photographs, correspondence, copies of newspaper articles, copies of newsletters, a few artifacts, etc. there.

The museum has been closed now for over a year. Jack White is the Curator and has been working on getting it open again this spring. I know that he has some exciting exhibits planned, so be watching for more information.

Ann Horvath

WHAT WAS THE HOLY TRINITY CEMETERY LIKE BEFORE EUROPEAN SETTLERS?

When the cornerstone was laid on March 8, 1771 for the construction of Holy Trinity Church, Eldersburg, and its environs were still the frontier. The two acres purchased for the chapel of ease sat on a knoll with tall forest trees. The surrounding area consisted of widely spread farms with wild animals and native people wandering through. Welsh's Tavern was a defensive position in case of Indian raids. By the time of the Revolution, colonial burials were likely already being made at Holy Trinity Cemetery.

Before the Revolution, Native Americans still inhabited the area, and European settlers still competed with the Native Americans for land and resources. There were even "Indian raids," requiring militia in Northern Baltimore County to protect against skirmishes in the area, during the time when Carroll County was still part of Baltimore County.

Carroll County seems to have been a hunting area for many tribes, such as the Seneca, Tuscarora, Shawnee, Condy and Delaware. As late as the 1600's the land from the Patapsco north-eastward into Pennsylvania was claimed by the very warlike Susquehannock. This is probably why Carroll County was largely a place for temporary Native American settlements rather than the permanent villages with log houses, stockades and garden crops found in Southern Maryland and Pennsylvania. The Iroquois also made raids into central Maryland. Many Native American trails crossed the area, such as the Conestoga, Old Indian and Delaware Bottom trails, where Native Americans traveled in single file along paths a few feet wide. Liberty Road

itself is supposed to have paralleled an old Native American road.

Native Americans set up their campsites along springs and streams. Jack Ruby, a long-time Eldersburg resident and supporter of Holy Trinity Cemetery, was also an avid student and collector of Native American artifacts. He located 12 campsites in Carroll County containing arrowheads, spear points, stone axes and decorative pieces.



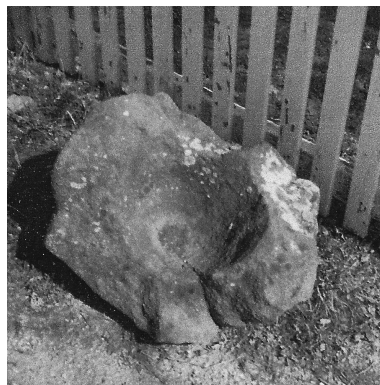
Jack Ruby's Collection
of Native American Artifacts

One such settlement was located off route 32. If you turn off 32 onto Irving Ruby Road, and drive a quarter of a mile, you'll be passing an area, on the left, site of a Native American encampment, close to a spring there. Another was located down closer to Morgan's Run. He found many artifacts in that area off Irving Ruby Road years before the current housing developments were made.

The Native Americans of this area would expose their dead to the air to decay, bury them and then later gather the bones into ossuaries. It is reported that when some of the tribes left their homes to go farther west prior to the Revolution, they carried their ancestors' bones with them. It has long been known that the Native Americans would locate their burial areas at high points in the countryside. The Holy Trinity Cemetery is located on such a high point—a

high knoll in that part of Eldersburg. Was it a Native American burial site at some time before English settlers came to the area? We don't know; it is an interesting idea, but we can assume that if it was, they took the remains with them when they left.

We know that even as late as 1824 a Bureau of Indian Affairs was established in Maryland. Strangely, by the time that Bureau was established, all the Native American Tribes of Maryland had either moved out of the state, or the individuals had integrated into the community. Nevertheless, records in the National Archives include some correspondence between the Office of Native American trade and the Office of the Secretary of War during the years 1800 through 1824, at a time when Holy Trinity was in use.



Native American Stone found 1977 near the
Bennett Cemetery Carroll Co. MD

Board Members

Jane Ward, President

Ann Horvath, Caretaker & Archivist

Jane Cohen, Treasurer

Butch Willard, Liaison with St. Barnabas

Jennie Ruby, Book Editor

Jared Grace, Webmaster

Don Vetter, Newsletter

Blair Radney

Obituary for David Ruby Myers

David was the eldest son of Merl D. and Lillie Ruby Myers. He lived most of his life in Laurel, MD. In 1967, he married Sherry Swank and they were able to spend 49 years together.

He earned a B.A. in physics from Johns Hopkins University and a M.Ed. in science education from the U of MD and worked in the Prince George's County education system for 39 years as a physics and chemistry teacher. During this time, he served as science department chair and was recognized as the county's Outstanding Science Teacher for 1987 as well as being a finalist in the state for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science.

He taught other science instructors at P. G. community College for 20 years as well as traveling to Rwanda in 2002 to do the same there. He was a founding member of Side by Side, a non-profit organization supporting the P.G. County public school and served as its president and treasurer.

David also served in his church as a choir member, Sunday school teacher and chairman of the Administrative board.

Here is your Spring newsletter!

Mark your calendar

Spring Cleanup – April 1st 10am. Rain Date April 8th 10am

<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

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