

WINTER NK

Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory

ID: 219

Name: Waters (Zachariah) Family Burying Ground

Alternate name:

Address: ~~Waters Road~~ in field across from front of 20938 Mountain Lake Terrace

Town: Germantown

ADC Map Page ¹⁰ 189 Grid ^{F-8} D72 E-11

~~Zach. McCubbin Waters House, 2200 Foxlain Road, MPKT/043~~

Type

Religious

Family

Private

Other

Association

Free black

Enslaved

Ethnic

Prehistoric

Setting Rural Urban Suburban Forested Other

Condition Excellent Good Fair Poor

Negative Impacts (vandalism, dumping, neglect, encroachment, etc) All stones down, some broken

Approximate no. of burials 5 Date range of burials 1824-1864

Description (markers, materials, arrangement, landscaping, fence, paths and roads, etc.)

Completely overgrown ~~inaccessible~~. Iron fence around it. dying flat. some bases
~~Come back in winter. All stones could be seen.~~
~~To East of 20938~~ still in place. Most are legible. Dumping of fill dirt inside fence. Terrible condition.

Surveyor(s) Janet M & Anne B. Survey date 2/20/05
Photographer Anne B. Date 6/12/04 Photo no. 2/20/05

Current owner Lerner Development
Address/Phone No. _____

Historic Status Locational Atlas ID 19/2 (removed) National Register
 Master Plan ID _____ Other _____

UTM _____

Additional sources of information: Associated w/ Waters Log House (19/002) -
SFF handrawn map - shows "site of Negro graveyard" removed from locational Atlas nearby!

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WATERS (ZACHARIAH) FAMILY CEMETERY
ACROSS FROM 20938 MOUNTAIN LAKE TERRACE
GERMANTOWN

GRAVEYARD ON WILLIAM A. WATERS FARM

See map for location. In May, 1979, the remains of the graveyard were next to a large single wild cherry tree in the middle of a cornfield. Four headstones were visible. Robert Waters of Clarksburg says that in his childhood there were five graves in an apparently intact graveyard. Tilghman Waters' will stipulated that the graveyard be preserved, stones be placed over the remains of his father (Zachariah Waters), his mother (Anna Waters), brother (Baker) and sister (Courtney). The will was probated 9/12/1864.

There are four headstones. One of them is face down. Another is partly embedded in the ground. What is legible on the stone indicates that it may be that of Zachariah Waters. The other two have the following inscriptions:

TILGHMAN WATERS
of
Montgomery County
Died March 19, 1864
in the
79th year of his age

*face stone
T.W.*

*updated
Feb 20, 2005
by Janet & Anne*

BAKER WATERS
of
Montgomery County
died Sept. 29, 1846
~~born Sept. 29~~

in the 66th year of his age

*Zachariah Waters (broken off) piece
d Jan 17 1824
in the 77th yr of his age*

*Anna Waters d Jan 17 1837
of Montgomery Co. in the 79th yr of her age*

*Waters Cemetery
(on Centenary Hill)*

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Cemetery found on Germantown development

by Lisa Curtis
Staff Writer

Zachariah Waters may have died 170 years ago, but he still has a hold on modern-day development in Germantown.

It seems that Waters, one of the area's first settlers, placed his family cemetery on the sight of the proposed North Village commercial center. The development, located near the future intersection of Century Boulevard and Crystal Rock Drive, has been planned for more than five years.

It wasn't until two weeks ago, however, that developers learned of the historical treasure underneath the property.

"It's not an issue they've ever encountered on this or any other site," said attorney Robert G. Brewer, who represents Lerner Enterprises, the developer of the site. Lerner is the developer behind White Flint Mall, Landover Mall and other commercial and residential projects.

Survey crews are working to see whether the cemetery will interfere with any of the plans for the development. Brewer said his client was optimistic that it won't.

"We are 98 to 99 percent sure that there is no development planned in that area," Brewer said.

The Germantown Historical Society first became aware of the

cemetery's existence last month through Germantown native Erik Davis.

Davis has known about the cemetery since he was a teenager riding bikes in the open fields that surround it. He said he assumed other people knew the cemetery was there, too.

"There's a lot of historical structures that I'm aware of that a lot of other people don't know about" said Davis, 29.

The Historical Society had not been aware of the cemetery, said Susan Soderberg, president of the group. The discovery was one of the most significant historical findings in Germantown's recent history.

Zachariah Waters was a descendent of the Waters family, the oldest family of European descent to settle in Germantown. Waters was born in 1748, and died in 1824, at the age of 77.

The cemetery also contains the remains of Waters' three children, Tilghman, Baker and Courtney. None had children of their own, thus ending the family line. Zachariah's wife Anna is believed to be buried in the cemetery, but there is no headstone to confirm it.

When Erik Davis graduated from Seneca Valley High School in 1983, he gave up the bike riding for map making. Just for fun, he took historical maps of Germantown and matched them with maps of proposed developments. That is when he realized that the cemetery sat on the spot slated for corporate centers and roads.

"I just didn't want to see any bulldozer backing over it," said Davis, now a cartographer for the National Park Service in Washington.



Bob Roller/G.

Erik Davis reveals the markings on a headstone at a cemetery in Germantown.

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While the discovery is significant, the existence of family cemeteries is not unusual in Germantown, Soderberg said. There are more than a half-dozen historical cemeteries throughout the community. In each case, the cemeteries are protected and preserved by the property owners.

Just last month, Germantown Historical Society members made an agreement with Elm Street De-

velopment to preserve the Arnold/Mager Cemetery at the corner of Great Seneca Highway and Clopper Road. Henry Arnold owned Germantown's first general store, which was located at the same intersection as his family cemetery.

The preservation includes repairing and replacing damaged headstones and the placement of a

permanent fence around the Soderberg is hoping to out a similar arrangement Lerner Enterprises for protection of the Zachariah cemetery.

"The (Historical Society) would like the burying ground remain where it is and to be stored to its original appearance she said.

Aging water lines spell trouble for WSSC and customers

by **Sandra Arnoult**
Staff Writer

It started with water seeping along the edges of Colesville Road north of Franklin Avenue on a Tuesday night last week.

Within hours, gushing water from a ruptured 20-inch water main had created a virtual sinkhole on two full lanes of Colesville in Silver Spring.

"This kind of thing happens," said Sonny Lauer, a district utility manager for the State Highway Administration, surveying the damage this week and trying to assess how long it would take to put things back together again.

It is happening more and more in Montgomery County, which has an aging sewage system.

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Commissioner Lewis Helm of Bethesda believes the break on Colesville is a sign of things to come. He says the agency is spending more for new construction and less on replacing aging pipes in older sections of the county.

"To me it makes no sense to focus on new construction while the older portions of the county suffer," Helm said.

County Council member Derick Berlage agreed with

Helm and said that when the council reviews the budget next spring, it will examine the reconstruction maintenance needs of the existing system.

"The focus in the 80s was creating new infrastructure," said Berlage. "In the decades of the 90s we are going to need to reinvest in our structure."

Water was restored Wednesday night to the households that lost service because of the break, Helm said.

See **Water**, page

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Vandals damage historic cemetery

by Lisa Curtis
Staff Writer

Vandals have damaged at least one of the headstones in a historic Germantown cemetery, only weeks after the discovery of the site.

According to police, someone stole a bulldozer from a nearby construction site during the first weekend of this month and ran over a tree next to the Waters family cemetery, knocking the tree onto the headstones. The most damage appears to be to the headstone of Zachariah Waters, the patriarch of the family and one of the descendants of Germantown's first settlers.

Waters' headstone, which records a birth year of 1748 and the year of death as 1824, was broken into three pieces, said Susan Soderberg, president of the Germantown Historical Society. The headstone of Baker Waters, Zachariah's son who died 1846, is trapped under the tree and likely suffered damage, she added.

Soderberg's elation last month at the discovery of the cemetery was quickly shattered last week when she went to survey the damage. She could only shake her head as she looked through a stack of photos taken before and after the damage.

"It's possible that they just wanted to turn over the tree and didn't know the cemetery was there. But I doubt it," she said.

Police think the vandals weren't targeting the cemetery, but instead were taking a joyride on a bulldozer that they didn't know how to control.

"It looked like it was parked and then driven in a straight line from where it was parked," said Ofc. Joseph Emhof of the Germantown District police station.

Last Tuesday, an employee from a construction company working in the area reported to police that someone had been tampering with one of the bulldozers left on the site. Around the same time, someone from

Manekin Corp., which is developing office buildings a half-mile from the cemetery, told police a similar story.

Soderberg doesn't agree with the police analysis. She observed tracks going in several different directions around the cemetery, indicating that driver knew how to control it.

"I certainly don't think it was accidental," she said.

Emhof said police have few leads at this point. Any fingerprints that may have been left on the bulldozer were washed off during the weekend rain, he said.

Soderberg has been working with lawyers for Lerner Enterprises, the developer of the land on which the cemetery was found, to reach an agreement on the upkeep and protection of the cemetery. She is uncertain how the vandalism will affect their negotiations.

"We'll just wait and see if they find out who did it," she said.

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Ron Agnir/GAZETTE

The headstone of Zachariah Waters, one of the descendants of Germantown's first settlers, was damaged earlier this month when vandals drove a bulldozer through the historic cemetery.

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