

Waters Family Cemetery

Germantown, Montgomery County, Maryland

Early last June, I was informed by our caretaker at Monocacy Cemetery that a woman named "Nicole" contacted her regarding the transfer of bodies/remains from a family cemetery over to our cemetery. She said the family name was WATERS and that she was aware that there were some Waters family members at Monocacy Cemetery.

Nicole provided her email address and phone number. Intrigued by the email address, I did some research. Ntotah@symmetrydevelops.com belongs to Nicole Totah, a real estate representative for Symmetry Develops out of Silver Spring, MD.

Symmetry Develops owns a vast amount of property in Germantown, right along Father Hurley Blvd and I-270. The aerial image below details the property they are about to develop into homes, retail, hotel, and commercial units.

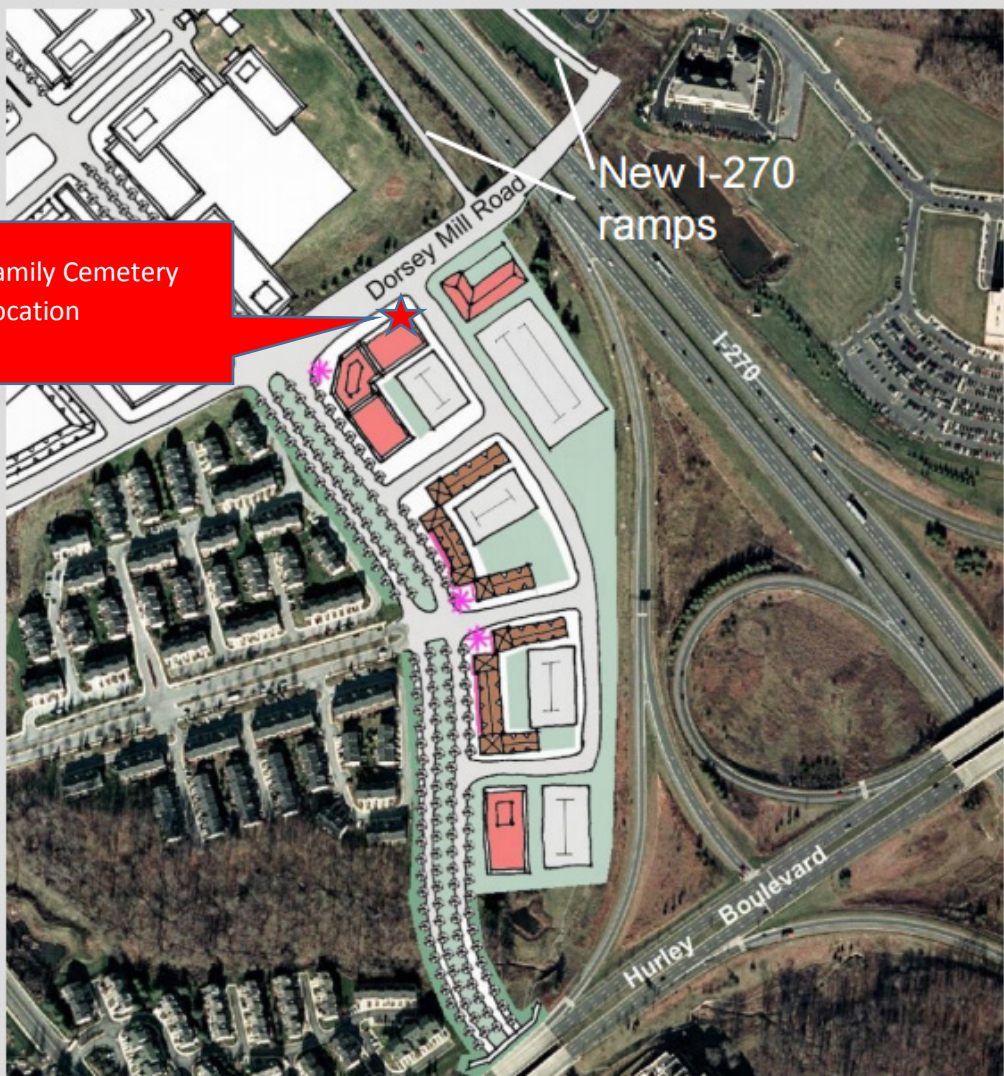


Look specifically at the tiny square just above the center of the map. This is the [WATERS Family Cemetery](#) that this developer wants removed from their property so they can build a connecting road and overpass to the opposite side of I-270. The construction would intersect exactly where the cemetery is located. Ms. Totah informed Germantown Historical Society that a retaining wall would be constructed to protect the burial site but the construction zone would still be greatly impacted.

Existing and Proposed Classified Road Network



Germantown Master Plan



The Waters family was one of the most prominent families in the early 1800s in Montgomery County. Zachariah Waters, who rests here, is an American Revolutionary War Patriot.

Ms. Totah mentioned 5 graves to be relocated but there are at least 17 known burials there. Only 5 grave stones are remaining, which I assume they would want to transfer, not realizing that there are 12 unmarked burials in that enclosure as well. (The family had a [second cemetery](#) on their farm which is now completely surrounded by the Waters Landing development residences.)

There are **RED FLAGS** all over this request! If Ms. Totah contacted Monocacy Cemetery first, without contacting the State's Attorney who has to authorize the movement of burial remains (See #6 of the Abandoned/Private/Family Cemeteries section of the [Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation](#)), she is intentionally breaking the law.

Monocacy Cemetery's Board will not get involved with this if Nicole is trying to quietly transfer the remains without following the strict guidelines of the State, regardless of her trying to uproot this famous family from their homeland.

List of known burials:

Waters, Anna (1758-1837)*

Waters, Mary (1780-1820)

Waters, Anna Baker (1758-1837)

Waters, Richard, Sr. (1715-1797)

Waters, Baker (1780-1846)*

Waters, Samuel, Sr. (1674-1747)

Waters, Courtney (1788-1853)*

Waters, Sarah Arnold (1679-1707)

Waters, Elizabeth Mier (1750-?)

Waters, Tilghman "Tilmon" (1783-1864)*

Waters, Elizabeth Williams (1720-1794)

Waters, Dr. Washington (1804-1882)

Waters, Ignatius "Nacy", Sr. (1761-1829)

Waters, William (1805-1864)

Waters, Joseph (1746-1796)

Waters, Zachariah (1748-1825)*

Waters, Joseph, III (1776-1820)

*Grave marker in place

POPLAR GROVE BURIAL GROUND



Waters Family Crest

The Waters family is the oldest family of European descent in Germantown, owning most of the land east of the railroad, north of Rt.118, and south of Little Seneca Creek in present-day Germantown. Three brothers, Zachariah, William and Basil, were given the land by their father, William Waters of Brookeville in the 1780s.

Zachariah's farm, encompassing the land on which you now stand, was known as "Poplar Grove." William's farm to the west was "Water's Place," and Basil's farm to the east was "Pleasant Fields." All three properties came mainly from the original land grant called "Conclusion." Each of the brothers built a substantial house, but Pleasant Fields is the only one remaining today. The brothers built a grist, fax-seed-oil and saw mill, the ruins of which can be seen in Black Hill Park.

Zachariah Waters married Anna Baker, daughter of John and Judith Howard Wood Baker of Berkley. Zachariah Waters was an active patriot during the Revolutionary War. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace on March 7, 1778 and was appointed to raise the quota for Sugarloaf Hundred of monetary contributions to the War. Zachariah and Anna had three children: Baker Waters (1779-1846) who married Rachel Cooke Magruder but had no children; Tilghman Waters (1784-1864) who married Eleanor Magruder Briscoe but had no children; and Courtney Waters (1789-1853) who never married.

When Zachariah died in 1824 Baker Waters inherited Poplar Spring, consisting of 190 acres with a house and barns, Courtney being allowed by her father's will to live in the house until she married -- which she never did. When Baker died in 1846, Tilghman inherited the estate, and when he died in 1864 he willed his estate to his nephew, Dr. Washington Waters, stipulating that Washington erect an iron fence around the family burying ground and put up tombstones for himself, his wife, his brother and sister, and his parents. This was done, although Tilghman's wife, Eleanor (Ellen) did not die until 1880 and may be buried elsewhere. The property next went to William A. Waters, son of Dr. Washington Waters.

The burial ground is under the care and protection of the Germantown Historical Society

TOMBSTONES

ZACHARIAH WATERS of Montgomery County died Aug. 17, 1824 in the 77 year of his age

ANNA WATERS of Montgomery County died Jan. 17, 1837 in the 79 year of her age

TILGHMAN WATERS of Montgomery County died Aug. 17, 1864 in the 79 year of his age

BAKER WATERS of Montgomery County died Sept. 29, 1846 in the 66 year of his age

Courtney Waters' stone is missing --she died Sept. 28, 1853 in her 64th year





Waters Family Cemetery – Restored in 2007



Waters Family Cemetery – Current Condition (2016)