

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY**

Survey ID 242

BROOKE (RICHARD) CEMETERY  
 18140 LANTANVILLE - OINEY RD.  
 OINEY

Cemetery name RICHARD BROOKE CEMETERY

Alternate name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (or direction from nearest intersection) ~~RT 109~~ ~~NEAR SHOPS~~ ~~FOOD STORE~~

18140 LANTANVILLE  
OINEY, MD.  
(Rt 108)

ADC Map Page 21 Grid E-7 Town OINEY, MD.

<b>Type</b>	<b>Association</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Religious _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Free black _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Enslaved _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Private _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric _____

Setting  Rural  Urban  Suburban  Forested  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Condition  Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor

Negative Impacts (vandalism, dumping, neglect, encroachment, etc) GRAVE SITE  
BUILT OVER BY OINEY VILLAGE CENTER. FAIR HILL MANSION BURNED IN 1977

Approximate no. of burials \_\_\_\_\_ Date range of burials \_\_\_\_\_

Description (markers, materials, arrangement, landscaping, fence, paths and roads, etc.) Located behind  
Shoppers Food Warehouse

ANGER  
EXTANT.

GRAVE MARKER RETURNED FROM NORTH OF BALTIMORE, MD.  
TO SANDY SPRING MUSEUM - SANDY SPRING, MD.  
RICHARD BROOKE IN 1760 WAS COLONEL IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.  
BANISHED FROM QUAKER RELIGION, BY JOINING AMERICAN FORCES!  
P. 146 - Col. RICHARD BROOKE BORN JULY 8, 1736 DIED 1788 AGE 52  
ROGER BROOKE FARGUAR - BURIED NEAR THE OLD HOUSE FAIR HILL I ON A  
QUARTER ACRE BURIAL PLOT RESERVED IN LATER YEARS

Surveyor(s) LEONARD BECRAFT Survey date 5/28/04

Photographer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

Current owner \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Phone No. Rt. 108

Historic Status  Locational Atlas ID \_\_\_\_\_  National Register  
 Master Plan ID \_\_\_\_\_  Other Col. in Rev. War

UTM GPD Coordinate (Plot = "R. BROOKE Cemetery")

Additional sources of information: Shopping center

# Did You Know?



Photo courtesy of Sandy Spring Museum

This is Fair Hill mansion, which stood on the site of Shoppers Food Warehouse in the newly refurbished Olney Village Center. The mansion was built in two parts: by Richard Brooke in 1760, a colonel in the Revolutionary War, and William Dorsey, Brooke's son-in-law, in 1780-90. After the Civil War, Charles Kirk purchased Fair Hill and surrounding acreage. He subdivided and sold lots for as little as \$33.50 per acre. The mansion was destroyed by fire in 1977. Shortly afterwards, Shoppers Food Warehouse purchased the property.

Next week: Headwaters mansion

Historical landmark series  
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OLNEY

The Gaithersburg Gazette

# FEATURES

The Janet Montgomery Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution placed a stone on Major Richard Brooke's gravesite in 1932. By 1946 the stone had disappeared. Sandy Spring Museum will hold a rededication ceremony this Sunday after the stone was recently returned.

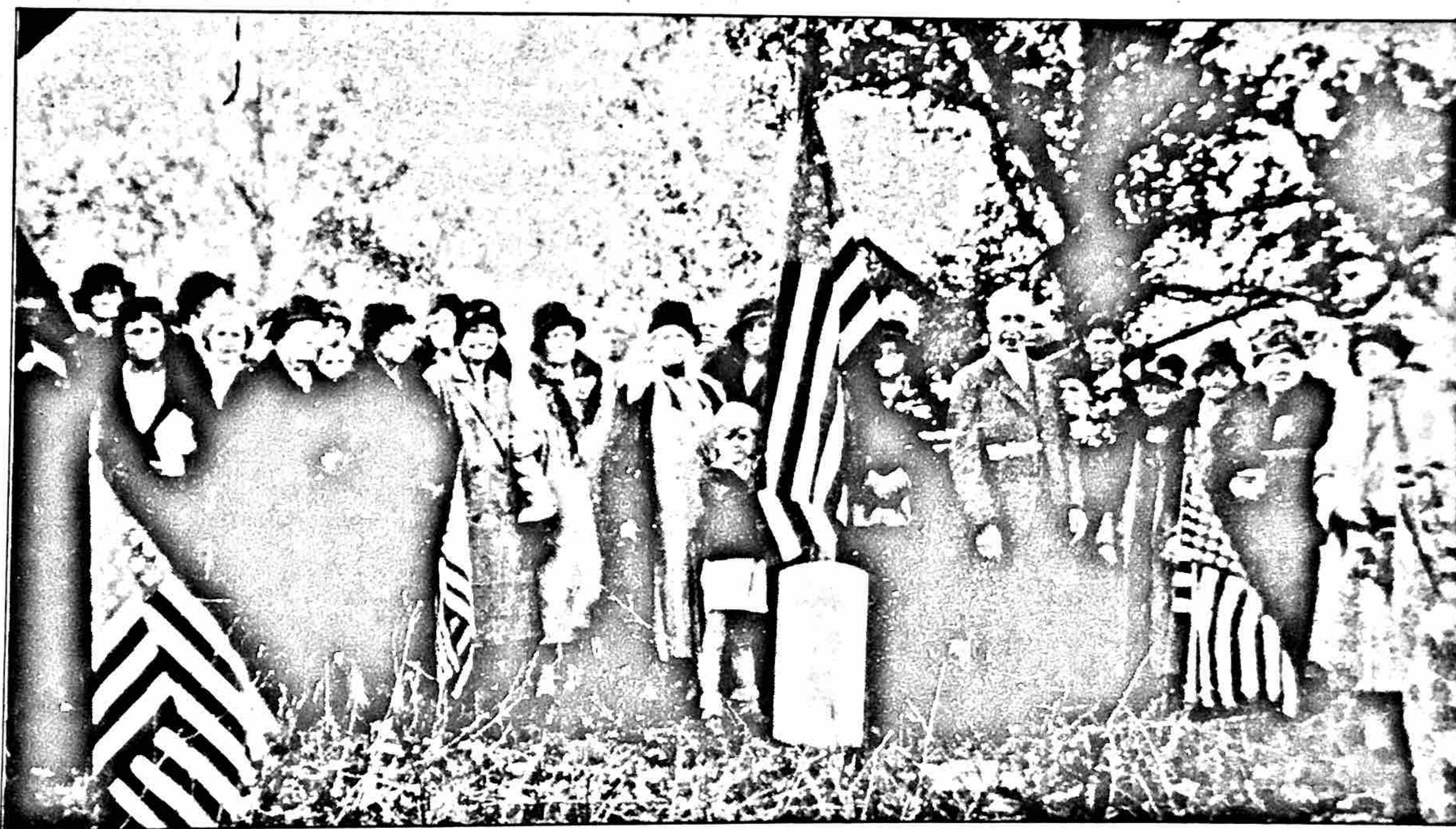


Photo courtesy of Sandy Spring Museum

## Maj. Brooke's gravestone home at last

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OWNEY

## Healan Barrow

**N**o one knows how it roamed so far from home, but the tombstone of a Revolutionary War soldier has found its final resting place in Montgomery County once again.

The grave marker mysteriously disappeared during World War II. Last summer, the steps in retrieving the missing marker began to unfold.

Doris Chickering of the Sandy Spring Museum said it was at that time that she received a startling phone query:

"What did the museum know about Major Richard Brooke—the name on a gravestone at a private residence north of Baltimore?"

Brooke, who served in the Revolutionary War, was buried on the family farm in Olney in 1788. The Janet Montgomery Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution marked the gravesite with a stone in 1932. By 1946 the stone had disappeared, leaving no reminders of the grave's location.

While the gravestone no longer marked the Olney resting place, tradition and local rumor have it that Brooke's ghost continued to haunt his stately mansion called Fairhill.

Brooke's spirit was supposed to have been condemned to ride his horse up and down the steps

at Fairhill because he broke with the non-violence policy of the Quakers by participating in the Revolutionary War.

While no one has found any records to indicate that Brooke actually fought in the war, the D.A.R. found records saying he received a commission as a colonel in the militia in 1777.

The stories of a haunted mansion in Olney were perpetuated after Fairhill was sold to Whitson Canby in the early 1800s. Canby used the house for the families of eight Irishmen who worked in his pottery factory in Mechanicsville. According to Vol. IV of the Sandy Spring Annals, "one desperate Irishman hung himself in the west cellar, and afterward assisted Col. Brooke's ghost to haunt the house."

The mansion burned in a suspicious fire in 1977. The Olney Village Mart was later built on the site.

Local resident David Brigham, 75, remembers Fairhill and Brooke's grave. The American Legion Post in Brookeville was formed in 1924 and immediately began placing flags on the graves of local veterans.

"It was just after World War I and there were only five graves to put flags on," Brigham said. "Brooke's grave was located in the barnyard at Fairhill. I was just a boy and I went with Dad and placed the flag on the grave. It was about 60 to 75 feet from

the barn."

Brigham said the barn would have been just below present White's Hardware in the Village Mart. The grave may have been where the Sandy Spring National Bank mortgage department is located, he said.

The stone probably disappeared during World War II, according to Brigham. He said many men and women from the area had left to fight in the war. "When I moved back here in 1946, I think the stone was gone," he said.

When Chickering at Sandy Spring Museum realized the stone had been found, she "got very excited. I started telling the caller that Brooke was a member of the original family who came to Sandy Spring in 1728."

After verifying that the gravestone was Brooke's, the museum and the D.A.R. worked quietly to get the stone returned.

With the stone being returned to the area, the American Legion Post will add it to the list of veteran graves honored every Memorial Day. The post will also give and dedicate a flag pole and flag to the museum.

The rededication ceremony of Brooke's gravestone will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, July 12 at the museum, 2707 Route 108 in Olney. The stone has been placed near the museum's herb garden.

"We're glad it's back home," said Chickering. Perhaps Brooke is glad to be home, as well.



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OLNEY

Brooke Family

Riverside and his bride as tenants. After Miss Annie Brown died the Elton farm was sold by Washington B. Chichester, Jr. to Clinton C. Royer, after he had acquired some of the outstanding interests of certain heirs of Sarah R. Brown.

In July, 1907, Royer sold the old home, then containing 141 acres, to John R. W. Frazier, a Montgomery County farmer. His wife was Susie A. McAbee. They were married in May 1891, and the farm was left to two daughters, Constantia and Susie Frazier, when the two parents died in 1926. Constantia Frazier married George E. Simms in 1927, and in 1938 Mrs. Simms bought out the interest of her sister, Miss Susie, and since that time has been sole owner of Elton. George E. Simms was at one time principal of one of the largest elementary schools in the East, located in Baltimore, and his wife and her sister, Susie, were employed as teachers in the public schools of Baltimore.

As noted in the above photograph, there are two front doors, and each has a hall and stairway. The house is rough stone painted white, and the right-hand or eastern part is the original part of the house, the left-hand section having been built much later. Each hall has a lovely stairway with landings half-way up.

In the older eastern section, there are a dining room and a parlor, and in a rear wing are a back hall with side entrance and a kitchen with a large fireplace and crane. On the second floor of this part are three rooms with a fireplace in one of them. The details of construction of this part, including proof that a breezeway from the detached kitchen of Revolutionary days was filled in later, indicate construction about 1780 to 1800.

Mr. and Mrs. George E. Simms in 1961 are still proud to retain this picturesque home where they have lived since retirement from busy lives in Baltimore.

# Fair Hill I

ONE of Montgomery County's most interesting old homes, one built before the Revolutionary War, is situated at Olney about twelve miles north of the District of Columbia Line. Facing to the south, the brick part in the right of the picture was built about 1770 and the left-hand frame construction about 1780. The home of a Quaker who attained the rank of colonel in the Revolutionary War and fought with distinction, it housed a Quaker school for forty-six years. The historic home later became the scene of a delightful novel describing life in an unusual country community in the 1880's.

The land on which the house was built was originally part of the 2,550-acre "Addition to Charley Forest" granted to James Brooke in 1720. He deeded the beautiful home site and 300 acres to his son, Richard Brooke (A tract of forty-seven acres called George the Third, was also included.)

Col. Richard Brooke was born July 8, 1736, and when he died in 1788 at fifty-two, was buried near the old house on a quarter acre burial plot reserved in later deeds. When in 1932 the

Janet Montgomery Chapter, Daughters American Revolution, placed a marker on his grave, representatives of other patriotic organizations were present as well as members of the Brooke family. One of the several speakers declared: "We are met today to pay tribute to a Quaker who fought."

Although the ghost of Colonel Brooke is believed at times to ride his horse up one flight of stairs and down the other at midnight, one dislikes to believe his final rest is disturbed by any feeling of guilt because of his departure from the Quaker line of non-resistance. Perhaps the eerie sounds on the stairs are made by an Irish potter who is reported to have hung himself in the cellar.

There were a number of transfers of the property recorded on land records, as revealed below. Ann Brooke, a daughter of Colonel Brooke and his wife Jane Lynn Brooke, married William Hammond Dorsey in March 1790. This marriage took place in the old homestead according to a contemporary newspaper notice. The couple lived at Fair Hill for some years following their marriage, but later lived in





NO. 30 E-9 EAST END BY COL. RICHARD BROOKE 1760 BRICK WEST END BY WILLIAM H. DORSEY, SON-IN-LAW OF COLONEL BROOKE CA. 1780-'90 FRAME

Georgetown at The Oaks, now Dumbarton Oaks (also see Oakley of Montgomery County) where the first Mrs. Dorsey died in November 1802, and "Pretty Billy" as he was called married Rosetta Lynn an aunt of his first wife, and a younger sister of Mrs. Richard Brooke. In 1802, William H. and Ann his wife conveyed the property to his brother Walter Dorsey who soon thereafter conveyed it back to his brother William H.—transfers evidently made to clear the title. The deeds refer to forty seven acres of George The Third, and parts of Charley Forest and parts of Brother's Content containing 397 acres more or less.<sup>1</sup>

Following these transactions, William contracted to sell the farm to one Peter Casanave, of Georgetown, but following the latter's death the property was advertised for sale at public

auction, Samuel Brooke being appointed to conduct the sale. The auction was held at Fair Hill, on March 18, 1803, and George Frazer Warfield was the successful buyer, for the sum of 2,127 Pounds Sterling 10 shillings. Ten days later he sold the place to George Ellicott of Baltimore, a businessman who probably never lived there. It is evident that during the following years until May 30, 1817, when Ellicott sold the farm to Whitson Canby, the latter kept it filled with workers employed in his pottery in the village then known as Mechanicsville, and in August of that same year Canby sold to the committee of Baltimore Meeting headed by Roger Brooke V.<sup>1</sup>

In 1815 the Baltimore Friends decided to start a school in the fast-growing community of Sandy Spring, and the Fair Hill farm of 350 acres was purchased in August, 1817. The old manor house, which was occupied by eight fami-

<sup>1</sup> Land Records Montgomery County, Liber K, Folio 361, & 535. & 539, and Liber T, Folio 435.

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