



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY REVISITED

BURIAL SITE INFORMATION

Name: Brooke Family Cemetery [LOST]	Inventory ID: 242
Alternate name:	
Address: Across the street from 3031 Appomattox Ave., Olney, MD 20832	
Website:	
GPS coordinates: Latitude: 39.154193	Longitude: -77.062279
FindaGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2504764	

BURIAL SITE TYPE

Category: ☐ Religious ☐ Community ☒ **Family** ☐ African American ☐ Other:

BURIAL SITE EVALUATION

Setting/location description: ☐ Rural ☐ Urban ☒ Suburban ☐ Wooded ☐ Other:	
General condition (See conditions sheet): ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☒ None	
Is there a formal entrance? ☐ Yes ☐ No	Accessibility: ☐ Inaccessible ☐ By foot ☒ By car
Is cemetery active (recent burials)? ☐ Yes ☐ No	Is there a cemetery sign: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Is cemetery being maintained? ☐ Yes ☐ Minimal ☐ No (If yes, note caretaker's name below)	
Are there visible markers? ☐ Yes ☐ No	Approximate number of burials/visible markers:
Date ranges:	
Description: (markers, materials, arrangement, landscaping/vegetation, fence, paths and roads, etc.)	
• The only grave at this site was for Col. Richard Brooke, a Quaker.	
• A military grave marker was dedicated to him in 1932 by the D.A.R., but stolen by 1946.	
• The marker was found and is now in collections storage at the Sandy Spring Museum.	

BURIAL SITE CONTACT

Name:	
Relationship to burial site:	Advocacy contact:
Address:	Phone:
City:	State:
ZIP Code:	

BURIAL SITE SURVEYOR

Name: Glenn Wallace	Survey Date: 9/12/2018	Time spent: 60 min.
Address:	Phone:	
Email: mococems@gmail.com		
Photographer:		

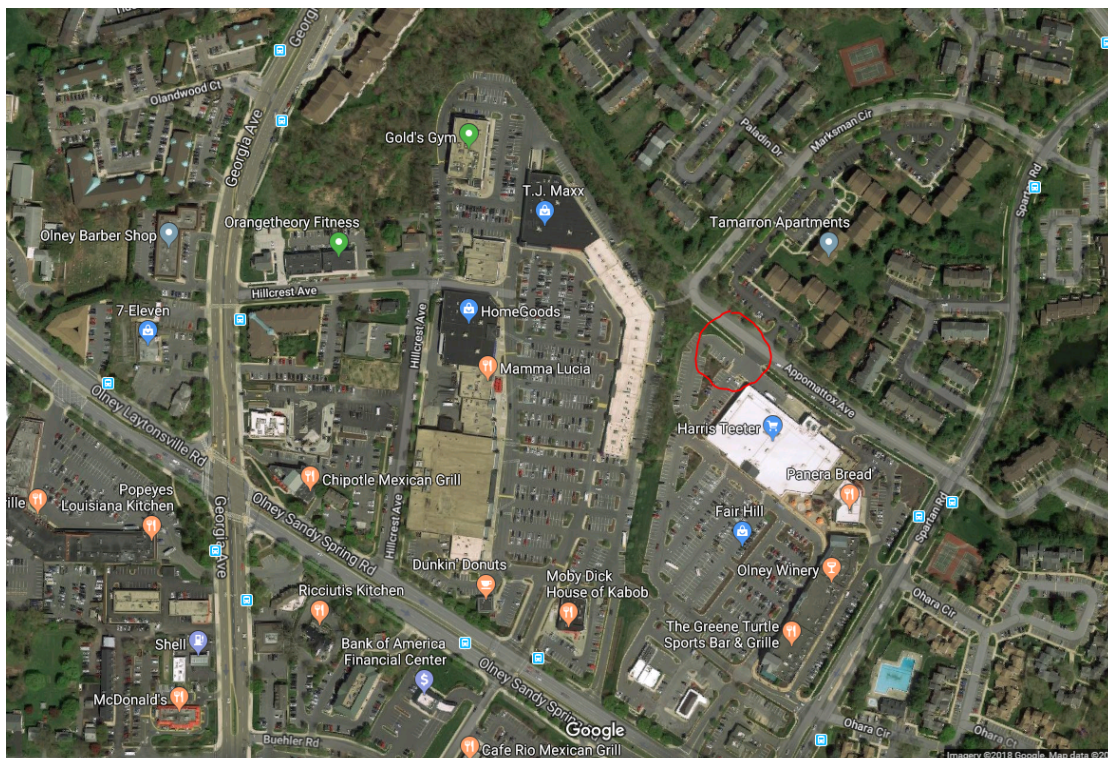
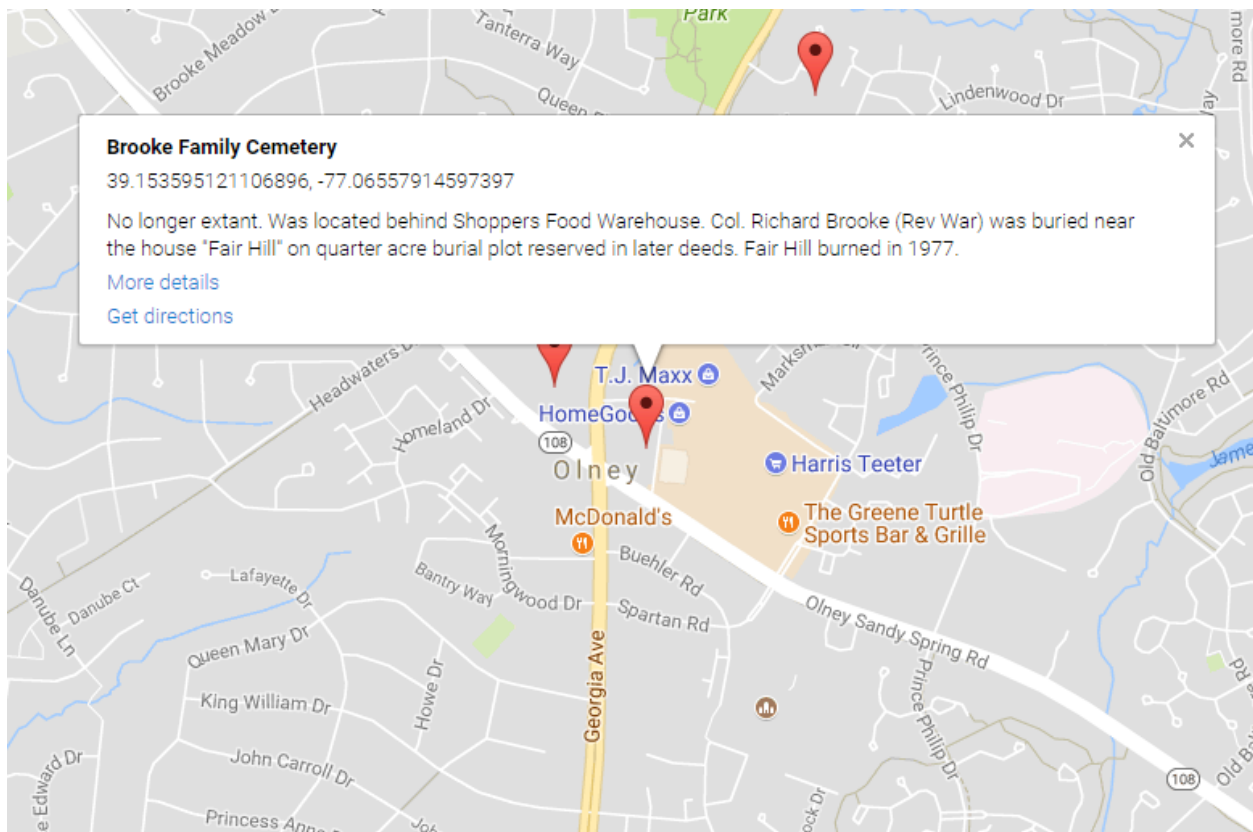
COMMENTS

Suggestions for follow-up:
• Provide an interpretive sign about Fair Hills and Col. Richard Brooke.
Safety issues, invasive vegetation removal, fence removal/restoration, signage, trash, erosion, vandalism:
N/A
Anything of significance about this cemetery?
• Burial location of a Revolutionary War Patriot.

SOURCES

Cite sources used and resources available:
• https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M;%2023-98.pdf
• http://janetmontgomerydar.wixsite.com/jmdar/historical-markers

This is a suggested location, but no trace of the cemetery exists.



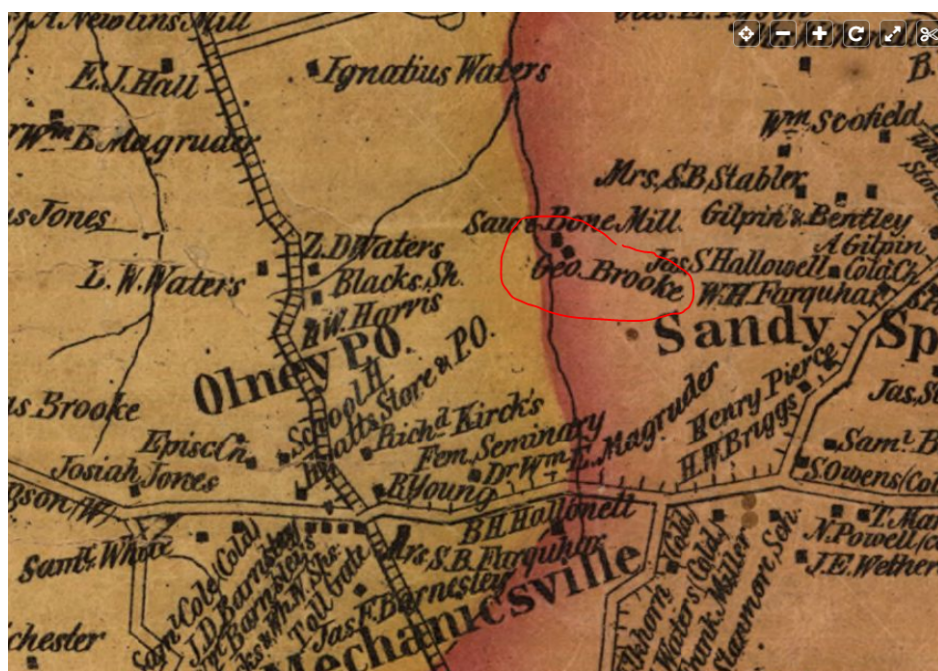
History

By Andy Bittner, November 10, 2009

Fair Hill was settled in 1765, as the home of Richard Brooke, son of a prominent, Sandy Spring-area, Quaker family. However, within the next decade-and-a-half, Richard Brooke set himself at odds with his pacifist Quaker upbringing, choosing to support the American independence movement by joining the Maryland Militia and going to war for the cause. It seems to me that one's soul and the peace of one's eternal rest would be an awfully high price to pay for supporting such a noble cause as the American Revolution, and yet, it was just this risk Richard Brooke took among his own people. For his choice to support the Revolution by becoming an actual combatant, Richard Brooke was eventually denied a final resting place in the old Quaker burial ground in Sandy Spring, where he would've been buried among his family, friends and neighbors. Instead, Richard Brooke was laid to rest somewhere on the property of his home, Fair Hill.

Fair Hill burned, almost completely, in 1977, and I never even knew it was where it was until I visited the ruins, a few days after the fire. At first, this fire didn't seem tragic to me, but even I noticed the growing concern and sense of loss in the community. There was talk of "suspicious circumstances" in the Soper's fire, and then the Fair Hill fire was determined to be arson. That crime was never solved, but, not long thereafter, the property on which Fair Hill stood for more than two centuries, serving as a home, and sometimes as a school, through many generations of local history, became the Olney Village Center shopping center, and Richard Brooke, "The Quaker Patriot" and Revolutionary officer, now rests, presumably, somewhere beneath the Olney Village Center parking lot.

(source: <https://andybittner.wordpress.com/2009/10/11/old-olney-the-fires/>)



Martenet and Bond's map of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1865



Location identified in this photo by lining up the tree, barn, and Fair Hill residence in the background

Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory **Photograph Log**



Presumed burial location in this vicinity, facing west.