



## *Resources*

Check out the following websites for more information on historic cemetery protection and care.

- Association for Gravestone Studies  
[www.gravestonestudies.org](http://www.gravestonestudies.org)  
413.772.0836
- Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites  
[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdcpmb/coalition01.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdcpmb/coalition01.htm)
- Maryland Historical Trust  
[www.mht.maryland.gov](http://www.mht.maryland.gov)  
410.514.7600
- Montgomery County Historic Preservation Office  
[www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic)  
301.563.3400
- Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation  
[www.peerlessrockville.org](http://www.peerlessrockville.org)  
301.762.0096
- Montgomery County Historical Society  
[www.montgomeryhistory.org](http://www.montgomeryhistory.org)  
301.340.2974

Montgomery County Cemetery Coalition  
c/o Peerless Rockville  
P.O. Box 4262  
Rockville, MD 20849  
Phone: 301.762.0096  
Fax: 301.762.0961  
E-Mail: [info@peerlessrockville.org](mailto:info@peerlessrockville.org)

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Protecting our Past

## *Historic Cemeteries of Montgomery County, Maryland*



Montgomery County  
Cemetery Coalition

## *Sacred Places*

Montgomery County is rich with history and historic sites. These include mansions, commercial properties, farmsteads, railroad stations, archaeological sites, and numerous old cemeteries.

Churchyards, family burying grounds, and public cemeteries provide a wealth of information to historians, genealogists, and other researchers. Through cemeteries we can learn much about those who came before us, whether they are relatives or not.

The early settlers of Maryland left monuments of their lives to tell us how they lived and died on the frontier or in the many small towns that developed for trade, and later, along the railroad.

More recent burials tell us of tragedies, epidemics, as well as personal achievements and successes.

We can also learn how our predecessors viewed death and the afterlife by studying their individual gravemarkers. Cemeteries are filled with art, adages, and symbols that allow us to explore their beliefs.



## *Learn More*

The following books are just a few suggestions for learning more about cemetery history, design, and preservation.

*Your Guide to Cemetery Research* by Sharon Carmack. Betterway Books, 2002.

*A Graveyard Preservation Primer* by Lynette Strangstad. Altamira Press, 1995.

*Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography* by Douglas Keister. Gibbs Smith, 2004.

*The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History* by David C. Sloane. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995.

## *Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory*

There are over 250 known cemeteries on public and private property in backyards, agricultural fields, forests, and cities. Volunteers of the Montgomery County Cemetery Coalition have worked hard to document each one and compile the information into a database.

This Inventory is searchable by name or location and can be found online at [www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic). It includes cemeteries of all religious denominations, enslaved and free African Americans, and Native Americans.

The original inventory forms, photographs, and other information on each cemetery are available at the Montgomery County Historical Society library in Rockville.



## *You Can Help*

Cemeteries are sensitive and often overlooked places; they need constant tending and oversight to protect them from both natural influences and human harm. Share your enthusiasm for historic cemeteries to help us build our coalition, network with others, and to learn about the past in order to preserve it for the future.

The Inventory is constantly growing as we learn of new cemeteries. We are always in need of researchers to assist with locating, researching, and documenting our many cemeteries.

Please contact us if you are interested in assisting with research, outreach, or cemetery maintenance activities.