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## ***RESURRECTING HISTORIES: CEMETERIES OF THE FOUR RIVERS HERITAGE AREA***

### A SYMPOSIUM EXPLORING HISTORIC CEMETERIES IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

**Annapolis, MD:** On June 8, 2019, the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation (ACT) in cooperation with Anne Arundel County's Cultural Resources Division will hold an interactive discussion exploring the history, genealogy, and care of the more than 500 historic cemeteries in Anne Arundel County. The event will focus primarily on cemeteries located in the Four Rivers Heritage Area and will feature an impressive panel of experts who will share their experience and knowledge, then answer your questions!

The half-day symposium, "Resurrecting Histories: Cemeteries of the Four Rivers Heritage Area," will help citizens and caretakers of these unique cultural resources unlock the secrets of historic burying grounds. Panelists will share their tips for how average citizens can help protect these important historic spaces. The public is invited to attend and participate. Attendees will also have the opportunity to take an exclusive guided tour of the Historic Quaker Burying Ground in Galesville, Maryland that afternoon. Panelists will include local historian Janice Hayes-Williams, Montgomery County's archaeologist Brian Crane, genealogist and local cemetery expert Tina Simmons, conservator Howard Wellman, and local archaeologists Jeanne Ward and Tom Bodor.

Many of Anne Arundel County's 500 known historic cemeteries are located within the boundaries of the ***Four Rivers Heritage Area***, and date as far back as the mid-1600s. Often forgotten, neglected or unmarked, they hide secrets about the County's past. Some are remembered only through family stories, and many are still awaiting rediscovery. At this half-day symposium, experts in history, archaeology, conservation, preservation, genealogy, and archival research will share their work and discuss best practices in the field to inspire preservation of cemeteries in the Four Rivers Heritage Area. Conference attendees will also receive a "**Resource Guide to Historic Cemeteries in Anne Arundel County, Maryland,**" a resource for the public on studying and caring for historic cemeteries.

Topics will include researching and documenting old cemetery plots, archaeological methods, legal issues, and physical threats related to climate change and development. Attendees are also encouraged to bring their own research and discoveries related to historic cemeteries for sharing and discussion over the lunch hour. As a special and exclusive opportunity for registered conference attendees, the Quaker Burying Ground Trustees will open the Quaker Burying Ground in Galesville for guided tours between 1:30 and 3:00 pm. Participants may stroll through the oldest cemetery in Anne Arundel County, discuss

management challenges with the Trustees, observe conservation challenges, and learn stories of those who are buried there.

C. Jane Cox, Chief of Historic Preservation at Anne Arundel County's Cultural Resources Division in the Office of Planning & Zoning, is excited to see these often neglected and forgotten historic resources take center stage. She said: "Thanks to the Four Rivers Heritage Area mini-grant program, and our partnership with the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, we will be able to share with the public how important historic cemeteries are for researchers, for families tracking their roots, and for average citizens to embrace the incredible depth of history often hidden in plain sight here in the County. It's also a great opportunity for our Office to engage with the public who can help us research, identify, and care for historic cemeteries County-wide."

Tina Simmons, Cemetery Chair of the Anne Arundel County Genealogical Society, a panelist and moderator for this event, noted that Anne Arundel County is one of the leading counties in Maryland working to preserve cemeteries. As she pointed out, "tombstones and the information that can be gleaned from cemeteries offer a valuable resource to the person researching history and, too often, are overlooked as research links. People can look to cemeteries as resources that may provide family and community links to the past."

Symposium registration is capped at 75, so don't delay. Registration opens April 12, 2019. A limited number of scholarships are available for students. To reserve your spot or find further information go to <http://www.aacounty.org/cemeteries> or contact Anastasia Poulos, Archaeological Sites Planner of the County's Cultural Resources Division, at (410) 222-7432. The event will be held at the Galesville Community Center, located at 916 W Benning Rd. in Galesville, Maryland. Boxed lunches prepared by the Galesville Community Center will be available for pre-purchase as part of the registration. Support for this event has been provided by the Four Rivers Heritage Area, Anne Arundel County Government, the Galesville Community Center, and the Trustees of the Quaker Burying Ground.

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