

Quaker Burying Grounds

*Located at the corner of Rt. 468 (Muddy Creek Road) and Galesville Road
Galesville, Maryland*



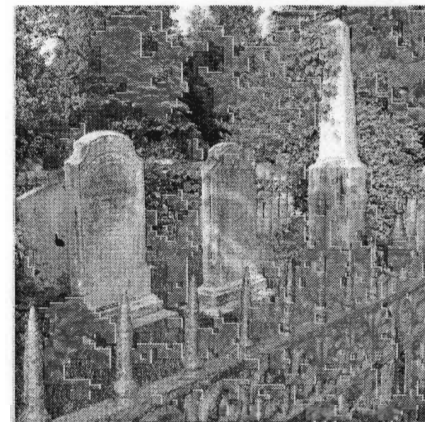
In April 1672, the British Quaker missionary, John Burnyeat, called for a Meeting “for all the Friends in the Province.” This Meeting, held in Galesville (originally known as Brownton), was the first General Meeting of Friends in Maryland and the first such Meeting attended by George Fox on the mainland of the New World. It marked the beginning of organized Quakerism in Maryland.

Thomas Hooker, a dedicated Quaker living in this area at that time, owned property that included the site of the Quaker Burying Grounds. Upon his death in 1684, his will left everything to his son except this acre and a half, which the will clearly stated, “is already laid out for ye people called Quakers for to meet on and to bury their dead, and to be wholly at their service forever.”

The strict simplicity of the Friends did not permit the use of headstones to identify their graves; therefore, there is no way to know how many are actually buried here.

The Quaker Burying Ground is now dotted with marble and granite monuments bearing names of the deceased members of families living throughout this entire area: Hartge, Kolb, Hazard, Hardesty, Wilde, Benning, Siegert, Dixon, Leatherbury, Gale, Linton, Murray, Cheston, Crandell, Chaney, Smith, Woodfield and Nutwell.

Another tombstone still standing in the cemetery is inscribed: “Capt. James Dooley, died May 19, 1829, aged 38 years, 6 months.” Folklore would have us believe Capt. Dooley was a pirate, but in all likelihood, was a privateer. Believed to be a relative of the Gale family, he is buried in their family plot.



For more information contact:
Galesville Heritage Society, Inc.
988 Main Street
Galesville, MD 20765
410-867-9499