

**Minute of Approval to Transfer the Millington Burial Ground to the  
Town of Millington, MD  
Annual Sessions July 2019**

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting approves the transfer to the Town of Millington, Maryland, through a quitclaim deed and for nominal consideration, of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's interest in the burial ground sometimes known as "Millington Quaker Cemeteries."



*Restored historic iron fence and cleaned and reset headstones at Millington burial ground.*

Pages 2 and 3 are an informational report on Millington from Annual Sessions 2018.

**Property Committee of Administrative Council  
Report on the historic Quaker Burial Ground in Millington, Maryland  
Annual Sessions 2018**

PYM owns a small historic burial ground in Millington, Kent County, Maryland.

PYM intends to give the Burial Ground to the Town of Millington. No formal approval of that transfer is being requested at 2018 Annual Sessions. However, since formal approval will be sought in the near-to-intermediate future, it seemed appropriate to furnish Friends with some information regarding the Burial Ground.

**Brief History of Ownership**

Millington is small: the population was 306 in the census of 1860 and 642 in the 2010 census. Kent County is the least populous county in Maryland and predominately rural. Friends were instrumental in founding of the Town of Millington in 1787. They established Head of Chester Meeting (Millington is where the Chester River becomes navigable) as a preparative meeting of Cecil Monthly Meeting in Lynch, Maryland. The preparative meeting was laid down in 1847 and the meetinghouse was later razed. Cecil MM was laid down in 1926. Ownership eventually devolved on Southern Quarter, which struggled to maintain the site. PYM reluctantly accepted ownership in 2006. (PYM will not accept ownership of any other burial ground.)



*Millington Burial Ground Viewed from Cypress Street*

**Proposed Transfer to the Town**

In what appears to Administrative Council and its Property Committee as a “win/win” situation, the Town has expressed a strong interest in taking full ownership and responsibility for the Burial Ground. The Town will preserve it as both an historic site and green open space – essentially, a park for quiet contemplation. The Town already maintains another park.

**Restoration Work at Millington**

As a condition of accepting the property, the Town asked PYM to make certain repairs and improvements. These included refurbishing an iron fence that surrounds certain graves, cleaning and resetting the head stones, and relocating the few headstones outside the fenced-in area to that fenced area. Administrative Council approved using the Capital Reserve Fund for renovation costs. PYM has engaged Materials Conservation Co., LLC, to perform the work and we expect it to be completed in the fall. The Town plans to apply to the State of Maryland for a grant to cover signage, pathways, benches and additional fencing.

### **Who is buried at Millington**

The earliest known burial was in 1802, the last in 1938. There are relatively few headstones. Most date to the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. We know of no inventory of burials, but Kevin Hemstock, a local historian and member of the Millington Town Council, has conducted substantial research on the Burial Ground and those buried there. (Millington was the site of a murder trial in 1892, where nine African-American men and boys were accused of murdering a white doctor. Kevin Hemstock's 2015 book, *Injustice on the Eastern Shore*, recounts that trial.)

Based on meeting minutes, public records, newspaper accounts, and family accounts, Kevin Hemstock believes that all of those buried in the Burial Ground were members of the original Quaker families and their descendants.

One Friend has inquired whether any slaves or former slaves were buried in the Burial Ground. The 1830 census recorded the population of Kent County at the time as 60% black, evenly divided between slaves and free blacks. By 1850, free blacks were purchasing property on the site of a former silkworm farm in Millington, next door to the Quaker Burial Ground. The neighborhood developed into a vibrant free black community. An historic African-American church and its burial ground lie less than 250 yards from the Quaker Burial Ground. The church remains active today. Kevin Hemstock has found no evidence of the burial of slaves, former slaves or African Americans in the Quaker Burial Ground, nor has he ever heard or seen stories that such burials might have taken place. Accordingly, we do not believe that there are any graves of slaves or former slaves in the Quaker Burial Ground.



*Restoration Work in Progress*

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