

A VISITORS GUIDE TO ST. MARY'S CEMETERY

HOMELAND AVE



Caretakers House



220	220c	224	261	314	314	459
219	7	223	262	415	415	460
144	8A	222	261	416	416	461
143	8B	221	184	417	417	462
142	8C	144	183	418	418	463
141	8D	143	182	419	419	464
	8E	142	181	420	420	465
	8F	141	104	421	421	466
	8G		103	422	422	467
	8H		102	423	423	468
	8I		101	424	424	469
	8J		32	425	425	470
	8K		31	426	426	471
	8L		30	427	427	472
	8M		29	428	428	473

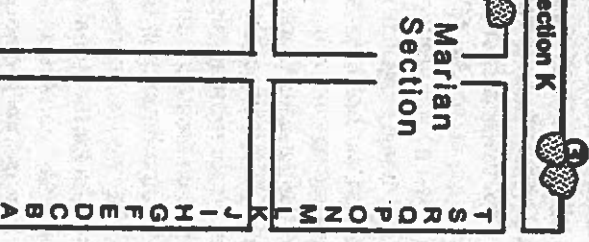
382	10B	354 EDCBA	182	9B	174	174
381	10A	353	181	9A	173	173
320	9B	352 HGF	320	8B	172	172
319	9A	351	190	8A	171	171
318	8B	283 281	189	7B	142	142
242	8A	382	188	7A	141	141
241	7B	280	122	6B Section B	140	140
240	7A	279	121	6A Section A	139	139
239	6B	202	119	5B	102	102
182	6A	201	82	5A	101	101
181	5B	200	81	4B	100	100
180	5A	199	80	4A	99	99
159	4B	122	79	3B	62	62
82	4A	121	78	3A	61	61
81	3B	120	42	2B	60	60
80	3A	119	41	2A	59	59
78	2B	42	40	1	22	22
2	1B	41				
1	1A	39				

Knights of Columbus Hall
(Old St. Mary's School)



PARKING LOT

12345678910 17345678910 123456789



- POINTS OF INTEREST**
- ① Site of Entrance to Old Church
 - ② Fr. Fenne: Pastor 1893-1915
 - ③ View of Old Church Site towards Cook's marker
 - ④ Fr. Lyman: Pastor 1890-1893
 - ⑤ Grave of four French sailors
 - ⑥ Monument for unmarked graves of 1789 flu epidemic victims
 - ⑦ Mgr. Gamber: Pastor 1908-1974
 - ⑧ View of Old Church Site in snow scene' photograph
 - ⑨ Section with earliest marked graves
 - ⑩ New Altar installed 2005

St. Mary's Cemetery records are indexed by the lot numbers shown at the ends of the rows in each section.
Baltimore County Genealogical Society Tombstone Inscription book uses the row designation show in the middle of each row.

Caution: Please watch your step when walking off the main paths. The ground is uneven and there may be hidden obstacles



St. Joseph Columbarium
Good Shepherd Columbarium
Alter

St. Mary's Cemetery Baltimore, Maryland

Established 1850, St. Mary's Cemetery is located in the 200 block of Homeland Avenue on the grounds of the original St. Mary's Church. The cemetery faces east and most gravestones also face in that direction. The tract of land that became the church and cemetery lots was once surrounded by a number of large landholdings occupied by wealthy households; the Garrett family's 'Evergreen' lay to the southwest and David M. Penne's 'Homeland' was on the north side of the present Homeland Avenue. Notre Dame Academy was established to the west on land owned by the Trustees of the Orphans Home of Baltimore County. In 1849 the Reverend Father James Dolan purchased land to establish an Orphans Home from Mary Linthicum, who was acting as a court appointed trustee. Fr. Dolan purchased a one-third interest in land on the west side of Charles Street from Dr. James Duck and his wife Mary Taylor. That together with the land from Mary Linthicum was conveyed to the Trustees of the Orphanage "except that part used as and for a church, a parsonage and a graveyard, except the road thirty feet wide leading to the York Turnpike Road (Notre Dame Lane) which road is to be left open forever for the use of those visiting the church, parsonage and graveyard . . .". The trustees conveyed the cemetery and church lot to the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 1871.

While the oldest grave marker is dated 1846, the first recorded burial was Daniel Taylor who died at the age of 55 in 1851.

Records also list a total of 14 graves, some that date as early as 1801, but mainly the 1840s. Evidence indicates that some or all of these graves are removals from other locales. Grave removal by descendants occurred throughout the 19th and 20th centuries for a host of reasons. There are rumors the cemetery may have been used as early as 1799 when a flu epidemic swept through Baltimore. These victims may have been buried in unmarked graves covering approximately one quarter of an acre in the northeast section marked only by a single monument.

Four French sailors are buried at St. Mary's cemetery. In 1918 one French Reservist drowned while swimming at Port Covington and the other three French Reservists died of the flu. Since they had no next of kin, Rev. Bart Hartwell offered to bury their remains in at St. Mary's. The sailors were given a military funeral courtesy of the Senior Naval Officer in charge of the port at the time. In April of 1937, a commemorative bronze plaque inscribed with the names of each sailor was delivered to the United States on the French cruiser Jeanne d'Arc through arrangements made by the French Consul and the French Ambassador. Today the French Embassy in Washington, DC sends a representative twice a year to conduct a memorial service at the graves and the American Legion conducts an impressive memorial service on the first Saturday of each November.

In 1942 when a new church was completed on York Road, the little church was closed and the little cemetery was deserted and neglected. At that time 3,494 individuals were buried there. The

cemetery had been closed for sales for about 50 years when in the early 1980s under the direction of the pastor, (now Monsignor) Thomas J. Tewes, a new section was opened and developed. The church bought back approximately two acres of land adjoining the old cemetery from the Knights of Columbus for \$50,000. The area is adjacent to the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, is lightly wooded, and has a small stream running through it that serves as a property dividing line. Of the two acres, one and a half are actually usable for burials. This purchase increased the cemetery size to a total of seven acres.

The original deeds to lots cost \$12.50. At the opening of the new section when plots were once again available the price for the new four by nine foot graves was \$450 including perpetual care. No curbs or markers are permitted around the outer edge of a family plot in this new section. A hedge and a statue of the Blessed Mother, donated by Anna Clip, was installed where the church sanctuary was originally located and the section was renamed the Marian Section.

A variety of monuments and tombstones can be found in the cemetery, and it is interesting to walk through the paths among the stones to read some of the epitaphs. For example, on the stone of Anne Lindsay Otenasek (1/13/67-12/21/88), a victim of the Lockerbie, Scotland air disaster, one can read the following verse:

*To see a world in a grain of sand
And a heaven in a wild flower,
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand
An eternity in an hour.*

Several former pastors, Rev. Dwight Lyman, Rev. Mathias Fenne, and Msgr. Martin Gamber, are all buried at St. Mary's cemetery as well as three former school nuns. They include the parents of Sister Marguerita Murphy, the grandparents of Sister Jane Francis Geipe, and many in the family of Sister Esther Kehoe. Other notable graves include those of Marie Moss, the first Maryland nurse to die in the service of her country in World War I, and Jack Dunn, of International League Baltimore Orioles fame, as well as families who were prominent in the early Govans community such as Whiteford, Lawrence, Johnson and McCabe.

In modern times many a cemetery that once surrounded its small parish church has been abandoned in favor of a central cemetery as a result of increased the mobility of the parishioners. However St. Mary's continues to expand, opening another section just to the south of the Marian section in 2000. Currently there are plans to expand this New Section further eastward as well as, and to install columbaria around the perimeter of the lot. In 2005 a lovely Vermont granite altar was installed in the New Section thanks to the generosity of the John Lawrence and Vincent Smith families.

In the words of Rev. Paul Meyer, in his *History of St. Mary's Church Govans* (1942), "Death is not the end, but only a beginning of real life – an eternal life of happiness with God, for those who have died in the Lord."

Burial records for the Old Section are available online at www.stmaryoftheassumption.org