

Item 10 - Correspondence

From: [Susan Cooke Soderberg](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Cc: [Crane, Brian](#); [Ballo, Rebecca](#); [Wayne Tobiassen](#); [Kristen Walker](#); [Lisa Gonzales](#); [Ted Farrand](#); [Norm Gordon](#)
Subject: preliminary plan amendment no. 12019004B
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 5:01:57 PM
Attachments: [1 WATERS CEMETERY marker 2.pdf](#)

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Dear Montgomery County Planning Board,

In reference to Poplar Grove preliminary plan amendment no. 12019004B requesting an extension of the validity period, the Germantown Historical Society requests the following conditions:

- That the Zachariah Waters Cemetery, dated 1824, be kept in good condition by the owner, with no overgrowth of weeds and saplings.
- That our organization be allowed to erect a historic marker just outside the fence. Zachariah Waters was a Revolutionary War patriot and one of the founders of our town. We have had the layout of a sign waiting for the past eight years to be placed at the cemetery, but have not been allowed by the owner to put it up (See attached marker).
- That the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) be allowed to put a marker by the grave of Zachariah Waters.
- That our organization be allowed to apply for a grant to hire an expert to repair the marble tombstones and to search for the missing grave and tombstone for Courtney Waters, documented to have been buried there.
- That our organization and/or the DAR be allowed to hold ceremonies at the cemetery to honor the people buried there.

The sketch plan for this development states: "Prior to Planning Board approval of any site plan or site plan amendment containing the Waters Memorial Park, the Applicant must present all planned improvements for the cemetery and the Waters Memorial Park to the Historic Preservation Commission." And also required that the cemetery be maintained and a path to the cemetery for the public be provided. The cemetery, which has had a metal fence around it since before Symmetry obtained the property, has not been cared for and is now overgrown with weeds and saplings, as can be seen in the attached photos taken recently. The owner also promised to erect their own signage for the cemetery -- which they have not done.

If the development is to be delayed once again the cemetery will just deteriorate more. it is important that requirements be put in place NOW so that this historic burial ground, which is very important to our community, be kept cleared and that signage be erected and appropriate identification and recognition of our local hero be allowed.

Respectfully,

Susan Cooke Soderberg

President

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POPLAR GROVE BURIAL GROUND



Waters Family Crest

The Waters family is the oldest family of European descent in Germantown, owning most of the land east of the railroad, north of Rt.118, and south of Little Seneca Creek in present-day Germantown. Three brothers, Zachariah, William and Basil, were given the land by their father, William Waters of Brookeville in the 1780s.

Zachariah's farm, encompassing the land on which you now stand, was known as "Poplar Grove." William's farm to the west was "Water's Place," and Basil's farm to the east was "Pleasant Fields." All three properties came mainly from the original land grant called "Conclusion." Each of the brothers built a substantial house, but Pleasant Fields is the only one remaining today. The brothers built a grist, fax-seed-oil and saw mill, the ruins of which can be seen in Black Hill Park.

Zachariah Waters married Anna Baker, daughter of John and Judith Howard Wood Baker of Berkley. Zachariah Waters was an active patriot during the Revolutionary War. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace on March 7, 1778 and was appointed to raise the quota for Sugarloaf Hundred of monetary contributions to the War. Zachariah and Anna had three children: Baker Waters (1779-1846) who married Rachel Cooke Magruder but had no children; Tilghman Waters (1784-1864) who married Eleanor Magruder Briscoe but had no children; and Courtney Waters (1789-1853) who never married.

When Zachariah died in 1824 Baker Waters inherited Poplar Spring, consisting of 190 acres with a house and barns, Courtney being allowed by her father's will to live in the house until she married -- which she never did. When Baker died in 1846, Tilghman inherited the estate, and when he died in 1864 he willed his estate to his nephew, Dr. Washington Waters, stipulating that Washington erect an iron fence around the family burying ground and put up tombstones for himself, his wife, his brother and sister, and his parents. This was done, although Tilghman's wife, Eleanor (Ellen) did not die until 1880 and may be buried elsewhere. The property next went to William A. Waters, son of Dr. Washington Waters.

TOMBSTONES

ZACHARIAH WATERS of Montgomery County
died Aug. 17, 1824 in the 77 year of his age

ANNA WATERS of Montgomery County
died Jan. 17, 1837 in the 79 year of her age

TILGHMAN WATERS of Montgomery County
died Aug. 17, 1864 in the 79 year of his age

BAKER WATERS of Montgomery County
died Sept. 29, 1846 in the 66 year of his age

Courtney Waters' stone is missing --she died
Sept. 28, 1853 in her 64th year



The burial ground is under the care and protection of the Germantown Historical Society





