Presenters (alphabetical order)

Glenn A. Blackwell, Vice-President for Genealogy, Afro American Historical & Genealogical Society, Agnes Kane Callum (Baltimore) Chapter

Ron Castanzo, PhD., Associate Professor, Division of Science, Information Arts and Technologies, University of Baltimore

Brian Crane, PhD., RPA., Archaeologist for Montgomery County Planning

Kami Fletcher, PhD., Assistant Professor of African American History, Delaware State University

H. Russell Frisby, Jr., Esq., Partner, Stinson LLP; Commissioner, Maryland Commission of African American History and Culture

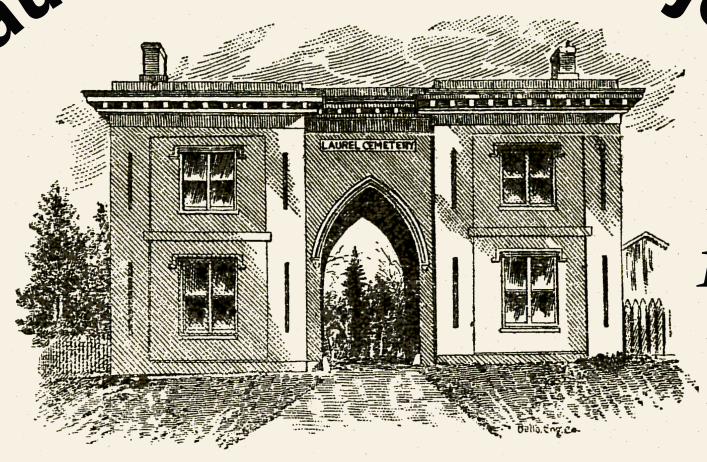
Donna T. Hollie, Ph.D., Vice-President for History, Afro American Historical & Genealogical Society, Agnes Kane Callum (Baltimore) Chapter

Elgin Klugh, PhD., Associate Professor, Department of Applied Social and Political Sciences, Coppin State University

Eileen McGuckian, President, Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites

Isaac Shearn, PhD., Adjunct Professor, Coppin State University, University of Baltimore, and Community College of Baltimore County

Laurel Cemetery Project



1852 1958

Symposium

June 15, 2019

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MARYLAND HUMANITIES

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Background Information

Laurel Cemetery (1852-1958) existed for over 100 years as a nonsectarian cemetery for Baltimore's African American community. In its early years, it was a premier burial site for people across Black Baltimore's socioeconomic spectrum. However, years of improper maintenance led to the eventual demolition of the site in 1958. Today, the Belair-Edison Crossing shopping center occupies the footprint of the old cemetery.

History of the Laurel Cemetery Project

In spring 2014, University of Baltimore and Coppin State University professors initiated the Laurel Cemetery project as an inter-institutional project for students interested in cultural resource management, history, archaeology, and environmental sustainability. Through archaeological excavation, faculty and student researchers found conclusive evidence of existing burials. Their current efforts focus on public education, research into the lives of those buried at the site, and the erection of a memorial to recognize the burial ground.

Advocacy for Burial Site Protection

Contact your local representative to advocate for the African American Burial Grounds Network Act. Find more info @ mceachin.house.gov/media/press-releases/reps-mceachin-and-adams-introduce-african-american-burial-grounds-network-act

Agenda

9:30-10 am	**Registration**
10:05 am	**Welcome, Introduction to the Laurel Cemetery Project** Elgin Klugh, Coppin State University
10:15 am	**Archaeology at Laurel Cemetery** Ron Canstanzo, University of Baltimore
10:30 am	**Public Anthropology and Laurel Cemetery** Elgin Klugh, Coppin State University
10:45 am	**Coffee Break**
11:00 am	**Genealogical Research on Laurel Cemetery** Glenn A. Blackwell, BAAHGS
11:15 am	**Selected Biographies from Laurel Cemetery** Donna T. Hollie, BAAHGS
11:30 am	**Designing the Timeline Exhibit** Isaac Shearn, Coppin State University
11:45 am	**Lunch Break**
1:00 pm	**Panel Discussion: The Legal History of Laurel Cemetery and the Protection of Burial Sites** Brian Crane, Kami Fletcher, H. Russell Frisby Jr., Eileen McGuckian, Isaac Shearn
1:50 pm	**Afternoon Break**
2:00 pm	**General Forum: Plans for a Permanent Memorial**
2:45 pm	**Closing Remarks and Acknowledgments** *Please submit evaluation surveys at the registration table