

**THE SILENT SENTINELS
OF
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND

A COMPILATION IN THREE VOLUMES
OF GRAVE MARKERS
AT
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND
MARYLAND**

INTRODUCTION

This compilation has been prepared to record and make available the information about our historic and cultural heritage as inscribed on the grave markers of those who have preceded us and as found in the military and private cemeteries within the reservation boundary of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

This compilation includes a complete photographic collection, transcription, and catalogue of the text as recorded on either side of each of the grave markers in both the military and private cemeteries of Aberdeen Proving Ground. Additionally, this compilation includes a complete proper name index.

LOCATION

Aberdeen Proving Ground is located in northeastern Maryland, situated on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay near its juncture with the Susquehanna River. The Proving Ground is somewhat divided in the middle by the Bush River, with the Edgewood Area (EA) on the western side of the Bush River, and Aberdeen Area (AA) identified as all of the remainder of the Installation. Lacking any other designation, the presumption is that any reference made refers to the Aberdeen Area, rather than the Edgewood Area.

Spesutie Island, now linked to the Aberdeen Area by a causeway, is considered to be in the Aberdeen Area. Poole's Island, in the Chesapeake Bay and forming the eastern most corner of the post boundary, is likewise considered to be in the Aberdeen Area.

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Aberdeen Proving Ground, like any large community, has a substantial population, and contains the amenities for comfortable living. That part of Aberdeen Proving Ground in which these amenities are to be found is called OPEN POST.

As the term implies, while this is government property, the OPEN POST area is usually accessible to the general public at will.

The mission at Aberdeen Proving Ground could be stated as the development, testing, and evaluation of systems important to the defense of our country. For various reasons, not the least of which is personal safety, a significant portion of Aberdeen Proving Ground has DENIED ACCESS to most people.

As the term implies, the DENIED ACCESS area is usually not accessible to the general public.

The location of each cemetery on Aberdeen Proving Ground has been identified in several different systems. These include:

- ◆ Geographic, with location by Latitude and Longitude,
- ◆ Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM), with location by Easting and Northing,
- ◆ MD State Plane Coordinate System (NAD 83) with values of Easting and Northing as determined from satellite (GPS), and
- ◆ MD State Plane Coordinate System (NAD 27) with values of Easting and Northing.

The NAD 27 location system is included on all Maryland State Highway maps and most commercial street maps and guides presently published. However, it is to be expected that the NAD 83 system will be implemented in the near future. A quick way to determine which system is being used is by comparing the Easting values, which have values about $\frac{1}{2}$ million feet higher in the NAD 83 system than the values in the NAD 27 system.

Additionally, current highway (road sign) directions are presented, referencing present-day MD State Highway and Aberdeen Proving Ground route numbers and names.

Aberdeen Proving Ground cemetery identifications, Real Estate Department building designations, acreage, and location data have been provided by the Cultural Resource Program, except that the Poole's Island location and all highway directions were prepared by the Author.

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All of the grave markers catalogued in both the private and the military cemeteries have been matched against several previous listings of internments, and any transcriptions included therewith, if available, and discrepancies have been checked and verified. Grave markers that have been previously reported at a cemetery, but are now missing, have been tabulated in a set of Notes at the end of that particular cemetery listing.

Other sources of cemetery contents that have been compared for this compilation include the following:

Cemetery Inscriptions of the Gunpowder Neck,
Edgewood Arsenal and Fort Hoyle
by Charmaine Brankowitz, 1701 Arabian Way,
Fallston, MD 21047, and published by
Good Business Press, 1991

Unpublished Compilation - 2 Pages
Livezey: Harford Co. Md. Cemeteries (1st Dist.)
by Jon Harlan Livezey, 115 North Parke Street,
Aberdeen, Maryland 21001-2493

Unpublished Compilation - 4 Pages
Livezey: Harford Co. Md. Cemeteries (2nd Dist.)
by Jon Harlan Livezey, 115 North Parke Street,
Aberdeen, Maryland 21001-2493

CONDITIONS

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The Library edition of this compilation is printed on archive grade, acid free paper; the binders are made of library quality cloth and archive grade card stock; and the text and photograph mountings are archive grade, non-reactive polypropylene.

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The following is a list of the private and military cemeteries that are presently known to exist on Post and have been found. Associated with each, as appropriate, is a local identification for that cemetery. This compilation will utilize the conventional designation used by the Post.

Private Cemetery P-1

Livezey calls this the Dallam Cemetery

Private Cemetery P-2

The Post refers to this as Michaelsville Road

Private Cemetery P-3

Livezey calls this the Garrettson Chapel
Methodist Episcopal Church - Michaelsville

Private Cemetery P-4

The Post refers to this as Old Baltimore
Livezey calls this the Phillips Cemetery

Private Cemetery P-5

Livezey calls this the Osborne Cemetery

Private Cemetery P-6

The Post refers to this as the Reasin Cemetery
Livezey calls this the Reasin Grave

Private Cemetery P-7

The Post refers to this as Towners Cove
Livezey calls this the Chauncey Cemetery

Private Cemetery P-8

Livezey calls this the Tregar (Trago) Cemetery

Private Cemetery P-9

Private Cemetery P-P.I.

The Post refers to this as Poole's Island
Livezey calls this the Williams Graves

Private Cemetery P-1-EA

The Post refers to this as CASY
Brankowitz refers to this as the Dorney Family
burial ground or as Private Cemetery Area 2343
Livezey calls this the Dorney - Cunningham
Cemetery. The Livezey reference to the now
relocated Day Cemetery is to be found here also.

Private Cemetery P-2-EA

Brankowitz refers to the Legoe Family burial
ground as Private Cemetery # 1

Private Cemetery P-3-EA

Brankowitz refers to the Gilbert Family burial
ground as Private Cemetery # 3

Military Cemetery M-1

Military Cemetery M-1-EA

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OTHER CEMETERIES

In addition to the cemeteries included in this compilation, there are other cemeteries whose existence was reported elsewhere, but whose location cannot be determined. The disposition of any internments, and any accompanying grave markers, is for the most part unknown.

Brankowitz reports the following cemeteries as being in existence in 1940:

<u>Reported Vicinity</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Present Location</u>
1. Lauderick's Creek	Hardy	Unknown
2. Old Gravel Pit	Hardy	Unknown
3. C.M.T.C. Camp	Doves	Unknown
4. Veterinary Stables	Thompson	Unknown
5. Dugout on M Field	Peter & Rachel Ghent	Unknown
6. Bell Farm	Owens	Unknown
7. Spring near Gun Club	Hanna & Nelson Gilbert	P-3-EA
8. Field East of Ft. Hoyle Commissary	Morgan	Unknown

Raphel Family

Brankowitz also reports that "the Raphel Family performed disinterments and moved family members ... to St. Stephens Church, Bradshaw, Maryland". The Raphel family members referred to by Brankowitz are not included in this compilation.

Gunpowder Meeting House

Brankowitz also reports the existence of a cemetery "behind" the Gunpowder Meeting House (circa 1773), now identified as Building E-5175 in the Edgewood Area. There is no evidence, at present, of either grave markers or a cemetery at this location.

Spesutie Island

Oral history indicates the existence of a private cemetery on Spesutie Island, in the vicinity of the Morgans Manor House, which was demolished about 1975. The house was located immediately east of the causeway connecting Spesutie Island with the mainland, and south of the access road across the causeway. Although a pylon shaped stone cairn is to be found in this immediate area, the cairn has no identification as to it's purpose and there is no evidence, at present, of either grave markers or a cemetery at this location.

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Sappington Family

Spesutie Island was, at one time, apparently the home of several members of the Sappington Family. A memorial marker has been erected at St. Stephens Episcopal Church Cemetery, MD Rte. 213 and MD Rte. 282 in Cecilton, Cecil County, Maryland with the following inscription:

16951995
In Memory of Nathaniel Sappington
- 1713
and his wife
Mary
Dedicated by the "Sappington's of America"
on the 300th Anniversary of the Recording
of his presence in Maryland
Children of
Nathaniel & Mary
Nathaniel m Margaret Hartley
James m
Thomas m Mary Rutland
John m Sarah Sherbert

There is no evidence, at present, of any Sappington Family grave markers on Spesutie Island.

Weide Army Airfield

Brankowitz reports that a cemetery existed at the location on which the present day airport, known as Weide Army Airfield, in the Edgewood Area, was constructed (circa 1941). "The burial grounds located on the site of the ... runway ... were not removed. However, the tombstones in this area were coated with paraffin and were turned face downward on the graves." The location of this cemetery has not been determined.

Livezey (1st Dist.) identifies the cemetery at Weide Field as the Dove Cemetery, and reports the following inscriptions:

- 1 Thomas W. Dove, age 14 years, died
January 5, 1858
- 2 Rebecca Tucker, age 70 years, died 1839
- 3 T. P. Waltham died 1810
- 4 Thomas Waltham, age 47 years, died
March 11, 1845

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- 5 Marmaduke Paul Dove, age 44 years,
died September 2nd, 1866
- 6 William G. Dove, age 51 years,
died May 10, 1835
- 7 Martha G. Dove, age 68 years,
died February 25th, 1864
- 8 Elizabeth Tucker, age 37 years,
died March 17, 1816
- 9 Elizabeth Jones, age 62 years,
died July 22, 1814

Dorsey Grave

Livezey (1st Dist.) reports that this stone is located on the west side of the road from Maxwell Point Road to "M" Field in the Edgewood Area, and was exposed during clearing of the site by CCC forces in August 1936. He reports the following inscription:

In memory of Ann Dorsey who departed
this life on the 8th June 1802 aged 46

