

Friends Cemetery
originally
Patapsco Burial Ground
Harford Road.

This ground, where many of our dear ones repose, is perhaps the oldest, of any now in use for that purpose in or around Baltimore, part of it having been established in 1718 on that small piece of ground, then so irregular in shape Friends of Baltimore built their first Meeting House, and named it Patapsco. They continued to occupy it for that purpose, until 1781, when they removed to their new one, corner of 5th (now Fayette) and Ainsworth street; there they also established a Burial Ground. And for many years Patapsco, that quiet and lonely spot, so well adapted to that purpose, was sad & neglected, many Friends preferring the new or City Ground, which in 1854 was nearly if not entirely buried over.

In 1843 the W. M. Co. appointed a permanent committee of four Friends, whose duty it is to see that both grounds are properly kept in order; to give permits for interments, to see that no infringements on our rights be perpetrated, and to have the general supervision of said grounds. But up to 1859 or 60 there did not seem to have been much improvement; about that time the ground (Patapsco) was enlarged by an additional purchase, which makes it quite a respectable size and improves the shape also.

It was then enclosed with a stone wall, or at least part of it was, the remainder which extended directly in the rear, is enclosed with a post and rail fence, and is now used for pasture, this part with some care, is well adapted to raising vegetables.

There was also a comfortable house built for the sexton, so that he could better protect it from intrusion, and be on hand when needed. The first occupant for that purpose, was Patrick Hughes, and since his death his grandson, Patrick Collins. Since the ground was enlarged, there has been many improvements, many trees have been planted, the avenues have been graded, a substantial vault built; lots have been laid out granting one to each head of a family in size to suit, with the understanding that they properly grade, and keep them in good condition; which some Friends take much interest in doing, while others we are sorry to say, have sadly failed. We are hopeful however, that all will see the necessity of so doing, that we may make it as attractive as possible.

In 1880, there being but three of the Committee surviving, the W. M. Co. appointed three other Friends to fill the vacancies. About that time the change was made in the name, from Patapsco, or County Ground, to Friends Cemetery Harford Road.

At one of the meetings of the Committee, held 3rd 1886, one of their number was requested, to ascertain the number of interments there had been, from 4th Mo: 29th 1880 to 2nd Mo: 17th 1886, which was found (including those who were not members) to be one hundred and ten, of that number about twenty five were not members, some of this class had once been members, others had not, but their forefathers had been, and were buried there, in such cases it would be hard to refuse. To ascertain the number of interments as above stated, the sextons book kept