

RESOLUTION NO. 2644

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND ACCEPTING A DONATION OF AN INFORMATIONAL SIGN AT SALISBURY'S PUBLIC CEMETERY ON COMMERCE STREET FROM THE FRIENDS OF POPLAR HILL MANSION.

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Salisbury supports the acceptance of donations at public facilities; and

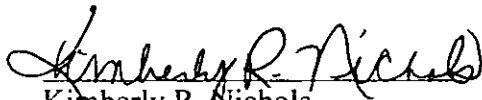
WHEREAS, the Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion would like to donate to the City a an informational sign explaining the history and significance of the Public Cemetery; and

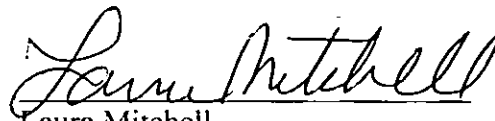
WHEREAS, the informational sign will be located on the cemetery property on Commerce Street.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Salisbury, Maryland does hereby accept the donation of an informational sign valued at a maximum of approximately \$745.00.

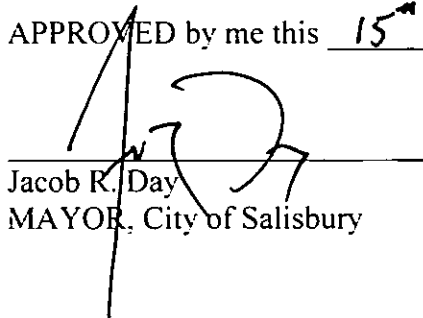
THIS RESOLUTION was introduced and duly passed at a meeting of the Council of the City of Salisbury, Maryland held on July 11, 2016 and is to become effective immediately upon adoption.

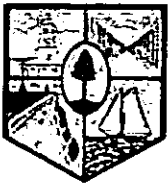
ATTEST:


Kimberly R. Nichols
CITY CLERK


Laura Mitchell
VICE-PRESIDENT, City Council

APPROVED by me this 15th day of July, 2016


Jacob R. Day
MAYOR, City of Salisbury



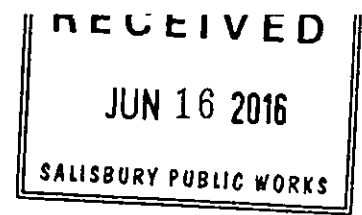
City of
Salisbury
Jacob R. Day, Mayor

To: Tom Stevenson, City Administrator
From: Michael Moulds, Director of Public Works *MM*
Date: June 16, 2016
Re: Donation – Salisbury's Public Cemetery Sign

The Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion would like to donate an informational sign for Salisbury's Public Cemetery to the City of Salisbury per the attached letter dated June 14, 2016. The sign will be placed at the cemetery on Commerce Street and will benefit both visitors and residents of the City.

Attached is a Resolution for consideration to accept the Salisbury's Public Cemetery sign donation from the Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion at a value of \$745.00.

Unless you or the Mayor has further questions, please forward a copy of this memo to the City Council.



Ben Smith
402 Ethels Way
Salisbury, MD 21804

June 14, 2016

Michael S. Moulds, PE
Director of Public Works
City of Salisbury
125 N. Division Street
Salisbury, MD 21801

Dear Mr. Michael Moulds,

I'm writing to request approval to donate the funding for the Cemetery Sign at the Potter's Field on Commerce Street in Salisbury, MD. The value of the donation is approximately \$745. I believe the sign will preserve the history of our community.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for the consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ben Smith".

Ben Smith
Life Scout
Troop 817

Salisbury's Public Cemetery

What is a Potter's Field?

This cemetery is also known as the Potter's Field, which would have been used for the burial of people who could not necessarily afford plots in private or church cemeteries. This sacred ground was conveyed to our city in 1841 by Sarah Huston, former owner of Poplar Hill Mansion, and dates as far back as the early 1700's.

Levin Huston

At final rest here are manumitted slaves of Poplar Hill Mansion including Levin Huston, born in 1794 and freed in 1829. He became a grocer and one of the wealthiest African-Americans in Salisbury. He purchased and manumitted his wife, Esther, and daughter, Eliza, from George Parsons in 1850 for a total of \$550.00. Levin was one of the founding members of the John Wesley M.E. Church (Chipman Center). In 1868, Levin wrote his last will and testament in which he gave all his property to his wife. After Esther's death in 1888, all remaining property was to be divided among his sons, Levin, John, Henry, and Saul (buried across the street), and his daughters Mary, Ann, and Eliza. Levin died in 1871 as one of the most well respected members of Salisbury's African-American community.



Mid 19th Century Group of Slaves
in front of Clapboard Building



Poplar Hill Mansion,
Salisbury, MD



Civil War Era Soldiers on the steps of Byrd's Tavern in Salisbury.
Photo Courtesy of the Wicomico Historical Society

Union Soldiers

Among those interred, in unmarked graves, are Union Soldiers from the Civil War sent to the Eastern Shore to keep peace and quell Confederate sympathies. It was not fighting that killed many of the soldiers, rather, disease claimed the lives of soldiers while stationed at Camp Upton in Salisbury. Fifty-one of those soldiers died of black measles and were buried here.



May the great contributions to this community and nation of the men and women buried here inspire us all.