

DIRECTIONS

TO ACLT MAIN TRAILS AND CEMETERY

Go 4 miles south on Route 2/4 from the intersection of Route 231 in Prince Frederick; left on Parkers Creek Road; cross Rte. 765 and turn right onto Scientists Cliffs Road; drive .8 mile to the ACLT parking lot on the left. Trails are open to the public every day of the year from dawn to dusk. Please sign in at the Registry Box where trail maps are available. *To visit the cemetery, drive .7 miles farther on Scientists Cliffs Road to cabled lane on the left marked "Cemetery Lane," or park in the main parking lot and hike the Swamp Trail to Cemetery Lane.*

HANCE-CHESLEY CEMETERY

The cemetery located on land now part of the American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT) property was once a part of a tract patented in 1666 to John Gary and called Gary's Chance. Over the years, parts of the 600 acres were acquired by members of the Roberts, Morgan, Woolf, and Mackall families. In 1816, John Mackall conveyed 200 acres of this land to Elizabeth Hance, which was to belong to her "for life or until day of marriage" and then "to the use and behoof of Rebecca Ogg, Y. D. Hance, Arianna and Sarah Hance." Elizabeth Hance was then the widow of Benjamin Hance and the others named in the deed were her children. Elizabeth and Benjamin are both buried in this cemetery. Young Dorsey Hance, their son, married 1) Henrietta Maria Chesley, and 2) her sister, Eloisa Ann, thus cementing the relationship between the Hance and Chesley families. The Ogg family was living in Ohio at this time.

By the time of the 1850 census, no children of Elizabeth and Benjamin Hance were living in the Parkers Creek area. Young Dorsey Hance and his family had acquired the property known as Taney Place and were living there. The remains of some family members were brought back for burial, as was the body of John Hance who, in 1850, was keep of the lighthouse at Cove Point.

The cemetery was named in a deed of 1864 when John A. C. Hance sold land to John T. Chambers as 254 acres "known as Gary's Chance or Rockhead" and running "to land now owned by the heirs of Capt. John Hance." Reserved from that deed were "33 square perches for the burial ground of the heirs of Y. D. Hance." This is the graveyard that has been restored.

Like many colonial estates, Gary's Chance was broken up and sold to different buyers over the years. In the late 1930s, one section was acquired by Flippo and Annie Gravatt. The Gravatts divided the land and merged one portion into the new community of Scientists Cliffs. In 1987, the ACLT acquired the second portion, including the cemetery, from Annie Gravatt's estate.

The Calvert Garden Club began the restoration in 1994-1996, remounting headstones, clearing underbrush, planting bulbs and indigenous shrubs, erecting benches and the sign. The ACLT continued the process in 2003-04, repairing several headstones and refreshing the landscaping. The restoration project received a Calvert County historic preservation award in 2005.

Visitors walking ACLT nature trails are encouraged to rest a moment at this tranquil spot, read the names inscribed upon the stones, and remember those who lived here many years ago.



In Memory of
Benjamin Hance
Died March 13, 1812
Aged 57 years

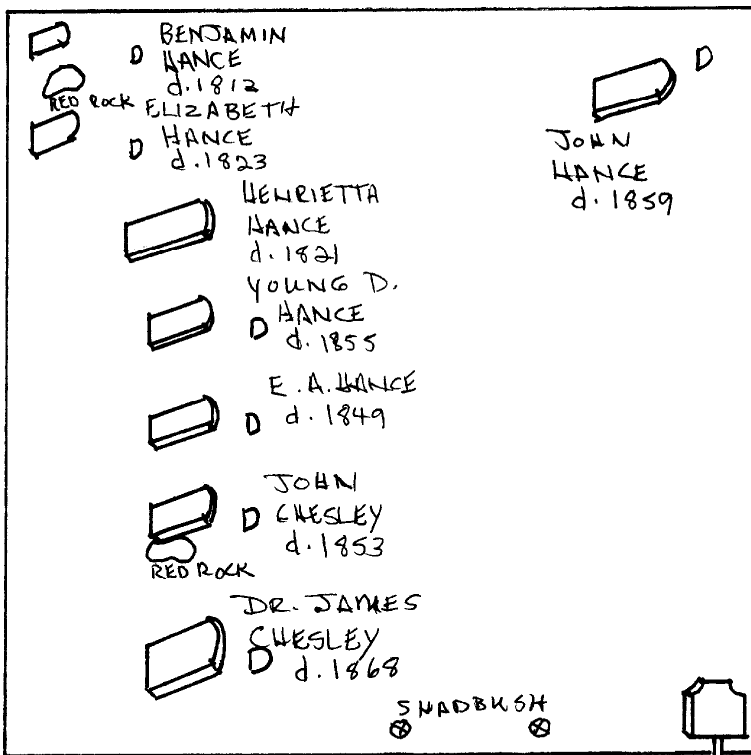
In Memory of
Henrietta M. Hance
Wife of Young D. Hance
a daughter of
Thomas and Henrietta Chesley
Died Dec. 11 (or 14) 1821
aged 27 years 6 mos. 8 days

In Memory of
Elizabeth
Wife of Benjamin Hance Died Sept. 20th 1823
in the 57th year of her age
Footstone: E.H.

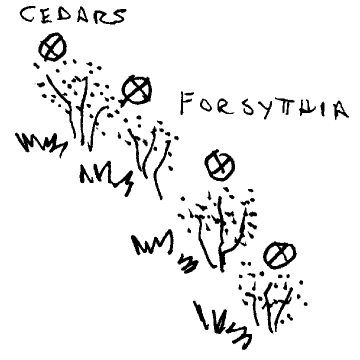
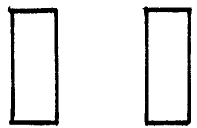
In Memory of
E. A. Hance
Wife of Young D. Hance
and daughter of
Thomas and Henrietta Chesley
Died April 9th, 1849
Aged 50 years 9 mos. and 15 da.
"Rest in peace and enter into joy of my Lord"
Prov. 3 C. 24 v.
Footstone: E.A.H.



A plat on the next page shows the location of some reddish stones not native to the site. Local tradition holds that these mark the graves of servants, stillborn children, or those not in the family's good graces.



DOGWOOD TREES





In Memory of
Jno. R. E. Chesley
son of
Thomas and Henrietta Chesley
Died Sept. 10th, 1853
aged 61 yrs. 3 mo. 25 da.
"For all shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace"
Footstone: J.R.E.C.

Young D. Hance
Died Dec. 1, 1855
In the 64th year of his age.
Amid all the troubles and temptations of life, the deceased ever
clung to the Cross of Christ, as the steel anchor of his hope. An
affectionate husband, an indulgent and fond father, a hospitable
and kind neighbor, may his posterity imitate his virtues and
follow him as far as he followed Christ.
Footstone: Y.D.H.

John Hance
Borne Oct. 15th, 1796
Died Feb. 18th, 1859
Aged 62 yrs. 4 mo. and 3 days Footstone: J.H.

Dr. James A. Chesley Son of Chesley
Born June 20, 1802
Died April, 1868 .
Footstone: J.A.C.



This brochure was first prepared in 1996 by the Calvert Garden Club, based on research conducted by Ailene Hutchins and with illustrations by Barbara Grosvenor. This Web version is based on an edition that was prepared in 2007 by the ACLT, a non-profit organization that preserves Calvert County's natural and cultural resources. We hope our visitors will consider becoming members: www.actweb.org.
