

Epitaphs



Publication of The Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation—Vol. I February 1995

Schmehl Historic Graveyard Rededication

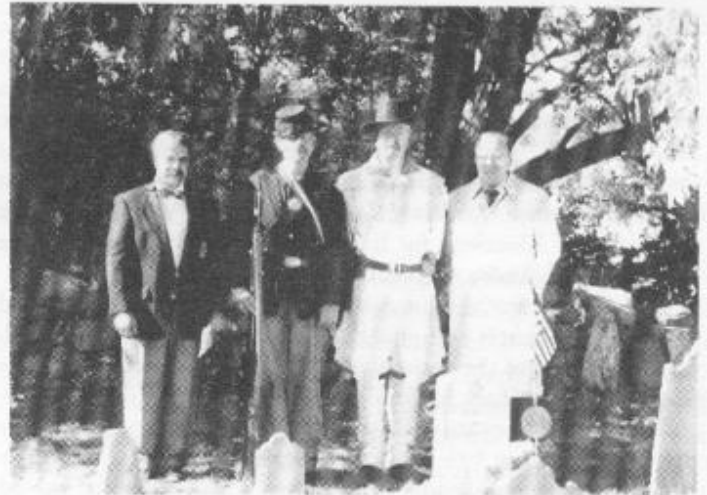
The Schmehl Historic Graveyard dating back to the late 1700's in Ruscombmanor Township, Berks County was rededicated on October 15, 1994. At the same time, gravestones and markers in remembrance of two Revolutionary War Soldiers, Johan Adam Schmehl and Conrad Schmehl were dedicated.

The graveyard was discovered on property Scott and Carla Blumfield purchased in 1992. The graveyard was not visible at the time as it was overgrown with trees, brush and old dog kennels. Vandalism had removed many of the tombstones. The stone walls around the cemetery had fallen and scattered. Fortunately for the Schmehl family, the Blumfields were interested in preserving the cemetery.

Bob Schmehl, working with the Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation, began the difficult job of clearing the area, erecting the fallen tombstones, rebuilt the stone wall and planted grass. Preserving the graveyard was not enough for Schmehl. He decided to do some research which revealed Conrad Schmehl served in the Revolutionary War. Conrad was born in 1723 and arrived in America in 1739. He died in 1815 but did not have a tombstone marker for his service. The research also revealed Conrad's son Adam who lived from 1754 to 1825.

Schmehl completed forms that were sent to the Department of Veterans Affairs office in Washington, D.C. using information he found in the Pennsylvania Archives. He also had to document that he was a descendant of Conrad and Adam Schmehl. He informed the department that neither had a marker issued to soldiers in the Revolutionary War and that Adam did not have a tombstone. Several weeks later, he received the tombstone and the markers.

This activity led to a regrouping of the Schmehl family. Members of the family were participants in the dedication service.



[from left] Martin Peicker, Bruce Carroll, Robert Schmehl, Earl N. Schmehl

- *Please* bring this newsletter to the March general meeting to help you follow by-law changes.
- *Complete* your membership application and submit it with your check prior to or at this general meeting. *Please* consider a contribution in addition to your membership.
- If you signed the charter but have not yet paid your 1994 charter fee *please* settle your account. Your membership and financial support are vital and greatly appreciated!

Our Aim . . .

To maintain and preserve Berks County's neglected historic graveyards.

Who are we?

A group of civic leaders, professionals and interested citizens who share a common goal.

What do we do?

Plan, engineer and oversee preservation through:

- initial clean-up
- tombstone repairs/resetting
- wall repairs
- regular inspection and maintenance

How?

- By organizing a network of civic groups and volunteers to perform necessary field work
- By contacting local organizations and businesses who are willing to contribute to the cost of preservation
- By educating the public about the importance of preserving these historic graveyards

How to help . . .

- Become a member (annual dues \$15)
- Offer your insight and expertise in preservation or fund-raising efforts
- Volunteer your services for clean-up or maintenance
- Provide clerical or technical support services
- Invite a friend or neighbor to be a part of this county-wide project
- Be part of the "Adopt-A-Cemetery" program.

OFFICER NOMINEES FOR 1995

Nominees for offices of the Berks County Preservation Society as follows:

Executive Director: Jacqueline Nein
Asst. Executive Director: Kevin Kozak
Secretary: Sandra Rupert
Treasurer: Carol Coleman

The nominee for Executive Director is Jackie Nein, who has been involved in genealogical and historical preservation for many years. As one of the organizers and active members of the Berks County Genealogical Society she compiled and published church records of First Reformed and Trinity Lutheran Churches, in Reading, and Schwarzwald Reformed Church in Exeter Township. In 1981, she organized the "9" Family Association and supervised restoration of the historic family cemetery in Oley Township where she supervises the maintenance. In addition to organizing the Dunkleberger Family Association, she has published their genealogy and three editions of the "9" genealogy. Jackie is a graduate of Reading High School, West Chester State and Temple University. She is now retired from the Pottsgrove School District where she was a teacher, department chairperson and was the first woman to receive the "Best Coach of the Year Award." Jackie is the Judge of Elections for Exeter Township Precinct 3 and a member of St. Andrew's U.C.C. in Reading.

Assistant Executive Director nominee, Kevin Kozak, attended Oley Valley Schools and graduated from Reading High School. His knowledge of the various graveyard sites in Berks County is due to his experience in farming during his youth. (Many farms have family graveyards which have often been neglected or forgotten.) Kevin has had much experience operating heavy equipment and as an outdoor landscaper. This experience proved helpful in the removal of a huge tree trunk which had fallen in the middle of the Fix/Gerber graveyard. He also returned a child's tombstone from the Peters/Barnet graveyar, found in Peters Creek in 1975 by some area hikers. Kevin has custody of his two children and recently married Dawn Marie Mader on the 130th wedding anniversary of his great-great grandfather, a veteran of the Civil War who was wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg. Kevin works at Carpenter Technology Company which produces various specialty steels for use in aerospace, military operations and the nuclear industry. He is currently our Maintenance Chairperson.

Sandra Ruppert, nominated as secretary has been secretary of the annual Ruppert Reunion for the past ten years. She became interested in the graveyard restoration after hearing about the organization through the reunion's historian. When she and her husband attended their first meeting of the BCGPS, they found out that a Ruppert Cemetery was in need of restoration. After they attended a workshop on how to restore a cemetery, they enlisted the Dryville Church Boy Scouts to assist them. During their restoration work, they discovered that the brother of her husband's great-great grandfather was buried there. Sandra is currently involved in updating her family's history. She serves as the Chief Voter Register of Berks County.

Carol Snyder Coleman, nominee for Treasurer, graduated from Reading High School and attended Mansfield State majoring in Education. Carol is currently membership chairperson for BCGPS and serves as the official photographer. She is now taking photos of all the graveyard sites which have been preserved by the organization. Carol is a travel consultant for World Travel in Douglassville. Her husband, Bob, owns an accounting firm, Callowhill Electronics Processing in Reading. Their family includes Carol's niece, Vicki.

BY-LAW CHANGES

The Executive Board of the Association recommends the following proposed changes to the Association by-laws to be voted on at the annual March meeting.

Article III- Membership - Section 4 *Present BYLAW:* Dues or levies of any kind shall not be imposed without approval of the Association sitting in assembly. Dues may be set at the Annual Meeting by a majority vote of the members present, to be effective for the membership year which commences at the close of the next year's Annual Meeting.

Proposed BYLAW: Dues or levies of any kind shall not be imposed without approval of the Association sitting in assembly. The amount of dues, if any, may be set at an Annual Meeting by a majority vote of the members present, to be effective from the membership year which commences at the close of that Annual Meeting. In the event that dues are approved by the majority vote of the members present at an Annual Meeting, dues shall be paid by July 1 of the current year. Delinquent members shall be notified in writing on or about August 1. Membership rights and privileges, including the right to vote and make proposals, will cease upon failure to submit dues by September 1.

Subsection a. Membership for the current year may be granted to individuals or groups, in recognition of meaningful contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Association during the current year. Such membership may be granted by a vote of approval of not less than seven members of the Executive Committee at or before September 30th of the current year. Such members shall have full rights and privileges.

Article VI and Article VII - Change "*Restoration*" to "*Preservation*" to be consistent with the name and primary focus of the Association.

In addition your executive director recommends the following:

Article II Purpose *Present BYLAW:* The purpose of the Association shall be as stated in the Articles of Incorporation. In general, it shall be to promote respect for all graveyards and to restore, maintain and preserve neglected or abandoned graveyards lying within the bounds of Berks County.

Proposed BYLAW: The purpose of the Association shall be as stated in the Articles of Incorporation. In general, it shall be to monitor and promote respect for all historic graveyards lying within the bounds of Berks County, Pennsylvania, and to find ways to have all of these historic graveyards maintained and preserved.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-1994

Executive Director: Jacqueline B. Nein 779-3464
Assistant Director: Laurel Miller
Secretary: Mary Ellen Lash
Treasurer: Elaine Schwar
Publicity: Jacqueline B. Nein
Membership: Carol Coleman
Research: Sandra Stief
Finance: Richard Turnbach
Preservation: Nelson Farr
Legal/Municipal Liaison: Mary Ellen Lash
Historian: Louise Feger
Patriotic: Martin Peicker
Publications: Harry Adams
Maintenance: Kevin Kozak
Solicitor: Tim Rowley

PROGRESS REPORT

Approximately 60 of the 81 neglected graveyards in Berks County have been adopted. In the first year of our existence we have 74% of the neglected historic graveyards either in the process of clean up or have been cleaned up and maintained. Forty seven graveyards need major masonry repairs. This is the costly phase of the preservation process. We have estimates for the following historic graveyards: Barnet/Peters, \$950; Spohn, \$4475; Williams, \$1925; Kinsey, \$2610; Hill, \$4000; Ritter #2, \$1372; Hoch/Bertolet \$8175 and Peters, \$6480.

The initial clean up and adoption of all neglected graveyards is expected to be completed by September of 1995. Neglected historic graveyards which have not yet been adopted include: Greth, Leiby—Perry; Rickenbach—Bern; Kilmer—Marian; Schaeffer, Kieffer—Richmond; Gehman—Brecknock; Kurtz/Hemmig—Cumru; Spohn—Greenwich; McGowan—Union; Rickenbach—Ontelaunee; Young/Kissling & Hechler/Esterly—Exeter; deTurck #2—Oley; Herman/Sassaman, Grim, Schmidt & Kemp—Maxatawny.

The following Pennsylvania Representative Districts in Berks have these graveyards with major masonry needs:

130th Representative **Dennis E. Leh** (20) Oley—Herbein, mortared stone; Peters, stone; Snyder, wet stone; Barto, will probably need more stone; Bertolet #3, dry stone; DeTurck #2, stone; Hoch/Bertolet, dry stone; Hunter/Kemp, wet stone minor repairs; Knabb, low dry stone; Levan, stone minor repairs; Ruscombmanor—Miller, unmortared stone; Ohlinger, dry stone; Schmehl, dry stone; Earl—Hill; Exeter—Ritter #2, wet stone; Young Kissling, no present enclosure; Hechler/Esterly, mortared; Hereford—Bittenbender, wet stone; Pike—Keim #1, dry stone; Keim #2, mortared stone.

126th Representative **Dante Santoni Jr.** (2) Alsace—Kinsey, wet stone; Muhlenberg—Deturk/Rothermel, dry stone.

187 Representative **Paul Semmel** (12) Maxatawny—Grim, wet stone minor repairs; Herman/Sassaman, wall should be rebuilt completely/size uncertain; Hottenstein, wet stone needs minor repairs; Kemp, crumbling brick; Levan, dry stone; Schmidt, wall gone; Rockland—Ruppert, restacked dry stone; Richmond—Kelchner, needs enclosure; Kieffer, needs enclosure; Schaeffer, wet mortared stone; Reichert/Dum, dry stone; Longswamp—Trexler.

124 Representative **David G. Argill** (5) Maiden creek—Barnet Peters, wet stone; Williams, dry stone; Greenwich—Spohn, dry stone; Perry—Greth, stones need to be set and barrier erected; Ontelaunee—Rickenbach, needs survey and cleared, stones reset.

127 Representative **Thomas Caltagirone** (1) Reading Fix/Gerber 40 x 160 wet stone minor wall and major tombstone repair.

129 Representative **Sheila Miller** 4; Marion Kilmer 15 x 15 dry stone; Penn Bright; Upper Bern Seifert 22 x 30 dry stone; Bethel Bashore 50 x 50 dry stone;

128 Representative **Samuel E. Rohrer** (1) Cumru High/Hoch 60 x 60 brick repairs

A few of these graveyards have very small trusts but the amount is not adequate to cover major masonry repairs.

The masonry preservation phase is estimated to cost well over \$200,000 if we have to hire a stone mason and pay for all the supplies. Alternate options are being considered to reduce costs.

Some prospects presently exist for descendants and family groups to finance the masonry expenses of a graveyard. At the



Spohn—Greenwich before ... recommended for Project II.

very least we would hope that many will get involved with the effort. Initial contacts have been made for the Ritter, Schaeffer, Grim, Levan, Spohn, Hill, Barnet/Peters and the Kinsey graveyards. Call 779-3464 to make arrangements to join your family team.

In January of 1995 the Berks County Commissioners passed the following resolution: Be it resolved and it is resolved that the Berks County Commissioners hereby authorize the sponsorship of the PA Conservation Corps Application on behalf of the Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation requiring a maximum County match in cash not to exceed the amount of \$2,231.82. Adopted January 5, 1995.

We have applied for this program which would provide a crew of 8 corpsmen, ages 16 to 25 to work under a crew leader and a stone mason here in Berks County for a year. The task would be completing masonry repairs and stabilization of walls and tombstones and erecting an occasional boundary other than stone for the neglected historic graveyards. In the proposal is a request for \$30,000 towards the salary of a local stone mason. Salaries of the crew and leader would be paid for by the Corps as would all materials. The crew and leader are employees of the State and insured by them. Crew members would be obtained from the local unemployment pool and would get \$200 a week and the leader \$500. If crew members last 6 months and reenlist they receive a bonus of \$670. All cost of materials are reimbursable by the Corps program. Twenty five percent of the contracted salary and of tools would have to be raised locally. The Corp will also provide ongoing technical assistance. The crew would put in 30 hours per week on site and 10 hours of basic skills instruction. This time frame is very flexible to allow crew to work in good weather. The crew and leader must be working with the mason during the contracted hours. If we can get materials and tools donated perhaps the cost of those could be added to what will be allowed for the stone mason.

For tools, materials and contracted services we must pay 100% up front and then seek reimbursement which usually takes 4 weeks. This means we need quite a bit in a slush fund until the reimbursements begin to come in.

We probably will not get a van and will have to find a way to get water to some remote sites. If we do get a van the PCC is responsible for van insurance, maintenance and repair.

Henkels & McCoy is hired by the Corps to coordinate our on site work with the basic skills instruction they are providing.



Knabb Cemetery in Oley desperately needs help!

They will be responsible for us having a full crew and will find work for the crew and leader over the winter months. They will also find office space and materials for the leader. Bill Byron is employed by Henkels & McCoy and is also the local representative of the Corps and has his office at the Olivets on Mulberry Street, Reading, PA.

We as a project sponsor in addition to what was mentioned above are responsible for—

- A work site and a fully developed scope of work.
- Periodic backup supervision of the crew during crew leader absence.
- Sponsors are required to attend a one day workshop, probably in Harrisburg.
- We can be involved as much as we want in crew and leader selection (Would be ideal to draw crew from around the Oley, Richmond and Maxatawny area).
- Perform day-to-day monitoring of the crew and its work - not always on site (Responsibility of local advisors, township officials and members of our maintenance and preservation committees).
- Purchase all tools and materials.
- Provide any special expertise necessary to carry out the project.
- Prepare and submit requests for reimbursement; monthly progress reports and final project report.
- Provide the crew leader with desk space, file space, limited postage and office supplies, and reasonable use of a phone, a copy machine and a typewriter.
- Provide crew supervision when the crew leader is ill or in training.
- Ensure that work site meets all applicable state and federal health and safety standards. (This would probably require the use of an on site port-a-potty).
- Willingness to assist deserving young Pennsylvanians to improve their stations in life.

The PCC is very flexible in allowing changes after the program is functioning. The next step is getting the project selected and determining if the owners, participating townships officials and advisors are willing to work together to help make the program effective.

It is quite possible that we could have one or two high school student crews with a leader assigned to the graveyards through Lou Rossi who is in charge of the Youth Program/Work Experience for Berks County Employment Training. Leaders who have some masonry experience would be requested. The County pays the crew and leader. The program begins in June and ends in August. A crew could be used to clean up and/or reconstruct and tie in dry wall. We would need to provide all the materials and probably the tools. If we can get two crews

most likely the best place to start is in Oley, Maxatawny and then Richmond.

Also working through Berks County Employment Training and a local stone mason attempt to get masonry training through an apprentice program. These apprentices would be senior masonry Vo-Tec students. The site would have to be cleaned up prior to beginning. We would have to assume financial responsibility for all tools and materials.

THANK YOU!

The Association wishes to thank the following companies for their generous contributions of services and materials:

- Rhoda, Stoudt & Bradley - Reading
- Advance Personnel Temporary Services, Inc. - Reading
- Fabric Mart - Sinking Spring
- Curry Printing, Inc. - Reading
- Callowhill Electronic Processing - Reading.

And, of course, our heartfelt thanks to those individuals and organizations who contributed money which helped to fund our first year of operation.

FAMILY AND CORPORATE SPONSORS NEEDED

Meridian Bank, Oley Branch with Susan Gold manager has assumed the responsibility for the coordination of local groups to help with the initial clean up of the Hunter/Kemp graveyard in Oley. Col. Daniel Hunter, a veteran of the American Revolution is buried there. Some tombstones need to be repaired and reset and the wall also needs repairs. Meridian has pledged to assume financial responsibility for these repairs.

A pledge of \$5000 from Severin Fayerman of Baldwin Hardware was received and is to be paid over a four year period.

Although family descendants have been involved in clean up as yet we do not have a group assuming full financial responsibility for the masonry repairs.

We hope by next year at this time we can report that more family and corporate sponsors will join Meridian and Baldwin Hardware.

We are grateful for these contributions.

ENDOWMENTS

We have had a very small beginning for an endowment fund and are looking forward to the expansion of this fund as more family graveyards are cleaned and the masonry repair phase completed. More information about the possibilities for this fund will be forthcoming.

A number of small trusts are being maintained by banks for historic graveyards. In most cases the banks have not assumed the responsibility for the maintenance of the graveyards and the small trusts are accumulating yearly interest minus custodial fees. Since our association's adoption program is accomplishing what was intended for the trusts, it would seem reasonable that a way should be found for the funds in trust to be transferred to us or at least the interest of such transferred to us. Local banks have been working with us to identify trusts for existing graveyards. This issue should certainly be seriously addressed in 1995.

Community Recognition

We certainly appreciate the publicity on the Berks County Historical Society's TV program and have thanked George Meiser for including us. The program involving historic graveyards in Berks County was aired on Channel 20 on January 4 and February 1, 1995 at 7 P.M. If you missed either program tapes are available for you to borrow. We thank you Elaine Schwar and Laurel Miller for the presentation of the first program. This is a great spring board into the townships and communities seeking help with projects and finances.

Our executive director, Jacquelin B. Nein was honored by the Mahanatawny Chapter of the D.A.R. February 2, 1995 for her achievement in organizing community efforts to preserve historic graveyards. When receiving the "Excellence in Community Service Award" at the Coventry Church of the Brethren in Pottstown, Nein accepted the award on behalf of the Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation and all who have helped and will help to preserve, protect and maintain this unique part of our culture and heritage.

Our Cemetery Adoptors

The advisors and the following groups who have adopted graveyards deserve our thank you and appreciation:

Advisor—**Ralph Lorah** Kinsey in Alsace by Scout Troop 508 at Spies and Mark Kirm; Trexler in Longswamp Boy Scout Troop 575 and the township manager, Neil Kline; Ruppert in Rockland by Boy Scout Troop 585 and Barry and Sandy Ruppert; Boecklie in Rockland by owner Robert Hollowbush; Bittenbender, Rauch and Marsteller by Hereford Township Supervisors; the 2 Keims in Pike by the Richard Bortz family and Keim descendants;

Advisor—**Louise Feger** Wartzluft by Linda Macechiaroli; Seifert by owner William Clark; Naftzinger by owner Vera Schrack; Bashore in Bethel by Allen H. Brown; Bright in Penn by Beatrice Sheidy and Irene Blatt, Koenig in Bern by William Koenig; Belleman in Upper Bern by owner Carl Stoudt; Kurtz in Marion by descendants; Braun in Marion by Frank Brown and descendants; the Yoder in Marion by the Womelsdorf Lions; Kline in Jefferson by Richard Kline;

Advisor—**Harold and Eleanor Burgert** Schmehl in Ruscombmanor by Robert Schmehl; Herbine in Richmond by Lee and Minerva Gauker; Miller in Ruscombmanor by Brad Zerbe working for an Eagle Scout award; Kelchner in Richmond by owner Paul H. Myers; Ely in Richmond by Meno Burkholder; Reichert/Dum by a Boy Scout Troop; Barnett/Peters in Maiden creek by Memorial Gardens; the Hoch in Richmond by Ralph Lorah; Williams in Maiden creek by Kermit Seyler and Louise Feger, descendants;

Advisor—**Martin Peicker** Breidenstein in Cumru by Boy Scout Troop 140; Weitman in Cumru by owner William Glassmyer; Miller in Cumru by Carol Coleman; Rathman in Cumru by Ray Hill; Remp in Cumru by owner Melvin Kramer; Zimmerman in Brecknock by owners Kim and Rick Trusty; Fix/Gerber in Reading by John Fix;

Advisor—**Charles Wessner** in Maxatawny Kroll by William and Dolly Fox;

Advisor—**Hilda Fisher** in Oley Hunter/Kemp by Meridian Bank, Oley and Boy and Girl Scouts; Levan by Perkiomen



Kinsey Graveyard in Alsace which needs clean up and preservation.

District Camp Fire Girls; Gulden #2 by Evelyn (Guldin) Johnson; Hoch/deTurck by Salem Spangsville Church; Weiser/deTurck by the Motor Cycle Club and Oley Boy Scout Troop 569; Barto and Wiest by Lisa Koch and Pat Wetzel; Hoch/Bertolet by owner Russell Leach and by Carl Bowers; Herbein by owner John F. Snyder; Knabb by owner Neil Dreslin and descendants; Snyder by the Oley American Legion and the P.O.S.A. Lodge at Limekiln; deTurck #1 by Willard Fisher; Peters by Rev. Tim and Cindy Mefferd; in Earl Hill by Hill descendants;

Advisor—**Kevin Kozak** in Cumru High/Hoch by Grace Lutheran Boy Scout Troop 236; in Carnarvon Zug by Parke Stauffer and in Exeter Ritter #2 by Schwarzwald Scout Troop 331;

In addition to the owners mentioned above we would like to thank the family descendants and the following owners who have signed permission slips for us to function and who have helped in the preservation process: Bruce Bachofer, Rich Barndt, Jordan Bausher, Berks County Vocational Technical School, Bieber/Lesher descendants, Mrs. Francis Bortz, Franklin Brown, Mark Brumbach, Scott Brumfield, Carl Christman, Mrs. Harry Cohen, Harry G. Crossley, Dr. Richard Detweiler, Neil Dresslin, Henry Eyrich, Severin Fayerman, Caleb Frantz, Jackie Gauker, Baron Gerhard, Brian Good, Gorwal Trucking, Julia Heimbach, Dr. Fredercika Heller, John Helwig, Charles Herrick, Mrs. Harold Hetrick, Elwood Hoch, Mark Hoch and descendants, John Hodich, Elam Hoover, Leroy Howard, Patricia Hunter, Arthur R. Johnson, Walter Johnson, John A. Julian, Kay & Richard Karper, Mr. & Mrs. Lee Katz, Kauffman family, Ronald Kelchner, Marilyn and Carl Kline, Dr. Charles Koenig, Floyd Kurtz, Caleb Leid, J. Manbeck, Mrs. Philip Mertz, Glen Miller, Dennis Mohn, Elaine Moyer, Martin C. Moyer, Paul H. Myers, Nine descendants, Ronald Richard, Artie Rodale, John A. Schlegel, James Schoellkopp, Donald Specht, Leonard Stolfzus, Paul Stump, Norman Sunday, Jason Weaver, Carl and Wayne Wessner and Carl Zettelmoeyer.

WISH LIST

- Carousel slide projector with remote
- Desk top copying machine



[left:] Herbein graveyard in Oley, well maintained but desperately in need of wall repair.
[right:] Ely graveyard in Richmond after tombstone repairs and resetting.



MASONRY WORKSHOP

A Masonry Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 1995. Included in the instruction will be tomb stone repairs and resetting, restacking a dry wall and tying in a dry wall. To find out more about the workshop call 1-610-779-3464 and register by Thursday April 13.

VETERAN'S STONES

If you are related to any veteran whose tombstone has been vandalized or broken you can request a replacement. If a veteran does not have a stone, one will be provided. Contact the American Red Cross who will process your request through the Veterans' Administration. There is no cost to you except installation.

It is quite possible that our Association can help descendants arrange a rededication of the historic graveyard after the preservation of the graveyard is completed and the tomb stone installed. Preparation for this service takes a long time and involves many cooperating groups but it is a program that develops a tremendous amount of individual and community pride in recognizing the veterans of the early wars.

HORTICULTURAL INSPECTION

Sandy Stief and Sandy Reitz have volunteered to inspect all neglected historic graveyards to tag any endangered species or a likely specimen planted in reminiscence. This will happen this Spring before any initial clean up. Both individuals are Master Gardeners and will probably be recruiting more individuals from that group.

BARTO CLEANUP

Michael, Jason and Matthew Rhoads, students of the Oley Valley High School did the initial clean up on the Barto graveyard in Oley.

EAGLE SCOUTS - CONGRATULATIONS

Damon Williams for the Breidenstine graveyard in Cumru Township which included the restacking of a dry brown stone wall that was crumbling and now looks beautiful. Damon's Troop 140 has adopted the graveyard and will be maintaining it and helping to reset two stones.

David K. Allebach cleaned up the Peters graveyard in Oley and it is now maintained by the Mefferds.

CITATION

The following is the citation made in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in recognition of the mission of B.C.A.G.P.

Whereas, The Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation is being honored upon the dedication of the restored Schmehl Family Graveyard; and

Whereas, The Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation is dedicated to restoring, maintaining, and preserving abandoned historic graveyards in Berks County. A group of civic leaders, professionals and interested citizens plan, engineer and oversee the restoration and preservation of these graveyards which involves initial clean-up, wall restoration, tombstone resetting, and regular inspection and maintenance; and

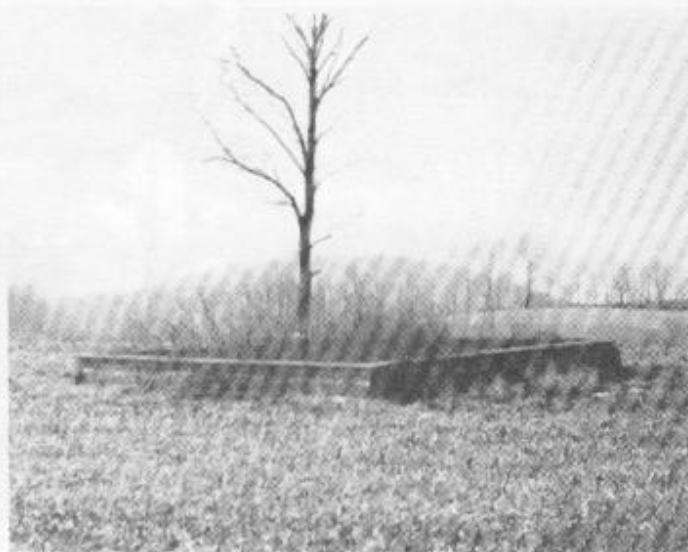
Whereas, Berks County was once home to over three hundred family burial grounds. The Schmehl Family Graveyard is just one of sixty which is presently being cared for. Through the efforts of the Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation, this family plot and others like it have been preserved for future generations.

Now therefore, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania congratulates the Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation upon its richly deserved recognition; commends it as a shining example to other Pennsylvania counties concerned with preserving their heritage; offers best wishes for its continued success as it moves into the next millennium;

And directs that a copy of this citation, sponsored by the Honorable Dennis E. Leh on September 27, 1994, be transmitted to the Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation, 4701 Saint George Street, Reading, Pennsylvania 19606.

1862 ATLAS AND INDEX AVAILABLE

A new edition of the 1862 Berks County land owners Atlas is available with an index for a donation of \$35. Any profits from these sales will be donated to the Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation. Add \$2 for P. & H. Call 1-610-779-3464 to arrange for pick up.



The Hunter/Kemp Graveyard in Oley. The photograph on the left shows how it appeared before the clean up. The photograph on the right shows this historic cemetery after it was cleaned up in 1994.

FINANCIAL REPORTS 1994-1995

Year End Financial Report for 1994

INCOME:			
Contributions	1721.72		
1994 Dues	120.00		
1995 Dues	30.00		
Charter Memberships	1750.00		
Endowment/Investment	105.23	3726.95	
EXPENSES:			
Administrative:			
1993 Expenses	436.91		
Incorporating Expenses	668.77		
Copies	110.14		
Financial	35.94		
Historian	4.97		
Membership	0.00		
Mileage/Parking	2.25		
Postage	133.20		
Research	16.25		
Social	40.12		
Stationery	0.00		
Supplies	207.17		
Telephone	57.58		
Miscellaneous	38.00	1751.30	
Fund Raising			
Postage	8.66		
Printing	42.55		
Publicity	0.00		
Stationery	0.00		
Supplies	61.23		
Miscellaneous	22.50	134.94	
Maintenance		83.40	
Publications			
Printing	188.37		
Postage	0.00		
Preparation	0.00	188.37	
Restoration		100.00	
Project 1		24.89	
Project 2		11.34	2294.24
BALANCE FORWARD:			1432.71

1995 Budget

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD:		1432.71	
INCOME:			
Charter Memberships	250.00		
Individual Contributions & Dues	1000.00		
Corporate Contributions & Dues	1700.00		
Miscellaneous	150.00	3100.00	
EXPENSES:			
Administrative			
Copies	130.00		
Financial	50.00		
Postage	175.00		
P.O. Box	35.00		
Stationery	100.00		
Supplies	200.00		
Telephone	50.00		
Miscellaneous	16.00	756.00	
Historian		50.00	
Finance/Fund Raising		75.00	
Legal/Municipal		50.00	
Maintenance			
Postage	29.00		
Copies	71.00		
Supplies	400.00	500.00	
Membership		50.00	
Social		45.00	
Preservation		900.00	
Publications			
Brochures	250.00		
Annual Report	100.00		
Postage	104.00	454.00	
Public Relations		120.00	
Research		100.00	3100.00
BALANCE:		1432.71	

If additional income is received (other than income from grants), such income shall be budgeted and dispersed as follows:

- Administrative 10 per cent
- Maintenance 20 per cent
- Preservation 70 per cent

GRANT WILL PRESERVE CEMETERIES

Our Association has had the honor of being named as the recipient of four Legislative Grants funded through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. These grants will fund preservation of four graveyards and provide for documentation for many others. The grants which are being processed will preserve the Hill, Spohn, Kinsey and Peters/Barnet graveyards. We are proud to be recognized by the state as a worthy community service project. Work on these cemeteries will begin in Spring.

We thank the following for their support of historic Berks County: Representative **Thomas R. Caltagirone**, Representative **Samuel E. Rohrer**, Representative **Dante Santoni Jr.** and Senator **Michael A. O'Pake**. Without their support, these grants would not be possible.

We also thank Representative **Dennis E. Leh** who sponsored a Citation in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on September 27, 1994 honoring BCAGP and the dedication of the restoration of the Schmehl Family Graveyard.



The Hoch/Bertolet cemetery in Oley—cleaned up and the wall re-stacked.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, March 9, 1995, 7 p.m. at Lorane School. Snow date March 16th; speaker—**Lamar Ludwig**, *Early Tombstone Repairs..*

The Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation is duly registered as a charitable organization with the Department of State, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the

Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

The Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation is also recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

_____ \$15 Annual Membership _____ Donation

Please make check payable to—

Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation.

Epitaphs



BERKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION for GRAVEYARD PRESERVATION
4701 St. George Street, Reading, PA 19606

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