

GRAVE HAPPENINGS

Publication of the Berks County Association for Graveyard
Preservation- Vol. 2 July 2007

JACQUELINE NEIN AWARD

Was given to Curtis Noll a senior at
Oley High School for past service to
the organization in addition to
community service



Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation Officers

Rev. Gary J. Dierolf
President

James A. McClean
1st Vice President

Cynthia Jimenez
2nd Vice President

Ralph P. Lorah
Treasurer

Hilary Murdock
Secretary

ASSOCIATION HANDBOOK OF HISTORIC FAMILY GRAVEYARDS

Included are 310 sites. 125 without surface evidence
Information includes over 200 site pictures.
Township maps with locations of all sites.
Cost of book. \$25.00 plus tax and \$3.50 P. & H.

Website Address
www.berkscagp.org

LOOKING BACK.....

From its inception in 1994, the Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation has been recognized and honored for its dedication to restore, maintain and preserve the historic gravesites in Berks County.

On September 27th 1994, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania cited the restorations of the Schmehl Family Graveyard and noted that the Association was caring for sixty sites.

The efforts of Jackie Nein and the dedicated members of this Association have left us with a heritage to be proud of and the challenge to continue to see that every historic gravesite in Berks County is restored and provision made for continuing maintenance and preservation.

It is not an impossible dream but a realistic goal that can be accomplished by this Association. Your membership will help to meet the financial aspect of our task and if every member will donate a few hours of his or her time, it will get done.

If not a current member, join us as we continue the work begun by Jackie and other founding members.

LOOKING AHEAD.....

This year we are concentrating on evaluating the gravesites we as an Association are responsible for and confirming the name, company and or government body responsible for maintaining other named gravesites. This is an area where we need your help. If you are currently involved in some way, please give Gary Dierolf your information.

In addition, we must select and evaluate new sites as we expand gravesite responsibility. Each year we need to repeat this process. Maintaining current sites and continually adding new sites is an ever-expanding challenge for this Association.

DAY OF CARING 2007

submitted by John McCreal



Day of Caring 2007

This was the "Day of Caring" of 2007 which like every year the fine students of Oley Valley High school spend the day using their own equipment and get together with the BCAGP members to help clean up as many as eighteen (a new Day of Caring record) cemeteries in one day.

Good work and thanks Oley Valley High School!

We would especially like to give thanks to the following teachers, who with out them the Day of Caring would not be possible:

Mr. Rob Chalmers, Mr. Jeremy Deysher, Dr. James Howe

We also would like to thank all the following students who made the Day of Caring a complete success! These students worked very hard bringing these cemeteries back to their glory and were First Class representatives of a great school...the Oley Valley High School, and we were very proud to have them work with us for the day! Thanks to;

Ben Abraham, Justin Barrett, Nate Behm, Mike Beekman, Breann Bumstead, Matt Buzalewski, Cory Ferreri, Brad Fretz, Taylor Helig, Megan Hetrick, Shelby Hicks, James Howe, Jenn Kiedeish, Nick Kiesesch, Zack Mertz, Zachary Moser, Ben Moyer, Curtis Noll, Christine Ollar, Lisa Raezer, Keith Reitanauer, Cory Schlegel, Jaime Shipe, Emily Spade, Jennifer Updegrove, Shane Yerck.

I also would like to send a big thanks to the M & M Sandwich Shop for the outstanding hoagies...Thanks guys! They were the best!

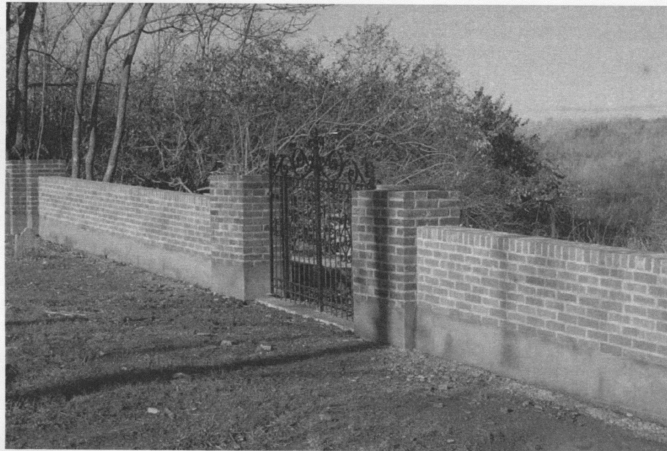


Oley Valley High School students contributing their time and outstanding work

NEW WEBSITE TO BECOME AVAILABLE

webCemeteries.com - This is a website that has been donated to the B.C.A.G.P by Eric Robuck, and is scheduled to become available in August 2007. One of the goals of this website will be to provide an organized format in which individuals are able to locate the graves of their ancestors. Another feature will allow visitors of the site to contribute additional information (biographies, pictures) associated with the graves listed.

HIGH / HOCH CEMETERY IN CUMRU TOWNSHIP -



High/Hoch Cemetery, Cumru Township

Restoration has been completed. Channel 69 news featured this cemetery during a newscast prior to its restoration, and has expressed interest in broadcasting a follow-up story. A dedication ceremony is planned for October 2007 (exact date yet to be determined). The *Reading Eagle* also wrote an article focusing on this cemetery and the work of the B.C.A.G.P. November 18th 2006.



(Grave of Brid. General William High, High/Hoch Cemetery, Cumru Township)

The High/Hoch family would like to sincerely thank the B.C.A.G.P. and the volunteers involved with the cemetery's restoration. Having the cemetery restored meant a great deal to the family. Furthermore, interest in the restoration that was demonstrated by the *Reading Eagle*, Channel 69 news, and members of the Berks County community was definitely appreciated!

WORKS IN PROGRESS

The B.C.A.G.P has been working to restore several cemeteries during the past year.

POTT CEMETERY IN PIKE TOWNSHIP



Pott Cemetery, Pike Township

The B.C.A.G.P is still obtaining approval for some changes, but a dedication ceremony is planned in the future. The stone pillars are now built, and the wrought iron gate is in the process of being re-set and re-painted. Also, a granite marker will be engraved and placed in the cemetery

BARTO CEMETERY AND HOCH / BERTOLET CEMETERY

Signs representing the family names have now been placed at these cemeteries.

If not a current member, join us as we continue the work begun by so many before us.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

\$ _____ Annual Membership, \$15.00
\$ _____ Donation earmarked for the Association General Fund.
\$ _____ Donation to be used for the _____ gravesite.
\$ _____ Annual business or municipality membership, \$35.00
\$ _____ Donation to be used in _____ municipality.

Total amount enclosed: _____ Mail Checks to: B.C.A.G.P., P.O. Box 3707, Reading, PA 19606

WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?

1. Support the Association by becoming a member.
2. Let the Association know of gravesites in order to keep our lists current
3. Become a caretaker - visit one or more gravesites routinely to evaluate it current needs
4. Give of your time to cut grass (weeds) and / or generally clean up a site.
5. Become a Board member. Please contact Gary Dierolf clergyman2000@aol.com if interested.
6. You can tell us how you can help!

BERKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVEYARD PRESERVATION
P.O. BOX 3707, READING, PA. 19606



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