

GRAVE HAPPENINGS

Volume 6, Issue 2

July 2011

BERKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVEYARD
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Special points of interest:

- Day of Caring 2011
- Jacqueline Nein Award
- Courthouse Display
- Graveyard Updates
- Upcoming Projects

BCAGP
Berks County Association
for Graveyard Preservation



DAY OF CARING 2011

The Day of Caring provides an opportunity for students to volunteer their time for community service projects. Students and teachers from Oley Valley High School volunteered to help BCAGP clean-up several graveyards on May 19th. Although the day ended earlier than expected due to one of the buses breaking-down, the students did an excellent job clearing a total of 13 graveyards.

Thanks again to these students for becoming involved in helping to preserve a part of Berks County's history!

Two groups of students worked at these locations:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Hunter/Kemp | Keim 1 |
| Hoch/DeTurk/Shenkel | Keim 2 |
| Gulden 2 | Hoch |
| Levan | Schneider |
| DeTurk 1 | Bieber/Lesher |
| DeTurk 2 | Lesher |
| Peter | |

The breakdown of one of the buses prevented work at the Kauffman and Bertolet 3 graveyards.



An Oley Valley student sprays a tombstone with biocide at the DeTurk graveyard, Oley Township (above).



Students and teachers from Oley Valley High School pause for a photograph at the Schneider graveyard in Oley Township (above).

Day of Caring—May 19th 2011

DAY OF CARING 2011



Hoch graveyard, Oley Township before (left) and after (right).



The assistance from students has a significant impact on our ability to keep up with the rapid growth that occurs in graveyards. Their participation in the Day of Caring is greatly appreciated!

The before and after pictures help to demonstrate the amount of effort the students contributed.

JACQUELINE NEIN AWARD

Congratulations to Sarah Bauman for being this year's recipient of the Jacqueline Nein Award. Sarah is a student at Oley Valley High School and participated in the Day of Caring on May 19th.



IN OTHER NEWS

COURTHOUSE DISPLAY

We recently updated our courthouse display with new pictures and news about our most recent activities. The display is location on the 2nd floor of the courthouse in the walkway between the Berks County Courthouse and the County Services Center.

FAMILY REUNIONS

SCHLEGEL FAMILY REUNION



Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation President, Les Rohrbach, spoke at the Schlegel family reunion in June. (left). The Schlegel homestead as it appears today (right).



The Schlegel family still owns the property their ancestor, Christian Schlegel, acquired in 1738. The family continues to beautifully maintain the historic graveyard which is located on the property. A memorial stone dedicated to Christian Schlegel (right) is located in the family graveyard.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✓ BCAGP President, Les Rohrbach, will be speaking at the Oley Legion in July.
- ✓ Les Rohrbach and BCAGP 2nd Vice President, Anne Wagner, will be speaking at the Leesport Historical Society meeting on September 26th, 2011. The meeting is scheduled for 8:00pm at Bethany Church.

GRAVEYARD UPDATES

BARNET/ PETER, MAIDENCREEK TOWNSHIP

We are currently searching for photographs of the Barnet/Peter graveyard that show this location prior to being vandalized. Many of the stone fragments from when the tombstones were vandalized have been retrieved. If the tombstones are able to be reconstructed, we would like to reset them in their original location.

Maintenance work on the walls involving chipping and re-pointing is complete. We are soon going to be removing a tree that is actually causing the back wall to curve.

This graveyard was recently "adopted" by Paul Schumann. BCAGP has several graveyards in need of adoption. Please contact us if interested.



NEIN, OLEY TOWNSHIP

BCAGP members have been working hard to keep the Nein graveyard well maintained. In addition to being cleared of weeds, flowers were recently planted along the wall. We also cleaned the tombstones and reset a footstone that had sunk into the ground.



The Nein graveyard is traced back to the ancestry of BCAGP founder, Jacqueline Nein.



RITTER, EXETER TOWNSHIP

Thanks to John and Sharon Carmella for all their hard work trying to keep up with the Staghorn Sumac that has been sprouting up at the Ritter graveyard. Keeping this graveyard clear of Staghorn Sumac has been an on going challenge!



GRAVEYARD UPDATES

DETURK#2, OLEY TOWNSHIP

We finished rebuilding one wall at the DeTurk graveyard. With the assistance of donations, we are hoping to rebuild a second wall in the future.



A photo taken on the Day of Caring shows the wall that has been rebuilt (left). The wall as it appeared prior to repair work (right).



KAUFFMAN, OLEY TOWNSHIP

The stone wall at the Kauffman graveyard has become deteriorated over time and is now collapsing. We have been working to restore portions of the wall that are damaged.



An example of the deterioration can be seen (left), as well as a section of the wall that has been restored (right).



KUTZ, MAXATAWNY TOWNSHIP

A few months ago BCAGP 2nd Vice President, Anne Wagner, uncovered two tombstones that had become buried over time. Those tombstones have now been repaired and reset. A new split rail fence was also recently installed.



GRAVEYARD UPDATES

KNABB, OLEY TOWNSHIP

We recently sprayed a gentle biocide on the tombstones at the Knabb graveyard to make the stones more legible without causing any damage. The Wisniewski family does an excellent job taking care of this graveyard and has offered to follow-up if a second spraying is required.

Our next task will be repairing some of the tombstones.



REICHERT/DUMM, RICHMOND TOWNSHIP



BCAGP members have been working to keep the Reichardt/Dumm clear of weeds and overgrowth. This location can become overgrown rather quickly. This graveyard before (right) and after (above).



UPCOMING PROJECTS

We approved wall patch work for the following graveyards:

- ✓ Spohn, Greenwich Township
- ✓ Levan, Oley Township

GRAVE HAPPENINGS

Berks County Association for Graveyard
Preservation
PO Box 3707
Reading PA 19606

BCAGP
Berks County Association
for Graveyard Preservation



OUR MISSION

To preserve and maintain the historic Berks County graveyards in Eastern Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Historic Burial Places Preservation Act (1994) provides for the preservation of historic burial places, tombs, monuments and gravestones and imposes penalties for violations. Research supports the existence of over 300 historic graveyards in Berks County of which approximately 120 remain with some sort of visible surface evidence. The BCAGP is working aggressively to preserve these historic grave sites for future generations.

JOIN OR DONATE TODAY!

If not a current member, please join us while we continue the work begun by so many before us. Or if you do not wish to be a member at this time, but are interested in contributing support for a specific graveyard, please indicate that graveyard on the form below.

MEMBERSHIP FORM - 2011

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

\$ _____ Annual Membership, Individual \$15 Family (residing in the same household) \$25

\$ _____ Annual business or municipality membership, \$35

\$ _____ Donation earmarked for the Association General Fund

\$ _____ Donation to be used for the _____ gravesite

\$ _____ Donation to be used in _____ municipality

Total Amount enclosed: _____ Date _____

Mail Checks to: B.C.A.G.P., PO Box 3707, Reading, PA 19606

The official registration and financial information of Berks County Association of Graveyard Preservation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation is a registered 501 (c) (3). Please check with your tax advisor as to the deductibility of your contribution.

*Please check our
website
www.bcagp.org
for meetings times*

BCAGP
Berks County Association
for Graveyard Preservation

