

Kaufman Graveyard



B E R K S C O U N T Y A S S O C I A T I O N F O R G R A V E Y A R D
P R E S E R V A T I O N

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Graveyard was restored by descendants specifically Frank and Odette Kauffman in 1988
- Over the years the growth became out of hand, tombstones have sunk and broke, groundhogs dug holes, and the dirt shifted.
- Sept 21 2010: a crew from BCAPG went in to do a general clean up
- BCAPG is looking for family members to do continued maintenance

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WORK DETAIL TO CLEAN UP KAUFMAN GRAVEYARD

A visit to the Kaufman graveyard on East Walnut road inspired us to schedule a volunteer clean up work party. Anne and Keith went to the graveyard to get photos to update our records in July. Crawling



Graveyard in Summer 2010

through poison ivy and heavy brush a few stones were visible but it became apparent that the groundhog holes made it dangerous to go into what was a jungle of weeds and growth to search.

We found that descendants in 1988 financed refurbishing the graveyard and wall. The property



owners who farm the land were very happy for some help in getting it back under control. The Kopfer family had been doing some maintenance over the years but the heavy growth became out of control when Mrs. Kopfer gave birth to a child and time was just very tight as they were farming almost 800 acres. No Kauffman descendants appeared to be doing any ongoing maintenance.

We scheduled a work party



Sept 21st to see what we could uncover. Les, Paul, Keith, Julia, Beth and Anne dug in to clear what could be cleared. Mr. Kopfer took care of the huge brush pile outside the gate. We discovered many tombstones needed resetting and we did dig a footstone out of the dirt partially covered that had sunk.

More work needs to be done here and BCAPG is seeking descendants to help.

PERSONAL LETTER TO ODETTE

We couldn't find a phone number for you, to share with you what is being done, but I did find an address. I wanted to learn how to use the software to make newsletters anyway so I thought contacting to you in this way would be a great way to practice, and give

you a lasting written document noting the progress to keep for your family records. I was sad to see that your husband Frank passed in 2008 (ancestry s.s. death index records) as I can tell that he was the family historian in every sense of the word. Our organi-

zation does not have the manpower to maintain all the historic graveyard in Berks County but we do what we can, and will keep an eye on it for you. Thank you for all you and Frank had done to preserve this graveyard that we could see it yet in 2010.

TOMBSTONES SINKING AND SHIFTING



As we found it



There is still a lot of reset work to be done on the tombstones. We decided to take the time to dig out the footstone for Daniel because it would soon be underground and lost. And we Hettie's tombstone because it was tipping so far



over it wouldn't take much more for it to be face down. But others will need a good deal of time to carefully hand dig out to reset and especially to cut Maria's out of the tree. Many are broken from the bases and should be repaired.



Stone needs to be carefully dug out and reset



After it was carefully dug out



These are the only tombstone inscriptions we have in the B.C.G.P. publication "Spitaphs" for this graveyard.

- Susanna (Hoch) Rothermel April 9 1825-June 8 1870 age 45.1.29 m. August 25, 1844 Daniel B Kauffman, April 12 1864 Jacob Rothermel
- Hettie H Kauffman d/o Daniel & Susanna Sept 1, 1853-May 8 1869 aged 15 8 7
- Daniel Kauffman June 28, 1818-Jan 7 1857 aged 38 6 10, m August 25, 1844 Susanna Hoch 185d
- Mary (Barnet) Kauffman Oct 21, 1793-Feb 21 1879 aged 85 4 0
- Samuel Kauffman August 22 1784-April 5 1832 aged 47 7 13, Jan 13, 1809 Magdalena Glass 2s.1d, m Jan 8 1817
- Maria Beinet Kauffman 3s5d
- Sarah Kauffman d/o Samuel & Maria march 11, 1831-June 12 1842 aged 11 3 1
- Maria Kauffman d/o S&M, Jan 19, 1824, aged 0 5 ?

Taking care of a historic graveyard is not as hard as it sounds if someone is dedicated to keeping up with it. There are many sources for information on things like tombstone repairs, cleaning, resetting, grounds maintenance online. Just Google

"graveyard preservation". The most important thing to know is that PA law provides for penalties for any destruction of a historic graveyards. That means that everything needs to stay out unless there are special circumstances. Cleaning old tomb-

stones is done with a product by Cathedral products called D-2. It is not a soap or bleach (which destroys stones) but a biocide that removes biological growths. We sprayed the stones with D-2 while we were there to try to lighten the black molds.



The black you see usually isn't dirt, it's biological growths, and can be lightened without any scrubbing

THE BEFORE AND THE AFTER



BCAGP
 Berks County Association
 for Graveyard Preservation
 P. O. Box 3707 Reading PA 19606



The Berks County association for Graveyard Preservation is a 501C non profit group with a mission to preserve the private historic graveyards in Berks County. Started in 1993 by Jacqueline Nein, B.C.A.G.P. is an all volunteer group with various abilities and interests. The web address for us is: www.bcagp.org. We are also on Face book with about 100 photo albums of various historic graveyards in Berks County. Meetings are held as

needed and announced on our website. We are always looking for volunteers. We have young men looking for Eagle Scout projects, those that just want to research from home, people who want to get their hands dirty, and people who just want to keep tabs on the graveyards. Any amount of help or money donated is needed and appreciated. We are always looking for "family team captains" who can help identify the needs of a graveyard, help fund-raise for repairs, keep us abreast on reunions and contacts and help organize work parties. We are happy to work with groups

who adopt a graveyard. We can't do this alone. We need to have the help and support of the descendants and property owners to keep up on this overwhelming task. You can view newsletter archives online on our website.



Jackie Nein , founder now deceased

About us

TWO KAUFFMAN GRAVEYARDS

There are two known dedicated Kauffman Family graveyards in Berks County. One is in Maiden creek which has been featured in this newsletter and one is in Oley. This year for the "Oley Day of Caring" we took a group of Oley High School students to the Kauffman graveyard. Every year the students attempt to get to 14 or so graveyards and

this 2010 year the Kauffman was included. We didn't have enough time to do much but touch the surface. It is unknown how long its been since anyone has been in there. Each year a neglected graveyard is worked on it gets a little easier each year. This one will need wall repairs as well as major tombstone resetting. Graves are literally sinking.



Any information on possible descendants that would be willing to help work on these graveyards would be appreciated.