

# Epitaphs



Publication of the Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation-Vol. 2 February 1996

## 1995 - PRESERVATION PREVAILS

We were fortunate to have a student crew for eight weeks this past summer through a federal grant to the Berks County Employment and Training Office. Four of our county legislators provided initiative funds to pay the salary of a professional stone mason. The projects for these grants were approved by the Pennsylvania Museum and Historic Commission and all major phases of these grants have been completed. Our written report will be filed this Spring. A photo album and VCR tape of local TV Programs are available to illustrate our successes. This training program not only reduced our expenses but provided excellent masonry training skills for teens in our county. The crew worked on five major masonry projects and twelve different neglected historic graveyards and transformed them from a state of total neglect into the majestic tributes that were intended by our early emigrants. What was accomplished this summer was much more than our very young organization could have ever expected. The cooperation that we have with townships officials and citizens established a great foundation for renewal of community pride and appreciation for our early history.

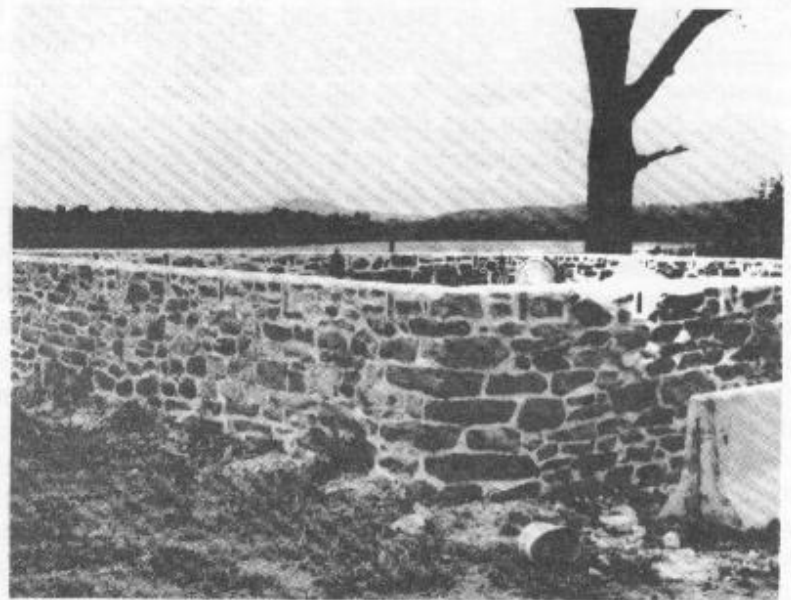
Now that we have found a way to help financially support projects and to be so successful, we learn that initiative funds are no longer available for 1996 and also that in the process of balancing the Federal budget the funding for summer crews might not be available. Applications for Community Block Grants for 1996 are not being accepted. The Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission recognizes the value of our projects but they do not have any funds specifically for the preservation of historic graveyards.

When this dilemma was discussed with certain Berks County State Legislators and with Ed McCann, the Director of the County Student Summer Employment Program, it was concluded that certainly we should apply to the State for funding to continue in 1996. Our historic grave-

yard preservation is a pilot program and serves as an example to other counties. Berks County legislators are working to gather financial support in the 1996 State budget for this long overdue preservation effort.

We appreciate your support and help to insure our continued success and look forward to having you be a vital part in making the preservation and maintenance of these historic graveyards happen.

## PRESERVED HISTORIC LEVAN



### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 1995

Executive Director, Finance: Jacqueline B. Nein  
Assistant Director, Historian: Louise Peger  
Secretary: Sandy Ruppert  
Treasurer: Kerry Dietrich  
Membership: Cynthia Jimenez  
Research: Mary Yeich  
Preservation, Maintenance: Charles & Barbara Nissley  
Maxatawny Liaison: Carl Zettlemyer  
Patriotic Liaison: Martin Peicker  
Publicity: Mike Strouse  
At Large: Nelson Parr  
At Large: Ann Marie Cucinotta  
Solicitor: Tim Rowley

## PROGRESS REPORT

### Summer Youth Service Crew

- The first project of the crew was to remove 2 huge dead trees and clear the wilderness in the Bertolet #3 and to reset most of the tombstones. Money is needed to recap the wall.
- Stumps and weeds were removed from the Levan and the stone wall has been repaired and pointed. The old cap was removed and the top sealed. A new gate is being made and will be installed in the Spring.
- The stone wall on the Hill has been rebuilt. The tombstones have been reset and landscaping will begin soon.
- The Peters has been cleared and prepared for the rebuilding of one and a half sides of the wall.
- The Weiser/deTurck has been cleared of thistles and weeds, the stones reset and the rail fence repaired, secured and painted.
- The deTurck #2 is available for adoption. The crew removed the weeds and reset stones. Stone wall reconstruction is necessary.
- We are hoping for permission to clean up the Dunn/Esterly.
- The Kinsey has been cleared and the walls repaired and sealed. A terraced set of steps was installed in the area leading to the gate.
- The Barnet/Peters has been cleared and the walls repaired. Tombstones were reset and the monument repaired, reset and erected.
- The Gulden has been cleared of weeds.
- The Williams has been cleared of weeds.
- On rainy days the crew found ways to be useful to the community. They washed the township vehicles and helped the Boy Scouts load newspapers.

### Adoption

- Of the 75 neglected historic graveyards in Berks County 57 (76%) have been adopted since our incorporation and these graveyards are now being maintained. Of these, 6 of 40 no longer need major masonry or enclosure repairs.

### Other Projects

- The Keim #1 was cleared by a descendant and Bonnie & Phil Mack of Mack Excavating.
- The Young/Kissling was cleared and plotted by Boy Scout Troop 508. All tombstones will be reset soon and stones have been donated by Philip W. Kelly and his sister, Patricia, to build a wall. Loren Cammuck, a candidate for Eagle Scout, is organizing the project.
- Progress continues all over the County on the many adopted historic graveyards.
- Descendants cleaned up the Spohn in Green-



### HISTORIC SPOHN UNDERWAY

- wich Township. Stone wall reconstruction began this Fall and will be completed this Spring.
- The Williams will have a new entry road. A tombstone has been ordered for the Civil War veteran and a small family rededication service will be held this Spring.
- The Breidenstein was cleared. Representatives Thomas Caltagirone and Samuel Rohrer inspected the results. Resetting and repair of broken stones is planned for 1996.
- The Fix/Gerber graveyard was groomed by a student crew from the Youth Outreach Program.

**A special thank you to the many owners and descendants who have and continue to care for historic graveyards.**

**Volunteers, contributions and new members are needed to continue with the masonry phase of other projects and to expand our preservation efforts. Regardless of your level of commitment to our cause, do share in our pride in preserving and protecting this remaining evidence of our ancestors and our early history.**

### 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. The atlas has a soft 9 X 12 cover and 80 pages reprinted in 1988 by Javon Co. from actual surveys by L. Fagen; originally published by H. F. Bridgens. The index contains over 7,000 names of land owners. Township maps are scaled and names clearly legible. Add \$2 for P. & H. or arrange for pick up. Call 610 779-3464.

## BERKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVEYARD PRESERVATION

A nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving and maintaining Berks County's forgotten historic graveyards

At one time there were over 300 family burial grounds in Berks County, of these, approximately 130 remain in some form, 55 of which were being cared for before our incorporation. The remainder had been left to the mercy of nature, the elements and the threat of vandalism. Stones topple, walls fall and seasonal growth thickens by the year. Some graveyards were in danger of being totally obliterated and thus forgotten. As of this printing 57 of the 75 neglected graveyards have been adopted and are being maintained.

The Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation is sanctioned by the Cemetery Association of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Council of Allied Funeral Services, Inc. This pilot program in Berks County is setting a precedent and serves as a model for other counties.

### WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE:

Plan, engineer and oversee the preservation of these historic graveyards through:

- Initial Clean-up
- Tombstone repairs/resetting
- Wall repairs
- Regular inspection and maintenance

### HOW THIS IS DONE:

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

### NEGLECTED HISTORIC GRAVEYARDS WHICH ARE NOT YET ADOPTED

Bern Township:	Rickenbach
Perry Township:	Greth, Leiby
Marian Township:	Kilmer
Brecknock Township:	Gelman
Union Township:	McGowan
Exeter Township:	Hechler/Esterly
Oley Township:	Bertolet #3, Weidner #1 & Barto
Maxatawny Township:	Herman/Sassaman, Schmidt, Gehr, Kemp & Kutz
Richmond Township:	Schaeffer, Kieffer, Kelchner & Reichert/Dum

## HISTORIC KINSEY PRESERVED



### SPRING BOARDS TO EXPOSURE AND SUCCESS

Last Spring our hands-on masonry workshop for building stone walls was well attended. This Fall our summer crew was featured on the Berks Cable TV 5:30 news report. Filming took place at the Barnet/Peters and the Reichert/Dum historic graveyards. The crew's efforts were featured in local newspapers with pictures. Representatives Rohrer and Caltagirone were pictured with Nelson Farr and Jacqueline B. Nein in the Morgantown publication.

Hilda Fisher and Jacqueline B. Nein appeared on George Meiser's Berks County Historical monthly TV program on Channel 20 featuring a progress report of our summer program including 12 historic graveyards. Hilda and Jackie were also featured February 26, 1996 on the WEEU *Feedback* radio show.

A swim party and picnic for the summer crew was well attended. Among those in attendance were Judge Art Grim, Representative Dante Santoni Jr., Severin Fayerman, Representative Sam Rohrer's secretary, Jennifer Coriell and representatives from the Berks County Employment and Training Office.

In addition to our continually updated panels in the corridor connecting the Berks County Court House with the Service Center, smaller displays were featured at the National Penn and Meridian Banks in Oley and at the Berks County Historical Society. Presentations were made for various community groups by Martin Peicker, Louise Feger and Jackie Nein. A stand was shared with the Oley Valley Heritage Society at the Oley Community Fair. The December board meeting was held at the Richmond Township Municipal Building to activate interest in the Richmond/Maxatawny areas. Our group had a manned display at the Berkshire Mall and also in the lobby of Boscov East.

These activities are all great spring boards to success. We thank all the volunteers who helped and invite others to join us.

• 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.

## GOALS and GUIDELINES for 1996

- Board members should form committees to enable them to function better in 1996.
- Advisors report on all graveyards that need tombstone resetting and repairs and on any graveyards that are not adopted so we can get them adopted, set up a work party to temporarily get them cleaned up or ask the township road crews to help with these tasks in their spare time. Encourage the owners to come to the masonry workshop and to reset and repair themselves. Include the answer in your report. The sooner we have this information the sooner we can get the work done. Spring is a great time to work.
- Begin to reset and repair tombstones and get all neglected graveyards cleaned up and adopted.
- Accumulate a written report on the "chain of title" for all historic graveyards. Begin with the neglected that are not adopted, those that are adopted and then those that have been maintained. Owners and/or descendants if you have this information please forward quickly.
- Masonry wall repairs can begin anytime money has been provided for a particular graveyard. Keep working to get money from descendants of graveyards that were preserved in 1995 to be used for other projects in 1996...accomplishments in 1995 should perpetuate accomplishments in 1996. Attempt to get a financial subcommittee for Oley, Maxatawny and Richmond and a particular descendant to head a campaign for their particular graveyard.
- Should we be fortunate enough to have a work crew, a graveyard has been cleaned by volunteers and some money has been raised by the community, owners and/or descendants then some Association funds can be made available for this project.
- Your financial contributions can be earmarked for a particular graveyard or for graveyards in a particular township.

## MASONRY FUNDS ESTABLISHED

Levan, Oley, \$345; repairs totalled over \$2500  
Dietrich/Spohn, Greenwich, \$1660 collected by descendants; repairs estimated at \$8000  
Hunter/Kemp, Oley, \$100  
Ritter, Exeter, \$1910;  
Bertolet, Oley, \$210;  
deTurck #2, Oley, \$215;  
Hill, Earl, \$50; masonry repairs cost over \$2600  
Snyder, Oley, \$150  
Peter/Barnet, Maiden creek, \$200; repairs were \$247  
Kieffer, Richmond, \$500; this will be used to reset stones and to create a new enclosure  
Knabb, Oley descendants donated \$220.

## MASONRY REPAIRS EXPENSIVE

Thirty four graveyards need major masonry repairs. This is the costly phase of the preservation process. We have estimates for the following historic graveyards: Ritter #2, \$1372.00; Hoch/Bertolet \$8175 and Peters, \$6480. The following Pennsylvania Representative Districts in Berks have these graveyards with major masonry or enclosure needs:

**130th Representative Dennis E. Leh** (18) Oley Herbein 50 x 50 mortared stone, Peters 30 x 60 stone, Snyder 75 x 125 wet stone, Barto 40 x 50 will probably need more stone, Bertolet #3 44 x 63 dry stone (just needs sealing on top), DeTurk #2 28 x 32 stone, Hoch/Bertolet 68 x 42 dry stone, Hunter/Kemp 36 x 54 wet stone minor repairs, Knabb 40 x 75 low dry stone; Ruscombmanor Miller 34 x 60 unmortared stone, Ohlinger 42 x 40 dry stone, Schmehl 33 x 45 dry; Exeter Ritter #2 33 x 42 wet stone, Young/Kissling (no present enclosure), Hechler/Esterly 55 x 75 mortared; Hereford Bittenbender 45 x 60 wet stone; Pike Keim #1 24 x 24 dry stone, Keim #2 30 x 33 mortared stone.

**126th Representative Dante Santoni Jr.** (1) Alsace Deturk/Rothermel 53 x 58 dry stone (most tombstones vandalized - monument could be erected by descendants)

**187 Representative Paul Semmel** (10) Maxatawny Grim 47 x 50 wet stone minor repairs; Herman/Sassaman wall should be rebuilt completely/size uncertain; Hottenstein 65 x 50 wet stone needs minor repairs; Kemp 45 x 72 crumbling brick; Levan 37 x 39 dry stone; Schmidt 15 x 15 wall gone; Richmond Kelchner needs enclosure; Kieffer needs new enclosure; Schaeffer 40 x 45 wet mortared stone; Reichert/Dum 100 x 100 dry stone; Longswamp Trexler 45 x 59;

**124 Representative David G. Argill** (2) Perry Gteth stones need to be set and barrier erected; Ontelaunee Rickenbach needs to be surveyed, cleared and stone 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 Scifert 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



## "9" HOMESTEAD REGISTERED WITH AMERICAN FARM TRUST

In 1994 Severin Fayerman registered the "9" homestead property in Berks County, PA with the American Farm Trust. Whenever this property is sold it can only be used for farm land and can not be subdivided for building lots. This also means that the historic "9" graveyard will never be in some one's backyard. We are thankful to Severin Fayerman for his kind consideration.

The John F. Snyder farm in Oley where the Herbein graveyard is located has settled the matter of subdividing with the State and County and that graveyard too will never be surrounded with housing plots. Thank you!

BERKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVEYARD PRESERVATION  
 BUDGETED AND ACTUAL STATEMENTS OF CASH RECEIPTS AND CASH DISBURSEMENTS  
 YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1996 AND 1995

	BUDGET 1996	ACTUAL 1995
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE - JANUARY 1	\$13,252.50	\$1,432.71
CASH RECEIPTS:		
CHARTER MEMBERSHIPS	0.00	150.00
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND DUES	10,000.00	7,737.06
CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS AND DUES	5,000.00	3,375.00
COMMONWEALTH OF PA GRANTS	0.00	13,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS (INTEREST)	150.00	156.67
<b>TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS</b>	<b>15,150.00</b>	<b>24,418.73</b>
CASH DISBURSEMENTS:		
ADMINISTRATIVE:		
COPIES	130.00	110.71
FINANCIAL	25.00	11.13
MILEAGE	175.00	149.40
PHOTOGRAPHY	125.00	118.48
POSTAGE	150.00	100.19
P.O. BOX	0.00	0.00
STATIONERY	50.00	0.00
SUPPLIES	200.00	173.53
TELEPHONE	150.00	107.96
MISCELLANEOUS (WORKSHOPS, ETC.)	300.00	277.58
SUB-TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	1,305.00	1,048.98
HISTORIAN	50.00	0.00
FINANCE/FUND RAISING	100.00	86.00
LEGAL/MUNICIPAL	50.00	0.00
MAINTENANCE:		
POSTAGE	10.00	0.00
COPIES	10.00	0.43
SUPPLIES	25.00	0.00
SUB-TOTAL MAINTENANCE	45.00	0.43
MEMBERSHIP	50.00	0.00
SOCIAL	50.00	13.99
PRESERVATION	16,000.00	10,655.88
PUBLICATIONS:		
BROCHURES	250.00	150.12
ANNUAL REPORT	200.00	188.71
POSTAGE	150.00	144.38
SUB-TOTAL PUBLICATIONS	600.00	483.21
PUBLIC RELATIONS	350.00	308.20
RESEARCH	100.00	2.25
<b>TOTAL CASH DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>18,700.00</b>	<b>12,598.94</b>
<b>CASH BALANCE - DECEMBER 31</b>	<b>\$9,702.50</b>	<b>\$13,252.50</b>

## MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

### EMIGRANT \$1000 or more

Ruth & Marjorie Boyer  
Severin Fayerman of Baldwin Hardware  
Jacqueline B. Nein  
Oley Valley Fair Association

### COLONIST \$500 - \$999

Cemetery Association of Pennsylvania  
Evelyn Kieffer  
National Penn Bank of Boyertown  
Christian Schlegel of Wyomissing Financial  
Spohn Descendants  
A Very Friendly Corporation

### PATRIOT \$100 - \$499

Harry L. Adams Jr.  
Barnet Motors  
Lois Berstler  
Esther deTurck Hospador (deceased)  
Glen deTurck  
Arlan & Jane Dietrich  
John & Joan Dietrich  
Karen L. Dietrich  
Michael & Jessica Dietrich  
Stephen Dietrich  
William Flippin  
Ruth L. Fullaway  
Knabb Descendants  
Mary Knoll  
Molly S. LeVan/David Newton  
Meridian Bank  
Reading Motorcycle Club

## FAMILY AND CORPORATE SPONSORS NEEDED

A pledge of \$5000 from Severin Fayerman of Baldwin Hardware was received and is to be paid over a four year period. Because no initiative money is available in 1996 and we do not expect the federal budget to provide funds for summer crews, more corporate sponsors are urgently needed to match our progress record of 1995.

Masonry repairs for the Ritter graveyard in Exeter and for the Herbein and Snyder in Oley are going to require an organized effort on the part of descendants, the communities and the owners. A summer crew and/or volunteers could considerably reduce the masonry costs. Without volunteer help, each of these graveyards are expected to cost over \$10,000.

We hope by next year at this time we can report that more family and corporate sponsors have and will join in this preservation effort.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION AND HELP:

George Meiser; Harry Adams - logo, formatting and creativity of our first issue of our newsletter Epitaphs; William Fox Munroe - display type setting; Theresa Hesser -display; Schuyler Brossman - newspaper exposure; Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission; Representatives Rohrer, Caltagirone and Santoni; Senator O'Pake; Oley Valley Heritage Association; Allentown Cement; Oley Business Club; Yellowhouse Hotel; Gift Lumber Yard; Covered Bridge Restaurant of Pleasantville; John Adams of Fleetwood Brick - 10 bags of lime; Berks Products Foundation - sand and lime; Many volunteers; Reading Eagle Times; Boyertown Times; Morning Call; Tri County; Daughters of the American Revolution; Berks News TV; Robert Flail and Nationwide Insurance; Linebach's Hardware - safety glasses and gloves; Berkshire Insulation and others that may have been missed.

## INITIATIVE

Initiative funds totalling \$13,000 were used for the Peter/Barnet, Hill, Spohn, Kinsey and Levan. Since this is, indeed, initiative money we are continually working to gather replacement funds so masonry work can continue on other graveyards. We are grateful for these contributions and hope the funds will grow quickly so when the opportunity for volunteer or summer crew work is available we will have the money to pay the stone mason to work with them. Masonry work can not proceed until funds are available.

## ENDOWMENT OPTION

You can endow an historic graveyard with our association by investing the principle and designating our group as the custodian. We would use the interest to maintain the graveyard and/or to have floral deliveries. A minimal custodial charge will be made by the association. We can not accept an endowment fund until all needed masonry repairs are made.

## DIVINING ROD TEST

Richard L. Yoder, a Boyertown historian, tells of an experience he had with divining rods in an old church graveyard. Richard visited a farmer in Mertztown, Berks County and was told that divining rods not only can locate ground sources of water but can also locate the site of buried bodies. Richard, being very skeptical, still decided to give it a try. He was able to locate a water source with the crossing of the rods. When he tested known grave sites the rods again crossed. Richard suspected that there were unmarked graves right next to the church building. With some help, a compass and graph paper he began with the divining rod and located an entire row of graves. The graves all faced East and the plotting showed the burials were a constant distance apart. Believe it or not, we will be asking Richard to bring his rods this summer to the "9" graveyard to attempt to determine if Casper Neun and his wife Barbara are buried in the front corner of the graveyard. You skeptics might want to ask Richard to function under very scientific scrutiny, maybe even go on *60 Minutes*.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation will be held Tuesday, March 12 at 7 P. M. at Lorane Elementary School off Lorane Road in Exeter Township. The Honorable Forrest G. Schaeffer will speak about the **Why and Wherefores of Berks County Historic Family Graveyards**. Judge Schaeffer is an avid historian and a great storyteller. The public is invited to attend and share this evening with us.

## HONORABLE FORREST G. SCHAEFFER



## OFFICER NOMINEES FOR 1996

**Executive Director: Jacqueline B. Nein**, incumbent, is a graduate of Reading High, West Chester State and Temple University. She was employed by the Pottsgrove School District as a teacher, a department chairperson and a coach and is now retired. She was the first woman to receive the "Best Coach of the Year Award" from the Greater Pottstown Area Oldtimers. In 1995 she was honored by the Mahanatawny Chapter of the D.A.R. for her achievement in organizing community efforts to preserve historic graveyards. Jackie was very instrumental in organizing the Berks County Genealogical Society and indexed many church records. She compiled and published the church records of First Reformed, Reading; Trinity Lutheran, Reading; and Schwarzwald Reformed, Exeter Township. The "9" family association was organized by Jackie in 1981 and she helped restore the historic family graveyard in Oley Township, near Limekiln, and is now responsible for supervising the maintenance. In addition to compiling and publishing the third edition of the "9" genealogy in 1990, she was responsible for the reorganization of the Dunkelberger

family association and in 1992 compiled and published the Dunkelberger genealogy. She is the Judge of Elections for Exeter Township, Precinct 3, Berks County, PA and a member of St. Andrew's U.C.C., Reading, PA.

**Assistant Executive Director: Louise Feger**, appointed incumbent, has worked diligently as our historian, photographer, refreshment chairperson, speaker and as our advisor to the western part of the county. Whenever a task needs doing Louise is there volunteering. Louise, a mother of five, is retired from nursing and helps manage the Hesper Salon traveling store.

**Treasurer: Kerry L. Dietrich**, appointed incumbent, is a native of Kutztown and holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Kutztown University and an M.B.A. from Lehigh University. In addition, Kerry also completed graduate courses at Tübingen University in southern Germany. Also a CPA, CMA and Notary Public, Kerry has completed four years in public accounting, served eight years as Finance Director and Secretary/Treasurer for a local manufacturer and worked in Heidelberg, Germany in the financial consolidation department for a large international construction materials producer. He is currently Administrator-Treasurer for Lehigh Portland Cement Company in Allentown.

**Secretary: Sandra Ruppert**, incumbent, has been secretary of the annual Ruppert Reunion for the past ten years. She and her husband Barry attended a workshop sponsored by the BCAGP and met the owner of the property where the Ruppert graveyard was located and learned that the graveyard was in need of clean up and maintenance. With the help of the Dryville Church Boy Scouts the graveyard including the stone wall is a very fitting tribute to these early Ruppert ancestors. Barry discovered that the brother of his great great grandfather was buried there. Sandra was currently involved in updating her family history. She serves as the Chief Voter Register of Berks County.

## WISH LIST

- Kodak Carousel slide projector with remote
- Desk top copying machine
- Grass rakes
- A long crow bar
- Long handled axes
- Long handled sickles
- Chain saw
- Shovels
- Loppers
- Heavy duty pistol grip clamps for tombstone repairs
- Cement, lime and sand
- Damaged telephone and/or electric poles
- Crash barrier posts
- Road cable

**General meetings are scheduled the second Tuesday in March, May, September and November at 7 P.M. at the Lorane Elementary School Cafeteria in Exeter Township. The public is always invited and most welcome.**

### GRAVEYARD TOUR

We are pleased to announce that we are planning a Graveyard Tour for early Spring. We have chosen approximately 10 graveyards in the Historic Oley Valley that are examples of the work that has been going on. This will be an escorted car caravan to each of the chosen graveyards. Participants will be given time to explore each graveyard and a host will be available with information. We intend this event to be a relaxing day in the Oley Valley and hope you will be able to attend. We are expecting this tour to be booked solid and would recommend that you send your reservations as soon as possible. We can not extend the caravan beyond 10 groups of ten cars. The cost of the tour is \$10 per individual or \$25 maximum per car. Please wear old shoes. After reading this newsletter you will surely understand why this tour has to be a major fund raiser and we are hoping even if you volunteer to help you will want to make a contribution towards further preservation efforts.



Please have a full gas tank and your car checked for vitals. Caravans will be leaving from the parking lot of Salem United Church of Christ, Covered Bridge Road in Spangsville from Noon until 12:30 P.M. Saturday May 11, 1996. The rain date will be Sunday May 12. All cars will be assigned a lead car to escort the caravan and a directional engineer to bring up the tail. Caravans will leave for destinations as soon as ten cars are available. No car will be allowed to travel alone. Turn on your lights and be responsible for the car behind you. Should you lose the car behind you, by stopping the whole caravan will stop until all cars are again in place.

We are in need of 30 volunteers to help with this tour. Please contact Sandra Ruppert at 779-0806, after 5:30 P.M. We are also in need of walkie talkies or cellular phones to coordinate the tour parties. If you can help us please call. (See the last page of this newsletter for your registration form.)

### MASONRY WORKSHOP

The masonry workshop is scheduled for April 13, 1996 (rain date April 20th). This will be a hands-on workshop on tombstone repair. There are many new epoxies that can be used for such projects and Dwight Stoltfus and his crew will be showing us which to use and how to use them. **We need an owner or caretaker to volunteer their site. The deadline for requesting to host is Monday, March 4.** The graveyard must be free of debris and brush, have stones that need to be reset and some that are repairable, have room for parking and be large enough to hold a number of people to observe the demo and help with the work.

Please call Jackie Nein at 779-3464 to see if your graveyard qualifies and also to find out where the site will be. The location should be advertised in the local newspapers or announced on WEEU.

### WHITE HORSE TAVERN

We will need volunteers to man our stand at the Morlatton Village Military Muster at Douglassville May 19, 1996, 10 to 4. This is sponsored by the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County. The 1862 Land Owners Atlas will be available at our stand.

### SCHAEFFER WORK PARTY

Schaeffer Work Party Saturday April 27 at 9 A.M. Please bring chain saws, trucks and all sorts of tools to get this historic graveyard ready for major masonry repairs.

### TITLE SEARCH WORKSHOP

A Title Search workshop is planned for March 21, 1996 at the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court St. Reading. The first session will begin at 8:30 and will meet in the lobby of the 12th floor. Mary Yeich will conduct this workshop to teach how to use the deed books to build a line of ownership. We hope that those attending will gain the knowledge for their own use and may be able to help us obtain one of our goals, to have a title chain on all our graveyards. (See the last page for registration form)

### Deed Chains by Mary Yeich

The deed chain reveals the owner of a particular property and for how long they owned it, the deed description and any sales out of that deed description shows the amount of land owned.

Generally, the chain can be formed by following the recitals of the deeds: the recital paragraph "Being the same premises", of "Being part of the same premises" etc as in Deed book volume and page, follows the legal description. It is not a necessary part of a deed. You will find deeds which have no recital clause or the recital will not have the deed book number, only a date. One then uses the grantor and grantee indexes. I would *grantee* the name of the party selling the property, in a deed that omits the recital clause.

A "Whereas deed" has the recital in the beginning of the instrument - before the legal description. This is often found when the property owner is deceased or in the settling of an estate. Some sheriff deeds do not have the usual recital clause. The parties involved in the court case, and the term and number will be given. I would then *grantee* (index) the name of the defendant, A.B.C. Bank v.s. John and Jane Doe, (John and Jane Doe as the defendants being sheriffed). The date of purchase of the property must be determined. It must be remember that deeds were not always recorded at the time when written. An unrecorded deed from the 1800's can be recorded that year, or whenever it was produced. When a recital gives the parties and date of deed, but no deed reference, the indexes are checked from the date of the deed forward to find any late recordings.

For examples and hands-on training sign up for the workshop conducted by Mary Yeich Thursday, March 21, 1996 at 8:30 A.M.



The following is a synopsis of some key correspondence related to funding for 1996 for the B.C.A.G.P.

**September, 1995**

Petition of 428 signatures from Berks County for continued funding under Title IIB of the Job Training Partnership Act.

**October 3, 1995**

To: B.C.A.G.P.

From: Brent D. Glass, E. D., PA Historic and Museum Com. Governor Ridge asked me to reply to your request. Unfortunately graveyards are ineligible for funding. Also no funds are available for teaching masonry skills. I appreciate your efforts in caring for these important resources. Good luck in your endeavors.

**October 6, 1995**

To: B.C.A.G.P.

From: Rick Santorum, United States Senator

In favor of Youth Development Community Block Program. Individual communities know best how to provide positive values, skills, and support to those children who are in danger of missing out on the American dream.

**October 13, 1995**

To: Jacqueline B. Nein

From: President Bill Clinton

Thank you for sharing concerns about our nation's fiscal priorities. My administration is working hard to create opportunity, demand responsibility, shrink bureaucracy, and raise living standards for hardworking Americans, while keeping our nation on a fiscally responsible course. I will keep your views in mind as we continue working to build a strong economy for the 21st century.

**November 27, 1995**

To: B.C.A.G.P.

From: Samuel E. Rohrer, State Rep. 128th Leg. District

The association is to be commended for their work and accomplishments. I will request funding in the budget for next year.

**December 26, 1995**

From: Jacqueline B. Nein

To: Gov. Ridge, B.C. Legislators and Commissioners

Request for \$52,000 for 2 summer youth crews with a leader to work with township officials to set up a program to work with stone masons to preserve the walls and enclosures of Berks County's Historic graveyards. Guidelines and evaluation would be similar to those developed by the Berks County Employment and Training Office. Each crew would cost approximately \$16,000 and each of the 2 stone masons would have a budget of \$10,000.

**January 11, 1996**

To: Honorable Joseph R. Pitts

From: Sheila Miller, Member of House of Rep. District 129

Forwarded our financial request for \$52,000 for committee consideration.

**January 15, 1996**

From: Senator Michael A. O'Pake, 11th District

To: B.C.A.G.P.

I encourage you to seek funding other than through initiative grants. Thank you for your interest and support. Please let me know how I may be able to help you in state government.

**January 19, 1996**

To: Larry Kirlin

From: Tim Holden, U. S. Representative

The U.S. Conference of Mayors has identified this program as one of their top priorities in the current budget debate and have been instrumental in efforts to secure its funding for future years. For youth throughout our country, this experience supplies an opportunity to help in their communities while gaining a sense of self worth by becoming involved in meaningful activities that demand responsibility. I believe this program is a preventive strike against juvenile crime and a valuable life experience for all involved.

**January 25, 1996**

To: Honorable Joseph R. Pitts, Maj. Chairman, App. Com., House of Rep.

From: Dennis E. Leh, Member of House of Rep. 139th District

This association is a grass roots effort of concerned citizens in Berks County. Through much hard work and investigation, they obtained public and private funds and have made a positive contribution to community pride and fostered a renewed interest in historical preservation. Please consider adding the requested amount of \$52,000 for work crews and stone masons to the projected state budget. Anything you can do for them would be appreciated.

**January 29, 1996**

To: B.C.A.G.P.

From: James W. Gerlach, Senator 44th District

Glad to support any effort by the Berks County Legislative Delegation to secure funding for this worthwhile endeavor. (cont. next page)



## HILL GRAVEYARD

## FIRST MAJOR MASONRY PROJECT



## BARNET/ PETERS GRAVEYARD

### LAST 1995 CREW PROJECT

(cont. from previous page)

February 7, 1996

To: Jacqueline B. Nein, Executive Director  
From: Brent D. Glass, E.D. PA Historic and Museum Com.  
Historic research and the development of preservation plans would be eligible for funding under our new Pennsylvania History and Museum Grant Program. We are very interested in your work and you should be commended for your efforts. I would like to suggest that you contact our historic preservation staff and arrange for a meeting to discuss your work in Berks County. It might be possible to develop some kind of model program that could be applied to other counties and

that could be worked into our guidelines for the next cycle of Keystone Historic Preservation Grants.

February 13, 1996

To: Rep. Dwight Evans, Chairman, Dem. Appropriations Committee  
From: Dante Santoni, Jr, Rep., 126 Leg. District

I am writing to request an appropriation of \$52,000 for the B.C.A.G.P. Program in the 1996-97 State Budget. This very worthwhile non-profit program helps provide an opportunity for low income and at-risk youth to better themselves by actively participating in the maintenance and preservation of neglected historic graveyards through Berks County.

### An Unbelievably Cold Snowy Winter by Martin Peicker

*"For a week past we have had snow, and as cold weather as I almost never knew at home. To see our poor brave fellows living in tents, bare-footed, bare legged, bare-breeched...in snow, in rain, on marches, in camp...is really distressing...Another thing which has been the occasion of much complaint is the unequal distribution and scanty allowance of provisions...In my opinion nothing but virtue has kept our army together."*

So John Brooks, an officer on Washington's staff described the patriot forces at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777-1778. As every schoolboy knows, those men left camp lean, tough and disciplined, trained in drill by the Baron von Steuben. Many of those men and other who served in the militia lie buried in the churchyards and family burying grounds of Berks County. They survived the privations of war and lived to produce many heirs.

Odds are, if you are "Pennsylvania Dutch" your forefathers served in the Revolution. Further, it is likely that some of your ancestors lie buried in these out-of-the way plots. Like Washington's band of patriots at Valley Forge, many of these historic graveyards are in distressing condition. Stones have tipped over, walls have collapsed, trees have taken root and all but obliterated these resting places. Many are not so desolate. They have had the attention of the heirs, either since their founding or in the past generation in which many have become conscious of their heritage. Although we as a nation owe a debt of gratitude to our patriot ancestors, each family is duty-bound to preserve the memory of its forebears and to maintain their graves. Since most families have moved away from their family farms, the plots are in the hands of neighbors. Most of them welcome the care given by family associations.



### Oley Valley Heritage The Colonial Years, 1700-1775

by Philip E. Pendleton

A 232 page, 8 1/2" x 11", hardcover book describing colonial life in the Oley Valley. Includes photographs & landscape, crafts and trades, architecture, religious life, community and family life and every-name index. The Oley Valley Heritage Association is selling this book for \$31.45 which includes tax and a year's membership. Call Wentzel Fabrication Inc. at 610-987-6909 for more information or write to Oley Valley Heritage Association, P.O. Box 401, Oley, PA 19547-0401.





**GRAVEYARD TOUR  
ROAD RALLY**



The Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation proudly announces their first tour of the historic family graveyards of the extended Oley Valley.

**Saturday May 11, 1996 at 12:30 P.M....Rain date: Sunday May 12, same time  
\$10 per individual or \$25 maximum per car**

We have been working since our inception to preserve and maintain these historic family graveyards. We invite you on an escorted tour of approximately ten Oley Valley graveyards. Not only will you find this to be a fascinating look at our Berks County heritage and history but it will also be a pleasant relaxing ride through this beautiful valley.

**Other events presently on our schedule include:**

**Title Search Workshop on March 21, 1996 at 8:30 A.M.** at the Berks County Services Center at 633 Court Street. The theory session will be held first and we will meet in the lobby of the 12th floor. This will be a hands-on all day workshop to teach you how to use deed books to research property titles.

**Masonry workshop on April 13, 1996 (Rain Date: April 20) at 9 A.M.** This will be a hands-on workshop to teach how to repair, reset and protect broken tombstones.

**Sunday May 19th, 1996 10 A.M. to 4 P.M....Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County presents a Military Muster at the White Horse Inn, old Morlatton Village in Douglassville. Volunteers are needed to man our stand.**

**Please Detach Below Line**

Make checks payable to Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation  
**Membership, Volunteer and Reservation Form:** Please return and sign, include your fees for the Graveyard Tour

To: Jacqueline B. Nein, 4701 St. George St., Reading, PA 19606

\_\_\_\_ Graveyard Tour  
\_\_\_\_ Membership (\$15)

\_\_\_\_ Masonry Workshop  
\_\_\_\_ Donation

\_\_\_\_ Title Search Workshop

(please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I can help with the Graveyard Tour, the Preservation Trust event and/or maintenance projects. Please call me.

I agree to hold harmless the Berks County Association For Graveyard Preservation from any damages or personal liability whatsoever or any other claims from myself or any members of my party due to participation in the Graveyard Tour Road Rally, Masonry Workshop or Title Search Workshop.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**A SALUTE TO THE SUMMER YOUTH SERVICE CREW  
BERKS COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OFFICE**



**Crew Leader:  
Luis Medina  
Jason Koller**

**Larry Kirlin  
Nathan Thomas  
Tom Dietrich**

**Jose Cruz Ortiz**

**Epitaphs**



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

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