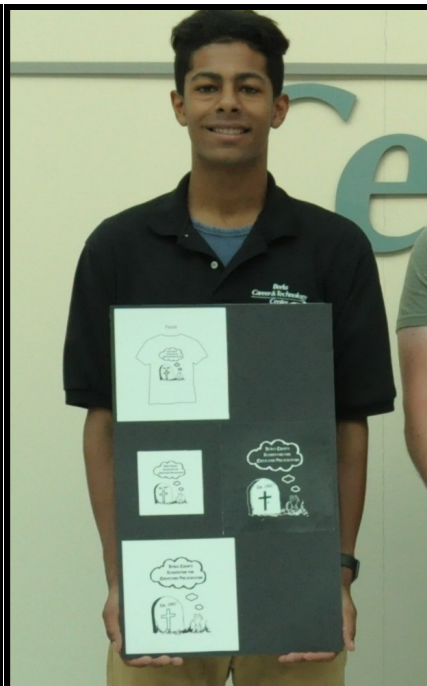




GRAVE HAPPENINGS



Brandon Charles
Winning Logo Designer

Erik Fernandez

The search for our own original logo has finally been completed! Read about how it happened and see the fabulous samples we had to choose from beginning on page 2.

We wish to thank Mike Angstadt for arranging this all for us, Marketing Coordinator Abby Showalter and Instructor Elizabeth Ireland of BCTC, and of course the students!

Contributors

Staff/Photos

Mike Angstadt

Sean Brown

Karla Hummel

Les Rohrbach

Keith Schaffer

Paul Schuman

Anne Wagner

Rod Wagner

You may have noticed that The Berks County Association for Graveyard preservation has a new logo. Let me tell you the story of how that happened. For some time now, board members have been discussing the need for a new logo. Although our original logo has served us well, as publishing standards have increased in quality and the digital age is upon us we felt that it was time for a more visually appealing logo that could proudly represent who we are and what we do. At the August 27th BCAGP meeting Anne Hummel Wagner suggested that a contest might be used to solicit the high-quality work of the students of the Berks Career and Technology Center.

With a reputation hard-earned over the course of almost 50 years of educating and mentoring young adults into becoming consummate professionals in 38 separate career fields, everyone agreed that the Berks Career and Technology Center (BCTC) would likely have the talent we were looking for. A \$200-dollar cash prize was posted by the board to be awarded to the student who would design our new logo and win the contest as decided by the vote of the board at the next meeting on October 1st. I was given the task of reaching out to the school and my first stop was the Marketing Coordinator for BCTC Abby Showalter. Abby Showalter was enthusiastic to showcase the work that the BCTC students could do. She did the leg work of coordinating BCAGP's needs with Instructor Elizabeth Ireland of the BCTC West Campus Advertising Art & Design Technology program.

The students of the Advertising Art & Design Technology program had the exact sort of talent and skills BCAGP needed for this project. Being trained to plan, analyze, and create visual solutions to communications problems, these future Graphic Designers find the most effective way to get messages across in print, electronic, and digital media using a variety of methods such as color, type, illustration, photography, animation, and various print and layout techniques. The Prize was announced to the two classes (AM and PM) and all the 3rd year students were invited to participate. Within two weeks it became obvious that BCAGP had come to the right place as we received 15 top-notch submissions from the students for the board's consideration.

The diversity of styles and approaches the students took to the new BCAGP logo was amazing. When I brought all the prints to the October 1st meeting for the formal vote to see who would win the contest, it was clear from the start that the decision would be a difficult one for the board as everyone was impressed with the quality of the entries. After much deliberation the formal vote was taken and the winner was announced. The winner was Brandon Charles.

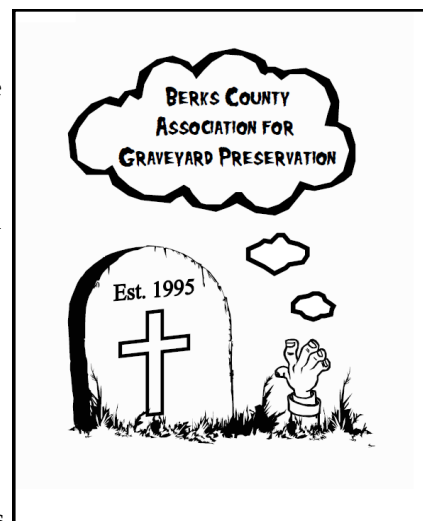
Brandon Charles had created a design that we felt balanced both simplicity and elegance as well as captured the spirit of BCAGP. I went to meet with Brandon to present him with his \$200-dollar Prize check from BCAGP along with the congratulations and thanks of our organization for his work. Brandon is

17 and from Exeter. When speaking with this talented gentleman I couldn't help but notice how thoughtful he was when discussing his work. When I asked about his process for creating his designs Brandon explained how "It's important to start the process by understanding who your client is and what values about themselves they want the design to convey. If the designer can do that then they have a solid foundation and the rest of the design process will flow naturally from there."

We here at BCAGP are certainly happy with Brandon's work. Let us congratulate him again and recognize him for his outstanding achievement creating the new BCAGP logo.

The most difficult part of BCAGP's search for a new logo was having 15 remarkable submissions and only being able to award one winner. During the deliberations it became clear as we narrowed down selections that there was another piece of work that we greatly appreciated. BCAGP takes its mission very seriously and always conducts our activities with the utmost respect for the Burial Grounds we are privileged to advocate and care for. But there is another side to BCAGP and that is the camaraderie of our members. Even though we work hard we still like to have fun together.

Erik Fernandez, age 17 from Wyomissing, had submitted a design that we felt captured this aspect of our organization. A vote was taken after the formal contest and it was decided to offer Erik \$75.00 for his work to be used by BCAGP to adorn some of our less formal trappings. Erik accepted the offer and now you'll see his work as well from time to time. BCAGP extends our thanks and congratulations to Erik Fernandez for his creative design which will soon be embellishing BCAGP apparel.



We here at BCAGP couldn't be happier with the outcome of our collaboration with the Berks Career and Technology Center. If you think you might have a job for the students of the Berks Career and Technology Center in general or the Advertising Art & Design Technology program specifically, feel free to contact Marking Coordinator Abby Showalter at

ahshowalter@berkscareer.com

Michael Angstadt
Member of the board

(Continued on page 10)

MONUMENTAL BRONZE BY: PAUL SCHUMANN



Have you ever been exploring a cemetery and find a marker that has an unusual color? And maybe walked over to it, like I have, and knocked on it? Only to find out it is hollow and not made of stone?

Chances are you have just found a zinc marker made by the Monumental Bronze Company of Bridgeport, CT. Zinc develops a protective coating of zinc carbonate or zinc oxide when exposed to air, forming the unique color.

The Monumental Bronze Company and its Midwestern subsidiaries marketed white bronze memorials for only 40 years, from 1874 to 1914. Boycotted by established granite and marble

dealers, zinc monuments never gained widespread public acceptance. With the advent of World War I, the company shifted its production to munitions and, except for flat replacement tablets, never again cast a white bronze grave marker. The company ceased operations in 1939.

For the record, out of the hundreds of these markers I have found, several have been in small historic cemeteries like those our group takes care of.



A Marine Takes Action at the Hoch DeTurk Schenkel

Although the Hoch DeTurk Schenkel sits in a plowed field, it is a challenging burial ground to maintain. Brambles grab at your legs, snagging, cutting & tripping you. Numerous groundhog holes are hidden in the deep, thorny brush. Decades of old growth amass with passing seasons, and grow back faster than we can cut or pull it all.



At least, that's how it used to be...until one Marine arrived! When Sgt. Cannon began leasing the old stone farmhouse ¼ mile down the lane, he took action. He completely cleared and leveled the site by hand -- enhancing, seeding, and caring for it. Now it meets the highest standards! We salute you, Sgt. Cannon.

LETTER FROM LES

During October BCAGP met with the Nein Trust as we do annually to discuss our activities over the past year and the outlook for the next year and beyond. The Trust's funding has permitted BCAGP to engage in the expensive stone repairs we have undertaken. It has been telling us for several years that their resources are falling and that BCAGP will need to adjust. We heard the message but preferred to continue full throttle as long as we felt our resources were adequate. That put the money where we felt it should be, in the graveyards not our bank account.

The Trust's message this year remained the same, but now that BCAGP no longer has a surplus of funds, the adjustment time has begun. At our last meeting, the board discussed how to proceed. For the present, our guideline is to align graveyard spending with the yearly grant from the trust. Thus, spending will be 80 to 90% of recent yearly levels. There may be some down time when no projects are active, but graveyard repairs will continue much as before.

All of this is possible because of you, our members and contributors. It is your money that covers much of our overhead, expenses such as this newsletter, postage, website, non-profit financial filings, insurance, and even Day of Caring costs. While we do not have buckets that direct your money one place (administrative) and Nein Trust money elsewhere (graveyards), at the end of the year, your contributions generally cover our administrative expenditures with a small excess.

We appreciate your support. We hope to continue to earn it going forward. As I have learned in retirement, each source of income helps. It is true with BCAGP as well. Your contributions extend the scope of the work we consider. I'd like to suggest an additional means to support us. Remember BCAGP in your will. We have received some money in this manner. If circumstances allow, designate BCAGP as a recipient for some portion of your legacy. Thank you.

Les Rohrbach is President of BCAGP and very active in both the organizational aspects and the hands on "down and dirty in the graveyard" activities of the group. Les travels from Pottstown to his "roots" in Berks and is an avid hiker and genealogist.

Federolf-Bittenbender



The major work on the Federolf-Bittenbender burial ground in Hereford Township is now complete! There is tombstone repair that needs to be done in time, but we are pleased to have completed the wall work this year. We now look forward to family members keeping up the grounds and at some point possibly finding missing stones that may have gone underground. Donations toward this project have not come even close to the final total, and we are at the point where we must slow down our projects until money is replenished. If you are a descendant of those buried here, please consider an annual donation toward this project cost.



The Camsco Expedition



DJI Phantom Drone in flight

In our last newsletter you may have noticed that some members of BCAGP purchased a drone to see what this new technology could do to assist us in

preservation. After putting the drone through its paces and learning the technology, we were so impressed with the potential we upgraded to a more professional drone and began using it explore some of BCAGP's old mysteries.

On September 28th, 2017 we sent our drone on its first mission to rediscover a lost site of interest called the Camsco. Camsco was the name of a factory located on Maiden Creek Road in Fleetwood near the site which in the 1980's and 90's was a Campbell Soup Company property. First mentioned in *A Genealogical Guide To Berks County Private Cemeteries*, Reading, PA, 1992 (by Laurel Miller, Mary Ellen Lash and Kathleen Lorah) a return to the site in 1998 for the research of Epitaphs (published 1999 Jacqueline Betty Nein, Joan Texter, Cynthia Jimenez) reported that little of the site remained. Neither report mentioned any tombstones still standing. No one had studied the site since and no one was sure if it was a burial ground or not. Even the exact location of the site was lost to time.



Search Area

We set out to find the Camsco and find answers. Given the description of the location in the two books and referencing historical aerial

photographs as well as deeds researcher Sean Brown was able to narrow down the probable location of the site to a search area of a little over 19 acres. The terrain of the area was a mixture of woodlands, wetlands, quarry and industry.

The drone was launched from a quarry on the publicly accessible Reading Area Water Authority property that is in the approximate center of the 19 acre search area.

Within the first two minutes of flight a location matching the description given in the books was found and within 10 minutes we had searched and documented with pictures and video the entire area of interest. The drone also recorded its flight path for later evaluation. In total the drone flew 4,842 feet at a maximum altitude of 328 feet.

Later comparison of our results to historical aerial photos confirmed that we had found the Camsco site as described in the books. Now that we had the exact location we could refine previous research and concluded that the Camsco location was never a historic burial site, but was instead a structure built sometime after the 1940s for storage that has retaining walls causing it to resemble an old cemetery.

Using our new aerial drone capability to augment more traditional research techniques we were able to finally solve the 25 year old Camsco mystery. Work with the drone will continue as the Berks County Association for Graveyard Pres-



Flight Path

ervation has a long list of mysteries still left to solve. If anyone has an idea for future sites the drone could assist in exploring, please let us know. I am also accepting suggestions for a name for the drone.

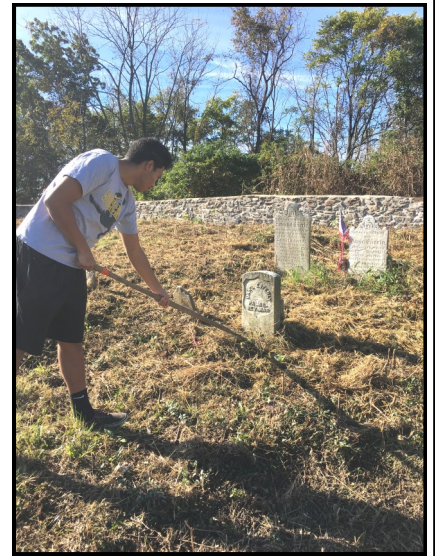


Camsco Site

KKiaserdrago@yahoo.com

Michael Angstadt

Hechler - Esterly Work Party



We had a full crew for a good clean up at the Hechler-Esterly in November. Board members Les, Karla, Ed, Mike, David and Anne, were pleased to also have Jessica Hernandez with a crew of hard working youth. Anthony Funez, Kathryn Angstadt, Lucas Angstadt, Max Trommatter, Abigail Stine, and Isabella Hernandez were a huge help with raking and moving brush and pulling weeds, and they seemed to enjoy the day. Its especially nice to have a motivated group of younger participants volunteer and we always look forward to their help. The Angstadt family has adopted this burial ground and have been doing regular maintenance.



SET IN STONE

We've discussed how water, partly through erosion and mostly through acidity, negatively impacts our historic grave markers. Moisture, whether from rain or dew, also causes "spalling." The term "spalling" describes the progressive splitting or flaking of stone.

In a tombstone of marble or of sedimentary rock, spalling is most often caused by the stress of repeated freezing and thawing. Moisture seeps into a porous stone or drips into a crack or crevice. When the temperature falls, the water freezes. As it solidifies, it expands by about 9%. Since the water freezes from top to bottom, this expansion happens *within* the stone, eventually causing it to split or form flakes known as spalls.

Since most stones in Berks historic graveyards are monoliths, single slabs that often continue as far into the earth as they extend above it, the source of damaging water may also come from *underground*. Known as "rising damp," moisture in the surrounding earth will seep into the stone and rise within it through capillary action. Thus, even when the top of the tombstone is dry, the underground portion and as much as 2' above ground may be frozen from rising damp. Repeated cycles of freezing and thawing cause internal damage to the stone by expansion.

Even without extreme changes in temperature, damage occurs as *humidity* fluctuates. Moisture that has entered the stone will absorb and carry the minerals that bind and harden the sand- or limestone outward to the surface as the water evaporates. The stone then spalls internally as it weakens.

Heat can also cause spalling, even to granite! This is called "onion skin" or exfoliation of the stone.



In extreme heat, the surface of the stone becomes much hotter than the lower or interior portion. This causes different rates of expansion throughout the stone, resulting in peeling or flaking at the surface. The only time I've seen this is on tombstones in another county that were exposed to the heat of prolonged fire along adjacent railroad tracks.

The tombstone shown here has moderate spalling from the right side of the arch downward. Pieces of various sizes have flaked off for years. The inscription on the right half is simply...gone.

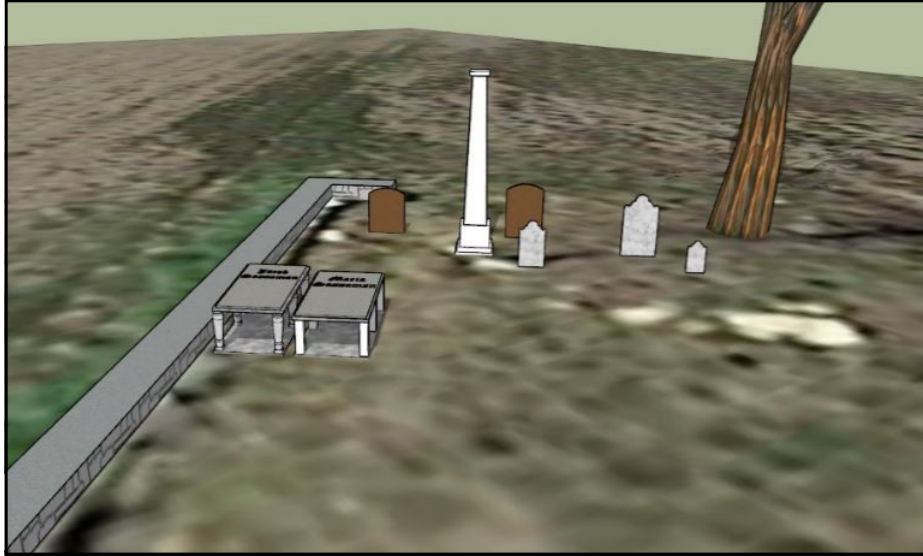
Karla Hummel

BerksEpitaphs@gmail.com

HERMAN-SASSAMAN



The Snowed out work party will have to be rescheduled to reset the tombstones in the Sassaman burial ground. Thanks to some modern day technology aerial photos that Mike Angstadt and Sean Brown have been working on, we have a better idea where the stones belong, that have been leaning on things for decades. We will keep you posted. Check in on facebook for work party announcements.



The Kutz Family Burial Ground located in Maxatawny Township is a perfect example of how family branches are sharing the responsibility of clean up. The family effort combined with BCAGP has kept the burial ground in acceptable condition. Although there are few remaining stones, this historic place of rest has not been forgotten by the descendants. Previous Grave Happenings newsletters featuring the Kutz family include October 2017, January 2016, January 2015, October and January 2012, July and April 2011, Sept and May 2009, Feb 1998 and Feb 1996.



Kutz ancestors visited the Kutz Family Cemetery in Maxatawny Township, August 2017. Pictured at the grave of Johann Nicolaus Kutz are (left to right) Mike Zimmerman, Arlene Kutz Ingram, Doris Thumma Kutz, Esther Kutz Lineweaver, Richard Kutz, Janet Kutz and Mark Zimmerman. Thank you to Mark Zimmerman for photo and caption.

JANUARY

Our Mission

JANUARY

We strive 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.

The next **meeting** of BCAGP board will be Sunday, **January 14th** at 2pm at Oley Legion Hall and the annual Membership meeting will be **February 25, 2018** same time and place.

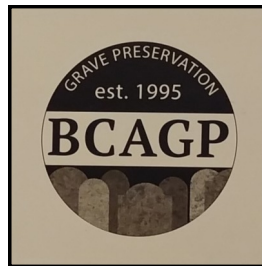
YOUR 2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE! THANK YOU!



Advertising Art & Design Technology AM Session



Advertising Art & Design Technology PM Session



These are some of the designs we were also considering for our logo. It was hard to choose because there were so many excellent submissions.

JOIN OR DONATE TODAY!

If you're not a current member, please join us in preserving and maintaining our historic graveyards. If you do not wish to be a member at this time but you are interested in contributing support for a specific graveyard, please indicate that graveyard on the form below. We also appreciate contributions to the general fund.

MEMBERSHIP FORM - 2018

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

Membership runs a calendar year January to December. Membership dues paid after October 1st will be applied to the next membership year. This form is also available on our website in the internet edition of the newsletters which can be printed.

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





PO BOX 3707

READING PA 19606



WWW.BCAGP.ORG



BERKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVEYARD PRESERVATION



Officers and Board of Directors

(email addresses on the website)



LES ROHRBACH, PRESIDENT 610-323-1703

ANNE WAGNER, VICE PRESIDENT 610-926-5036

KEITH SCHAFFER, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT 610-689-5164

PAUL SCHUMAN, TREASURER 484-529-8682

KARLA HUMMEL, SECRETARY 610-987-9569

DAVID SCHLEGEL MICHAEL ANGSTADT ED GENSEMER

Newsletter contact: Anne Wagner

"Grave Happenings," is a collection of member contributed articles written to keep everyone advised of recent and on-going preservation activities, BCAGP needs, and incidental graveyard related material. We are always looking for items of interest and are open to suggestions on future content.

Permission to reprint any materials herein is granted provided they are printed in their entirety and that BCAGP's author is cited.

Our newsletters are archived online on our website.

Don't forget to check our facebook for updates and more photos!

Check the www.bcagp.org website for internet edition newsletter archives in full color!

