

BERKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVEYARD PRESERVATION

# GRAVE HAPPENINGS

October 2010

Special points of interest:

- Election of Officers
- Graveyard Updates

## BERKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVEYARD PRESERVATION OFFICERS:

LE SROHRBACH  
PRESIDENT

ELECTION OF OFFICERS UPDATE

KEITH SCHAFER  
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS BEGAN AT OUR AUGUST 2010 MEETING. THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS WILL BE LATER AT OUR NOVEMBER 2010 MEETING.

ANNE WAGNER  
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

CYNTHIA JIMENEZ  
TREASURER

ELLIS ADAMS  
SECRETARY

BCAGP  
PO Box 3707  
Reading PA 19606

WEB SITE ADDRESS  
[WWW.BCAGP.ORG](http://WWW.BCAGP.ORG)

KAREN BROWN  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**BCAGP**  
Berks County Association  
for Graveyard Preservation



B.C.A.G.P. ✍ PO BOX 3707 ✍ READING PA 19606



Please join and contribute to the work that we do! Also please consider establishing a trust to provide funds to maintain your family graveyard for future years.

We welcome any size donation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(this is important so you can receive the internet editions of the newsletter and informative messages)

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

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation earmarked for the Association General Fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to be used for the \_\_\_\_\_ gravesite

Total amount enclosed : \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail checks to B.C.A.G.P. PO box 3707, Reading , PA, 19606

# HISTORY OF THE REICHERT/DUMM GRAVEYARD

Reichert/Dumm, Rockland Township



## REICHERT/DUMM HISTORY

History: The first burials occurred prior to the site becoming the general graveyard for the parishioners of St Henry's Catholic Church. The cornerstone of the church was placed in the wall surrounding the graveyard. The first confirmed burial, Michael Reichert at age 25, occurred in 1807 and the last burial was in 1871. This site appears to have burials arranged in order of death, rather than the more common practice of historic graveyards which was organizing burials by family.

Citations: Nein, Jacqueline B. Texter, Joan. Jimenez, Cythia. (1999). Epitaphs: Handbook of Historic Family Graveyards, Berks Couty PA

Epitaphs: A Publication of the Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation. (2002, October). Volume 7.

## TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS REICHERT/DUMM

Hier Ruhet (Here rests)

Adam Reichert

Geboren in Deutschland den 25th (month?) 1750

(Born in Germany)

Gestorban den 21st (month?) 1825

(died the 21st - \_\_\_\_\_ 1825)

Wirten gegen 75 yahr alt geworden

(was nearly 75 years old)

Er hinterlies eine Witwe, 6 Kinder

(left behind a widow, 6 children)

41 Enkel und 6 Urenkel

(41 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren)

Gott gebe ihm die ewige Ruh und das licht leichte ihm.

(God grant him the eternal rest and may the light enlighten him)

Hier Ruhet in Herm

(Here rest in the Lord)

Thomas Dumm

Er war geboren in Deutschland 1752

(Born in Germany in 1752)

Ver Heiret sich zum erstenmal mit Elizabeth geborne Schmidt

(Married the first time to Elizabeth, born Schmidt)

Zeuge mit ihr 5 kinder und 22 Enkel Zum

(Begot with her 5 children & 22 grandchildren)

Andermal mit Magdalena Hoff

(the next time with Magdalena Hoff)

Yetzt hanter lassene Witwe

(now left a widow)

Und starb den 23ten October 1830

(died the 23rd of October)

Sein alter war ungefahr 78 Yahre

(his age was possibly 78 years)

Gott Gebe ihm die ewige Ruh und das licht leichte ihm (same as above gravestone)

## GRAVEYARD UPDATES

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### Ruppert, Rockland Township

The restoration of the Ruppert graveyard is now complete. The wall surrounding this burial site was rebuilt late summer.



View of the restored wall from inside the graveyard. Composite lumber boarders were created to protect the tombstones on the ground (Left).

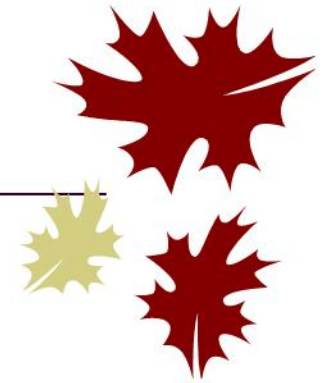
Exterior view of the graveyard wall after restoration. (Below)



## GRAVEYARD UPDATES- CONTINUED

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### Weidner, Oley Township



We reported in our last newsletter that a section of the wall surrounding this graveyard had collapsed. The wall has since been rebuilt. BCAGP would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. John Franz for their support in funding this project.



# GRAVEYARD UPDATES—CONTINUED

## Bertolet #3, Oley Township

A new gate was installed at the Bertolet graveyard. More maintenance at this site is required involving tree removal. Our organization is grateful to Michael Matlock for his assistance in funding the tree removal. The assistance of property owners is vital in helping our organization survive and continue our mission.



# CLEAN-UP PROJECTS

## Kauffman, Maiden Creek Township

BCAGP board members recently cleared the Kauffman graveyard. Prior to the clean-up, the graveyard was inaccessible due to the level of overgrowth at the gate.

Kauffman Before (LEFT)



(RIGHT) Kauffman After



(LEFT) Cleared pathway leading to the Kaufman graveyard. A special “thank you” to the property owner for maintaining a nice access path to the grave site. This is extremely helpful in enabling volunteers to work at sites.



# CLEAN-UP PROJECTS - CONTINUED

## Barnett/Peters, Maiden Creek Township



BCAGP members and volunteers raking and pulling weeds recently at the Barnett/Peters graveyard. (Above)

Barnett/Peters as the site appeared before the work party. (Right)



# CLEAN-UP PROJECTS - CONTINUED

## Schneider, Oley Township



The Schneider graveyard was cleared and in excellent condition back in May 2010 due to the hard work of Oley Valley High School students. This picture (left), taken August 27th 2010, demonstrates just how quickly the site can become overgrown and amount of labor required to maintain these grave sites.

Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation President, Les Rohrbach, recently cleared the Schneider graveyard. (Right) Thanks to Les for taking the time to tackle this project. The project was completed over the course of a few weeks.

