

Mount Bethel Reflections

Fall, 2014

Columbia, Pennsylvania

A Publication of the Mount Bethel Cemetery Company – a Non-Profit Cemetery

From The Desk of the President

Normally we don't publish more than one newsletter per year to our readers, but we have so many projects and events in the making that we felt we should keep everyone informed since most of these items will be old news by the time our 2015 spring time edition is printed.

Our Board has been working diligently with new ideas and implementing new fund raiser events, many of which will be completed by the end of 2014. The people on our Board have been a delight to work with and they never seem to run out of ideas, promotions, and positive contributions to Mount Bethel.

As we continue to uncover interesting facts and information, we are discovering that each gravesite is part of the "connective tissue" of the history of our town.

And those of you who volunteer and support us financially are also part of the "connective tissue" which will preserve and maintain that history for future generations.

We hope if you are available to attend any or all of our events, you will do so. And remember to bring your friends and families.

John F. Hinkle, Jr.
Mount Bethel Cemetery Co.



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

It was recently discovered that one of Columbia's heroes, John Conklin Lockard, who is interred in Mount Bethel Cemetery, does not have a grave marker. Lockard, born on July 13th, 1827, the son of John M. and Anna Conklin Lockard, married Margaret Hammons and together they had nine children. Lockard, who was a private in Company G, 35th Pennsylvania Infantry, passed away on January 3, 1905.

Donations were solicited and made by family and friends of Lockard to provide a grave marker for this Civil War hero and his wife who is buried next to him, also without a gravestone. A memorial ceremony was held on Sunday, September 14th at 2:00 PM at Mount Bethel with the Reverend Warren "Rocky" Reidel presiding. Rev. Warren is also a Civil War minister re-enactor. Chris Vera, president of the Columbia Historic Preservation Society read the official deposition of the bridge burning. A 21 gun salute concluded the program along with the playing of taps.

John Lockard was one of the four men responsible for keeping the Confederate Army from marching into Lancaster County during the Civil War. On June 28th, 1863, Lockard along with John Q. Denney, Jacob Rich

and Jacob Miller, with the help of W. Robert Crane, torched the bridge across the Susquehanna between Wrightsville and Columbia thus routing the rebels who turned and headed for Gettysburg.

Crane, Denney and Rich are also buried at Mount Bethel Cemetery and a bronze medallion of the burning bridge will be attached to the gravestones of these four men. Jacob Miller, an Afro-American man was also part of the bridge burning but where his remains are interred is unknown. However, his plaque will also be located in the cemetery.

SUSQUEHANNA GATEWAY HERITAGE AREA GRANT AWARD

Mount Bethel Cemetery was recently awarded a grant from the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area to produce a self-guided walking tour brochure. The cemetery, which dates from the 1720's is the oldest burial ground in continual use in the Columbia area. In the nearly three hundred years since its creation, over twelve thousand former citizens and over 645 veterans have been laid to rest in its grounds. The internees represent the rich and diverse history of the Columbia area and the cemetery predates the formal creation of the Borough by Samuel Wright in 1788.

With the brochure in hand, guests will visit the gravesites of many of the town founders: the Wrights, Houstons, Mifflins, and Barbers. Also, included in the tour are veterans from nine wars in which American men and women were engaged including Revolutionary War Major Thomas Boude, Civil War General Thomas Welsh and Vietnam War veteran Cliff Edmond, a former Board member of Mount Bethel. Some unusual tombstones can also be found within the gates of the cemetery such as the one carved by William Campbell for his own grave and also a very rare white metal monument.

The brochures will include a map of the cemetery and are expected to be available in Spring of 2015 at no charge to the public thanks to the \$1,500 grant from the SGHA.

HEARSE AND PROFESSIONAL VEHICLE SHOW

...Featuring the Mohnton Professional Car Club on October 11th, 2014. Mount Bethel Cemetery will feature an array of iconic vehicles including many models of hearses, flower cars, limousines, ambulances and other vehicles on display at our location at 700 Locust Street in Columbia from 11 AM to 3 PM. Food and music will be available. For more information call 717-575-9760 or check our website at www.mtbethelcemetery.com.

There is no admission charge but donations will be accepted.

"Age isn't important until you run out of it"
.... Malcom Forbes

VERY USEFUL WEBSITES

How-To Videos: Instructions from experts on meditating, building bookcases, poaching pears, caring for lizards and hundreds of other activities. **HowCast.com**

Fall Foliage Guide: State-by-state listings of hotlines and websites that provide information about leaf-color status, special events, driving tours and more.

StormFax.com/foliage.htm

Cruise Reviews: Travelers and cruise experts give inside information on ships, ports, what to bring on board, more. **CruiseReviews.com**

Emergency Alerts: Get free e-mail or wireless notifications of severe weather, natural disasters and other emergency situations nearby. **EmergencyEmail.org**

Better Learning: How to take good notes ... boost test taking skills ... use flash cards ... control procrastination, etc. **How-to-Study.com/study-skills-articles.asp**

LEAVING A LEGACY

As we are about to go to press with this newsletter issue, our marketing committee is preparing a very attractive brochure entitled: Leaving A Legacy – Honoring Those That Came Before Us.

It will be completed soon and ready for distribution in our mailings and at our events.

COTTAGE AVAILABLE FOR MEETINGS

Our cottage on the premises of the cemetery is available for small group meetings of 20 people or less. The address is 700 Locust Street in Columbia. For more information call Dave Rupp (717-201-0235) or John Hinkle (717-940-9060).



A HAUNTED LANTERN TOUR: CEMETERY CLASSIC

Remember the ghosts of Columbia??? They're baaaaaack... November 1st, 2014 all souls return to share history and haunting lore throughout the eerie serenity of beautiful Mount Bethel Cemetery.

Tours commence promptly at 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30 and 10:00 PM. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance, \$13.00 the night of the tours. Make your reservations today by calling Charlene at 717-684-6196.

Light refreshments will be available for purchase at the cottage. All proceeds benefit the Columbia High School Drama Club and Mount Bethel Cemetery.

"A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both."
....Dwight D. Eisenhower

"...I can make more Generals, but horses cost money."
....Abraham Lincoln

AN ENTRY FROM OUR MINUTE BOOK

"July 31, 1868. Proposals reported from four companies to build superintendent's house. Krodel and Smith proposal accepted for \$1,310.00"

"...It is inaccurate to say that I hate everything. I am strongly in favor of common sense, common honesty, and common decency. This makes me forever ineligible for public office."
....H. L. Mencken

THE OLD BRICK GRAVE YARD

Our next major renovation project has to do with the area known as the "old brick yard". In this location are buried some of the latter generations of the Wright family with graves identified by the names of Blunston, Bethel, McCorkle, Heise and Kuhn. Instead of upright markers, the tombstones are crypt-like. A brick base supports a casket-like covering of marble on top of which the names and dates are carved. The sides of some of these, beaten by the weather and time, have crumbled and fallen in.

Although not all the crypts are lineal descendants of the pioneer Wright, there were originally 14 of these side by side. There is a grave amongst them which is that of one whose only right to lie there was vested in loyalty and service.

The inscription explains: "In memory of Isabella Smith (coloured) faithful domestic in the Bethel family, known and respected as Aunt Bella, died 1854, age 76 years."

We hope to find ways and means to restore these crypts and bring up to standard these very important founders of our town.

ABOUT MOUNT BETHEL

Dating back to the 1720's, Mount Bethel is the oldest burial ground in continual use in the Columbia area. From war heroes to influential town pioneers, from visionary artists to noted industrialists, Mount Bethel is the final resting place of numerous notables who have impacted our town, state and nation. The cemetery is open daily with free admission for educational and recreational use. Dog-walkers, joggers, bicyclists and picnickers are welcome.

You can help us continue to improve this historic nugget with your financial assistance or volunteer help. We have many more innovative programs in mind, more monuments and headstones to reset, more opportunities for students to learn about history, science and nature and more ideas how to give make the Columbia neighborhood a place of recreation and respite.

We can do all of this if you are willing to help. Enclosed please find a reply card and pre-addressed envelope to facilitate your response if you are willing to assist us.

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