

MOUNT BETHEL CEMETERY CO.

P.O. BOX 231 700 LOCUST STREET
COLUMBIA, PA 17512

Spring 2017

Dear Friends,

We are now in the 22nd year of the reorganization of the cemetery and Board. Thanks to our volunteers and donors, three of our past goals were accomplished—the fence was painted; the new shed was constructed; and the severely damaged lawn crypts were restored.

Our focus has been and continues to be to preserve, protect, and promote the historical and visual character of our beloved Mount Bethel Cemetery. There is still much work to be done to ensure the cemetery stays a peaceful place of rest for those interred and a beautiful place of recreation for the living. We are continuing our “Bricks for the Brickyard” project, creating a path with personalized bricks from the asphalt road of the old brick yard to the gate at Cherry Street. Although we unfortunately lost trees due to illness and wind damaged, another new goal is to replace the trees lost along Locust Street as part of developing a long-term landscaping plan for the cemetery.

We know how much you care for the cemetery—like we all do. At this time, we are asking again for your financial support to help assure that we will be able to continue to keep this important historical landmark as an attractive place in our community. We sincerely hope you can assist us in this effort.

Enclosed please find a reply card and pre-addressed envelope to facilitate your response. We welcome any suggestions you may have concerning our projects and thank you for your anticipated support of Mount Bethel.

Yours truly,



Jane Moore

President

Mount Bethel Cemetery Company

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charleen Bair
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Mount Bethel Reflections

Spring, 2017

Columbia, Pennsylvania

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

A Message from the President

This year is a shining example of the extensive progress we have made at the Historical Mount Bethel Cemetery: construction finished on the desperately needed new shed used to house equipment for the maintenance of the cemetery's 10-plus acres; the 3000-plus feet of fence surrounding the cemetery was cleaned, primed, and painted; many damaged or deteriorated lawn crypts, monuments, and fallen stones were repaired and refurbished; and new trees were planted to enhance the grounds and replace the fallen, wind-blown, or diseased trees in the cemetery. All this was accomplished with a great many sacrifices and thanks to our enthusiastic donors, supporters, and volunteers.

Many have a misconception that Mount Bethel Cemetery is "full" or winding down its operations, rather than gearing them up for the future. This could not be further from the truth. The cemetery still has plenty of available plots and cremation niches. As always, we here at Mount Bethel Cemetery are continually committed to take care of our community and those who have trusted us to care for their interment during their eternal life. We will continue to do so, hopefully with your support. I would like to invite you to attend an event at Mount Bethel Cemetery. Walk the grounds, read the monuments, learn about those whose address for eternity is 700 Locust Street, Columbia, Pennsylvania. I am sure such a visit will spark your interest to continue to relish in our grounds and the glorious history they hold.

On a personal note, I am very grateful to a man you all know—Mr. John F. Hinkle Jr. Thank you, Mr. Hinkle, for your endless dedication, commitment, generosity, and hard work toward

the betterment of Mount Bethel Cemetery. You will always be appreciated and admired. As the newly elected president, I understand that I have tremendous shoes to fill. But with a dedication and appreciation of how special of a treasure Mount Bethel Cemetery is for our—and all—communities, I am determined to carry on my new office with the same commitment Mr. Hinkle has demonstrated during his tenure. Please check our website www.mtbethelcemetery.com for upcoming and current events at Mount Bethel Cemetery or our email at mountbethelcemetery@gmail.com
Yours truly,
Jane Moore, President

The Last Ride: Professional Car Show

May 20

For the 4th year Mount Bethel Cemetery will be the stage for a unique car show. Hearses, limousines, flower cars ambulances and other service vehicles will be on display throughout the grounds. The Caretakers Cottage will host visitors in its museum of vintage funeral and cemetery relics. Food and beverages, as well as raffles, scavenger hunt and guided tours will be available. All proceeds from this event will benefit the upkeep of Mount Bethel Cemetery's historic grounds. For more information or interested in showcasing a vehicle, contact Jane Moore at jmoore1115@gmail.com or (717) 575-9760.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

-2 Timothy 4:7

AVAILABILITY OF LOTS AND NICHES

Even though the cemetery looks as if it is at capacity, there are many attractive burial plots available at Mount Bethel. We can offer over 100 cremation niches in the Scholssman Memorial Garden. For further information contact Mr. Ronald Mable (717) 285-2332 or Mr. Kevin Kraft Sr. (717) 684-2370. For pricing information, visit www.mtbethelcemetery.com.

“Current Color-a Year on the River”

April 28 and 30

Living near the Susquehanna River for over 30 years, Diana Thomas is no stranger to the magnetic force of its presence and call. Choosing a horizontal format in a small manageable size, Diana’s goal was to paint one scene of the Susquehanna per week for one year. On several occasions, she painted from photos while out of town to keep up with the flying weeks.

Near the end of the third quarter still six to eight paintings behind, she began to motivate herself to make it to the finish line. She reached out to organizations whose work it is to care for and promote the value, health and history of the River. She offered to lend the whole body of work to anyone who could use the promotion of their work. Mount Bethel was fortunate to be one of the organizations that Diana reached out to and will be showcasing her work, all fifty-two paintings during Fourth Friday in April. The exhibit will be held in the cottage at 700 Locust Street on Friday, April 28th beginning at 5:00PM and again on Sunday, April 30th from 2:00until 4:00PM.

Diana lives in Columbia and has been a lifelong artist and naturalist. Studying formally at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, she worked many years designing needle craft for magazines and needle craft kit manufactures. Diana designs stained glass windows in partnership with her sister in Arizona as well.

For the past five years, Diana’s art passion has taken her to Haiti where she works in partnership with a group of over forty artisans building a more stable economic footing for their families and their community. The original pieces are not for sale, however, giclee prints can be ordered by contacting Diana by email at thnsdzyzn@comcast.net

Cemetery Volunteers

Consider a meaningful way to become involved in Mount Bethel Cemetery’s mark in history by becoming a volunteer! Mount Bethel Cemetery offers the ideal setting for a glimpse into our histories; and for a daily adventure in learning in a beautiful setting. Guaranteed, a visit to Mount Bethel Cemetery will spawn an interesting conversation for both young and old. Consider volunteering your time, knowledge, and passion for this unique community-within-a-city.

The following committees meet throughout our calendar monthly:

Events – Meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month, or as events are planned.

Resetting monuments and landscaping – Meeting 2nd Thursday of the month 8AM to noon.

Perhaps you would like to offer your services or talents in another way? Contact any board member, message us on Facebook, or check our website.

“A Dying Art and Spirits”

Join us for a fun evening of painting and socializing! Mount Bethel will be hosting a BYOB event limited to adults 21 and older on two dates. Your ticket includes a fun-filled evening with friends, a canvas and all the art supplies you need, to create your own work of art. You can proudly display your masterpiece in your home or give as a gift. We will follow along under the expert instruction from local artist and art teacher, Joanna Spicer. Check the website or

Facebook for details. Dates scheduled are Friday June 30th and September 8th.

Witness Tree Chapter Founder

Lillian Slaymaker Evans

1861-1943

In 1890, Miss Evans zealously walked into history. Miss Lilly never hesitated to align her patriotic interest with those of her ancestors whom she wished to follow proudly.

Once the NSDAR was founded at our nation's capital by four far-sighted women in 1890, Miss Lilly stepped up to serve becoming the 41st of the 818 charter members enrolled during the first year. Within two years, Miss Lilly was directed to organize a Lancaster chapter. It was called DONEGAL and became the fourth chapter in the state and the 15th in the United States. Starting with a membership of 13, the chapter grew to 212 within 5 years! After serving as regent and honorary regent to DONEGAL chapter, she and 13 other members resigned and met at a member's home in Columbia to organize a new chapter! Adopting the name Witness Tree Chapter, they were chartered in January 1898.

As a reminder of her legacy, she wanted to spark patriotic development in the minds and hearts of the young. She started a prize essay contest for high school seniors which is still carried out today. A student loan program was also instituted. She founded and financed the annual chapter Essay Contest on Good Citizenship in the Columbia and Marietta High Schools. She also provided a commencement award at the Columbia High School in the name of the Witness Tree Chapter. Miss Lilly bequeathed a sum of money to enable the DAR essay contest to continue indefinitely.

After her death in 1943, a chair was placed in the constitution Hall of National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Witness Tree Chapter

placed a bronzed DAR insignia at her grave, in Mount Bethel Cemetery.

THANK YOU FOR THE NEW SHED

Last spring, fundraising began for a new utility shed closer to the caretaker's cottage. This decision was made because the then current shed, circa 1868, was in great disrepair. A group of generous citizens answered our plea, financially or with sweat and grit. The new shed houses' equipment and supplies that are used to maintain the grounds. Craftsmen and laborers faithfully met weekly, throughout the summer months and erected a fabulous garage behind the caretaker's cottage. Many thanks to all the dedicated and generous supporters of this project.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gerfin

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Banner

Mr. Wilson Bucher

Mr. Philip H. Glatfelter

Mr. Patrick Donan

Mr. William Kraft

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Stockdale

Mr. And Mrs. Thomas Lawson

Mr. Frank Doutrich

Mr. Dennis Wolpert

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kramer

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Mable

Mr. Dean Little

Mr. and Mrs. John Hinkle Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Storm

Mr. and Mrs. Arendt

Loyal Order of Moose - Chickies Rock Lodge

Columbia Lions Club

Columbia/Middletown Elks

Jay Lutz & Company

Gamby's Disposal

Sunsnappers

Clyde Kraft Funeral Home, Inc.

Catholic War Veterans

Columbia Fraternal Association

Foresters of America

Workman Funeral Homes, Inc.

Columbia Park Rangers

Nicholas & Hohenadel LLP

Paul Revere Leber Post #372

Musser's Supply

THE COLUMBIA SPY 1868

SUSCRIPTIONS FOR THE RELIEF OF THE FAMILY OF ISAAC DUCK, THE COLUMBIA SPY at 3 (Sept. 19, 1868), -The following are the names of those who have subscribed to the fund of the relief of the family of Isaac Duck; who was killed by the falling of a wall at the burning of the stable of W.G. Case & Son:

C. S. Kauffman, \$20; James Myers, \$20; Wm. Patton, \$5; Samuel Shoch, \$20; Washington Righter, \$5; J. A. Myers, \$5; J. S. Cottrell & Bro., \$5; P. Gossler, \$5; Benjamin J. Douglas, \$5; John Q. Denny, \$5; Robert Ryon, \$5; Edmund Sperong, \$2.50; Wm. U. Hess, \$2.50; George Bogle, \$10. The subscription paper is now at the office of A.J. Kauffman, Esq., No. 238 Locust Street, where we hope our citizens will call and subscribe such amounts as they may see proper to contribute. Subscriptions will not be solicited except through these columns, as we know that all charitable persons will call and subscribe.

COMMENDABLE, THE COLUMBIA SPY at 3 (Nov. 14, 1868), - In walking through the Cemetery of this place, a few days ago, we noticed a tombstone the gift of Lewis Hardy, Esq. of Lancaster City, erected to the memory of Isaac Duck, deceased, bearing the following inscription:

“AT REST
ISAAC DUCK

Born on February 22, 1813, and lost his life
September 8, 1868, in his effort
to save from conflagration of his neighbors Aged
55 years, 6 mo. and 17 days”

Spread the news!

Do you know someone who is not currently receiving our newsletter? Feel free to share this document with them. Better yet, contact Jane Moore to add their name to our mailing list.

For a listing of community
events, please visit
www.PaRivertowns.com.

SPIRITS RISING

October 27 & 28

Join us for this new fundraiser. Similar to the well-known Haunted Lantern Tours, “*Spirits Rising*” will tour the cemetery with costumed guides, skits, and visits to a few of our notables and some of our not-so-notables. This will be a ticketed event. Details may be found at www.mtbethelcemetery.com or on Facebook.

Bricks for the Brickyard

In the year 1730, the first burial was performed in a plot land donated by Susanna Wright. This marked the beginning of what today is Mount Bethel Cemetery. Time has taken its toll on many of the graves of Columbia’s Founding Fathers Our “Bricks for the Brick Yard Campaign” will use the profits to repair and preserve these historic sites. At the cost of \$50.00 each brick can be personalized with the names of parents, children, friends etc. or customized with a special quote or emblem as space permits. The bricks will then be installed from the asphalt road near the Old Cemetery Grounds to the gate at Cherry Street. Help us preserve and maintain this beautiful historic cemetery. For more information call 717-684-6196 or visit our website: www.Mt.BethelCemetery.com Your message will be centered on up to three lines of text, with a limit of twenty characters (including spaces and symbols and punctuation) per line.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Mount Bethel Cemetery is to maintain, preserve, and enhance, for the benefit of the general public, the cottage, grounds, and memorials located within the boundaries of these hallowed grounds; to foster the appreciation and respect for those who are interred within, to maintain permanent records of those whose earthly remains have been entrusted to us, and to provide a community resource for historic, educational, and cultural activities.