

Mount Bethel Reflections

Spring, 2012

Columbia, Pennsylvania

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

From The Desk of the President

We read almost monthly about thefts and vandalism in cemeteries, many times related to the high prices of scrap metal. Copper, brass and bronze are all metals that are used in the manufacturing of gates, urns, vases and ornaments which are found in abundance at most burial sites in the country.

Because the metals can be hammered out of shape, most of the time the thefts are virtually untraceable.

This has resulted in many cemeteries locking their gates some or all of the time which bears silent witness to a growing fear of vandalism at these sacred places.

Fortunately, Mount Bethel has not experienced this problem over the years except for a few minor incidents. We have been able to keep our gates open and invite those who are interested to discover for themselves what a rich resource a cemetery can be for adults and children alike. There are stories to be heard here, if only people will come in and take the time to learn.

And those who learn to appreciate – especially at an early age – will be less inclined to vandalize these sites.

There are many things to learn. Students could take part in scavenger hunts with their teachers asking things like:

- What is the date of the oldest stone? Whose name is on it? What does it tell about the person?
- What familiar last names do you recognize?
- What historical events do the stones refer to? Wars? Local tragedies?
- Are there words you don't recognize? What about spelling?

Perhaps with more children and adults learning that an old graveyard is truly a town treasure, we would see less vandalism and defacing.

So will Mount Bethel begin to lock the iron gates at dusk? Hopefully never.

Security is usually good business. But let's take the opposite approach and open the gates wide and invite school children and adults alike to come inside at any-time.

John F. Hinkle, Jr.

Mount Bethel Cemetery Co.



HOW TO FLY THE UNITED STATES FLAG TEN GUIDELINES

1. The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.
2. The flag is never allowed to touch the ground or the floor.
3. When hung over a sidewalk on a rope extending from a building to a pole, the union stars are always away from the building.
4. When vertically hung over the center of the street, the flag always has the union stars to the north in an east/west street, and to the east in a north/south street.
5. The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.
6. The flag should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds but always allowed to fall free.
7. The flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day and then raised to the top of the staff.
8. Never fly the flag upside down except as a signal of distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
9. The flag is never flown in inclement weather except when using an all-weather flag.
10. The flag can be flown every day from sunrise to sunset and at night if illuminated properly.

Courtesy – VFW Headquarters Pamphlet

MAJOR THOMAS BOUDE

Boude was a Major in the Revolutionary War and his final resting place is at Mount Bethel. Here is how Samuel Evans (1823-1908), co-author of the massive work, History of Lancaster County, 1883 relates the story of Major Thomas Boude and Stephen Smith, his young indentured servant.

“Stephen Smith, the successful lumber-merchant in Columbia, who removed to the city of Philadelphia forty-five or more years ago and became very wealthy, was brought, when five or six years old, by Major Boude from a family named Cochran, who lived on Paxtang Creek, near Harrisburg. Major Boude brought him to Columbia, where he had been but a short time when his mother ran away from her master and came to Major Boude's dwelling on Front Street. She at once proceeded to go through Major Boude's dwelling to the kitchen, where she seized hold of Mrs. Smith and attempted to drag her to the street and tie her to the back of the horse. Mrs. Smith and the ladies of Major Boude's household made such a vigorous resistance and outcry

- The shopping cart was unveiled in Oklahoma City on June 4th, 1937
- Old Maid's Day, Pig Callers Day and Thumb Appreciation Day are all celebrated in June
- On June 17th, 1579, Sir Francis Drake discovered California, which he named "New Albion"
- June is turkey lovers month
- James Buchanan, 15th US President 1857-61 died June 1st, 1868 in Lancaster
- June is amateur radio month

....*Central PA Magazine, June 2010*

FACTS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE HEARSE

By the mid-1800's, simple hearse styles were evolving into ornate examples. This trend would continue after the Civil War when manufacturers produced stunning hearses with heavy plate glass windows, hand carved wooden bodies, and silver plated trimmings. Other trends of the 19th century included smaller white hearses for children. By the early 1900's motorized hearses began to replace horse-drawn modes of transport. The first commercially produced motorized hearse was offered in 1909, the same year that motion picture cameras documented one of the earliest automobile funeral processions from New York City to a New Jersey cemetery.

....from the Gatehouse newsletter

SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2012

That is the date of our annual fundraiser day which will be titled "Living History in Mount Bethel Cemetery: One Story At a Time – Winds of Change 1861-1865." The program will be on the grounds at Locust Street from 1PM till dusk. More information will follow when plans become final.

Last year's event was a huge success which was the result of a very active and talented committee. Our theme was "Honoring Veterans" and included reenactors, tours, children's activities, an art exhibit, luminaries honoring veterans, food stands, a flower cart and a stirring concert of patriotic music provided by our local VFW band.

Our guest speaker was Chief Warrant Officer-4, USMC (Ret.) Ed Wickenheiser, a Columbia native.

Thanks to all the many volunteers whose service was invaluable and to the public that supported our effort. We're looking forward to expanding this year's program and revealing more of Mount Bethel's history.

...*"Maybe if we did a better job of listening, history wouldn't have to repeat itself"* Author Unknown

INDIANTOWN GAP NATIONAL CEMETERY

- Located in East Hanover Twp., Lebanon County is one of 131 cemeteries maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs

National cemeteries offer a free gravesite, headstone, Presidential memorial certificate and U.S. Flag to veterans and their dependents who qualify. They also maintain the grave site and open and close the grave.

- Qualifications – veterans must have either died on active duty or have been honorably discharged. If the veteran has not been active, called or deployed to a war or conflict, they must have served a minimum of two years' peacetime service.

Total number of Department of Veterans Affairs employees – 300,000

- Number of Dept. of Veterans Affairs who work for the national cemeteries-1,600

- Veterans employed by Indiantown Gap National Cemetery-25

- Interments in 2011 as of Sept. 30th – 1,929

- Interments that occur daily at the cemetery – 5 to 10 American flags on display at the cemetery – 320

Different religious symbols displayed on graves – 40+

Total number of veterans graves at Indiantown Gap – 37,727

.... *Source – Central PA Magazine J/F 2012*

OUR THANKS- to Mr. George Rettew of Rettew Associates for providing the computer-generated maps of the entire Mount Bethel 10 acre site which has greatly aided us in supplying genealogical information.

We appreciate this valuable contribution.

COLUMBIA WAGON WORKS

The Columbia Wagon Works no longer is in operation but at one time made and shipped wagons of many varieties throughout the United States plus many foreign countries.

Going to South America, Cuba, Europe, Australia, South Africa were the Columbian Eli; the O.K. Farm and Freight wagon; the Joseph F. Day Dumper; plus 60 different styles of carriages, buggies, surreys, spindles and roundabouts.

Organized on June 7th, 1889, the officers were: W.T. Garrison, president; H.F. Yergey, treasurer and manager; Ed B. Smith, secretary.

.... *SourceA History of Columbia*

PRESIDENTIAL FACTS

1. Abraham Lincoln was the first president to use the phrase "this nation under God". The words "under God" were added to the Pledge of Allegiance while Dwight Eisenhower was president.

2. Herbert Hoover was the nation's first Quaker president, winning the election over Al Smith, the first Catholic to run as a major party candidate.
3. George Washington was frequently compared to Moses, Joshua and King David.
4. Though earlier presidents set aside days of prayer and thanksgiving, Abraham Lincoln's wartime proclamation of a national day of thanksgiving to be celebrated on a Thursday in November set the precedent for our modern Thanksgiving Day.
5. Harry Truman was given a Torah by Israeli President Chaim Weizmann as thanks for his recognition of the new state of Israel.
6. George Washington, as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, helped arrange military chaplains of all denominations for his troops and commanded his soldiers to attend Sunday services.
7. James Madison argued that appointing tax-supported chaplains for Congress and the military violated the first amendment, which he helped draft.
8. William McKinley claimed to have made the decision to annex the Phillipines.
9. Thomas Jefferson coined the phrase "a wall of separation between church and state."
10. Ronald Reagan was the first president to appoint an ambassador to the Vatican.
11. James Garfield was a Disciples of Christ preacher before becoming an anti-slavery politician, military general, Congressman, and finally president for only six months.
12. Grover Cleveland was the only president of the U. S. to serve two, non-consecutive terms.

....source – *Christian History & Biography*

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

We can never pour out enough praise on all those people who have made the revival of Mount Bethel possible. Our superintendent Ron Mable spends countless hours working in the cemetery, organizing work groups like the "Wob-Shawgk" crew, the Girl Scouts from the troop headed by Kim Dolly and many other individuals including members of the Board of Directors. Thanks to the students of Our Lady of the Angels School, the VFW band, S&G Printing, D W Designs, Rettew Associates, the Special Events Committee, and all the individuals who have contributed time, talent and money. Without all of you, it could not be done.

... "Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."

...Sally Koch

JAMES NAISMITH

James Naismith was born November 6th, 1861 in Almonte, Ontario and earned his baccalaureate degree in three years at McGill University in Montreal.

He spent most of his life working with young people. He invented the game of basketball in 1891 while he was employed by the School for Christian Workers (now Springfield College) of Springfield, MA.

He was challenged to devise a game which would be played after the weather became to severe for football, baseball and other sports.

In 1898, he accepted a position with the University of Kansas at Lawrence as both Director of Physical Education and Chaplain. At the end of this life he was amazed at the wide acceptance of his game. He later became a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame – which is named for him – and DIED ON NOVEMBER 28TH 1939, in Lawrence, Kansas.

..... *The Northern Light* – Nov. 2010

EVOLUTION OF A LEAGUE

The NFL began in 1920 and had competition almost from the beginning. In 1926, famous college player "Red" Grange and his agent, C. C. Pyle, hoped to secure a franchise. When they were unable to do so, they started their own league – the first of the four American Football Leagues. It did not last long, but its failure did not keep a second one from opening in 1936. That lasted only two years, but one club – the Cleveland Rams survived to join the NFL (today's St. Louis Rams). A third grew from its ashes and began to play in 1940. The All-American Football Conference ran from 1946 – 1949. When it died, three teams – Baltimore Colts, Cleveland Browns and San Francisco Forty-Niners lived to enter the NFL.

In 1960 the fourth and most successful AFL began with eight teams. It later expanded to ten, and in 1970 the league, in its entirety, merged with the NFL. Although some have relocated, all its teams still exist today as NFL franchises.

Charter Members of the Fourth AFL

Boston Patriots (now New England Patriots)
 Buffalo Bills
 Dallas Texans (now Kansas City Chiefs)
 Denver Broncos
 Houston Oilers (now the Tennessee Titans)
 Los Angeles Chargers (now the San Diego Chargers)
 New York Titans (now the New York Jets)
 Oakland Raiders

Expansion Teams

Miami Dolphins Cincinnati Bengals

Source – *The Northern Light* – August 2010