

Mount Bethel Reflections

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

A Message from the President

In April 2018, we celebrated Mount Bethel Cemetery's Sesquicentennial, the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the cemetery in 1868. The weekend celebration included patriotic songs, with luminaries of our loved ones filling the Columbia United Methodist Church. Guided tours, art activities, and exploration filled the cemetery. A glorious Fête en Noir celebration entertained our generous supporters. Historical actors portrayed prominent citizens from times past and a military band and 21-Gun Salute honored our fallen heroes.

Our sincere thanks to all those who played a part in the successful venture. The cemetery board members, Columbia Borough officials, and dedicated community members, including Charlene Bair, Jetty Gerfin, Muffie Kreiser, Barb Mable, Jazmine Preston, and Ruth Ann and Chuck Williams worked hard, dedicating many hours to organize the weekend festivities.

Special thanks to the generosity of community businesses, organizations, and patrons who donated funds of more than \$7000 to the preservation and maintenance of these historical, hallowed grounds. Mount Bethel Cemetery will continue to provide and honor our beautiful, peaceful grounds. We look forward to the Tricentennial, the 300th year anniversary, of establishment of the cemetery in 2030.

Yours truly,
Jane Moore

Sesquicentennial Weekend Program

A few programs from the Sesquicentennial are still available. To receive a program, please contact us via email at, MountBethelCemetery@gmail.com, or visit our website www.mtbethelcemetery.com.

Epitaph of Samuel Leffers

(1736 – 1822) An early schoolmaster who wrote his own epitaph on a tombstone at Old Burying Ground Cemetery, Beaufort, N.C. (established 1709)

"Praises on tombstones are but idly spent. A man's good name is his best monument."

REMEMBER ~ HONOR ~ TEACH

In 2018, Wreaths Across America ("WAA") grew to include 1,640 participating locations across the country – up from 1,433 the year before. WAA also expanded the mission overseas, with the placement of 9,387 wreaths at the Normandy-American Cemetery on December 1. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers, donors, and fundraising groups, nearly 1.8 million veterans wreaths were sponsored and placed on grave markers and the names of each hero was said out loud.

Mount Bethel Cemetery hosted a program to honor and lay wreaths on December 15, 2018, National Wreaths Across America Day.

Representing Armed Services

Army	Sergeant 1 st Class Karen Zercher
Navy	1 st Class Radioman Rev. Fred Thomas
Marine	Sergeant David Rupp
Air Force	Master Sergeant Robert Sload
Coast Guard	E5 Petty Officer 2 nd Class Nate Lutz
Merchant Marine	2 nd Engineer George Biagio
P.O.W.	Spec. 4 Dennis Dougherty



A wreath was placed at every veteran's grave at Mount Bethel Cemetery.

Mount Bethel will be participating with 2019 WAA. The theme for 2019 is **EVERYONE PLAYS A PART**. Please visit WreathsAcrossAmerica.org to sponsor wreaths for Mount Bethel's Veterans. Our location code is **PAMBCC**.

Friends of Mount Bethel Cemetery was able to generate an additional \$3000 for the cemetery's needs. Their sponsor code is **PA0358P**.

Thank you sponsors and volunteers

Bricks for the Brickyard

Restoration of the old brickyard has begun! The brick path starts at the asphalt road near the Old Cemetery Grounds, traveling to the gate at Cherry Street. For a cost of \$50 each, a brick can be personalized with the names of parents, children, friends, etc., or customized with a special quote or emblem as space permits. 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. Approximately 50 feet of the 150-foot brick path has been completed. Help us continue to preserve and maintain this beautiful section of land donated by Susanna Wright in 1730. For more information call 717-684-6196 or visit our website: www.mtbethelcemetery.com

Welcome to Our Newest Board Member

Kathy Hohenadel has joined our Board of Directors. Kathy, a life-long resident of Columbia, brings varied professional experience along with a commitment to serve the community.

Kathy taught math at Northeastern Middle School for 35 years. After retiring from teaching, she became the Executive Director of the Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce, where she served for seven years. Kathy now works part-time in the Volunteer Services office of Landis Homes. Over the years, she also held the position of organist in various churches.

Kathy's service to the community equally is varied. She has served on the Columbia Economic Strategic Planning Committee, Columbia Borough's Zoning Board, and other special planning and fundraising committees. This year marks Kathy's 24th year of service on the Columbia Borough School District Board of Directors. We are pleased to welcome Kathy to our Board.

Tombstone Restoration

Submitted by Dave Rupp

Under the leadership of Superintendent Ron Mable, a team of about six to eight dedicated volunteers has been restoring fallen tombstones in the cemetery for the last three years.



Tombstones (stones) begin to lean and fall for several reasons. The primary reason is a poor foundation. In years past, up to 280 years in some cases, foundations were simply a few rocks or a thin layer of concrete. Each winter when the ground freezes and thaws the ground heaves slightly, raising the foundation and the stone. Most times the stone does not settle back down level and it begins to lean. It will fall over after years of this repeated sequence. We don't know how many fall each winter, but enough do to make the resetting job a constant one.



The team of volunteers meet on Thursdays twice a month from spring through fall. Approximately eight to twelve stones are re-erected each time the team meets. At that rate, we estimate that over 100 stones will be restored each year.

The cost of these supplies and materials is covered by your generous donations. Thank you for helping us to continue this work.

Cemetery Volunteers

Come join the fellowship and volunteer in the Cemetery with our monthly group. They meet two times a month, April thru December. Monthly gatherings tasks are focused on restoration; however, input is welcomed.

Special thanks to our loyal volunteer crew: Jim Ansbach, Jeff Groff, Wayne Kauffman, George Kernisky, Ron Mable, Dave Rupp, Greg Smith, and Paul Wittensoldner.

Graveyard Gardener ~ Cradle Graves

Cradle graves were very much the fashion during the Victorian era. The "cradle" part of the grave was used for plantings or flowers. It was common practice at that time for loved ones to regularly tend to the family plot, and to bring specimens from their home gardens for planting at the cemetery. Mount Bethel has over a dozen identified cradle graves. You can become a "Graveyard Gardener" by adopting an area in need of plantings. Contact Ron Mable (717-285-2332) or Jane Moore (717-575-9760) to be assigned a cradle grave. Thank you Kemmerly family, Dennis Dougherty, Chrissy Smith, and Abby Fritch for adopting cradle graves at Mount Bethel.

Future Goals

Submitted by Claire Storm

As stewards of the sacred grounds at Mount Bethel Cemetery, the Board of Directors has developed a list of benchmarks that they will be working on over the next few years. Those benchmarks include: (1) removal and replacement of old trees; (2) developing a landscape plan; (3) identifying tombstones found under the old shed; (4) restoring and repairing monuments; (5) developing a pet cemetery; (6) resealing pathways ;(7) completing the memorial brick walkway in the Brickyard area of the cemetery; (8) identifying the physical location of all veteran's graves; (9) restoring lawn crypts; (10) researching loan and grant opportunities through USDA; (11) identifying needed repairs for the Righter Mausoleum; (12) repainting trim on the cottage; and (13) revamping the web site.

Many of the goals require physical work and also monetary support. If you are able to assist physically, contact Ron Mable. Monetary donations may be made to Mount Bethel Cemetery, P.O. Box 231, 700 Locust Street, Columbia, PA 1751

"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop." Confucius

Upcoming Events at Mount Bethel

Lucy's Hair Work

Sunday March 10 1:00 PM

This workshop focuses on the Victorian-era tradition of creating a keepsake from a loved one's hair, especially someone who has passed. Registrants will learn how to create a corsage or pin featuring flowers and leaves that uses hair. Participants may bring their own hair or may use some hair provided. The session will be held at Mount Bethel Cottage, 700 Locust Street, Columbia. Pre-registration at \$35 per person is required. Contact Jane Moore (717-575-9760) to register.

Still Life at Mount Bethel

Friday April 26 5PM – 8PM

Sunday April 28 2PM – 4PM

Art created by the late Rosemary Horn Robinson will be on display. Light refreshments will be available while we study the work of still life created by one of Columbia's own artists and while we consider that there's still life on these grounds. The exhibit will be held at Mount Bethel Cottage, 700 Locust Street, Columbia.

The Last Ride & Macabre Creations

Saturday May 18 11AM – 3PM

Rain Date: Sunday May 19 11AM -3PM

The grounds of Mount Bethel will come to life when professional vehicles gather for a unique cemetery-car-related show. The display of hearses, flower cars and more will be complemented by vendors featuring crafts and macabre creations. Contact Jane Moore (717-575-9760) for more information or to register vehicle or vendor space.

Fête en Noir

Friday September 13 5PM – 9PM

Rain Date September 14 5PM – 9PM

An outdoor picnic held on the grounds of Mount Bethel Cemetery, our Fete en Noir will be a unique combination of elegance and casualness. Those in attendance are asked to dress in black, if possible, for this Friday the 13th gathering which will be held from 5:30 PM to 9 PM. Music for listening or dancing is included in the \$15 per person fee, but those who attend should bring their own picnic basket with food and beverages. Tables and chairs may be reserved for this event. Contact Claire Storm (astorm495@comcast.net) or Jane Moore (717-575-9760) for reservations or more information.

Wreaths Across America

Saturday December 14 Noon

Mount Bethel Cemetery participates in this national program to honor veterans. Wreaths are sponsored by local individuals and organizations through Wreaths Across America. A ceremony, which begins at noon, is followed by placement of wreaths on identified veteran graves by community volunteers and wreath sponsors. Support Mount Bethel Cemetery by purchasing a wreath on the Wreaths Across America website. *These events are coordinated by Friends of Mount Bethel Cemetery, a 501 (c) 3.*

For more information visit www.mtbethelcemetery.com or call (717) 575-9760

EVENT SPONSORS

GOLD

Art Printing
Chickies Rock Moose Lodge & Family Center #307
Elks LODGE Columbia/Middletown, PA
Foresters of America
Gamby Disposal

SILVER

Catholic War Veterans #1306
Columbia Fraternal Association
Kleen-Rite Corporation
Nikolaus & Hohenadel, LLP

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 80 cremation niches in the Scholssman Memorial Garden. Contact: Ronald Mable (717-285-2332) or Kevin Kraft Sr. (717-684-2370). For pricing information, visit www.mtbethelcemetery.com.

SPREAD THE NEWS

Do you know someone who is not currently receiving our newsletter? Feel free to share this document with them. Or email at: MountBethelCemetery@gmail.com, or visit our website mtbethelcemetery.com.

"I don't think of all the misery, but of all the beauty that still remains." ~ Anne Frank

A DEDICATED CITIZEN

Charlene Bair has served on the Board of Mount Bethel Cemetery for more than a decade. During part of that time she served as Secretary of the Board. She was, and still is a valuable volunteer along with her husband Rich, daughters and granddaughter. Charlene has been a key visionary in developing successful events, campaigns and restorations for Mount Bethel Cemetery.

We appreciated your time and hard work.

MOUNT BETHEL CEMETERY COMPANY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jane Moore	President
Kevin M. Kraft, Sr.	Treasure
Claire Storm	Secretary
Ronald N. Mable	Superintendent
John F. Hinkle, Jr.	Board Member
Kathy Hohenadel	Board Member
Kathleen Lutz	Board Member
David T. Mountz, Esq.	Board Member
David M. Rupp	Board Member

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.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer