

Memorial Day, 2018. HSCH will participate in our community's parade, and will have a display (and sales) table in Willow Park following the American Legion ceremonies in the cemetery, following the parade. Our Board Member, Ward Adams, will once again organize this magnificent day in conjunction with our Borough. Hearing last year's speaker was so moving – it brought tears of pride to the eyes of all listeners. Please treat yourself to a wonderful 45 minutes this year. Do not skip this portion of the day....

Camp Hill Cemetery. Many early cemeteries were associated with Churches, such as those at nearby historic Peace Church and Poplar Grove. Camp Hill's cemetery began as a family burial ground on the Bowman family farm, but expanded to include neighbors as the town developed.

In 1804 at the age of 10, Christina Gorgas appears to be the first person to have been buried on the acreage along the eastern border of the property of John Bowman, adjacent to that of his father-in-law Nicholas Wolf. They purchased their lands simultaneously in 1796. Young Christina's parents, Solomon Gorgas and his wife Catherine came to this area from Lancaster County in 1803. Their home is to the west of the northwest corner of Rolling Green Cemetery. Solomon and Catherine's son William, and daughter Sarah, survived to adulthood. Sarah married the Reverend Samuel Bowman, eldest son of John Bowman. The first Bowman to be buried in the family cemetery was Samuel Bowman in 1807, presumed to be John's uncle. John's monument has broken off and disappeared, but the base appears to match that of Matilda Bowman, his wife.

By 1870, a group, which included a third generation Bowman, purchased the land toward 21st Street from the Wolf family and established the Camp Hill Cemetery Association. This group managed the cemetery and cared for the grounds for 100 years until the Borough was persuaded to assume responsibility.

Many a story can be told from reading the inscriptions during a walk through the cemetery: December 4th, 5th and 9th of 1847 marked the deaths of Mary, Susan and Henry Bixler, who were born that December 4th. These are the only triplets in the cemetery. Arthur Lee Miller, who outlived both his wives, gave his second wife a larger stone, but did not put any engraving on it! There is a Frankenstein, a surname that has entertained (and spooked) Camp Hill children for decades. Joseph Edwin Slupecke, Jr., a Vietnam Veteran, who served in the U.S. Navy, is buried on top of his father, a 1st Lt. in the U.S. Army in WWII.

If you are lucky, you will discover an inscription such as the one on the stone of William T.M. Thompson, Co B 165 Regiment PA Volunteers of the GAR: "Peace be with you till we meet again".

The below photos include the formal entrance to the 21st side of the cemetery during the early 1900's. Church Street was renamed in 1922. The central photo is of the aforementioned oldest Gorgas monument. Thirdly, (April 5, 2018) a portion of the remains of stone pillars guarding the 23rd and 21st Street entrances. The pillars have suffered from vehicle impacts, and general aging. This 23rd Street pillar was wobbly to the touch!



Camp Hill cemetery—main entrance, Church Street



Please phone, e-mail or write to the Editor with your stories/comments/suggestions:
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