

The Historic Salford Mennonite Graveyard



Eagle Scout Project

by

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Boy Scout Troop 137

Harleysville, Pennsylvania 19438

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Contents

I. Introduction: A Two-Part Project	3
II. Photographic Fieldstone Registry	5
III. Historical Monument	104
IV. Acknowledgments	108
V. Statement of Ambitions	109

Introduction:

A Historical Two-Part Scout Project

As a high school sophomore in December 2013, looking for a possible Eagle Scout project, I consulted with local historian John L. Ruth of Lower Salford. A retired minister of the Salford Mennonite Church on Groff's Mill Road, Harleysville, he suggested doing something of local historical value that would also serve a wider audience. The oldest historical items in my Lower Salford Township community, after the Native artifacts that are still found in the soil, are the stone markers in local graveyards. Four cemeteries in the Township point back toward its founding in 1726: a Lederach family graveyard near the village of that name; a Price family graveyard on Indian Creek Road near Vernfield; a larger and more recent graveyard for the Indian Creek Church of the Brethren on Route 63 near Vernfield; and the oldest and largest graveyard belonging to the Salford Mennonite Church on Groff's Mill Road.

At Mr. Ruth's suggestion, I paid a visit to the oldest part of the Salford graveyard – surviving from its beginning on the plantation purchased by Henrich and Magdalena Ruth in 1718. Consulting a valuable typed registry of the graves that was made fifty years earlier, I could see that there had been little change since then, other than the addition of many new gravestones. But the oldest ones, made of local red fieldstone and clustered in the cemetery's southeastern quadrant, were under increasing threat. Several had disappeared or been broken off since the 1965 registry, and some of the inscriptions were only marginally legible. Ninety-nine fieldstones remained, plus another one broken off but preserved in storage.

With the modern advantage of digital photography and storage, I decided to make a permanent visual record of this treasure trove of disappearing data from the earliest decades of our township.



Kevin McCoach and advisor John L. Ruth at the Salford graveyard in December 2013.



Photographing the 1793 Ana Kratz gravestone

In the summers of 2014 and 2015 I photographed the surviving field-stone markers, and transcribed the inscriptions. These have been reproduced, one per page, in the following section. A bound copy of this registry is placed in the library of the Salford Mennonite Church, and another one in the archives of the Mennonite Heritage Center of Yoder Road, Harleysville. A digital copy entered online by the Center will make this project instantly available, free of charge, to be downloaded by family history researchers around the globe.

Photographic Registry of Fieldstones Remaining in the Salford Mennonite Graveyard

(As of December 2015)

The 99 remaining fieldstone grave-markers in the Salford Mennonite Graveyard are the largest and oldest collection of post-Native artifacts in Lower Salford Township.

As a result of erosion, many of the stones no longer have visible inscriptions. Fifty of those on which inscriptions do remain legible show dates running from 1737 to 1846.

Twelve family names visible are: Alderfer, Bercki (Bergey), Clemens, DeHaven, Friet (Freed), Funk, Halteman, Kolb, Kratz, Krob (Krupp), Springer and Wyerman (Wireman).

The following registry begins at the southern end of the graveyard, and proceeds from south to north.

Individual stones are numbered dually, first by row, and then by their place in the row when counting from the right end of the row.

Thirty-four of the stones lack visible inscriptions. All those legible are transcribed, with partial translation from German.

Individual photographs are hereby made available without copyright for downloading and reproducing by genealogists or family historians.

2-1



1780

FELTI

KRATZ

(Felti is a nickname for Valentine)

2-2



(Engraving of Tulip)

1793

D 12 HORNING

(The 12th of February)

ANA KRATZ

3-1



ELCM

1760

(New concrete base)

3-2



JACOB SPRIN[G]ER

IST gESTORBEN

(Died)

27 NO-EMbER 1763

3-3



ANNA SPRIN[G]ERN

IST gESTORBEN

(Died)

DEN 10 HORNU

Ng ANNO 1774

(The 10th of February, Year 1774)

IHR ALTER IST 39 JAHR EIN

MON[A]T

4-1



No inscription

4-2



D24 ABRIL 1776

(The 24th of April, 1776)

ABRAHAM CLE
MENS

6-1



M.W. 1794

6-2



IHWm

(Johannes Wyerman; stored at Mennonite Heritage Center)

1793

6-3



IHW

(Probably Johannes Wyerman)

6-4



CSW

1764

6-5



1828

Jacob

Bercki

A.69

6-6



ANO

(Year)

1846

MVRZ EB

79 J

(79 Years)

M 11 12 D

6-7



No inscription

7-1



(Top View)



1737?

8-1



S
1771?

9-1



AN x AD

1767

9-2



M H F

1773

9-3



M H M

9-4



1773

BARBARA

REIF

9-5



1773

BARBARA
FRIET

10-1



(top view)



MH[M]

10-2



Fragment
No inscription

10-3



F.S.T

(Small)

10-4



I H G K

(Small)

10-5



Broken off base

No inscription

10-6



Small Round Top

No inscription

10-7



G S 1814

11-1



No inscription

11-2



A
O W
(small)

11-3



No inscription

11-4



C K N

D 19 AG

1793

11-5



No inscription

11-6



No inscription

12-1



1788

C K

12-2



174[?]

Inscription illegible

12-3



I S H

(Broken with lichens)

12-4



D S H
1760

12-5



C S H

(no date, top broken off)

12-6



No Inscription
(Thick Fragment)

12-7



No Inscription
(small)

12-8



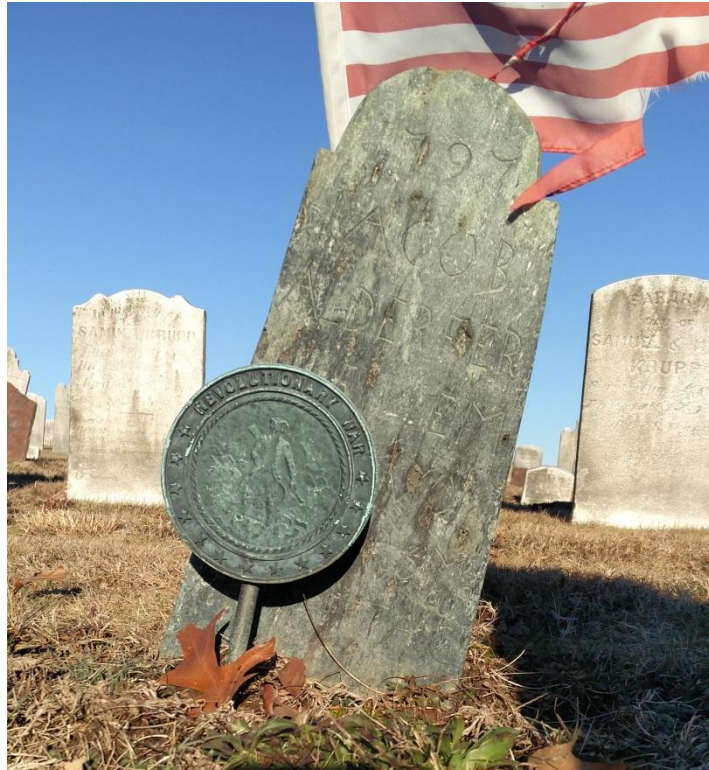
Broken Fragment

13-1



IH AD 1790

13-2



1797

IACOB

ALDERFER

IN EINEM

ALTER VON

58 IAHR 6 Mo

UND TAG

13-3



1827

IN EINEM

ELISABETH
ALDERFER

ALTER VON
79 IAHR

13-4



1801

H A D

(Bottom Broken Off)

13-5



1814

[J]ACOB
ALDERFER
IN EINEM
ALTER VON

13-6



No Inscription

13-7



1842

Polly Dehoven

75 year

13-8



No Inscription

13-9



A D S

1817

13-10



M L K

1760

13-11



1793

(Top Broken)

13-12



F D S

1777

13-13



1788
C D S

13-14



M D S D

1792

(Inscription on Top)

13-15



C N
(Chipped)

14-1



Andreas Krob,
ist gestorben den 31 ten
december, 1817, alt wor-
den 58 iahr 6 (illegible)

14-2



Samuel Krob
ANNO 1799

14-3



ANO 1767

H A M K B

19 A

14-4



JACOB KROB
ANNO 1785

14-5



(small broken off base only)

14-6



No Inscription

14-7



92

14-8



No Inscription

14-9



Jacob Kolb gestorb[en]

Den 3 ten august 1820

alt 5 mo

14-10



Anna Kolb ge
storben den 11 nov
ember 1822 alt 78
iahr (illegible)

15-1



C A (illegible)

(Broken Off)

15-2



MARTIN HAM__

DEN 11 1793

15-3



No inscription

15-4



C[hristian] H[alte]M[an]

1800

23 Nov[ember]

(Minister)

15-5



1807

CA[tharine] H[alte]M[an]

D[EN] 12 MA[RZ]

15-6



No inscription
(very small, Cracked)

16-1



H C
1791

16-2



1791

L B C M

16-3



I[J] H D W

1802

16-4



No Inscription

16-5



No Inscription
(small broken stone)

16-6



ELC

1768

16-7



E T (illegible)

Possibly Dettery

16-8



No Inscription
(broken base)

16-9



P W

1793

16-10



No Inscription

17-1



No Inscription

17-2



No Inscription

17-3



No Inscription

17-4



No Inscription

17-5



No Inscription

18-1



No Inscription

18-2



No Inscription

18-3



J K

18-4



H O H

1829

A 69-8 M

18-5



No Inscription

19-1



No Inscription

19-2



No Inscription

19-3



Jacob Clemens

Starb den 11 Jun

1838 alt 21 Iahr 1 monat 6 dag

20-1



A FUNK
1842
old 60 years

21-1



No Inscription

III. The Monument

Following the encouragement of my scout advisor to expand the value of my project, I accepted from Mr. John Ruth the idea of enhancing the public understanding of and access to the history of the cemetery and its oldest stones by erecting an explanatory monument.

For this purpose, I looked into the possibility of getting a suitable stone, inquiring at the Landmark Monument firm in Quakertown, and at Harleysville Materials, LLC, whose quarry runs within a thousand feet of the Salford Cemetery. Mr. Darren Hummel of the latter firm offered to donate a stone worth \$230 that happened to be placed just outside the office door.



In order to raise funds for the monument, priced by the Landmark firm at \$4800, I applied to the “Foundation Fund” of the Salford Mennonite congregation where my family attends, and was granted \$1500 for the project. Two Sunday School classes donated a total of \$1750, and \$690 came from individual donors in the community. To this I added \$575 which I raised via a car wash. Mr. Dale Craig, who has worked for years with burials in many local cemeteries, and who offered to help with installing the monument, donated the use of a cement mixer and other tools.

A text for the plaque was prepared by Mr. Ruth, and I employed several friends to help me dig the base for the monument at the entrance to the graveyard.



The stone donated by Harleysville Materials LLC was taken to Quakertown by the Landmark Monument Company, where it was cut to size, and fitted with the bronze plaque.



Meanwhile, Mr. Dale Craig coached me in preparing the concrete for the three-foot-deep base.

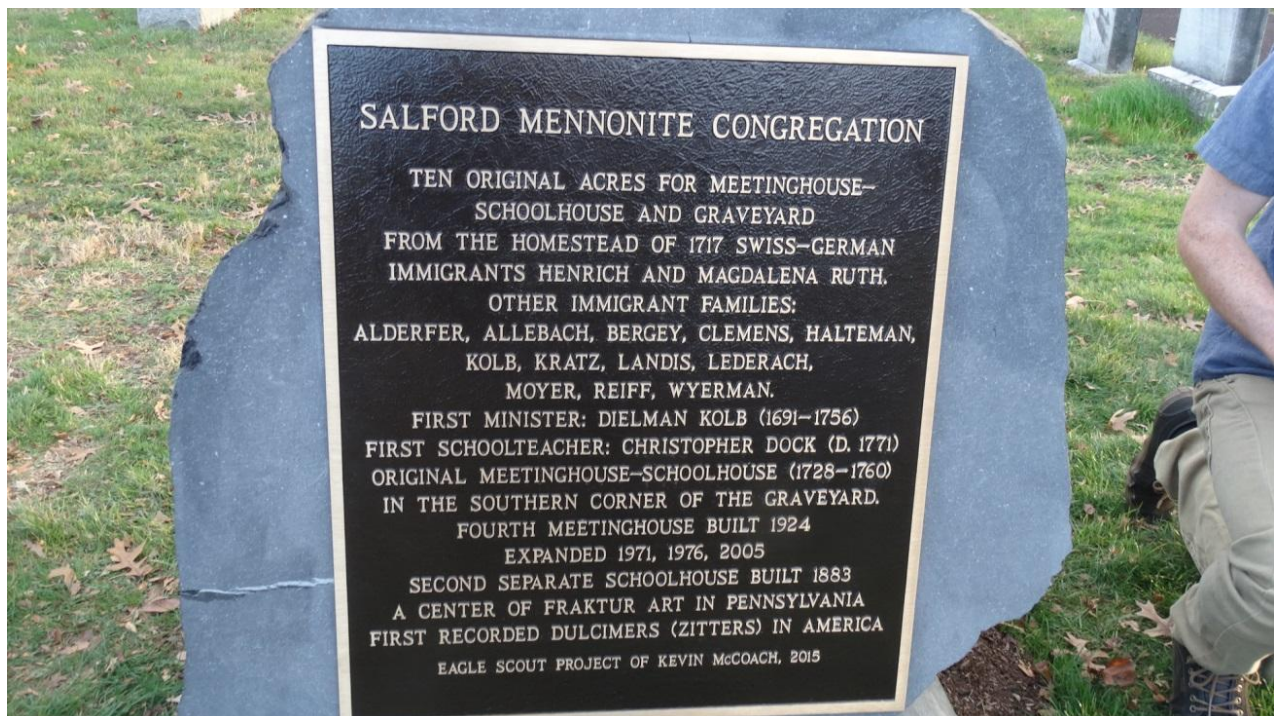


On November 11, 2015, the finished monument was delivered to the site of installation at the entrance to the Salford Mennonite graveyard.





Upon completion of both the monument and the Registry of Fieldstones, the date of February 28, 2016 was selected for the celebration of the project, and Internet access on the website of the Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA.



Acknowledgments

I would like to express appreciation for the following support to my project:

Financial

Car-wash fund-raiser

Donations

Salford Foundation Fund

Gospel Herald Sunday School Class

Reaching Out Sunday School Class

Sandra Highhouse

John L. Ruth

Roger Schuler

Various donors

Harleysville Materials LLC stone

Total Donations

\$4980

Parental encouragement

William & Michelle McCoach

Project advisor and writer

John L. Ruth

Scoutmaster

George Haslam

Coach for installation of monument

Dale Craig, assisted by Donald Crossin

Student friends, helpers

Brian Longo

Andrew Dzubinski

Peter Kramme

Remy Daron

Joey Springer

Scout counselors

Terry Moyer

Marc Longo

Proof-reading, design

Joel Alderfer

Forrest Moyer

Printing and Online availability

Mennonite Heritage Center

Statement of Ambitions

I believe my years as a scout have shaped who I am, a caring and honest individual. I value the friends I have made and appreciate my leaders of Troop 137. My scout leaders as well as my parents have taught me life values to count on. I also appreciate my teachers through school who offered knowledge on many subjects and helped me do well with my grades. I enjoy staying fit by running track and lifting weights. I was part of a Robotics team for many years that won nationals.

My time with scouting and my church youth group have given me valuable life experiences. One in particular was surviving a night in the cold and rain during my wilderness survival merit badge at summer camp. Feeding the homeless with my church and the Chosen 300 organization of Philadelphia has opened my eyes to the needs of others.

As long as I can remember, I have loved adventure. I grew up camping with my family and enjoyed many excursions with the scouts, including summer camps, Philmont and Sea Base. After graduation from high school I plan to continue this adventure and enlist in the army national guard. While in the army, I will pursue my college degree in engineering by first attending a community college and then transferring to a university such as Drexel or Penn State. Attending a community college will help keep the cost of college to a minimum, and then transferring to a larger college will offer more activities and clubs to partake in. I also prefer a more urban college so there will be fun things to do nearby. While in college, I hope to become involved with study groups. Eventually I would like to specialize in biomedical engineering.

After college, I can see myself living on the west coast of the United States because it's hot and not humid. I would like to get married and start a family. I would be involved with my children as my parents were with me. I'd spend family time camping, going on trips, supporting my children's school and sporting events.

I grew up with a church family and a youth group that supported the community through service trips and activities. I enjoyed helping those in need of food or supplies. In my later years, I would like to continue my connection with a church and support the community through service trips.

I am anticipating I will work as a biomedical engineer where I can design prosthetics and replacement organs. Eventually, I would also like to start my own chain of businesses.

-- Kevin William James McCoach