

Union Cemetery Rededication

In 1987 Union Cemetery was refurbished and a rededication ceremony was held on September 23, 1987. The following documents pertaining to this effort were sent to me by Mike McGuire of Cresson who was heavily involved with the project.

Letters by the Ebensburg Center and Holy Name Church showing their participation in the restoration effort.



Ebensburg Center



NEW DIRECTIONS, your bi-weekly communicator

MARCH 14, 1986

SUBJECT: Cemetery Project

TO: All Staff

FROM: Alan M. Bellomo
Facility Director



Facility Directors from several Centers throughout the State took responsibility for restoring neglected cemeteries where former tuberculosis and mentally handicapped patients were buried.

The Ebensburg Center is responsible for restoring graves next to the Union Cemetery located near the Borough of Cresson. There are 270 marked but unknown graves and 88 marked and known graves at this location. The cost of 88 grass level markers and one large monument for the 270 unknown graves range from approximately \$1,000.00 to \$10,000.00 depending on the material used.

It was decided at Ebensburg to invite the A.C.E. Center's Association to help with this project. On January 7, 1986 the vote was unanimous to accept this responsibility. Dolores Burchfield and Menno Stoltzfus opened the A.C.E. Cemetery Fund (Account #83-01840-8) at the U.S. Bank, Lovell Park Branch, for direct deposit of donations. There is a total of \$120.00 in the fund at the present time.

Other service groups such as Rotary, American Legion and the V.F.W. have been approached for help. Additional contacts will be arranged soon.

Official records were destroyed during the flood of Hurricane Agnes in the 70's but other sources have been investigated. Former tuberculosis patients and staff, local historians, undertakers, Cambria County Court House employees, museum curators, etc., have been alerted to our need for information. The most promising lead seems to be the old newspapers of the Mainliner. The papers are being placed on microfilm and should be available in the local libraries at the end of April.

Work is continuing to identify the 270 unknown graves and to locate sources of money to underwrite this project. Any help that you as an Ebensburg Center employee can provide us will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

EBENSBURG CENTER
Ebensburg, Pennsylvania 15931

November 12, 1986

TELEPHONE
AREA CODE 814, 472-7350

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the clients and staff of Ebensburg Center, I would like to invite you to a re-dedication of a cemetery located on the grounds of the former Cresson Center. Over the years, the cemetery had fallen into a state of disrepair. Because of the many efforts expended over the past twelve months, we are now able to proudly re-dedicate this site as the final resting place for over 350 known and unknown individuals who had lived at the Cresson Tuberculosis Sanitorium #2.

Our re-dedication will begin at 1:00 P.M. on November 24, 1986. A map is enclosed for your convenience.

The Ebensburg Center is pleased to have participated in this worthwhile community project. Please share our pride by being with us on the 24th.

Sincerely yours,

Alan M. Bellomo
Facility Director

HOLY NAME CHURCH
EBENSBURG, PA

REV. ARNOLD L. GAUS
REV. JOHN J. LITTLE
REV. NEIL R. DADEY

RECTORY PHONE 472-7244
SCHOOL PHONE 472-8817
CONVENT PHONE 472-8044

May 25, 1986

 Masses For The Week

A.C.E. CEMETERY PROJECT

The Altoona, Cresson and Ebensburg Centers' Association has undertaken the task of raising money for the restoration of the cemetery located in Cresson next to the Union Cemetery. The cemetery contains 270 unknown graves of T.B. patients, 81 known graves of T.B. patients, and 7 known graves of clients from the former Cresson Center. Research is continuing to identify all individuals buried there.

With your help, we will be able to purchase ground-level markers for the known graves and an appropriate monument for any unknown grave. Once restored, the cemetery can be maintained by inmates of the Cresson State Prison or preferably by a group of community volunteers who can serve as a Board of Directors.

All donations may be mailed to the A.C.E. Cemetery Fund in care of:
U.S. Bank - Lovell Park, Ebensburg, PA 15931 Account # 83-01840-8

The Rededication Ceremony Program



Cemetery Rededication

September 23, 1987

Cresson, Pa.

PROGRAM

Introduction. Rabbi Rav Soloff
Jewish Chaplain
Ebensburg Center

Invocation and Scripture. . Msgr. Arnold Gaus
Roman Catholic Chaplain
Ebensburg Center

Honor Guard SFC Troxell
S/Sgt. Kirkpatrick
Sgt. Dingle

Star Spangled Banner. . . . Mike McGuire
Unit Manager, Villa
Ebensburg Center

Remarks Alan M. Bellomo
Facility Director
Ebensburg Center

Dedication Remarks. Chaplain Robert Hand
Protestant Chaplain
Ebensburg Center

Speakers. Joseph P. Roberts
President Commissioner
Cambria County

George A. Kopchick, Jr.
Director of Facility
Operations
Office of Mental Retardation

Presentation of Wreath. . . Barbara Fey, Charles Webb
Clients of Ebensburg Center

Taps. Ben Meyers
Student of Central
Cambria High School

Benediction Rabbi Rav Soloff

Photos taken at the rededication ceremony.





Ben Myers, a student at Central Cambria High School, Plays "Taps".



L to R:

George Kopchick, OMR Director Harrisburg

Alan Bellomo, Facility Director Ebensburg Center

Joe Roberts, President Commissioner Cambria County

Monsignor Arnold Gaus Ebensburg Center

Rev. Robert Hand, Ebensburg Center Chaplain

Rabbi Rav Soloff

The following articles appeared in the Altoona Mirror and The Cresson Mainliner:



Mirror photo by Sandy Ivory

EBENSBURG CENTER clients Barbara Fey (left) and Charles Webb (right), assisted by staff member Bryan Smith, presented a wreath at the restored Union

Cemetery at the rededication service Wednesday. The cemetery is located in Cresson Township, just east of Cresson.

Restored

Cresson cemetery rededicated

By Sandy Ivory

Staff Writer

CRESSON — A quiet, peaceful resting place for both the living and the dead was rededicated at a special ceremony Wednesday.

Two years of work by the staff and clients at the Ebensburg Center and volunteers have resulted in a restored Union Cemetery. Neat rows of granite squares mark individual graves, baskets of white and yellow flowers add color, a memorial in remembrance of the unknown dead and benches offer a place to pause.

Tucked away in a partially wooded area, bordered on one side by new Route 22, the cemetery is located in Cresson Township, just east of the borough.

Most of the approximately 350 bodies buried there are without names, the identities lost or misplaced through the years. There are names for 78.

Many of the buried were patients at the former tuberculosis sanatorium located in Cresson from 1916 until the 1950s, and eight were mentally retarded

clients at the Cresson Center which closed in 1982. Some of the dead were community residents buried there during the Depression.

"Some people had to decide to either feed their families or bury their dead," Alan M. Bellomo, director of the Ebensburg Center, told the nearly 100 guests attending the rededication program.

Bellomo said he hoped people would use the cemetery as "a meditation area ... a place to reflect."

Speakers at the ceremony included Joseph Roberts, president of the Cambria County commissioners, and George A. Kopchick Jr., a state mental retardation official. Rabbi Rav Soloff, Monsignor Arnold Gaus and the Rev. Robert Hand, chaplains at the Ebensburg Center, gave brief remarks.

An honor guard stood at attention as the "Star Spangled Banner" was sung, led by Mike McGuire, and "Taps" was played by Ben Meyers, a student at Central Cambria High School.

A wreath was presented by Ebensburg Center clients Barbara Fey and Charles Webb.

Rededicate Cemetery



Center residents help place the wreath

By: Dave Huber

Staff members and clients of the Ebensburg Center were joined by area clergy and public officials, Wednesday, to rededicate an old section of the Union Cemetery in Cresson that had long been neglected.

In his address, Allan Bellomo, the Center's director, explained that two years ago he was approached by Ginny Thornburgh with the problem at the cemetery. Originally it had been used for patients from the Flick (T.B.) Sanatorium and in later years several Cresson Center clients were buried there. The graves had only been marked with wooden, numbered stakes. The numbers of these graves corresponded with the names in a logbook that had been

guard ceremonies, an introductory reading was given by Rabbi Soloff and then dedication remarks by Rev. Robert Hand. Monsignor Arnold Guas read a Scriptural passage and prayer.

Public speakers included County Commissioner Joseph Roberts, George Kopchick of the Office of Mental Retardation in Harrisburg, and Allan Bellomo of the Center. Mr. Bellomo also thanked committee members; Mike McGuire, Rev. Hand and Dave Huber. A special mention was given to Volunteer Coordinator, Richard Nikolishen, for his part in organizing the ceremony.

Preceding the playing of "taps" and a reception at the Center, came a special moment when two of the



WREATH PRESENTATION — Barbara Fey (left) and Charles Webb (right) clients of Ebensburg Center, assisted by Bryan Smith (center) a member of the Center staff, placed a wreath at the new memorial marker at the restored cemetery used previously by the former Cresson Sanitorium. The monument was placed in memory of the unknown deceased buried in the cemetery. It was dedicated during a service at the site Wednesday, Sept. 23. The restoration of the cemetery, adjacent to and just to the rear of the Cresson Union Cemetery, was a project of the Ebensburg Center. Approximately 100 persons attended the ceremony. (Photo by Elmer J. Schenk)

Below is the only official listing of graves from the Altoona Center.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
 ALTOONA CENTER
 1515 Fourth Street
 Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601

February 19, 1986

TELEPHONE NUMBER
 AREA CODE 814, 846-7664
 946-6900

Gladys Mc Laughlin, A.R.T.
 Records Department
 Ebensburg Center
 R.D.#1
 Ebensburg, PA 15931

Re: Cemetery Records.

Dear Gladys:

Enclosed is a list of persons from the former Lawrence Flick State Hospital buried in the State Cemetery in Cresson. This is all the information we have on these individuals as all material that was forwarded to Harrisburg was destroyed in the Flood of 1972.

We have no record of grave numbers 1 through 270, as no records were kept at that time.

Grave numbers 353 through 359 were Cresson Center residents: Information is as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grave No</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
[REDACTED]	353	2-27-64	2-9-65
[REDACTED]	354	5-22-64	7-16-65
[REDACTED]	355	5-21-64	8-2-65
[REDACTED]	356	9-29-62	1-1-72
[REDACTED]	357	8-3-56	2-16-69
[REDACTED]	358	5-20-34	11-20-71
[REDACTED]	359	6-14-62	8-22-72

If additional information is desired concerning Cresson individuals, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely

Mary Plazza A.R.T.
 Mary Plazza A.R.T.

Lawrence Flick State Hospital
Cresson, Pennsylvania

C E M E T E R Y #2

<u>GRAVE NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>BURIED</u>
271	Joseph Golubich	2/18/43
272	Theodore Washington	4/20/43
273	John Tomas	5/3/43
274	Michael Gusner	6-14/43
275	Paul Henkel	6/26/43
276	Magnus D. Spicher	9/3/43
277	Charles Fred Harriman	9/15/43
278	Louis Vagnozzi	3/13/44
279	Mantle Littlejohn	5/15/44
280	Steve Boinshko	6/7/44
281	Albert Girardi	7/28/44
282	Frank Frydrich	9/11/44
283	Peter Alter	10/23/44
284	Raymond Cook	11/20/44
285	Stanislaw Dempcenski	12/26/44
286	Willie Ellison	1/3/45
287	Steve Kovach	1/5/45
288	Leon Wright	5/6/45
289	Charles Handren	5/28/45
290	Thomas Olden (colored)	1/9/46
291	John Borowsky	5/10/46
292	(alias) Joseph Basko (John Marsh	10-4-46
293	Joseph Lupenski	11/12/46
294	Oliver Stonebraker	11/14/46
295	Tillie Golderisi	2/21/47
296	William Meadowbrook (colored)	4/1/47

C E M E T E R Y #2

-2-

297	Clifton Green (colored)	7/24/47
298	Charles Hall (colored)	10-30-47
299	John Sczerzerba	12/17/47
300	Elmer Weitershowson	7/1/48
301	Emma Watkins (colored)	11/1/48
302	John Beaken	11/19/48
303	Michael Frystak	12/29/48
304	Frank Zigmund	1/20/49
305	Anthony MaKowski	3/11/49
306	Bert Domurad	4/14/49
307	Sidney Lewis	4/16/49
308	Carl Johnson	8/12/49
309	John Winowski	1/19/50
310	Timothy Foley	3/20-50
311	Eva Erwin (colored)	7/11/50
312	Cecil McElroy	7/14/50
313	John Patak	3/13/51
314	Eddie Means (colored)	12/5/51
315	Arden Simons	9/23/52
316	Mike Havros	5/6/53
317	Peter Trostasky	5/16/53
318	George Goodman	3/15/54
319	Jose Navarro	6/23/54
320	Stephen Frezzani	3/14/55
321	William Jourkonis	8/3/55
322	William Stewart	2/2/56
323	Charles Wesley Hager	6/1/56
324	Anton Popko	1/3/57

<u>GRAVE NO.</u>	<u>NAME OF PATIENT</u>	<u>DATE BURIED</u>
325	Arthur Reed	8-8-58
326	Herbert Eby	12-2-58
327	Nelson Carl	2-11-59
328	(328 was buried Andre Duryea before 327)	12-19-58
329	John Hansylak	2-25-59
330	Frank Kinkela	8-25-59
331	Paul Churman	9-19-59
332	Nicholas Zal	10-28-59
333	Charles Jones	12-28-59
334	Lawrence Nopak	1-25-60
335	Nichloas Badurinza (Berlinski)	3-11-60
336	Abraham Vaughn	5-16-60
337	Andrew Bernett	6-6-60
338	Henry Byers	7-22-60
339	Samuel Ball	8-27-60
340	Samuel Sista	2-20-61
341	Oscar Bumbarger	5-25-61
342	William Watson	7-18-61
343	Harvey Dixon	10-2-61
344	John Tarrando	2-5-62
345	Su Chan Yee	2-7-62
346	George Urack	2-15-62
347	Robert Brown	2-28-62
348	Lewis Kinda	4-27-62
349	Valdora Bonds	5-11-62
350	Dorise Hopkins	2-15-63
350	Thomas Collins	5-16-63
351	Emercy Harafa	7-9-63
352	Clifford Shannon	8-6-63

Dave Huber of Cresson did research into correlating the names with the grave marker locations. The following are his notes:

3-26-86

Concerning the state cemetery in Cresson, Pa. I believe that thirty of the graves were mismarked. When I first examined the site (to draw a working diagram), I noticed that two of the graves were marked 229, one at the end of the fifth row, and another at the beginning of the sixth row. (DIAGRAM I) Later, when I drew the diagram, I found that there was no grave numbered 199.

It is apparent that all of the markers were made at the same time, and not as each individule died. Therefore I am assuming that whoever made the markers simply forgot 199 and made an extra 229, giving him the correct number of markers.

If you assume that 200 is really the missing 199 and that 201 is really 200 and so on, when you arrive at the first 229, you find that it is really 228, and that the second 229 is the true 229.

Under this assumption, the entire forth and fifth row is out of order by one space. In DIAGRAM 2, I have outlined the cemetery the way I believe it was meant to be marked.

I used an "*" to indicate graves that no longer have markers but logically fit on those sites. (266 is unmarked, but fits between 265 and 267, which are marked)

The "M" indicates memorial stones, Some of which have names and dates. It is hoped that these names will provide us with further leads.

Dave Huber

Sunset House

Ebensburg Center.

3-26-86

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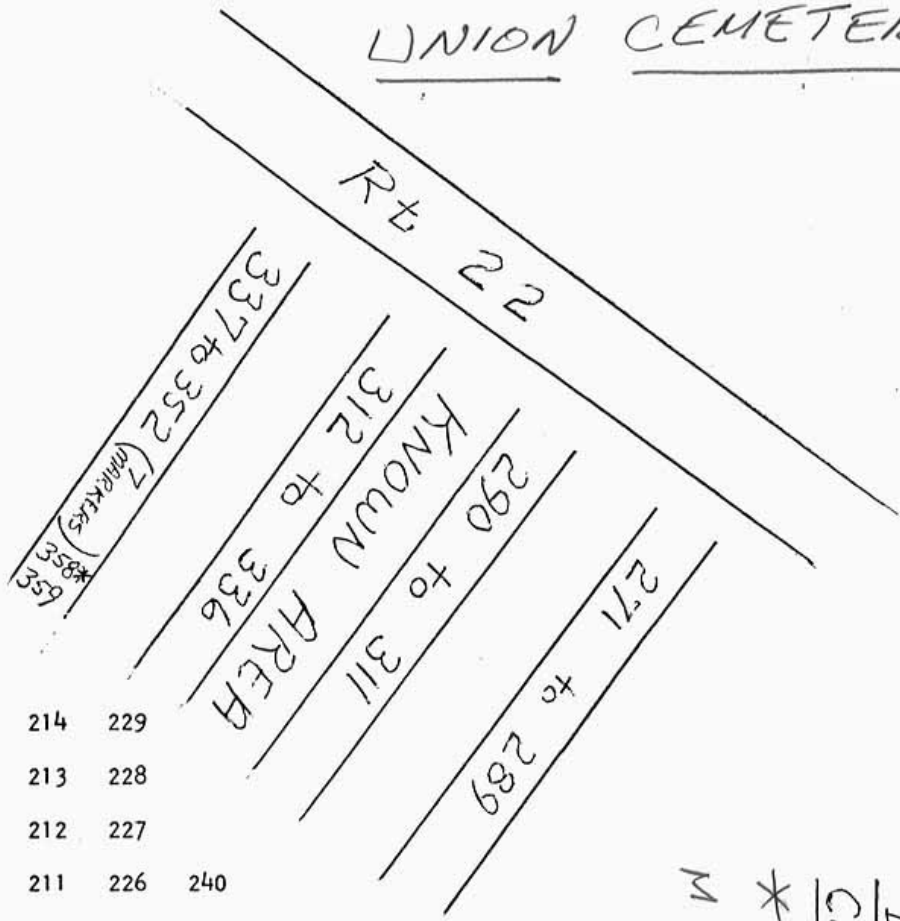
The "M" indicates memorial stones, Some of which have names and dates. It is hoped that these names will provide us with further leads.

Dave Huber

Sunset House

Ebensburg Center.

UNION CEMETERY

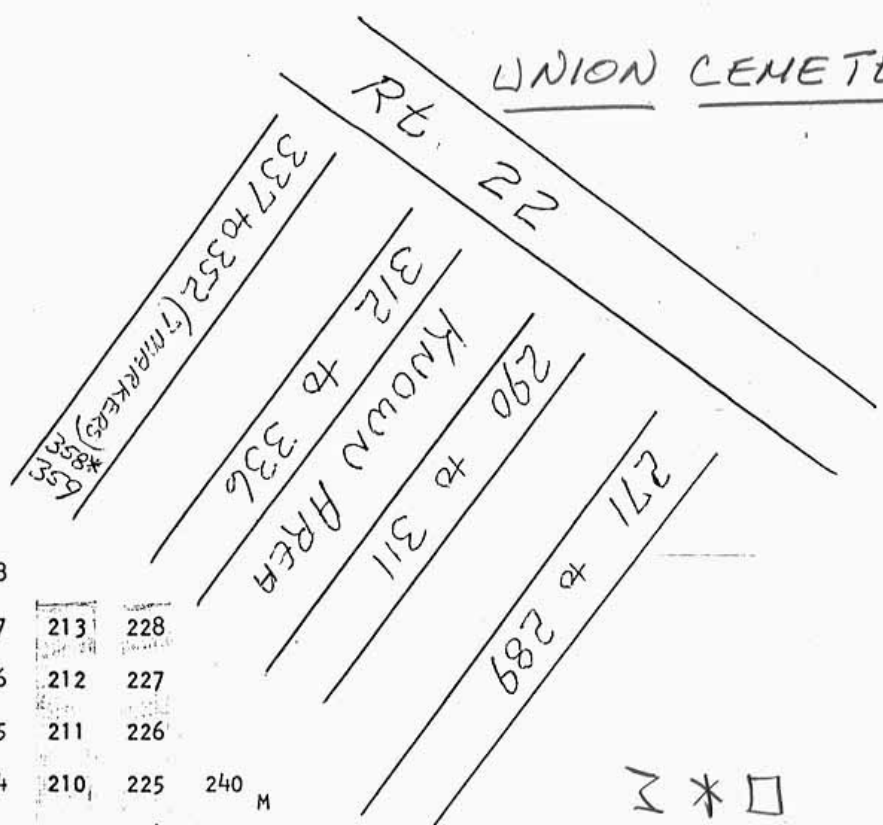


198										
197	214	229								
196	213	228								
195	212	227								
182	194	211	226	240						
181	193	210	225	239 ^M						
170*	180	192	209	224	238	250				
169*	179	191	208	223	237	249				
168	178	190	207	222	236	248				
167	177	189	206	221	235	247	257		270*	
166	176	188	205	220	234	246	256	263	269*	
165	175	187	204	219	233	245 ^M	255	262	268*	
164	174	186	203	218	232	244	254	261	267	
163	173	185	202	217	231	243	253	260	266*	
162	172	184	201	216	230	242	252	259	265	
161	171	183	200	215	229	241	251 ^M	258	264	

DIAGRAM 1
Cemetery as it is currently marked
 * GRAVES w/o MARKERS
 M EXISTING MARKERS

ENTRANCE

UNION CEMETERY



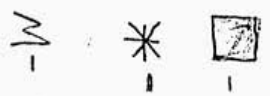
198										
197	213	228								
196	212	227								
195	211	226								
182	194	210	225	240						
	181	193	209	224	M					
170*	180	192	208	223	238	250				
169*	179	191	207	222	237	249				
168	178	190	206	221	236	248				
167	177	189	205	220	235	247	257		270 *	
166	176	188	204	219	234	246	256	263	269*	
165	175	187	203	218	233	245	M 255	262	268*	
164	174	186	202	217	232	244	254	261	267	
163	173	185	201	216	231	243	253	260	266*	
162	172	184	200	215	230	242	252	M 259	265	
161	171	183	199	214	229	241	251	258	264	

□ MISMARKED GRAVES
 * GRAVES W/O MARKERS
 M EXISTING MARKERS

Cemetery as I believe it should have

DIAGRAM 2

ENTRANCE



UNION CEMETERY

