

Lilly Washington Township

In the fall of 1861, at Camp Curtin, Harrisburg, men from Cambria County were mustered into the 55th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Companies A and C. Attached to General Sherman's Army of the South, the 55th saw action in numerous southern battles, ultimately, ending their service at Appomattox Court House where General Lee surrendered. The 55th was mustered out of service on August 30, 1865. During the course of the war the unit lost 10 officers and 469 enlisted men to either combat injury or disease.

The 55th Pennsylvania Infantry is memorialized on a monument located in the Lilly/Washington War Memorial Field.



After returning from the war, it was not uncommon for veterans to form a Grand Army of the Republic Post. In Lilly, the Col. Dick White Post 513 was established in 1867 named after Col. Richard White of the 55th PA Volunteer Infantry. The Grand Army of the Republic Post gave veterans a place to network and communicate after the war. In Lilly, the GAR post closed in 1906.

In anticipation of the closing of the Post, members chose to take remaining funds and created a stained glass window commemorating their Post to be installed in the newly built St. Luke's Lutheran Church. St. Luke's was built in 1904 and dedicated in 1905. Originally, the window was placed on the side of the church facing the rectory. When the church and rectory were connected, the window was shortened and relocated to the new addition. While the exact craftsman who made the window is unknown, a stained glass window specialist determined that the style and manufacturing technique would indicate the window was made in the United States, possibly in Maryland in either Baltimore or Cumberland and by a German craftsman.



Veterans who served in the Civil War from Washington Township are buried in two local cemeteries, St. Bridget's Cemetery (currently, Our Lady of the Alleghenies

Cemetery) and Lillydale Cemetery (owned by St. Luke's). Below are some of the veterans interred in each location. (Click to enlarge)

St. Bridget's Cemetery



Wm George



Wm Brady



Thos. Miner



Lillydale Cemetery



Albert George



Christopher George



Frederick George



Geo. Rupe



George Williams



John Brady



Henry Behe



Henry Martz



-Submitted by Jack Barlick, Washington Township