

Eschenbach Cemetery

THIS PRESERVED FAMILY BURIAL GROUND WAS STARTED IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 1800s



Andrew (Andreas) Eschenbach, Jr. was born December 25, 1745, and lived most of his life in Philadelphia. In 1809 at age 64, he moved with his family to what was later named Tobyhanna Township. Andrew was among the first permanent settlers here, and engaged in making wood shingles by hand. With an already large family, Andrew and his wife, Susan, produced another son, Samuel Greenleaf, on May 14, 1810.

With fewer than a hundred residents in the early years of our community, there were no churches, schools or cemeteries. Having nine sons, one daughter and many grandchildren, the Eschenbach family cemetery became a necessity.

THE LORE OF THE CEMETERY

The cemetery's location near the Eschenbach homestead may have been determined by an existing gravesite. During the Yankee-Pennamite Wars between Pennsylvania and Connecticut, the Battle of Locust Hill raged in this area on August 2, 1784. Documented accounts state there was one mortal casualty: Jacob Everett of the Pennsylvania militia.

Lore handed down through the generations, although lacking firm documentation, is that Everett's final resting place is what later became the Eschenbach Cemetery.

BUILDING A COMMUNITY

The main Eschenbach family occupations were lumbering, running a sawmill that made shingles and wood products, farming the land as it was cleared, and operating boarding houses. Tax records show the Eschenbachs collectively held upward of 1,200 acres in the mid-1800s.

They all contributed to the growth of the community, with Samuel Greenleaf Eschenbach, Esq., leading the way. Appointed by the governor of Pennsylvania, S.G. served his

A PLACE FOR FAMILY

By 1860, there were six Eschenbach households and 37 family members living in the township, and it is thought there are more than 30 graves in this cemetery. With no granite or marble available, headstones were of local fieldstone and slate, and the etchings carved in the soft stone have not survived. One marker indicates a child may be buried there. Many markers are sunk deeply into the gravesites.

Andrew, Susan, and her family are buried here. Pvt. Jacob Eschenbach, son of David and nephew of Samuel, lost his life in the fierce Battle of Antietam on September 21, 1862 during the Civil War. He was reportedly brought home and buried here.



MARRIED.
In Tobyhanna township, on the 21st,
by Samuel G. Eschenbach, Esq., Mr.
Frederick Kinsley, and Miss Sophia
Dieter, both of Stoddardsville, Monroe
co.

first term as justice of the peace at age 26, serving five more terms thereafter. In 1863, S.G. served his first of several terms as a Tobyhanna Township supervisor. He was also tax assessor for several years and a member of the local militia. He had a great deal of interest in the education of the youth of the township, having served as a school board director for seven terms. S.G. was also very supportive of his church.

Visit the Clymer Library local history department and www.TobyhannaTwpHistory.org for genealogy and more family history

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