

Subject: Roy, mail from Fairview Homepage
From: nancyrutman@aol.com
Date: 8/8/2015 5:41 PM
To: roy@schreffler.name

Hello, Roy,

I've always been fascinated with the former Evangelical/Methodist cemetery that used to be located south of Silk Mill Street in Bethlehem. I see that you have compiled a lot of research into the history of that cemetery on the Fairview Cemetery website.

I did a search through Pennsylvania newspapers on Newspapers.com and came across a clipping from 1908 that may interest you. It reports that the reinterment process for the Evangelical Cemetery is underway. I've attached the clipping for your reference. the newspaper is the *Allentown Leader*, November 11, 1908. The same article appeared in the *Allentown Democrat* the following day.

I then did some research on the two undertakers mentioned in the article, P. A. Bergstresser and L. L. Brickel.

Pliny A. Bergstresser's business in Hellertown was taken over by Clarence Templeton in 1942, and by the Heintzelman family in 1984. It is now known as the Heintzelman Funeral Home. See this page for the history: http://www.meaningfulfunerals.net/home/index.cfm/aboutus/history/fh_id/14897/story/9292.

Louis L. Brickel's undertaking business was located on West Laurel Street, between Main and Orchard Streets. After Louis's death in 1925, his wife, Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" (Moyer) Brickel continued to run the business. She died in 1939. She left one son, Edward Brickel, who died a few years later in Gracedale in Upper Nazareth. He is listed in the 1940 census as a "mental case." The undertaker who handled Lizzie Brickel's funeral was Steyers, who later sold their business to Wallace M. Long. It is possible that Steyers took over the Brickel undertaking business.

You might check with the Heintzelman and Cantelmi/Long funeral homes to see if they have the records of the Bergstresser and Brickel businesses.

The newspaper article also mentions that some bodies were reinterred at Nisky Hill, Altonah, and Freemansburg. If these cemeteries have records that list burials by date, you could look through the burials for the last few months of 1908 to find out if any are marked as reinterments.

I hope you will find this information useful. Thank you for maintaining one of Bethlehem's historically important assets!

Best,
Nancy Rutman

—NDC_AllentownLeader_11Nov1908.jpg

REMOVAL OF BODIES.

The work of disinterring nearly 340 bodies, in the old Evangelical Cemetery on Silk Mill Street, Bethlehem, will be completed by Undertakers L. L. Brickel of Bethlehem and A. P. Bergstresser of Hellertown in a day or two. The majority of the bodies are being removed to the Fairview Cemetery, where St. John's Evangelical Church, on North Street, which owns the old burying ground from which the bodies are being removed, has purchased a section of ground. Some of the bodies were removed to Nisky Hill, Altonah and Freemansburg.

Attachments:

NDC_AllentownLeader_11Nov1908.jpg

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