

Barren Hill Cemetery

(PROPERTY OF ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH)

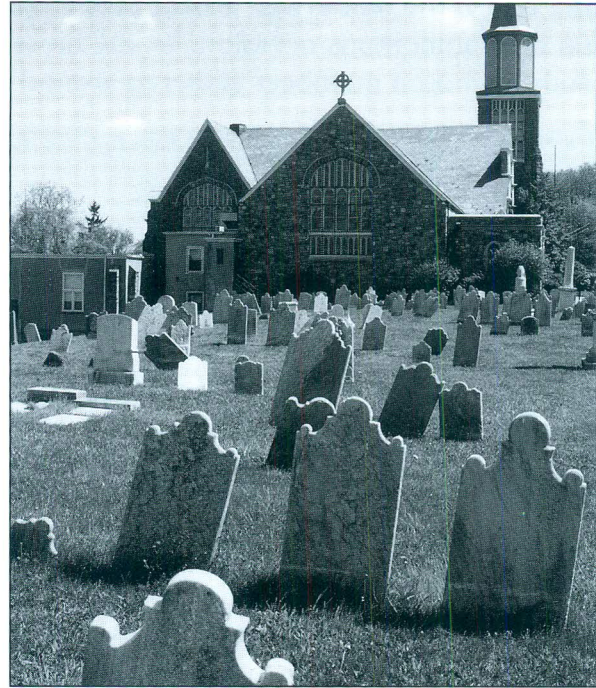
The Barren Hill Cemetery, a division of St. Peter's Church, is one of the oldest and largest church cemeteries in Montgomery County. In 1758, an acre and 35 perches of ground were purchased for three pounds, to be used for a church, schoolhouse and burying ground. The deed dated March 14, 1758 states this to be "for the use and behoof of the Dutch Partisans, their heirs and successors forever." The ground purchased from Leonard Streeper by Reverend Henry M. Muhlenberg and Reverend Peter Brunnholtz, was jointly held until the death of Brunnholtz after which it was vested to the church authorities. The cemetery which surrounds the church building contains the remains of Revolutionary soldiers and many early settlers of the area.

In 1845 additional land for the cemetery was obtained from Peter Streeper Jr. Three and a half acres on the northwest corner of Ridge Pike at Spring Mill Road (now Hart's Lane) opposite the Barren Hill Cemetery, known as the Annex or newer section, was purchased on March 22, 1904 from Percival K. Boyer for \$1,500.

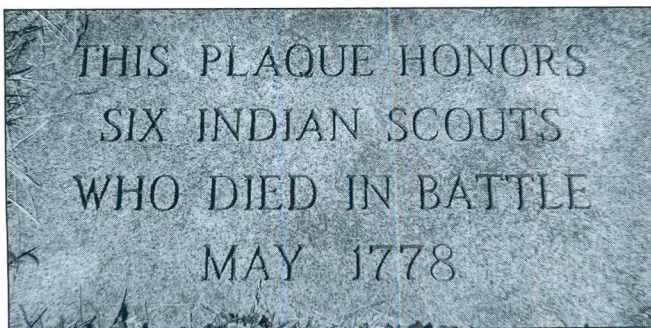
The area around St. Peter's is marked with Revolutionary history. In May 1778 General Lafayette was encamped with 2,200 men in the vicinity of the church to keep watch on the British Army. On being warned of the British approach, Lafayette's clever and elaborate defensive measures in and around St. Peter's graveyard misled the enemy before the Hessians and Redcoats reached the vital road of Lafayette's escape to Valley Forge.

Nine soldiers who fell in the Revolutionary engagement are buried in one section of the old burial ground. Preceding Lafayette's successful retreat from Barren Hill, six Oneida Indians from Massachusetts who served as scouts with the American detachment were killed in May 1778 and are buried here. A metal railing surrounds their gravesite. One of the soldiers buried in the cemetery was Captain William Johnson who commanded a company of

Whitemarsh Militia during the Revolution. On another stone are inscribed these words "Andrew Socks, a soldier of '76." Socks who enlisted May 15th, 1777 was a Private in the Continental Army, 4th Pennsylvania Regiment, Captain McGowen's Company D, served in the Army from 1776-1781. He was living with Mr. Charles Corson in Upper Providence Township and died there on May 23rd, 1826 and buried in St. Peter's.



St. Peter's Cemetery



Revolutionary Indian Scouts Burial Ground

