The Society of the War of 1812

in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**Report of the 1812 Veterans’ Graves Database Committee**

**September 5, 2017**

The Committee continues to grow the database. At our Annual Meeting we reported that the database had 2,400 entries. Now, as of September the total number of entries stands at just over 3,000.

During the last quarter the Committee visited 26 cemeteries in Allegheny, Bedford, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster Luzerne, and Philadelphia Counties. Some visits were planned, some were by random chance. All proved interesting and enlightening.

Interesting (Trivia) Notes:

* Bigler Cemetery, South of Greenville, Mercer County (several 1812 veterans), "Jacob and Susan Bigler parents of 2 governors are buried here. Their son William was Governor of Pennsylvania 1852 - 1855 and son John was Governor of California 1852 – 1856.";
* Similar tombstones have been provided for all veterans of the 135th Pennsylvania Militia, War of 1812 from Mercer County;
* James Gettys, for whom Gettysburg, Pennsylvania was named, was an 1812 veteran (Vice Brigadier, Pennsylvania Militia)

Related research that we’re working on:

* Virtual Cemeteries (for War of 1812 veterans and Society of 1812 members) on Find-A-Grave.com;
* Further investigation of the display of 1812 flags and swords at the U.S. Sanitary Fair held in Philadelphia, 1864;
* Diary kept by Sgt. Greenberg Keen (Detre Library and Archives, John Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh);
* Greenville, Mercer County Memorial Day programs from 1910 and 1915 that list all of the 1812 veterans from Mercer County;
* Rich Vance and Shirley McMunn, responsible for hundreds of 1812 veteran entries on Find-A-Grave.com;
* Were those men who worked on building Perry’s fleet in Erie part of a military unit?

Volunteer opportunities:

* Find-a-grave look-ups for early entries to the database;
* PA Veterans Burial Cards are posted on Ancestry.com and we could use some transcriptions of those for various counties.

Thanks to Jefferson Moak, Bob Marvin, and Tom Showler for their additions to the database.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene A. Bolt, Jr., Committee Chair