

Rock Springs Burying Ground.

Rock Springs burying ground is in the eastern part of the county. There is no data by which any one can tell when the first grave was dug in this quiet and secluded spot. From what we know of the early history of the county, Rocky River and Sugar Creek were the first churches established in the county; but we have undoubted evidence that there were places of burying the dead several years before any church was built. And it may be so here. At any rate, there is no church nearer than Philadelphia, and it is at least one and a half miles distant. Whether the people thought a church would be built in the distant future, we have no way of telling. But in those early days the people thought it no hardship to ride ten to twenty miles to attend church, and to enquire after the welfare of their friends and kindred. Here we find a city of almost forgotten dead. A few tombstones are standing of as beautiful marble as we now see in well-kept cemeteries. Others are of very dark stone, but well polished. Some are soap-stone, and some look as if they had been plank, and handsomely dressed; while some graves look as if an ordinary stone had been placed at either end. But very few have been buried in the last seventy-five years. The graveyard is on the northwest side of the road leading from Mint Hill to the Stanly corner, Marven, Albemarle, etc. It has been enclosed with a rock wall. It is now nearly flat, can be walked over anywhere. There was one acre of ground enclosed, and looks as if it was all used up. There was a ditch four or six feet wide, and probably as deep, around the four sides; the wall was inside the ditch. There are but few large trees among the tombs, but full of small growth.

Some of the names and dates we found are given:

Maj. James Harris, born Dec. 25, 1772, died Sept. 7,

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1811; Samuel L. Harris, born 1767, died 1798; Mary Harris, born July 14, 1749, aged 73.

Catherine Maxwell, born 1774, died 1825.

Elizabeth Wilson, born in the year 1800, died in 1832.

Adam Alexander (one of the signers of the Declaration), died Nov. 13, 1798, aged 70 years and 7 months; Mary, his wife, died Nov. 26, 1813, aged 78 years, 3 months:

Robert Queery, died Aug. 25, 1827, aged 64 years.

Samuel Harris, died 1825, aged 83; Margaret Harris, died 1782, aged 58; Jane Harris, died 1797, aged 42. (One wide tombstone.)

Wm. Morris, died 1804, aged 59.

Elizabeth Morris, born 1750, died 1821.

Hannah Moore, died 1821, aged 58.

Elizabeth Moore, died 1811, aged 18.

Elizabeth Rabb, died 1792, aged 40.

Andrew Rodgers, died 1792, aged 25.

Elizabeth Wilson, died 1802.

No person now living can tell us of the hundreds who sleep in this almost forgotten spot. Was there no historian near this silent city to hand down to the future, that generations yet unborn may know what manner of people preceded them, or are we to lose the labors of all those who preceded us on account of not keeping record? We are truly a people who make history, but we have been too negligent about preserving it. Others come in and rob us of a well-earned fame in many things we have been remiss in not asserting our rights.