
OUR HERITAGE

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Special Edition

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Corhaven Slave Cemetery A Stiegel Connection by Richard Cummings

On May 2, 2016, the Washington Post published a story by Sarah Wheeler titled:

"Long-lost slave cemetery discovered and preserved in rural Virginia." The story is included below in its entirety.

"They sang all six verses of "Amazing Grace," the hundred or so neighbors and visitors who had gathered under gray skies to honor 24 men and women and one child who had died before the end of the Civil War. In life they had all been slaves whose final resting place was a patch of cleared earth about a mile from the master's house in the small community of Quicksburg in the northern part of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. That cemetery was long ago abandoned and had disappeared beneath brush, vines and spreading woods. A century or more may have passed since anyone last visited it. Those buried there seemed to be as forgotten as the place.

"A lost community was found here," was how Sarah Kohrs, director of the newly named Corhaven Graveyard, explained it at the solemn dedication ceremony April 30. More than a year of hard work by several teams of volunteers had returned the burial ground to cleared land. "A cemetery is sometimes the only record left," she said.

The lost graveyard was found when [the nonprofit Coracle](#) wanted to expand its property to include a stretch of nearby Holman Creek. The plan was to create longer walking trails through the woods and along the creek for those who come to Corhaven, as

the retreat farm is known, seeking solace or sanctuary, alone or in groups. A 10-acre slice of a former 600-acre, 18th century plantation named Edge Hill was purchased several years ago.

It wasn't until after the deed was signed that the Rev. Bill Haley, the facility's executive director, and his wife, Tara, who live with their children at Corhaven, began to hear rumors that the new property contained a cemetery. Eventually, a search was launched and an area containing field stone markers and depressions in the earth was found. County records identified it as "Sam Moore's slave cemetery." Samuel Moore, a slave owner, bought Edge Hill in 1846.

The graveyard, one of only three known slave cemeteries in Shenandoah County, is now a part of what Corhaven has to offer. It is a quiet but welcoming place, down the hill and out of sight of the Haley's home. A simple three-rail wood fence encloses the entrance, a walkway defined by rough mulch, and the burial ground. Plain wood benches are provided in the graveyard, where paths skirt the few markers that have survived as well as the graves laid out in several rows. A brass plaque identifies the graveyard and reads: "The names of the unknown souls buried here were not recorded. Yet we know the names of some of the enslaved persons who once labored long on this plantation. Some may lie here. We recognize their dignity. We honor their memory."

A list follows: TOM, GEORGE, NAN & HER CHILD, JAMES, SAM, DOLL, JOHN, OLD NAN, SUE, REUBEN, MARY, JENNY, OLD JACK, SALL, WINNEY, TOBY, ANN AND OTHERS ..."



But what does this unique and interesting place have to do with our Stiegel ancestors? I am Richard Cummings, a 4th great grandson of Jacob Stiegel, only son of Henry William Stiegel. I visited the graveyard to add to my understanding of my ancestors' lives. A large protected bulletin board at the site shows the location of the graveyard near the property line between the land grants of Daniel Holeman and Jacob Holeman. Jacob Stiegel bought both of these properties between 1784 and 1796, so at one time he owned the land where the slave graveyard now lies.

Jacob Stiegel married the daughter of Jacob Holeman and they had one son, Jacob. When Holeman died in 1783, his will bequeathed several slaves to his daughter, Rachel, which then became the property of Stiegel. Those slaves' names were Sall, Jenny, Boatswin, and Nan Sr.

As property, slaves were sometimes recorded in deed books. Shenandoah County Deed Book G, Page 448, dated April 29, 1790, as abstracted by Amelia C. Gilreath reads as follows:

"Know all men by these presents that I Jacob Steagle of County of Shenandoah...have liberated and set free Nan a negro Woman from being my Slave...In testimony I have set my hand & seal this 29th April 1790..."

For more information about the slave graveyard, visit the following page:

<http://inthecoracle.org/what-we-do/slave-cemetery-at-corhaven/>

We are grateful to Richard Cummings for providing this article and others and for making us aware of the graveyard restoration and preservation. We urge our readers to visit the Corhaven website and to support their efforts.



Our Ensminger Library recently added the two photographs of William McComsey's artwork seen here. The above appeared in Manheim's 1962 Bicentennial book. It is a depiction of what Henry William Stiegel's **American Flint Glass Manufactory** might have looked like, based on legend.



Heintzelman Carriage House, Manheim by William McComsey

It was located at the rear of 22 South Prussian Street.

Also Acquired:

A rare variant of Abraham Kline's patented glass stopper for canning jars. See our newsletter dated April 2013, for more information on Abraham Kline and his patents.

A bundle of early quill pens that have amazingly survived from the early times when they would have been used in writing letters and signing documents, pictured in the article on page 6 of this newsletter.

The Stiegel Farm in Augusta County, Va. by Richard Cummings

The townspeople of Manheim may frequently pass Stiegel Street, and occasionally think of the founder of their fine borough in Lancaster County. But many of these folks probably don't know that in Augusta County, Virginia, there is a Stiegel Lane, named for Henry William Stiegel's descendants.



Son Jacob Stiegel bought the land in 1819 and built a fine brick house. He died in 1828 but the farm continued in his family for many years. In fact, the wire services put out a news story in 1943 that was published in many newspapers. The Sandusky Register Star-News was one such paper: "Family Has Record for Land Ownership." Waynesboro, Va. Probably the record for family ownership of a single piece of property in this part of Virginia goes to the Stiegel family, descendants of the originators of the famous Stiegel glass. The family has kept a farm near New Hope for the past 133 years. Grover C. Stiegel of Waynesboro farmed the land until this past spring when his mother, Mrs. Charles B. Stiegel, died. The farm equipment was sold at public auction, and in order to settle the estate, the home was put on the block, but a great grandson of the first owner – Jacob Stiegel – was the high bidder so the land will stay in the family."

Further research shows that the news article is not entirely accurate. Jacob Stiegel did buy land in Augusta County in 1809, but eventually sold that land and bought what was to become the "Stiegel Farm" in 1819. When Jacob died, the farm passed to his only son, also named Jacob. The next Stiegel to take

ownership was son Charles Bright Stiegel who left the farm to his widow, Sallie J. Stiegel in 1902. As the newspaper article explains, it was 1943 when the farm was put up for sale and the highest bidder was a great grandson of Jacob Stiegel. That man was Herbert Walton Stiegel, whose gallant attempt to keep the land in the family fell short when it was sold in 1947. So in fact the land stayed in the Stiegel family for 128 years.

Here is a remarkable photograph of the Stiegel family taken on the Stiegel Farm about 1898, provided by Charles B. Stiegel's great granddaughter Linda Lou Harman Puffenbarger.



From left to right, with birth years: William Franklin (1889), Charles Bright (1824), Louisa (1887), Nancy Alice (1882), Sarah Sallie (1855), Grover Cleveland (1885), and Herbert Walton (1880).

In 1937 the Works Progress Administration of Virginia performed a historical inventory that included the "Sallie J. Steigle Home." The material can be found online at the Library of Virginia page. "Sallie" (seen in the picture above) was interviewed and described as follows: "Mrs. Steigle is an attractive little lady of eighty three summers, who manages this eighty acre farm with the help of a colored man, and lives all alone, milks four cows night and morning, raises poultry, a garden and does all the house work and at time of this visit, she was in garden digging potatoes. She has lived here 57 years."

Unfortunately, according to sources in Augusta, the house no longer stands, having fallen due to neglect. But for a long time it was a fine house on a prized piece of property on the Middle River, a mile and a half northwest of New Hope, Virginia.

At One Time !

Pictured below is the trolley station that at one time stood along the east side of South Main Street, just a short distance south of the railroad tracks. From a diary notation recently received, the station was destroyed by fire on Monday, September 19, 1927.

Also pictured are the original documents for the trolley line to Lancaster. The documents were on exhibit in the HMPF library on December 14, 2003, during the Manheim Christmas Tour of Homes.



The document in the center frame is the original charter of the Lancaster, Petersburg and Manheim Railway (trolley) Company. The other two framed items are a stock certificate of the Railway Company, which represents 71% of the total stock sold, and the original "Articles of Association" of the company dated May 14, 1889. The charter is signed by Pennsylvania Gov. William Stone (1899-1903).

The following is information from the "Articles of Association":

"That the name of the said company is Lancaster, Petersburg & Manheim Railway Company.

That the said company to exist for the term of nine hundred and ninety-nine (999) years.

That the length of said road will be, as near as may be TEN miles.

The route is as follows, namely; commencing at a point, the intersection of North Queen Street and New Street in the city of Lancaster, County of Lancaster and State of Pennsylvania, thence continuing in a northerly direction on North Queen Street to Liberty Street; thence in a westerly direction on Liberty Street to the intersection of the Lancaster & Manheim Turnpike and Liberty Street; thence in a northwesterly direction on and along the said turnpike through the townships of Manheim, East Hempfield, Rapho and Penn; to a point in the southerly line of the borough of Manheim; thence in a northerly direction on and along South Prussian Street in the borough of Manheim to Market Square; thence in a westerly direction on Market Square to Charlotte Street; thence in a southerly direction on Charlotte Street to Stiegel Street; thence in easterly direction on Stiegel Street to an intersection with the above mentioned line on South Prussian Street; thence returning by the same route to the place of beginning, forming a complete circuit by its own tracks.

That said railway is to be operated by Electric power."

Because the Reading Railroad Company would not allow the trolley line to cross their tracks, the Lancaster, Petersburg and Manheim Railway (trolley) Company had to end the route south of the present railroad tracks.



Postcard from Charles Ensminger collection.

Minimum Wage, a Starting Wage?

The diary that provided the information concerning the fire at the trolley station also mentioned that someone had just finished his first week of work at the Stehli Silk Mill in Manheim and his first paycheck for 40 hours, after whatever deductions were taken, was \$8.00. His hourly rate must have been somewhere around 23¢ or 24¢ per hour.

Another entry in the diary, Saturday, July 2, 1927, also mentioned the Fire Company having a carnival, on Ferdinand Street, between Hazel Street and Main Street. The Ringgold Band played and they had a Merry-Go-Round.

One only needed to read a few entries in the diary to realize the close relationship and friendship among many of the town's people. It was, of course, a town with a smaller population (approximately 2000), but it was also a town with greater community pride, and a lot of respect and consideration for others. (Where is it today? JH)



Notice of Publication

The fourth publication in the Manheim "series" by Henry Deemer is now slated for Spring of 2017. It is entitled "Historic and Notable Buildings of Manheim" and will contain 50+ properties of "Yesterday and Today" photos and information. Also included will be a 40+ page "Reminiscence In Advertising" of what really is a small portion of local businesses advertising up to 1976. It is hoped it will "trigger" the memories of many readers. Specific dates will be announced in a later issue.



HMPF wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Very Healthy and Prosperous 2017

Who was Elias Wood?

The quitrent receipts pictured below were signed by Elias Wood, as Stiegel's agent. Was Elias Wood Henry William Stiegel's brother-in-law? In George Heiges' book: *Henry William Stiegel and His Associates*, page 28, George mentions the name Holtz was anglicized to Wood. Henry William's second marriage was to Elizabeth Holtz.

The following first receipt was issued to Christian Staufer during the short period that Isaac Cox and Henry William were the proprietors of the 729 acres that comprised the town of Manheim. The second receipt, dated Apr. 13, 1772, was issued when Henry William was the sole proprietor of Manheim.

February 20. 1770 Paid in full by Christian Staufer the sum of sixteen shillings and six Pence Currency in full for the ground rent of his Lot in Manheim due Oct. 27. Last —
L. 0. 16. 6 for M^{rs}. Stiegel & Cox
Elias Wood

Apr. 13. 1772 Paid by George Cox in full settled with him the sum of one hundred thirteen shillings Currency in full settled with him for the ground rent of Bentonsers old bank in one Lot standing off the —
L. 13. 0 for M^r. Stiegel
E. Wood

From George's book: "In February of the following year-1769-very rich Isaac Cox foreclosed his mortgage of 2,700 pounds held against the Stedmans covering their two-thirds interest in Manheim. He took title August fourth and on February first transferred the Stedman interest to Stiegel for 3,000 pounds. Finally, Stiegel gave Cox a mortgage for 2,500 pounds on his original one-third share in Manheim, as well as an additional mortgage of 560 pounds on his glasshouse.

These financial calisthenics which placed Stiegel in the questionable position of proprietor of all of Manheimtown made him a debtor by mortgages, interest and other debts of more than 10,000 pounds."

Whoever Elias Wood was, he must have been a trusted friend or employee to be collecting the quitrent payments for Stiegel.

There are so many mysteries surrounding the life of Henry Wm. Stiegel.



A Legacy

Those of us who have a knowledge of what occurred in our small town of Manheim over the years, in connection with the loss of our early history, heritage and artifacts, know that what HMPF provides, through the generosity of Elizabeth Keiffer, is a blessing to all who appreciate the preservation of history.

In the past, the town lost historical treasures, with the sale of Nathaniel Long's collection in 1929, the sale of the Danner Collection in 1935, the auction in 1944 of the items on the second floor of the Danner building, and the dispersal of Herman Hart's and Sylvia Rupp's holdings.

Before Elizabeth Keiffer donated her property at 27 Market Square, she said: "I don't want to sell the property or any of the artifacts, I want to provide a place for historical purposes, take care of it". Elizabeth not only provided a great location for the organization but in most cases provided funding for the development of the organization. Elizabeth was pleased with HMPF and said: "I never thought that I would ever be able to provide the organization".

John Kendig and the writer of this article had many discussions concerning bringing back to Manheim much of what was lost over the year through sales, and to trying to keep in Manheim the few artifacts that are still in private hands, should they become available for purchase. The existence of HMPF has made some of this possible.

Gifts and purchases have brought to HMPF the following: 1769 map of Manheim drawn for Henry William Stiegel and Isaac Cox; redware pottery crafted by Christian Singley and John Gibble, wood carvings by Samuel Hull Lehman; wrought iron utensils by blacksmiths C. R. Gibble and John Long; coverlets woven by John Brosey; wooden planes by Jacob Bauder; child's chair crafted by George Nees, circa 1875; the framed Manheim to Lancaster Turnpike map surveyed and drawn by John Miller in 1899, eleven feet in length; 1762 Stiegel deed; chair from the Ensminger photography studio; scales from the Ruhl and Ensminger drugstores; beaver hat made by Manheim hatters A & C Miller, (circa 1846), and other important items for our museum, library and archives.

JH

The bundle of early quills pictured above was found in an old store in Petersburg, Virginia by Frank Hatch, a Richmond, Virginia collector of early American glass (bottles, inkwells, etc.). His collection was dispersed several years ago and the quills were acquired at that time by Ed and Lucy Faulkner. The quills are pictured in their wonderful book: **INKS, 150 Years of Bottles and Companies**.

Recently, Mrs. Faulkner decided to part with the quills, and, in deciding this, she said: "**I will sell the quills soon, I guess. I really hate to, but a museum could preserve them better than me.**" The quills were acquired by HMPF and are now on display in our museum.

We were interested!



The cobalt blue ink bottle pictured here was sold at auction on October 31, 2016 by Glassworks Auctions. The bottle was first sold at auction in 1980, when the William Covill collection of ink bottles and inkwells was sold at auction by Skinners Auctions. In Mr. Covill's book: **Ink Bottles and Inkwells**, the bottle, Fig. 222, is listed as: Cobalt blue, pontil, 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ D x 3 $\frac{7}{8}$ H, Stiegel type, blown in a 17-rib mold, late 18th or early 19th century.

We tried to acquire the ink bottle to exhibit with the quills but failed with our attempt. The bottle realized a price almost six times the high estimate placed on it by the auction company.

HMPF was given permission by Glass Works Auctions to use the above picture in this article.

From the first day that HMPF was established, 2001, the organization has been dedicated to acquiring early Manheim related items for the museum and library. This meant trying to acquire things when they were sold at auction and at fixed prices. The organization has been successful most times and has brought back to Manheim many important items. We missed on acquiring the above cobalt blue Stiegel-type bottle but the future is certain to bring to HMPF many wonderful historically important items.