

Historical Commission

ADDISVILLE GRAVEYARD – NOW AND THEN

Did you ever notice those two sets of steps adjoining the stone wall around the old Addisville graveyard on Second Street Pike? Wonder why they are there? Maybe a stairway to heaven? Not really. Various names are attached to them – upping stones, coach steps, carriage steps, mounting blocks and more. They were built in 1816 when the graveyard was enclosed with the stone wall. The steps were built “for ease in mounting horse or carriage.”

In the early 1750s, an acre of land was purchased. The graveyard was laid out and a little church erected. That building was razed after the original section of the present Addisville Reformed Church was constructed in the late 1850s, leaving just the graveyard in the original location. Roots of the church go back to 1710 when the local Dutch residents formed the Church of Bensalem and Sammeny (Neshaminy) in Bensalem.



Several graves have markers, acknowledging Revolutionary War veterans. Arguably the most illustrious graveyard “resident” is Henry Wyncoop (1737-1816). As a Northampton native and resident, he was a delegate to the Continental Congress, a representative from Pennsylvania to the first U.S. Congress and a State court judge.

If you are interested in learning more about the township’s history, the Northampton Historical Commission encourages you to stop by the township’s archives, located in the library. The archives are open to the public on Mondays from noon to 7 p.m. and on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., or by appointment. The archivist can be reached at 215-357-3050 or by email at nht.archivist@gmail.com and the Historical Commission can be reached at nhthistoricalcommission1@gmail.com.