

Who is buried in the Colesville Cemetery?

What are their Stories?

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This is a summary of genealogical research conducted from October 2022 through June 2023. Research family trees (private) were developed on Ancestry.com. A public record of the Colesville Methodist Cemetery with memorials for each of the burials was developed on FindAGrave.com.

The cemetery in Colesville was associated with the Methodist Episcopal Chapel that once stood near the intersection of Oakhurst Drive and Old Bethlehem Pike. Land for the chapel was provided by the Lehigh Zinc Company. The chapel was built in 1863 by Dr. Henry S. Clements who practiced medicine in nearby Friedensville. It is shown on an 1876 map of the area. The Reverend Nathan Durrell was the first Methodist minister at the chapel from 1863 to 1865. The chapel served a congregation with many Cornish mining families who worked at the zinc mines located between Colesville and Friedensville. In 1876, most of the mines closed for a few years. The miners moved on to other mining areas. The last permanent Methodist minister left in 1877. The last burial was in 1882. The chapel may have continued to be used occasionally by the Methodists with visiting ministers. It was also used by a New Reformed Lutheran congregation for a period of time.

In 1924, the local Catholic community began to use the Methodist chapel building as a mission church under the sponsorship of St. Ursula's Church in Fountain Hill, PA. This continued until 1927 when construction of a new Catholic chapel was completed across the intersection of Oakhurst Drive and Old Bethlehem Pike. The new chapel was known as the Chapel of St. Joseph. In 1952 it was renamed the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) and was expanded shortly thereafter. In 1963, the cemetery lot was sold by the Methodists and the chapel lot was sold by its private owners to the Assumption BVM Church.

From the inscriptions on the broken gravestones and our historical and genealogical research, we believe that the cemetery has 7 burials. Each person whose remains are interred there has a personal story. Reconstructing those stories is a work in progress. By telling their stories we hope to give them the respect that has long been forgotten. In alphabetical order, here is what we have found so far.

Samuel Adams (November 20, 1843 – May 16, 1872, aged 28 years (stone says 29), 5 months, 27 days)

Samuel Adams was born in St. Hillary, Cornwall, England. The 1851 English Census lists him living with his parents, Samuel and Mary Adams, and his 3 brothers in St. Ives

Parish. All of the members of the family are listed as tin miners. In the 1861 English Census, the family is living in Balnoon, possibly a mine location, in Uny Lelant Parish, near St. Ives. The male members of the household are listed as tin miners. Samuel married Susan Roscorla in October 1864. Susan was a Bal Maiden, a woman who worked at a mine. Bal Maidens, usually young or unmarried women, worked on the surface frequently on the dressing floors where the ore minerals were separated from waste country rock. They emigrated to America in 1869. In the 1870 US Census for Upper Saucon Township, Samuel and Susan are living in a house with two other zinc miners who are probably boarding with them.

Sadly, on May 16, 1872, Samuel died in a mining accident. A death notice from the *Globe Times* states that he was killed falling down a 90-foot-deep mineshaft at the Lehigh Zinc Company mine (presumably the Ueberroth Mine). The notice says he was married and a member of Keystone Lodge No. 78 I. O. O. F. (Independent Order of Odd Fellows). The Mystic Lodge No. 157 K. of P. (Knights of Pythias) also participated in the funeral.

After his death, Susan married John Adams, an English laborer (possibly in an anthracite mine) who was living in Lackawanna, Luzerne County, PA, in 1870. John had three children by his first wife, Kate, who presumably had died. Susan and John raised the three children all of whom married and had many descendants. In 1880 the family was in Virginia City, Nevada mining on the Comstock Lode.

Mary Jane Bennett/Bennetts (March 15, 1847 - July 25, 1868, aged 21 years, 4 months, 10 days), first wife of Thomas Bennett/Bennetts

Mary Jane Collins Bennett was born in Camborne, Cornwall, England. She was the first wife of Thomas Bennett and the mother of Mary Elizabeth Bennett. Based on the dates on her gravestone, she likely died of complications from the birth of their daughter. Childbirth was a risky business in the 1800s and took the lives of other women in the cemetery.

The 1870 US Census for Upper Saucon Township shows the household headed by Mary Ann Collins, probably a widow, who was Mary Jane's mother. Mary Ann Skinner Collins was married to William Collins also of Camborne. We do not know when he died or if they emigrated together. They had two other daughters, Elizabeth Ann, age 20, and Harriet, age 17, both born in Camborne. Harriet's later Census data indicates they emigrated in 1864. She also had 4 boarders, a miner, 2 masons, and a blacksmith, who were likely employed at the Ueberroth Mine. Because of the dates, some were possibly involved in construction of the Cornish-style engine house which would contain The President steam driven pumping engine. Everyone in the Collins household was born in England. The Collins house is shown on the 1876 map, immediately adjacent to the Methodist Chapel.

Mary Jane's husband, Thomas Bennett (1845-1928), was a native of Cornwall. The 1861 English Census shows him living with his parents, Thomas and Pheronna Bennett, on Trelowarren Street in Camborne, a famous center of Cornish mining. His father and four sons were all copper miners. Thomas immigrated in 1865 and found work in Dover, NJ, an iron mining area. At some time after that he came to the Friedensville to work in the zinc mines.

It is not certain when Thomas and Mary Jane Collins married, but seems likely that it was in Colesville around 1867. As a single miner, he may have been boarding at the home of Mary Ann Collins. After Mary Jane's death, Thomas married Sarah Ann Reichard in 1869. They had previously met while he was boarding at her parents' home in Friedensville. In the 1870 US Census, Thomas is listed as a miner living with his new wife Sara Ann and his 2-year-old daughter, Mary Elizabeth. Thomas and Sarah Ann had three additional children by the time of the 1880 US Census. A 1919 newspaper article reports that Thomas had been a foreman at the zinc mine and worked with The President pumping engine.

Mary Jane's and Thomas's daughter, Mary Elizabeth, would marry George Washington Kauffman, Jr. They lived in Friedensville for many years. Their son, Victor Preston Kauffman would become the Chief of Police for Fountain Hill in Bethlehem, PA.

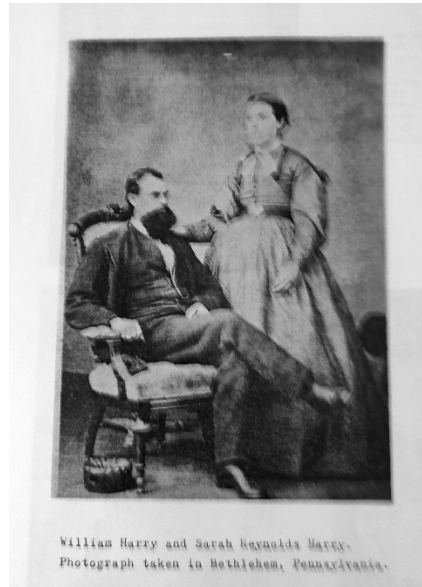
Mary Jane's sister Harriet married Josiah Reed, a Cornish copper miner, in 1873. They first lived in Michigan's Copper Country. Their first child, Martha Jane, was born in Calumet, MI in 1874. They returned to Crowan, Cornwall where he mined tin. Their second child, Josiah, Jr., was born in Crowan in 1884. Around 1885 they returned to Michigan and had other children there. Harriett died in Baltic, Houghton County, Michigan in 1939.

Sarah Harry (February 12, 1834 – April 5, 1872, aged 38 years, 1 month, 23 days), wife of William Harry

Sarah Harry's gravestone proudly says she was born in Cornwall although the 1861 English Census says she was born in Ireland. Perhaps she came to Cornwall as a young child and considered it home. In that Census she and her husband, William Harry, have her mother, Johanna "Runnels" (probably Reynolds without the Cornish accent), and a boarder living with them in Harland, a mining location in Breage Parish. Both William and the boarder are [steam] engine workers at a tin mine. The ruins of a large Cornish steam engine house from the Great Work Mine remains in that area. It is similar to the one in Friedensville.

In the 1870 US Census for Upper Saucon Township, William and Sarah and their growing family of 4 daughters are recorded under the surname Harvey, likely an error by the census taker who also misunderstood the Cornish accent. They had emigrated in 1865. Sadly, Sarah died of complications of the birth of their fifth daughter, Mary Louise, who also passed at the age of only four months. Mary Louise is buried with her mother. An undated photo of Sarah and William was taken in Bethlehem, PA. She

appears to be expecting, possibly with either Annie or Mary Louise. (Courtesy of Catherine Quayle of Placerville, CA, a descendant of William's brother Richard Harry.)



William's Cornish skills as a steam engine operator did not go unnoticed. The *South Australia Advertiser* and the *Engineering and Mining Journal* both place him in Friedensville in 1872, at the Ueberroth Mine, operating The President, the largest single cylinder stationary steam pumping engine ever built. The *Engineering and Mining Journal* further describes him as part of a team led by John West of the Lehigh Zinc Company who designed and constructed the engine and stone engine house.

Following Sara Harry's death, with the matchmaking advice from his mother back in Cornwall, William married Elizabeth Williams in 1875. She was from Boscrege, Cornwall which is about mile from William's birthplace of Godolphin Cross, both in Breage Parish. They were married in Philadelphia on the day of her arrival. In the 1880 and 1900 US Censuses, they and their growing family lived in Cranston, RI. William is listed as an engineer operating stationery steam engines at the Providence Water Works.

William Harry's story is part of a larger saga with his three brothers who emigrated from Cornwall to California where they were well regarded for their Cornish mining skills in the famous gold and mercury mines in Grass Valley and New Almaden. See the Sidebar.

Mary Louise Harry (1872-1872)

Mary Louise, the infant daughter of William and Sarah Harry, lived only 4 months. She is buried with her mother who died during the childbirth.

Thomas Jackson (June 23, 1807- May 14, 1868, aged 60 years, 10 months, 22 days)

A July 12, 1807 baptism record has been found for a Thomas Jackson in Mary Tavy, Devon. This is close to the birthdate on Thomas' gravestone, June 23, 1807. His parents were Robert Jackson and Sarah Harris who were married in Illogan, Cornwall, in 1786. They had two sons, Robert and William who were born in Illogan. They had two other sons, Thomas and Jacob, born in Mary Tavy. Information has yet to be found on how Thomas Jackson arrived in the Friedensville-Colesville area. In the deed for the chapel property dated 1866, he is listed a Trustee of the Methodist chapel, so it seems that he lived in the area at the time of the property's transfer from Lehigh Zinc Company to the Methodist Episcopal Church of Friedensville.

There are two Jackson families in the 1870 US Census for Upper Saucon Township, headed by different Robert and William Jacksons. Genealogical research shows they were brothers and copper miners like their father and mother, Peter and Margery Jackson of Mary Tavy, Devon, UK, before they emigrated. A John Jackson who is with William's family in TN in 1860 is also likely a brother.

William Jackson had an extensive mining career in the US. His children were born in TN, Silver Hill, NC, and PA. He had mining jobs in all these places. William died in Cranston, RI in 1909. He was a Mine Superintendent in Cranston in the 1900 Census. There were anthracite coal mines there at that time.

Robert is listed as a miner the 1870 census. He and his wife went back to the United Kingdom. They are in the 1881 UK Census for Exeter. It appears that John also went back to Devon.

To date, no definitive connection has been made between Thomas Jackson and the two local Jackson families named in the 1870 census. Volunteers from the Devon Family History Society have investigated local records but have not found a link. It is still tempting to speculate that there is some connection in Mary Tavy that may exist in old church records yet to be found. Could Thomas Jackson have been staying with a nephew or cousin in Friedensville/Colesville at the time of his death? This is still a work-in-progress.

Wm. [William] Miles (March/April 1817-30 May 1882)

William Miles is the mystery man in the Colesville Methodist Cemetery. He was the last person interred. His burial occurred after the last Methodist minister had left in 1877. Nothing is known for certain about him other than what is readable on his broken headstone. It says he was 65 years 2 months old when he died. This means he was born around March or April 1817. He had loved ones for sure. His footstone bears the

inscription "Our Beloved Father." There are no Miles families in the 1870 or 1880 US Censuses for Upper Saucon Township.

Genealogical research has identified several Miles families but none in the Friedensville-Colesville area during Census years. The most likely family is headed by William Miles and his wife Charity Richard(s), born in Breage Parish in Cornwall. They had 7 children, all born in Breage. They emigrated around 1867. The long-time Superintendent at the Ueberroth Mine, Richard Pascoe, and other local mining families had similar connections to Breage. This William and his boys worked as tin miners in Cornwall. In the 1870 US Census, William and one of his sons, Samuel, are in NJ working as iron miners. We do not know for sure if William or any of the sons worked in Friedensville. Other miners from the NJ iron mines did come to the Friedensville mines (See Mary Jane Stevens Gumma below). It seems possible between Census years that Samuel may have been there. He is unaccounted for from 1870 until 1889. Several family members moved west working in hardrock mining in the Michigan Copper Country and Butte, MT. In the 1880 Census, William and Charity and their daughter, Grace, are back in the NJ iron mining area. He is listed as "feeble." It seems possible that his ill health led to his death and burial in Colesville, perhaps while staying with a relative or friend.

Martha Jane Stevens wife of E. C. Gumma (July 16, 1845-November 25, 1879)

Martha Jane (AKA Mary Jane) Stevens was born in North Carolina. In the 1850 US Census, she is with her parents, Martin and Jane Stevens in Gold Hill, NC, in the 1860 they are in Jackson Hill, NC, and in the 1870 Censuses they are living in Silver Hill, NC. Martin was baptized in Phillack, near Hayle in Cornwall in 1806. In 1836 Martin married Jane Tonkin, also English and possibly Cornish, in Mecklenburg, NC. He had obviously immigrated sometime before 1836, probably during the North Carolina Gold Rush of the 1820s and 1830s. Many Cornish miners immigrated to America during that period.

In the 1880 US Census for Upper Saucon Township, taken shortly after Martha Jane had passed, her husband, [Edward] Charles Gumma, a miner, was living with his three children in the household of his in-laws, Martin and Jane Stevens. He never remarried. Based on the children's dates and places of birth, we know that they were probably married around 1870 in Silver Hill, the birthplace of their first child. Their second child was born in Teabow, NJ, an iron mining location near Dover, NJ. Their third child was born in Upper Saucon on the same date as his mother's passing, indicating that she also died of complications of childbirth. Like many Cornish miners in those days, both generations moved around among various mining locations.

A Note About Other Burials

The seven burials described above are all that have been documented based on the six existing gravestones in the cemetery. The Upper Saucon Bicentennial History volume published in 1976 mentions two other burials but no trace of them has been found.

Henry Clemens. Dr. Henry S. Clemens, sponsored the Methodist Chapel in Colesville. His first wife, Emily Hartman, a native of Friedensville, died in 1870. Dr. Clemens married his second wife, Elizabeth Jones, in 1872. Dr. Clemens, Emily, and Elizabeth are buried in the Union West End Cemetery in Allentown with other family members. On Emily's gravestone, there is an inscription "Our Darling Harry." We conclude that he was her son who died shortly after his birth in 1870, at the time of Emily's death. A separate gravestone says, "Infant Son," died August 28, 1873. We conclude that he was the son of Dr. Clemens and Elizabeth. If this conclusion is correct, the 1976 Bicentennial History authors must have made an inaccurate assumption that the young Henry/Harry Clemens was buried in the Colesville cemetery because his father was known as a founder and trustee of the Methodist chapel.

Nathan Mills' grave was also mentioned in the Bicentennial History. It seems most likely that the Bicentennial History authors were referring to the grave of William Miles.

Do You Believe in Coincidences?

Richard W. Pascoe was the Mine Captain/Superintendent at the Ueberroth Mine under Joseph Wharton of the Pennsylvania and Lehigh Zinc Company from 1853-1857. In 1865, he returned to the Ueberroth Mine now part of the renamed Lehigh Zinc Company. Pascoe was also born in the Breage Parish in Cornwall, England. He emigrated in 1848 and first worked in the anthracite coal mines in Kaska, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. Like many experienced Cornish mine managers, he consulted at other mines. One such assignment was at the Silver Hill Mine in Davidson County, NC. It was owned by Franklin Osgood who operated the Correll Mine in Friedensville and the Bergen Point Zinc Company in New Jersey. During the Civil War, Pascoe, although still on the books as the manager of the Ueberroth, was unable to return north to his family in Friedensville. When the war ended in 1865, he finally returned to his post at the Ueberroth. He remained at the Ueberroth until it closed in 1876. In 1881, Osgood purchased all the Friedensville mines from the Lehigh Zinc Company.

Did Pascoe know or know of the Friedensville miners who were also born in Breage and Camborne? How about those that worked at Silver Hill? It may be more than a coincidence that so many of them ended up working in Friedensville. You decide.

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The Amazing Story of the Four Harry Brothers Cornish Miners Who Came to America

William Harry (1836-1905)

The story of Cornishman William Harry and The President steam pumping engine at the Ueberroth Mine has been discussed above. His father, Charles Harry, was tragically killed in a mine accident at the Wheal Vor tin mine at the age of 36. His mother, Elizabeth Dunn, then raised their seven sons, all of whom worked in mining in their early years. Three of the boys stayed in Cornwall, England. William and three other brothers came to America. His brothers made important contributions to the development of the mining industry in the west.

James Harry, Sr. (1848-1895)

James Harry Married Elizabeth Carolyon in 1857 in Cornwall and emigrated to the US in 1869. He landed in New York and then proceeded to California by way of Panama. He went first to the underground gold mines in the famous towns of Nevada City and Grass Valley in Nevada County. In 1872 he moved on to the mercury mines in New Almaden in Santa Clara County where his brother Richard was already employed. There he worked his way up to the position of Mine Captain by 1881 and later became Superintendent. Mercury was the key to recovering gold from crushed ore; however, by the early 1890s the ore at New Almaden was nearing exhaustion. Using his mining and geological expertise, in 1894 he discovered extensive new reserves of ore that extended the life of the mine by a decade. This made him legendary in mining circles.

Richard Harry (1844-1907)

Richard Harry emigrated in 1862. He went to California and married Mary Louise Rouse who also had Cornish roots. Richard was an experienced and well-respected miner at the New Almaden mine where he had come in 1864. When his brother, James, died it was assumed that Richard would take his place as Superintendent; however, company politics prevailed and Richard got to train a new Superintendent appointed by the owners in New York.

Joseph Harry (1840-1910)

Joseph Harry emigrated in 1865. He married Leminhah Champion from Cornwall in California in 1870. He was a well-respected miner in Grass Valley, California. When he died in 1910, the large Empire Gold Mine where he worked shut down for the day so that his fellow miners could attend his funeral. The Grass Valley Miners Union marched in mass to the graveyard for his burial.