

Honoring Those Who Served!

As Independence Day approaches this year, along with my starting back into transcribing cemeteries to help not only in my own research, but that of others, I started reflecting on some of my beliefs. I believe that people who fought to make this country what it is today, like those who fought during the Revolutionary War for our Independence, and those who still fight for it should be honored, not only in life, but also after death. There are different ways we can honor our veterans, by having parades, by having a military burial when they die and also by erecting a veterans tombstone on their grave and placing a flag there every year.

As a person who had an ancestor, George Gould, who fought and died in the French & Indian War, seven ancestors, John Brandon, Abraham Fiscus, John Gould, Garret Fiscus, William Marshall Sr., Robert Clugston and Michael Coon, who fought in the Revolutionary War, an ancestor, John George Gould, who fought in the War of 1812, along with three ancestors who fought in the Civil War on both sides, Robert Bash (Union), David Curry (Confederate), and Marshall McDermott Sr. (Union), and my own father, Lonnie E. Currie, who fought in World War II, I feel they should all have military stones to honor them for their patriotism. Without these brave men, along with countless others who fought in these wars we would not have the very freedoms and choices we have today.

A couple of years ago I was able to honor one of my Revolutionary War ancestors, John Brandon, by placing a military stone for him, although I was not able to place it at his grave, because no one is certain where exactly in the Old Washington Church Cemetery anyone were buried and the fear of vandalism, I placed his stone beside another one of his descendants in the present day Washington Church Cemetery.

Two years ago in trying to record all of the cemeteries that are still in existence in Indiana County, PA, I visited a family cemetery in Black Lick Township. In this particular cemetery there are three Civil War veterans among other family members, only one of the graves is even marked with an actual tombstone, the rest are merely marked with fieldstones. After visiting this cemetery and talking with others I contacted Veterans Affairs about having the three bronze plaques made for the veterans. All three plaques were made and have now been erected to honor Silas Cribbs, George Cribbs, and George Coover, for their courage in fighting for this country.

Along with my continuing quest to transcribe the cemeteries in Indiana County, I am hoping to also honor more of my own ancestors and relatives who have not been given military stones this year, as I feel they just deserve.