

**Geophysical Investigations of  
Memorial Park, Indiana County, Pennsylvania**



**Report Submitted to the  
Indiana County Parks and Trails Department  
1128 Blue Spruce Rd.  
Indiana, PA 15701**

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**December 1, 2006**

## **Geophysical Investigations at Memorial Park, Indiana County, Pennsylvania Introduction, Summary of Preliminary Research, and Conclusions**

### **Introduction**

This brief introduction to the geophysical investigations at Memorial Park in Indiana Boro, Indiana County, Pennsylvania was prepared by Dr. Beverly Chiarulli, director of Indiana University of Pennsylvania Archaeological Services. The investigation was conducted at the request of and under contract to the Indiana County Parks and Trails department as a preliminary study of the utility of geophysical investigations to determine if unmarked graves are present in the park.

The geophysical investigations were conducted by Mr. William Johnson, of D'Appolonia Engineering in Pittsburgh. He conducted field investigations of the northwest quadrant of the park on November 11 and November 24, 2006. On November 11, he was assisted by Dr. Chiarulli, and two of Archaeological Services staff assistants, Amy Salsgiver and Isaac McKeever who mapped the survey lines and other features in the park and assisted Mr. Johnson with his measurements. Between November 11 and November 26, Mr. Johnson processed the geophysical data and prepared the report which follows this introduction. At the same time, Marian Smeltzer, an IUP student assisted Dr. Chiarulli in a preliminary review of historic primary and secondary source materials about the cemetery.

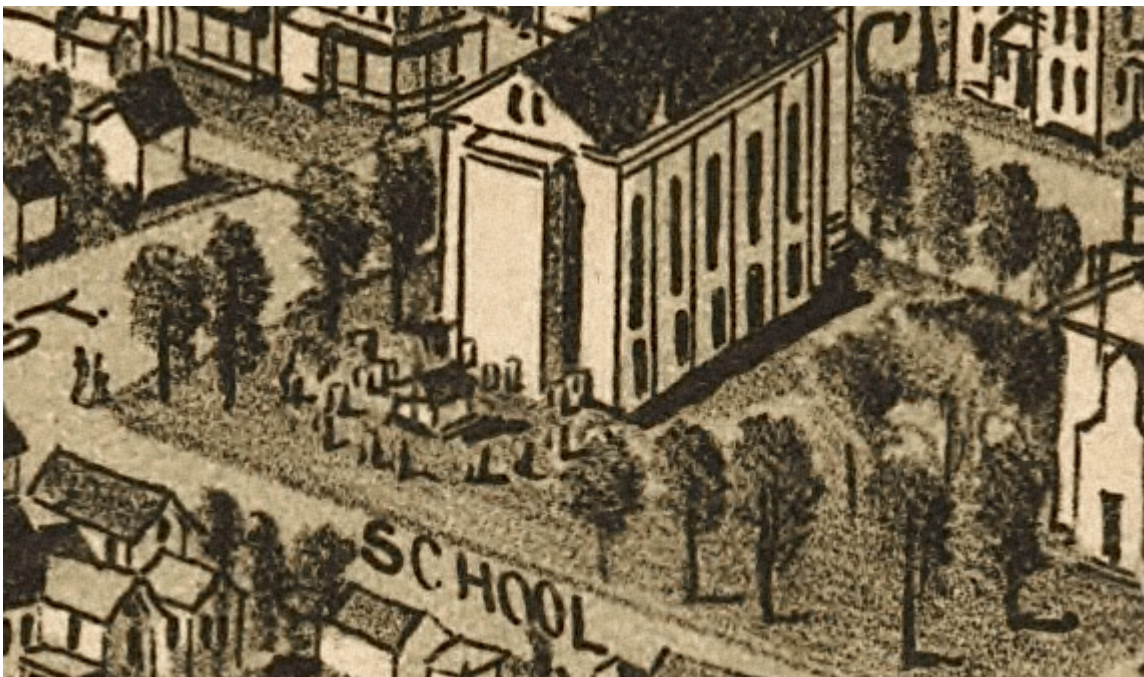
### **Summary of Preliminary Research**

#### ***Historic Research***

Table 1 following this introduction summarizes this information and provides a timeline of the history of the cemetery's use and abandonment. According to these records, land for the "Lutheran" cemetery which became Memorial Park and for a Presbyterian cemetery and church was donated by Conrad Rice (or Reis) possibly as early as 1804 or 1806 (Table 1, Items 2 and 3). It appears that the Presbyterian graveyard was used in 1807 for the first burial in the borough, while the first burial in the Lutheran cemetery was not until 1814. Because of the connection between the Lutheran cemetery and the Presbyterian churches and cemetery, there is some confusion in the historic records. There are some indications that the Presbyterian cemeteries ceased to be used for burials earlier than the Lutheran cemetery, and there are references in the records to the movement of burials from the Presbyterian to the Lutheran cemetery. However, a "birds eye view of Indiana Borough in 1900 shows tombstones still standing to the south of one of the Presbyterian Churches at the corner of Seventh and School streets, while Memorial Park has a park like appearance.



**Figure 1: Birds Eye View of Indiana, PA in 1900 (From the collections of the Library of Congress)**



**Figure 2: Southside of Presbyterian Church showing tombstones (From the collections of the Library of Congress)**

Whether burials were ever moved either into or out of the Lutheran Cemetery/Memorial Park is unclear. Frequently, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, burials are reported to have been moved from a cemetery when in fact only the tombstones were moved. In the 1980, during the

construction of I-279 through the northside of Pittsburgh, 740 burials were excavated by archaeologists from a city block where a German Lutheran Church had a cemetery from 1830-1860. The burials were reported to have been moved, but in fact only the tombstones were removed even though the church remained as an active congregation until the construction of the expressway began (Landers 2006).

Burials were interred in Memorial Park until 1875 (Table 1). At that time, the Indiana Borough Council passed an ordinance prohibiting further burials at the “Lutheran” graveyard. Even though the property was used as a cemetery until 1875, there are reports from the 1850s and 1860s that it was in disrepair, that tombstones had fallen over and that the cemetery served as a stop on the “Underground Railroad” where runaway slaves could hide among the overgrowth and tombstones. Table 2 lists the names of individuals who may have been interred in the cemetery. Including the 27 names known from extant markers, there are a total of 65 names listed on Table 2. One individual is reported to have been buried in 1901, well after the cemetery is thought to have been taken out of use as a graveyard, so there are some contradictions in this information. There are reports that individuals were moved from the Presbyterian cemeteries into Memorial Park and from Memorial Park to other unknown locations. With Oakland Cemetery coming into use during the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, additional research might focus on a comparison of the names in that cemetery and the earlier graveyards to look for relocations. However, even if tombstones were relocated, it is likely that unmarked graves remain in the park, given common 19<sup>th</sup> century practices.

### ***Geophysical Survey***

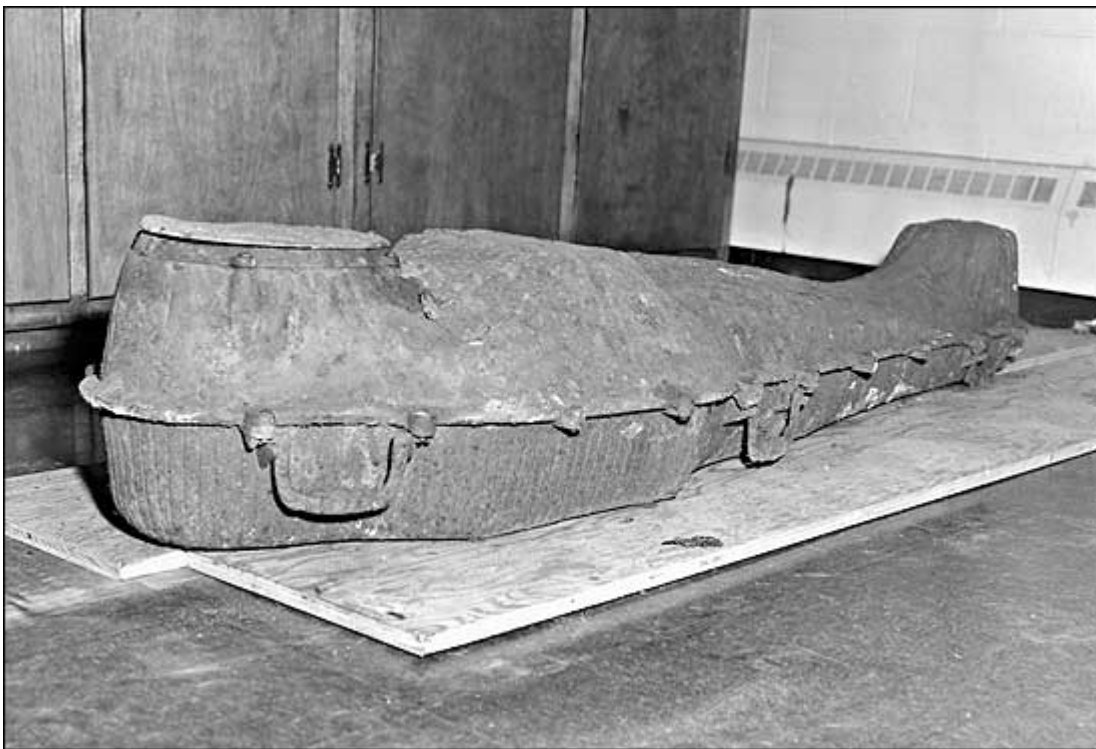
As detailed in Mr. Johnson’s report (attached), the ground penetrating radar survey identified numerous anomalies in the surveyed quadrant of the park. Figure 6 (in the geophysical report) shows his interpretation of how these anomalies might indicate the presence of graves and suggests that there could be as many as 124 potential burial locations in this single quadrant of the park. This number is much higher than the number of documented interments in the cemetery, although the compact spacing is not unlike the density seen in some 19<sup>th</sup> century cemeteries such as the Voegtly cemetery in Pittsburgh. This degree of disturbance may indicate that a layer of fill covers the surface of the cemetery. It may also indicate that the cemetery is disturbed because most of the burials have been removed and relocated to another cemetery. A final possibility is that the disturbance is caused by the presence of numerous unmarked graves in the cemetery. The results of the deep metal detector survey (the EM-61) suggests that some of the anomalies in the park are made of metal and could be metal coffins. According to the Colonial Williamsburg website

“... the traditional coffin began to be replaced by elaborately shaped sarcophagi that became the genesis of the modern casket. Early in the nineteenth century cast iron began to be used for everything from bridges and erector-set buildings to chairs and railings. It was not long before coffins joined the inventory, and in 1836, James A. Gray of Richmond obtained an American patent for a metallic coffin. More successful, however, was Almond D. Fisk, whose Metallic Burial Case went into

production in Providence, Rhode Island, around 1848 and whose company was acquired by Crane, Breed and Co. of Cincinnati in 1853.

Fisk's castings came in shapes ranging from an Egyptian mummy to something resembling a deep-sea diver. Common to all was a glass window at the head, not to enable the deceased to look out but to let relatives look in. Fisk said the tightly sealed cases "may be filled with any gas or fluid having the property of preventing putrefaction." The intent was to preserve the remains of people who died far from home more or less intact until such time as they could be brought back for the family funeral.

(<http://www.history.org/Foundation/journal/Spring05/funerals.cfm>)



**Figure 3: Fisk Metallic Burial Case**

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

At this stage of the investigation, we can only say that there is evidence of substantial disturbance in Memorial Park. Whether this disturbance results from the excavation of graves for burials, the removal or relocation of interments or other processes such as the covering of the cemetery with fill cannot be currently be determined. To clarify our findings, we recommend the following investigations:

1. The first step should be to undertake test excavations in the surveyed quadrant to determine if additional graves are present. The highest priority would be the excavation of a test unit at the location of the large buried metal anomaly at 56E-58N. This initial test would determine the source of the metal anomaly and also

provide us with information on the soil stratigraphy in this part of the park. Depending on the results of this test, we would recommend that additional tests of at least five other areas also be undertaken to investigate other types of anomalies.

2. The second step would be to conduct additional historic research to clarify the relationship between the various cemeteries in Indiana and resolve the question of possible relocations of burials either into or out of the Memorial Park graveyard.
3. Finally, we recommend that additional geophysical investigations be conducted in the rest of the park, especially if the ground tests determine that unmarked graves are present.

**Table 1: Preliminary Historic Research on Memorial Park**

Event	Date	Event	Source
1	1803	John Lydick died; Identified on marker #31 in Memorial Park, died before park established, unknown when marker placed and if burial actually here	Rev War Army Mil Westmoreland Co Mil Pvt 1776/1783 'pioneer' 1748-1803 according to County information sheet
2	1804	According to source at right, Conrad Rice donated 2 acres and 4 perches of land to be appropriated in two equal parts, one for the German Lutheran congregation as a burial place, and one for the use of an English Presbyterian congregation for burial place and Church	Indiana County Deedbook #3, p. 195, from <a href="http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html">http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html</a>
3	1806	Conrad Rice (Reis) donated a track of land for the erection of churches and as a burial ground. (Contradicts #2)	Stephenson, Clarence. Indiana County 175th Anniversary History. Vol 1, pg 315 1978
4	1808	First Burial in Indiana of Amelia Shryock, age 7 in the "old Presbyterian grave yard" (Not memorial Park)	Stephenson, Clarence. Indiana County 175th Anniversary History. Vol 1, pg 315 1978
5	1812	Act of General Assembly authorized the County Commissioners to sell part of the initial Conrad Rice donation	Stephenson, Clarence. Indiana County 175th Anniversary History. Vol 1, pg 315 1978
6	1814	Dr. Jonathan French, the first resident doctor in Indiana, buried in the Lutheran Cemetery on August 20, 1814. His wife buried there in 1818	from <a href="http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html">http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html</a>

7	1813	Rice donated three [additional] acres to the Lutheran congregation to be used as a burial ground "with out regard for the religious affiliation of the deseased".	Stephenson,Clarence. Indiana County 175th Anniversary History. Vol 1, pg 315 1978
8	1823	Conrad Rice buried in "Old Lutheran Cemetery"/Memorial Park	from <a href="http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html">http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html</a>
9	1824	Mary McAnulty Standard buried in "Old Lutheran Cemetery"/Memorial Park	from <a href="http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html">http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html</a>
10	1830	Purchased for \$100 the lot on which the [Zion Lutheran] parsonage now stands.	(Based on information from a history prepared by P. David Park in 1963) <a href="http://www.zionlutherans.com/about_us/history.htm">http://www.zionlutherans.com/about_us/history.htm</a>
11	1845	Story of three fugitive slaves "rested all day in the old graveyard near the residence of the late Judge Silas M. Clark, among the tombstones, secreted by the brush	from <a href="http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html">http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html</a>
12	1853	Reported in the Indiana Weekly Register that the grave yard was in deplorable condition	from <a href="http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html">http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html</a>
13	1863	Both the "Old Lutheran Cemetery"/Memorial Park" reported to be in appalling conditin.	
14	1867	Daniel Standard, Indiana's first resident attorney buried "Old Lutheran Cemetery"/Memorial Park	from <a href="http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html">http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html</a>
15	1875	Borough Council passed an ordenance prohibiting further burals at Lutheran Graveyard.	from <a href="http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html">http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html</a>
16	1877	Cemetery noted as a cow pasture. The remaining graves from the Presbyterian graveyard had been moved down to this one. Many of the stones here were fallen over and broken. Residents called it Skeleton Park.	from <a href="http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html">http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html</a>

17	August 12th, 1896	In the Indiana Progress an article appeared about having your family and friends remains who were buried in the two Prebyterian Churchyards removed as the cemeteries were in bad condition.	<a href="http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~treasures/pa/indiana/white/">http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~treasures/pa/indiana/white/</a>
18	1899	Reporpted in Indiana Progress that there had been an Underground Railroad station among the tombstones in the 'old graveyard' near the residence of the late Judge Clark.	from <a href="http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html">http://rootsweb.com/~paicgs.memorialpark.html</a>
19	Jan 29 1901	Last possible entrie listed at Memorial Park; Boring, Robert. Civil War Co D 115th Reg PVI Pvt 1861-1865	<a href="http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~treasures/pa/indiana/white/">http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~treasures/pa/indiana/white/</a>

## Table 2: Names of Individuals Possibly Buried in Memorial Park

The surnames in lower case are of people listed on the tombstones or markers still present in Memorial Park. Those in red are of those who were reported in the website below to be buried in Memorial Park, but may have been relocated.  
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~treasures/pa/indiana/white/memorialpark.htm>

Surnames	First	Middle	Information	Birth	Death
Adair	Hannah		consort of Bleany		22 Ma-.18--
BLAKELY	Joseph	A			
BORING	Robert		Civil War Co D 115th Reg PVI Pvt 1861-1865 (Note: This individual is reported to have been buried in 1901, 26 years after cemetery reported closed.)	1845	29 Jan. 1901
BOUCHER	Alexander		Civil War Co E 148th Reg PVI Pvt 1861-		5 May. 1875
Boucher	Elizabeth	Wolf	w/o Henry	6 Jan. 1784	31 May. 1852
Boucher	Henry			15 May. 1780	6 Dec. 1853
CALDWELL	William				
CAMPBELL	Charles				
CLAWSON	Albert	Howard			
CLAWSON	Ernest	A			
CLYMER	George				
CONRATH	Elmer	T			
CURRY	Samuel	W	Civil War Co G 67th Reg PVI Pvt 10/9/62- 9/63		Dec. 1863
FAIRMAN	James		Rev. War 1776-77 PA Mil; Pvt Capt Reed's Co 4th Bn Lancaster Co Rev. War	1755	11 Apr. 1814
FENCH/TENCH	Jane	C			1818
FIORE	Alphonse				



<b>FREDERICK</b>	Samuel	A			
<b>HANNA</b>			Ist cousin to Bleany Dairs		
<b>HARMAN</b>	Alexander		Civil War Co A 61 Reg PVI Pvt 8/24/61-5/28/64 at Philadelphia, PA		28 May. 1864
<b>HARMAN</b>	Anna		w/o Alexander Harman		22 Jan. 1861
<b>HENRY</b>	Charles	M			
Hicks	Jacob	Giles	Rev War Capt 10th PA Regt		
<b>HUMM</b>	Ralph	E			
<b>KELLEY</b>	James	M			
<b>LAUGHLIN</b>	Randall				
<b>LITTLE</b>	Lawrence	S			
<b>LIVINGSTON</b>	Moses		Civil War Co E 5th Art 204th Reg PVI Pvt 8/29/64-6/30/65		14 May. 1874
Lydick	Anna	Mary	May, w/o John		1810
Lydick	John		Rev War Army Mil Westmoreland Co Mil Pvt 1776/1783 'pioneer'	1748	1803
McClaran	Mary		w/o William		30 Jan. 1860
<b>MCCLARAN</b>	William		Civil War		
McDannald	Christina		d/o James & Elizabeth		24 Oct. 1871
McDonald	-----an				15 May. 185?
<b>MILLER</b>	James	Ira			
<b>MOORHEAD</b>	Harry	Clair			
<b>MYERS</b>	William	B	Civil War Co F 55th Reg PVI Pvt 2/29/64-8/30/65		13 Jun. 1872
Nench			Dor C Jon Hbon		12 Aug. 1814
Ninch	William	C			25 Mar. 1898
Okiefe	Michael		Civil War Co F 67th Reg PVI Pvt killed in action		2 Apr. 1865
<b>ORR</b>	David	Elder			
Pease	James		Civil War Co K 105th Reg PVI Pvt 12/23/61- SCD 12/29/62		May. 1869
Phillips	Armour	Jr			24 Aug. 1872
Phillips	Armour	Sr			5 May. 1835
Phillips	Fanny				17 Jan. 1846
Phillips	Jane				Jun. 1849
Phillips	Jonathan				17 Sep. 1861
Phillips	Martha				21 Feb. 1842
Rhodes	Elizabeth		w/o Sam		27 Jan. 1864
<b>RHODES</b>	Samuel		Civil War Co K 105th Reg PVI Pvt 10/23/61- SCD 10/22/62		
Rice	Conrad		Rev War Army PA Mil Lancaster Co Mil 8 Co 6 Bn Capt Ramsey's Co Pvt 1780-1783	1748	1823

<b>RODGERS</b>	George	T			
<b>SIMPSON</b>	Charles	W			
<b>SMITH</b>	James	Horburn			
Snyder	Balsler			18 Nov. 1795	28 Aug. 1867
<b>STAHL</b>	Howard	A			
Stanard	Daniel			19 Nov. 1784	4 Mar. 1867
Stanard	David			2 Jun. 1829	25 Sep. 184-
Stanard	Mary		w/o Daniel	23 Dec. 1785	10 Nov. 1824
<b>STEWART</b>	William	R			
Sutton	Peter		Rev War 1 NJ Reg	1743	1829
<b>WALKER</b>	Arthur	B			
Weamer	Alexander		Civil War Co A 135th Reg PVI Pvt 8/14/62-5/24/63		May. 1867
<b>WILSON</b>	John		Rev War Army PA Mil Capt Talbot's Co Cumberland Co. 6th & 7th Bn with Col Ivories Sgt life guard to Gen. Washington 1776-1779	1750	1827