

17th Civil War Veteran recently “found” at Straw Cemetery

Aaron Kichline 1837-1921

How do we “find” a forgotten Civil War Veteran? Each “find” has its own story. Aaron was forgotten when almost 100 years ago he was buried at Straw without a gravestone or veterans marker to acknowledge his interment there. Over the years with no marker, he was forgotten. Fortunately the lost is now found and with the following background, here is his story.

The only available lists of burials at Straw Cemetery are from several historians, who in the past, documented legible gravestones they found while walking the cemetery grounds. So only those with information visible above ground are on any current list. The cemetery has extensive records but there has never been an effort to organize the several thousand documents into a complete alphabetical list.

In the spring of 2017 four volunteers, Charlotte and Dave Morris along with Carol and David Hoff, took on the task of digitizing all the cemetery burial records. Our goal was to preserve existing documentation and develop one complete alphabetical list of all known burials, with and without gravestones.

We were fairly sure we would find in the old records some “unknown” burials that had no gravestones. While in the process of scanning, one plot record caught our attention. There were eight burials listed where a single gravestone gave evidence of only one burial.

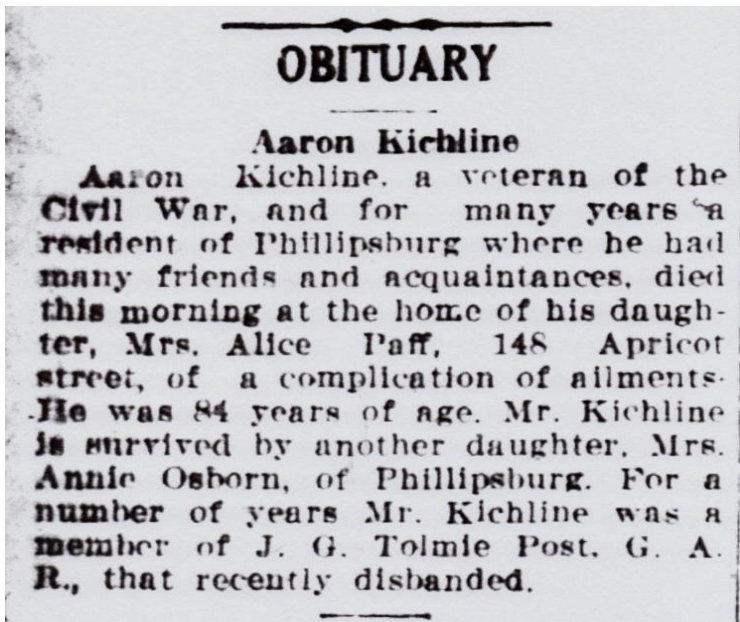


That gravestone, the only thing visible above ground, was for Margaret Osmun 1900-1943. The rest of the entire plot was just green grass. The records showed one of the unknown burials to be Margaret’s grandfather Aaron Kichline, burial on March 3, 1922.

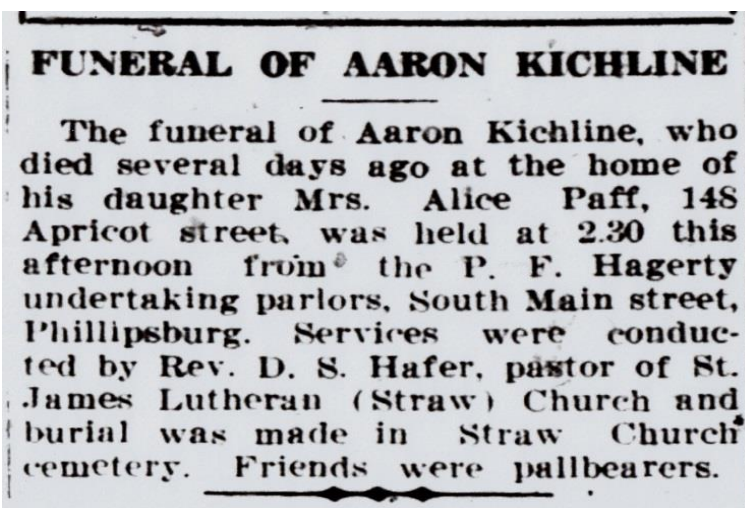
This is the kind of information we are looking for. Armed with a name and burial date, a trip to the Easton Library’s newspaper records usually reveals an informative obituary.

The Kichline name was very familiar to Carol so without delay she was soon at the library and more than a little excited when she found the following:

Easton Express Obituary 12/27/1921, Pg. 4



Easton Express Funeral 12/30/1921, Pg. 8



Through the National Parks web site the following can also be found about Aaron Kichline:

Civil War Veteran of Co. C, 31st Regiment of New Jersey as a private. The 31st were organized in Flemington N.J. and mustered in September 16, 1862 and mustered out June 24, 1863. This company fought in the Battle of Chancellorsville, Va. from May 2-5 and mustered out of their 9 month enlistment before the battle of Gettysburg.

Aaron Kichline applied for a pension April 25, 1887 and is listed under Aaron Keichline in the National Park Services website of soldier details in the Civil War.

See more family information on Carol's updates to Aaron Kichline's Memorial on: findagrave.com

We are in the process of applying for a Civil War gravestone from the Veterans Administration with the assistance of The Rupell Funeral Home. Certainly a celebration is in order. We would need volunteers to help provide a successful event. If you have suggestions or are interested in helping acknowledge Aaron Kichline, who has gone unacknowledged for almost 100 years, please contact Charlotte or Dave at dhmcs22@yahoo.com or 908-859-0723.