



The Kutztown Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 307
Normal Avenue and South Whiteoak Street
Kutztown, PA 19530

January 19, 2020

The Honorable Timothy J. Rowley
Berks County Orphans' Court
633 Court Street
Reading, PA 19601

Dear Judge Rowley:

The Kutztown Area Historical Society enthusiastically supports the preservation of the Historic Kemp Family Burial Ground, which is located on land originally patented by the Kemp family in the early 18th century. It is one of the largest of 17 historic family burial grounds in Maxatawny Township with the Kemp family being one of the founding families of the East Penn Valley. The burial ground is the final resting place for key figures in the early years of Maxatawny Township. Their life stories form much of the township's history. Theobault Kemp arrived in America around 1720 and is said to be the original pioneer settler of Maxatawny Township. During the Revolutionary War, his son, George Kemp, was appointed captain and was present at the Battle of Germantown. George inherited and ran Levan's Tavern, which was a way station for several signers of the Declaration of Independence, including John Adams. Hannah, the only known slave in this section of Berks County, is also buried in the Historic Kemp Family Burial Ground, as specified the will of Captain George Kemp.

Part of the Kutztown Area Historical Society's mission is encouraging preservation of historically significant sites, structures, and material culture artifacts throughout its area of influence. Preserving the Historic Kemp Family Burial Ground is, therefore, of significant urgency to the society. The society is recognized by the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, PennDOT, and other state agencies as the official historic agency of record for Maxatawny Township and the surrounding area.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Koller
President, Kutztown Area Historical Society