

Coover friends in Mechanicsburg state that through your interest and at your expense the three broken tombstones of Coover graves in Barbace cemetery were repaired. It is of interest to me to know the cause of their broken condition.

Did the woodman who felled the decayed tree in the cemetery miscalculate the direction of the fall of the tree trunk, or did some storm break off a large limb of the tree and crush the tombstones? Is it likely that after Barbace cemetery was set apart by the Keller-Coover family, that the remains of the four Coover bodies were removed in 1856 from the Trindle Springs cemetery, several miles distant and reinterred in Barbace, since all the bodies removed were remains of John Coover's immediate ancestors? John Coover and his wife, Salome Keller Coover, were deeply interested as the Keller family as well as the Coover family line, and wished their immediate ancestors to rest in Barbace, and they themselves were interred there, and after the death and burial of Salome Keller Coover, the cemetery was closed to all subsequent deceased members of the family. If you have any traditions respecting these queries, I would much appreciate information, for I know of no one else than yourself who ever took the deep interest in Barbace cemetery.

I congratulate you on your 81st birthday anniversary, and wish that we might together visit these ancestral places. I passed my 80th milestone last March, and the generation of present Coovers and cognate families do not take the interest in genealogy which we do. I am descended from Gideon Coover, elder brother of George Coover, and Cumberland county is ancestral ground all the way from York to Harrisburg.

I am about closing my genealogy record, and will look about for a publisher sometime soon. About 1800 names of Kobers, Covers, and Coovers, together with cognate families will appear in the record. Many more families fail to be included, as they were not sufficiently interested to respond to my inquiries regarding their descent. From Pennsylvania to California, all the central westward states have numerous representatives of the family. My correspondence has been voluminous, and ever ten years of effort have been devoted in my spare moments to this pleasant activity and inquiry. The Gideon Coover line has received my most accumulated research, since its members could be reached more extensively.

I hope you will pardon this long letter of interrogation, as I do not want to omit any historical information which I can acquire. My colonial record is fuller than I had expected. What response shall be received when the book is published, is an unknown factor.

With fraternal greeting, your kinsman,

*M. Coover*