

# Descendants mark Revolutionary War vet's grave

By Sara Ganim  
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In a graveyard of broken and decrepit tombstones with faded names, the name Michael Weber clearly stands out.

To honor his memory, the descendants of Weber, also spelled Weaver, unveiled a replacement headstone for the Revolutionary War veteran on Sunday.

"I think we all agree, the saddest thing is an unmarked grave," said Debra Weaver Nydegger, who traced the Weaver family history for two years leading up to this event.

"Not often this kind of ceremony is held for a Revolutionary War veteran," Nydegger said. "Because they are not around."

Decedents of Michael Weaver, ages 3 to 96, were among about 80 people who came to the unveiling ceremony that honored Weaver's life and service in the military.

Mildred Weaver, 96, of Port Matilda, sat quietly to the side as the new tombstone was revealed. Emily Short, 3, of Woolrich, squirmed in her mother's arms as Michael Weaver's life was recounted.

German hymns that would have been familiar to Weaver were sung. His travels, which ended in Centre County in 1797, were recounted to his family.

Local historian and distant family member Justin Houser said Weaver's life was always one of movement and change. He came to this country from Germany in 1741 and frequently moved throughout Pennsylvania.

Weaver served as captain of the Northumberland militia in the Revolutionary War where he likely fought "guerilla warfare" against American Indians siding with the

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Debra Weaver Nydegger, left, and Kim Weaver sing a hymn during a dedication of a replacement headstone for Capt. Michael (Weber) Weaver, a Revolutionary War soldier. They are descendants of the veteran and took part in the ceremony at Stover Cemetery in Aaronsburg.

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John Mutzeck looks at the replacement headstone for Revolutionary War Capt. Michael (Weber) Weaver, of the Northumberland County Militia. Below: Debra Weaver Nydegger fires a cannon salute to deceased veterans during a dedication in honor of her 18th century relative, Michael Weaver.



# War vet gets proper headstone

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British, Houser said.

Weaver came to Centre County just four years before he died in 1801, Houser said.

"We know without doubt that Michael Weaver was a true patriot, one willing to lay down his life for his countrymen, to give up his comfort to seek a better life and better advantages for his children," Houser told the crowd.

Weaver was buried in Stover Cemetery in Aaronsburg, but his tombstone had been missing since the 1800s, Nydegger said.

She found Michael Weaver's final resting place — a Cemetery filled with stones whose words have been washed away by time.

With help from a Veterans group, Nydegger obtained a re-

placement tombstone that she situated in between Weaver's two sons'.

Nydegger said it is not clear exactly where in the cemetery Weaver was buried. But there are two seemingly empty spaces between Weaver's sons' graves, and she suspects that is where Weaver and his wife, Anna Barbara, are buried.

"We did not dig up what was underneath, but it's quite logical that that was where he probably would have been," Nydegger said.

The ceremony concluded with a cannon salute — the trigger pulled by Nydegger, an appropriate gesture for the woman who family said fired up the search of their history.

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