Historical Sketches From Colonial Time of Seven C
Barren Hill—Plymouth Meeting—Spring Mill—Cold Point—Harmanville—Miquon—Cedar Heights

Records Establish Name of Barren Hill as Original

Many Versions as to Original Name of Colonial Settlement Disproved by Records of First Lutheran Church—Many Searches for Name

Yesteryears records available indicate the name Barren Hill is the original name of the settlement in question. Until 1833 the name “Rain Hill” did not appear in any church documents. Thus it was written on the charter of St. Peter’s Lutheran church.

That this form was an error on the part of the clerk is clearly shown in the fact that as early as 1753, when St. Peter’s church was founded by Dr. Henry Melchizedek Muhlenberg, the community was called “Barren Hill.” This name appears on the first page of the first record book maintained by the church.

Additional sources below the entry are those of Heinrich Kals, Mears, Dau, Toch, Leber, Hieter, Fishe and Dr. Muhlenberg.

When Rev. E. Allen Chamberlin, founder, minister, and present landlord of the Grace Lutheran church, Tren-

In 1929, a petition was submitted to the township for the removal of the name Barren Hill as the original name of the community. However, the petition was denied, and the name Barren Hill remains.

Before the name Barren Hill was adopted, the original name was “Rain Hill.” This name was used by the early settlers who came to the area in the late 18th century. The name “Rain Hill” was changed to “Barren Hill” in 1833 by the township officials.

Sources: Heinrich Kals, Mears, Dau, Toch, Leber, Hieter, Fishe and Dr. Muhlenberg.

Efforts to Change Name of Barren Hill Futil

Residents are Satisfied With Name Movement Started in 1883 Failed

In the interest of “real estate sharks,” who attempted to create a real estate boom in the area, a movement was made in 1883 to change the name of Barren Hill to Lafayette Hill. However, the residents of Barren Hill strongly opposed the change, and the movement was unsuccessful.

In recent years, the name Barren Hill has become more popular as a result of the success of the community’s annual Barren Hill Days celebration. The name Barren Hill has remained unchanged since 1833.

Sources: Heinrich Kals, Mears, Dau, Toch, Leber, Hieter, Fishe and Dr. Muhlenberg.