



## First Schuylkill County Casualty of WWI: Bernard J. McGinnis



Bernard J. McGinnis

On September 5, 1917 the first Schuylkill County casualty of “The Great War” occurred in Fort Hancock, Augusta, Georgia when 21 year old Bernard J. McGinnis, of Frackville, died in an automo-

bile accident. Bernard was a corporal in Company C, First Regiment, Pennsylvania Engineers. He and his brother Clement were returning to camp when they were struck by a motor truck; Bernard died immediately. His parents were John C. McGinnis, a mining operator and President and a founder of the Frackville National Bank, and Katie Deehan McGinnis. Bernard had been a newspaperman for the Pottsville Chronicle and later Tamaqua Courier. Before enlisting he was a well-known local basketball player. Burial occurred at Holy Rosary Catholic Cemetery (St. Joseph’s), Frackville. His memorial marker reads: “*Schuylkill County’s First Offering for World Democracy. He loved his coun-*



Bernard J. McGinnis’s memorial marker in the Holy Rosary Catholic Cemetery Frackville

*try because he loved his God.” Please stop in and visit the Schuylkill County War War I Exhibit.*

## Student Volunteers Enjoying Schuylkill County History

Jacob and Kieran volunteered many hours during this past summer and were a great help in getting archives catalogued and stored. They were dedicated and tireless in their efforts to help whenever called upon. The Schuylkill County Historical Society is grateful for their help and is hopeful they will be back again next year.

Jacob Challenger, “I love history, and therefore it was enjoyable not only to see a true love for the preservation of our county’s history, but to see the overall cache of knowledge housed at the SCHS.”

Kiera Seven, “I enjoyed seeing the history in all the old books and records!”



Kieran Seven, left, Auburn, PA, and Jacob Challenger, Schuylkill Haven, are 8th grade students at St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven