Who Was The Darlington Trail Named After?

Bishop James Henry Darlington of Harrisburg, PA, was a prominent and active member of the Pennsylvania Alpine Club, an early (founded in 1917) state-wide hiking and conservation club in the state. The Darlington Trail near Harrisburg was built by that club and is named after him. The club also was involved in the early stages of the development of the Appalachian Trail(AT) on Blue Mountain near Harrisburg.

The Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club, which built the AT on Blue Mountain between Lehigh Gap and the Susquehanna River between 1926 and 1931, erected a monument honoring Bishop Darlington in 1935. The monument was located at the western end of Blue Mountain (east side of river) overlooking the Susquehanna River gap with the Rockville stone arch railroad bridge directly below. The monument was still there after an extensive AT relocation took the trail off of the mountain in 1955. The old AT route became the Darlington Trail East maintained by the SATC. At some point the monument was vandalized and the location is now on private land with nearby homes built.

Photo of the Darlington Monument from the 1950's.