

Swedesboro, NJ
Alive with History



www.historicswedesboro.com/cemetery

A Guide to Who's Buried in the Cemeteries of Swedesboro

When touring the historic sites of old Swedesboro, don't neglect to visit the dwelling places of the dead: the town's solemnly beautiful cemeteries where both the illustrious deceased and the not-so-famous denizens of the burying grounds lie together in quiet repose. Among others you'll find governors and generals, statesmen and businessmen, soldiers and sailors. From the earliest Swedish and Finnish settlers, through the Victorian Era (when a Sunday afternoon stroll or picnic in the local cemetery was the fashionable thing to do), to the gentlemen and ladies of the Edwardian Age, each grave tells the story of a life lived in a bygone time.

In addition to the historic personages interred in the cemeteries, many of the monuments, mausoleums, and sepulchers are splendid examples of funereal art. And the cemetery grounds themselves offer quiet vistas for contemplating the natural – and supernatural – world. Lake Park Cemetery, for example, situated high on a wooded hill and overlooking the placid waters of Lake Narriticon, has been considered one of the most beautiful and enduring cemeteries in the state.

Come and see for yourself the old cemeteries of Swedesboro and drop in on the dear departed; their voices still resonate from the grave. The following brief bio-sketches represent just a few of those who have made their mark on history.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL "OLD SWEDES" CHURCH CEMETERY



Founded in 1703, at the time of the dedication of the original log church, this cemetery remains in the shadow of the present 1784 Trinity "Old Swedes" Church. The remains of many who helped shape the church and the course of history in the state and nation lie here. Many graves of the early Swedes, Finns, Native Americans and African Americans are now un-marked but plots are shown on a parchment map dating to the mid-1800s. In the 1930s, the cemetery was inventoried as part of the WPA projects.

Jonas Jones

Eli Vanneman



The oldest known graves in the venerable churchyard are those of Jonas Jones (1721) and that of the Swede, Eli Vanneman, who died in 1722. Both gravestones are remarkably legible given their respective ages.



Eric Mullica

Another ancient tomb is not marked. A commemorative plaque dedicated in 2004 denotes that Eric Mullica is believed buried in the Old Churchyard. Mullica, a Finn, arrived in America aboard the *Kalmar Nyckel* in 1638 when he was just a teenager. For a

time he lived in the Swedish settlement along Raccoon Creek that came to be known as Swedesboro. There he married a Swedish girl, Ingeborg Helm, and fathered six children, three of whom survived to adulthood.

At the advanced age of 61, Mullica set out to explore the river that Native Americans once called "Amintonck," but now bears Eric's name – the Mullica River. Mullica ventured upriver from Egg Harbor (so named by Dutch sailors for the large number of birds' eggs they found there in 1614) and built a large cabin on the Burlington County side of the river. At that time he was the only white settler living within 25 miles of what is now Atlantic City.

Eric Mullica eventually returned to the vicinity of Raccoon where he died in 1723 at 100 years of age. His sons founded the village of Mullica Hill.



Colonel Robert Brown

Colonel Brown died 17 November 1797 in his 56th year, having been an early and active patriot even before the Revolutionary War commenced in earnest. On 19 August 1774 Brown was appointed to a special Relief Committee from Woolwich to aid the citizens of

Boston in the wake of the Boston Tea Party and the subsequent retaliatory closing of the port by British authorities. Brown again represented Woolwich on the Committee of Observation and Correspondence for Gloucester County in order to report any citizen conducting business with an agent of Great Britain. Anyone caught trading with an Englishman would have his/her name published as an enemy of American Liberty.

When war began, Brown was appointed Captain of the 1st Battalion, Gloucester County Militia. In November 1777, Captain Brown and the local militia fought British and Hessian

soldiers in the areas of Big and Little Timber Creeks and Gloucester City. Brown and the South Jersey militiamen also opposed the British advance from Fort Billings (Paulsboro) to Woodbury by destroying bridges and continually firing on the flanks of the enemy.

Brown received special attention, from the British and their Loyalist allies, during the so-called Battle of Swedesboro fought 4 April 1778. As the two sides skirmished, Brown's home and the local schoolhouse that had been used as a jail for Tory prisoners were set afire and burned to the ground. Brown was off fighting with his company, but his wife and children were forced to flee their home with only the clothes on their backs.

Brown was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on 10 June 1779; thereafter, he became Lieut. Col. of Stilwell's Regiment of state troops on 9 October 1779. (State troops were considered a cut above local militia.)



Thomas Heston

When much of Gloucester County was still an uncultivated wilderness abounding with game, Thomas Heston hunted there as a member of the famous Gloucester Fox Hunting Club. Before and after the chase over rolling hills and through thick woods, he and other club

members – many of them gentlemen from Philadelphia – slaked their thirst and surfeited their appetites at the Death of the Fox Inn in Clarksboro. Here, in the tavern, it was reported that the first seditious murmurings were uttered against the mother country, and the seeds of revolution were sown.

When the War for Independence finally came, Heston purportedly served the patriot cause with the rank of "Colonel." In 1781, after most of the shooting stopped, Heston entered into partnership with another veteran, Thomas Carpenter, to purchase a glass works near present-day Glassboro in a sheriff's sale. The former owners were the seven Stanger brothers, late of Germany, who had fallen into debt because of too many "Continental" (i.e., worthless paper money).

Under new ownership the business prospered, leading to a movement by the locals to have their community, which had sprung up around the glass works, named "Hestonville." But "Glassboro" was chosen instead. Heston died in 1802.



Doctor Bodo Otto, Jr.

Dr. Otto, Jr. was born in Hannover, Germany, in 1748. His family came to America in 1752, settling in Philadelphia where Otto's father, Dr. Bodo Otto, Sr., established his medical practice. In 1771 Otto, Jr. received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania

and the following year purchased a stout stone building on 100 acres of land in what is now Mickleton, New Jersey.

Soon after the Revolution began Bodo Otto, Jr. was appointed surgeon of Colonel Reed's Battalion. In 1776, Otto and his father and brother, John (also a physician), served with Washington's army at Valley Forge. Otto, Sr. was commissioned to build a military hospital at Yellow Springs, about eight miles from the encampment. Otto, Jr. remained at the hospital, which specialized in treating contagious diseases, until 1781.

Meanwhile, with Otto away, his house in Mickleton was burned and heavily damaged by Loyalists during the Battle of Saunder's Run (March 1778). Neighbors managed to put out the fires and save the house but not the outbuildings.

Sadly, Bodo Otto, Jr. never moved back to his home. He died of consumption (i.e., tuberculosis) on 20 January 1782 while staying at the Death of the Fox Inn. He was just 33 years old.

NEW TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH CEMETERY



This lot, two blocks from the “Old Cemetery” was purchased sometime around 1812 from Robert Tittermary in an area known as Laddtown. It is the final resting place of thirty who served in the Civil War, many prominent local businessmen whose names are found on Swedesboro Street signs and the first popularly-elected governor of New Jersey.



General Louis Henry Carpenter

Although General Carpenter never lived in Swedesboro, his ancestral roots reach deep into the town’s past, and his mortal remains have resided here since his death and burial at New Trinity Cemetery in 1916.

Resting nearby are his parents, six of eight siblings, and many of his kinfolk – the Carpenters, Howes, and Strattons.

Carpenter was born in Glassboro on 11 February 1839. After a brief sojourn in Maryland, his family moved to Philadelphia. Growing up in the city, Carpenter graduated high school and was admitted to the University of Pennsylvania as a medical student. He was in his third year at the university when the Civil War began. Carpenter promptly left his studies and enlisted as a private in the 6th United States Cavalry, thus embarking on a career in the Army that would last 32 years.

Carpenter proved to be a good soldier. Rising through the ranks, he received brevet promotions for gallantry at the battles of Gettysburg and Third Winchester. Carpenter also

served on the staff of General Phil Sheridan in 1864 before accepting a commission as lieutenant colonel of the 5th United States Colored Cavalry.

After the war, white officers who had led the 5th U.S.C.C. were assigned to the 10th Cavalry, one of two regiments of African-Americans who became known as the "Buffalo Soldiers" for their exploits in winning the West. As captain of Company H, Carpenter was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for rescuing Major George A. Forsyth's command of 50 frontier scouts, which had been completely surrounded by 700 hostile Sioux and Cheyenne warriors on Beecher Island, Colorado. Carpenter and his men reached Forsyth on 25 September 1868 after a forced march of nearly 100 miles from Fort Wallace, Kansas.

During the Spanish-American War, Carpenter served as a division commander and as military governor of the Province of Puerto Principe (1898-99). Carpenter retired from the army in 1899 as a brigadier general. Never married, Carpenter spent his remaining years in Philadelphia.



Charles Garrison, M.D.

A local physician, noted diarist, and pillar of the community, Dr. Garrison attended to the medical needs of the people of Swedesboro, Woolwich, and a large area of the countryside for over 40 years. He was known to keep a stable of five fast horses in order to travel about, even in

the worst weather, making house calls on his patients.

Soon after the commencement of the Civil War, local legend has it that Doctor Garrison drew lots with his competitor, Dr. Halsey, to determine who would leave to serve in the Union Army and who would stay at home. Halsey drew the short straw and began a distinguished career as a field surgeon in the Army of the Potomac while Dr. Garrison stayed behind and continued to care for the community. Although busy on the home front, Garrison was appointed to the soldiers' aide committee for Woolwich Township. He also treated furloughed wounded soldiers at his home, which still stands, on Main Street (1428 Kings Highway).

Dr. Garrison continued in practice until 1871 when he apparently suffered a stroke that left him partially paralyzed. He died on 12 April 1875, reportedly from "abscess and softening of the brain." He was buried alongside his first wife,

Hannah (nee Fithian), who had died in 1853.



Luther Foster Halsey, M.D.

Halsey was born in Churchville, Pennsylvania, on 28 October 1832. He attended Rutgers College but did not graduate. Halsey then began the study of medicine under the tutelage of Dr. C. S. Baker and was graduated from Jefferson Medical College in March

1852. Afterwards Halsey honed his surgeon's craft during the Crimean War (1853-56), serving as assistant surgeon to the British fleet that bombarded the Russian fortress at Sevastopol. Returning from Europe, Dr. Halsey settled in Swedesboro and hung out his shingle there in 1855.

In July 1862 Halsey accepted a commission in the Union Army, becoming Assistant Surgeon with the 7th New Jersey Volunteers, serving with that regiment until December 1862. He was subsequently promoted Surgeon of the 2nd New Jersey Infantry and served in that capacity until his expiration of service 31 May 1864. He then entered the Volunteer Corps of Surgeons of the Army and was placed in charge of the 1st Division VI Corps Field Hospital. At war's end Dr. Halsey returned home in 1865 and resumed his practice in Swedesboro. He died of heart failure in 1895, aged 62.



General Charles Garrison Harker

Harker was born 2 December 1835 in Swedesboro, where he lived for the first 11 or 12 years of his short life. A penniless orphan, nonetheless Harker had the good fortune of being taken under the wing of two-term New Jersey Congressman, Nathan T.

Stratton, who hired Charles to work for him as a clerk in his store in Mullica Hill. Stratton used his influence to procure an appointment to West Point for Harker, who graduated 16th in his class of 27 in 1858. Serving as 2nd Lieutenant of infantry on the northwestern frontier, Harker was commissioned Colonel of the 65th Ohio Volunteers shortly after the Civil War began. A rising star in the Army of the Cumberland, Harker participated in the battles of Shiloh, Perryville, and Stones River before earning promotion to Brigadier General for his valor

at the Battle of Chickamauga. During that battle Harker was ordered by General George C. Thomas to make a last-ditch stand with his brigade on Snodgrass Hill, from which point Harker's brigade beat off repeated Rebel assaults until nightfall, thus enabling the Union Army to escape to Chattanooga.

On 25 November 1863 Harker led his troops in a reckless charge up Missionary Ridge. Out in front of the brigade, Harker's horse was shot out from under him early in the charge, so he led the men on foot to the summit of the ridge where they captured several Rebel batteries. A few months later Harker was wounded during the Atlanta Campaign when a shell fragment grazed his leg and killed his horse at the Battle of Resaca. Despite a painful leg contusion, Harker pressed on and was nearly struck again during the approach to Kennesaw Mountain. As Harker was riding along, another shell fired from a rebel battery severed the reins he was holding and singed the mane of his mount. This close call led the General to quip nonchalantly to the soldiers around him, "Never mind, boys. A miss is as good as a mile."

But on the morning of 27 June 1864, Harker's luck ran out as he was leading his brigade in an attack on the strongly entrenched Confederate position halfway up Kennesaw Mountain. Before dawn that morning, Harker had arranged his private papers and sent his last letters home while remarking to a staff officer, "I shall not come out of this charge today alive." His premonition proved true as he was struck down within 15 yards of the rebel trenches while leading the desperate assault. Harker had been shot through the arm, the bullet having entered his chest, toppling him from the saddle. Several of his men were wounded as they carried their dying General back down the mountain. Taken to a field hospital behind the lines, Harker expired that afternoon with two regimental chaplains by his side. His last words were reported to be, "Have we taken the mountain?"

Harker's remains were taken home to Mullica Hill. The Reverend Hallam of the local Episcopal Church conducted funeral services from the residence of Harker's brother, John G. Harker. The General was then buried in Swedesboro, the village of his birth.



Congressman Benjamin Franklin Howey

Howey was born near Swedesboro at Pleasant Meadows, New Jersey. He was a nephew of Governor Charles Creighton Stratton. Described as a self-made man, Howey was a flour and grain commission merchant in Philadelphia before engaging in the business of quarrying and manufacturing slate.

Howey served during the Civil War as Captain of Company G, 31st New Jersey Infantry (10 September 1862 to 24 June 1863). A nine-month regiment, the 31st had the dubious distinction of being the only New Jersey regiment not to suffer a single battlefield casualty.

Captain Howey was Sheriff of Warren County, New Jersey, for three years, serving from 13 November 1878 until 15 November 1881. A Republican, Howey was then elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 4th New Jersey District and served in that capacity from 1883 until 1885. Howey died on 6 February 1895.



Senator "Uncle John" Pierson

John Pierson died on 2 September 1906 aged 100 years, nine months, and 20 days. During his remarkable lifetime of public service, Pierson served his community, county, and state in many capacities.

Pierson began life in Battentown (south Swedesboro) in 1805. In his youth he learned the blacksmith trade as his father and grandfather had done before him. His mechanical aptitude and training would prepare him for his feat of superintending the building of 83 bridges – 37 in Gloucester County – during his career. This accomplishment earned Pierson the title, "Bridge Builder." Pierson was elected to the Gloucester County Board of Freeholders in 1844; he was reelected in 1856, and again in 1872. Pierson served continuously in that office for the next 25 years. Pierson was also elected State Senator on the same ballot as Abraham Lincoln, serving in the Senate from 1861 to 1865. Pierson was known for the many bridges he designed and constructed throughout the state. He was known by his



Locke Ave

Grant Ave

2nd St

Railroad Ave

Allen St

County Rd 551

Auburn Ave

Kings Hwy

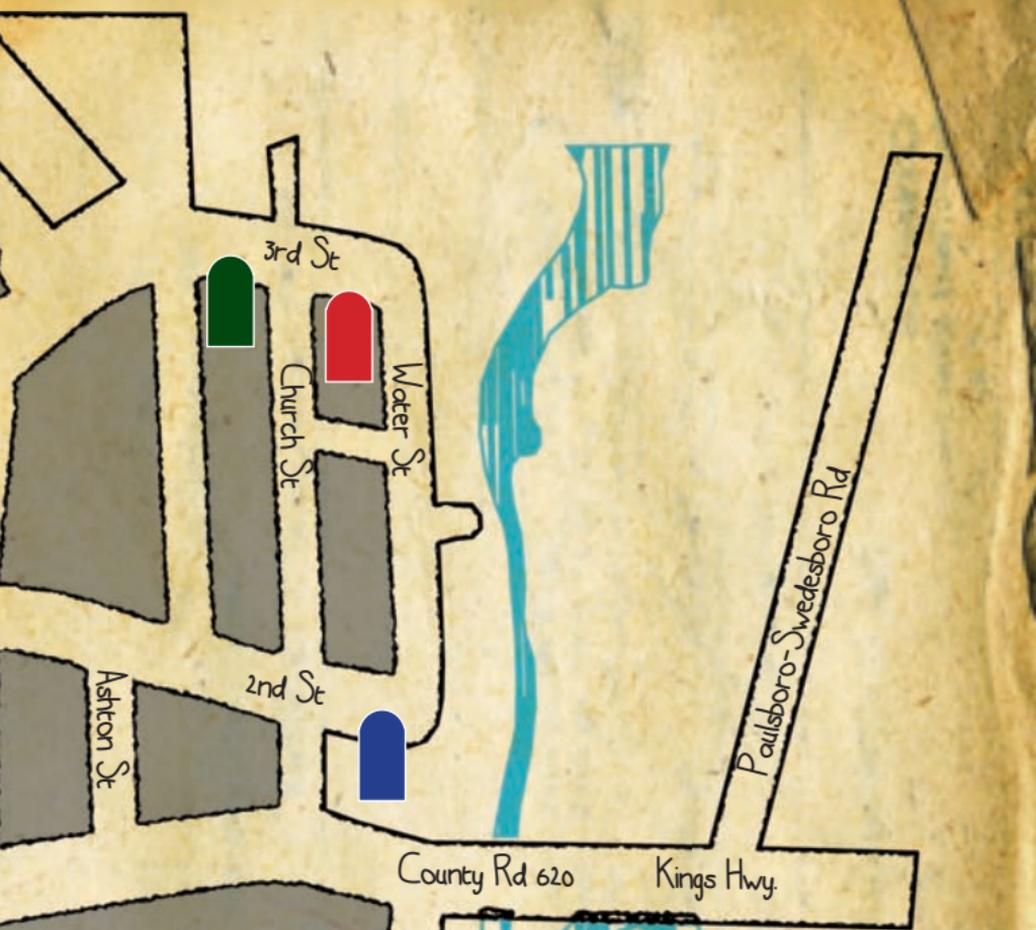
County Rd 620

East Ave

Lake Ave

Park Ave

Franklin St



TRINITY EPISCOPAL "OLD SWEDES" CHURCH CEMETERY



NEW TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH CEMETERY



ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH CEMETERY



BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY



LAKE PARK CEMETERY

constituents as “Uncle John” because of his longevity and his stellar record of service.



Governor Charles Creighton Stratton

Charles Stratton was born in Woolwich on 6 March 1796 at Stratton Hall, his father’s mansion. Stratton would die in the same room he was born in on 30 March 1859. In between the farmer and politician would serve the people of New Jersey

as Congressman and Governor.

A graduate of Rutgers College, Stratton was elected to Congress as a member of the Whig Party, serving two terms (1837-1839 and 1841-1843). He was elected the 16th Governor of New Jersey, but became the first Governor under the new constitution of 1844. Under the old constitution, the governor was elected by the legislature. The new constitution permitted citizens to vote for the state’s chief executive, thus making Stratton the first Governor elected directly by the people (i.e., white male citizens 21 years of age and older). He served as Governor from 1845 to 1848 and then retired from public life to farm the Stratton property. Stratton lived in Europe for a year (1857-1858), primarily to improve his health, but returned to Woolwich where he died at age 62.

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH CEMETERY



Catholics found it difficult to buy ground in Woolwich Township for a cemetery due to anti-Catholic animosity that reached its peak in America in the mid-nineteenth century. However, in 1857, Daniel Kenny purchased ground for the cemetery from Charles P. Shivers and then transferred it to Father Cornelius Cannon, pastor of the church. In the fall of 1860, Father Cannon began building a church on ground adjacent to the plot that had been purchased from Charles Shivers. The first church was soon erected and dedicated in 1861. This is not the same church building in existence today. The present structure was dedicated on April 27, 1899. It had been moved from Church Street to Broad and enlarged due to the fact that the church was running out of room for burials in the cemetery.



Patrick Canan

Canan was born in Ireland and came to America as a young man of 18 at the beginning of the Civil War. He had been working as a farmhand in Harrisonville for only a few weeks before enlisting as a private in Company C of the 12th New Jersey Volunteers.

While shouldering a musket for his newly adopted country, Canan took a bullet in the hand during the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia, on 3 May 1863. When his unit's position was overrun by the victorious Confederates, Canan played dead to avoid being taken prisoner. One vindictive Rebel stomped on Canan's chest several times and reportedly exclaimed, "Here's one of the damned Yanks who won't fight

anymore!" But Patrick did not wince or cry out but continued to lie still until, towards evening, the enemy fell back. Then Canan crept back to the Union line under cover of darkness and rejoined his regiment.

Surgeons amputated the middle finger of his injured hand. He was taken to a hospital in Washington City and from there was transferred to another military hospital in Wilmington, Delaware. Canan was discharged from the service due to disability on 12 September 1863. After the war Canan resided on a farm near Swedesboro, but he would always bear the scars of battle, including a permanent mark on his chest about the size of a shoe print.



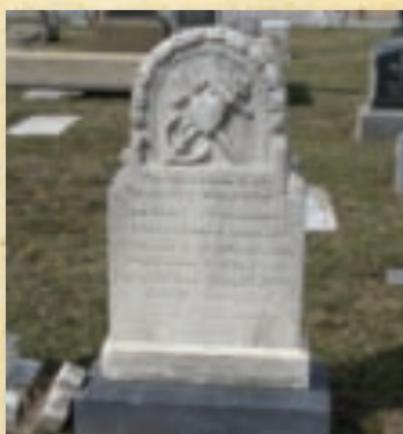
The Reverend Antonio Casese

The first Catholic Church in Swedesboro was erected in 1860 and dedicated in 1861. The mission grew so rapidly that parishioners called for a resident priest. The Reverend Casese was appointed to the position in 1872, serving as the parish's first

resident priest until his death in 1886. The inscription on his tombstone reads:

HERE ARE THE REMAINS
OF A FAITHFUL PRIEST
REV. ANTONIO CASSESE, O.S.F.
BORN IN PALMA, NAPLES,
MARCH 27, 1828.
PLACED IN CHARGE OF
SWEDESBORO PARISH IN 1872,
SLEPT IN THE LORD OCT. 25, 1886.

"MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE!"



Michael Mulkeen, USN

Mulkeen was born in County Mayo, Ireland, probably in the town of Aghamore, in 1840 or '41. His parents, Michael and Catherine (nee Higgins) brought young Michael to America somewhere between 1845 and 1847. Michael was the oldest of seven Mulkeen children. The

Mulkeens settled in New Jersey and Michael, Jr. was working

as a farm laborer when the Civil War began.

Mulkeen enlisted in the Union Navy, becoming a landsman aboard the U.S.S. *Gettysburg*, the former blockade runner, *Margaret and Jessie*, which had been captured in November 1863 and commissioned into the Federal Navy on 2 May 1864. The vessel participated in the capture of Fort Fisher near Wilmington, North Carolina, on 15 January 1865. A landing party of sailors and Marines was put ashore to assault the heavily defended fort in cooperation with a simultaneous attack by the U.S. Army. Michael Mulkeen volunteered for the landing party, which attacked the Rebel bastion brandishing revolvers and cutlasses. The landing party suffered serious casualties, including Michael Mulkeen, who was killed during the battle.



John Toole

Along with his brother, Patrick (see below), John Toole of Woolwich, aged 30, enlisted in Company G, 28th New Jersey Volunteers, a nine-month regiment that saw service at the Battle of Fredericksburg – an unmitigated disaster for the Union. In fact, the 28th Infantry

participated in the ill-fated frontal assault on the famous stone wall at the foot of Marye's Heights, taking serious casualties in the process. The unit also was in action at the Battle of Chancellorsville (another serious debacle for the Federals) before mustering out.

Despite these defeats, John Toole reenlisted in the Army with Company D of the 38th New Jersey, possibly for the bounty. (In order to stimulate enlistments bounties were paid to the soldiers by federal, state, and local authorities.) He reenlisted 19 September 1864 and promptly deserted the next day. However, he returned to duty on 7 November 1864, apparently without any serious repercussions. Toole died in 1911.



Patrick Toole

Patrick, also of Woolwich, was a private in the 28th New Jersey Volunteers, Company G. He was married and 26 years old at the time of his enlistment. After serving nine months with the 28th Regiment, he reenlisted along with his brother, John, in

the 38th New Jersey Infantry on 3 September 1864. Toole was mustered out with the regiment at war's end on 30 June 1865. He died 1 May 1886.

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY



At the time of this publication research is still being conducted on this cemetery. We do have documentation that in 1902 many of those interned in the Bethesda Cemetery were moved to the newly opened Lake Park Cemetery.



Lieutenant Albert Barnes

Prior to the Civil War Albert Barnes worked for the West Jersey Nursery near Mullica Hill. When the war commenced, the twenty-four-year-old enlisted in Company H, 7th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers and was appointed 1st Sergeant 17 September 1861. He was

subsequently promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on 29 July 1862 to replace Lieutenant Joseph Johnson, who had been killed at the Battle of Williamsburg, Virginia, during General McClellan's unsuccessful Peninsular Campaign. Barnes resigned his commission, probably for health reasons, on 1 November 1862. He died less than three years later on 21 October 1865.



Sergeant Ira B. Leap

Leap was born in 1825, the middle brother of the fighting Leaps: John, Ira, and James. Ira and John joined Mr. Lincoln's Army together, enlisting in the 28th New Jersey Infantry, Company G, for nine months' service. James, rather than

ride: he volunteered for the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry.

Ira was appointed 1st Sergeant of Company G, and after some rudimentary training, the 28th Regiment was sent to the front in Virginia. John was wounded at the Battle of Fredericksburg, the Regiment's first battle, but Ira came through the carnage unscathed. Meanwhile, James was not so fortunate. He was discharged on a surgeon's certificate of disability on 8 March 1862, but later died that same year of consumption (i.e., tuberculosis).

Ira survived the war (as did John) and passed away on 2 April 1890. Ira and James are buried here in the Methodist Churchyard, while John's grave can be found at Lake Park Cemetery.



Jacob Meyers

Private Meyers died 30 December 1863 of wounds he had sustained on the second day (2 July 1863) of the Battle of Gettysburg. Serving with the 5th New Jersey Infantry, Company E, Meyers was wounded during the fighting near the famous Wheat Field. He never recovered and

died at U.S. Army General Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland.



Robert Morris

Born 14 October 1839, Morris enlisted as a private soldier in Company A, 3rd New Jersey Volunteers, on 19 April 1861 – not long after the guns at Fort Sumter had ceased firing. He was one of the first to enlist from Gloucester County. Unfortunately, on 24 November

1861, Morris died in camp of congestive chills after suffering convulsions and lapsing into unconsciousness. His body was shipped home where he was buried in the family plot next to a younger brother. Morris does not have a headstone.

LAKE PARK CEMETERY



Lake Park Cemetery was opened and improved by local businessman John C. Rulon who served as its secretary and treasurer. It was designed in the park-like manner of mid-nineteenth century cemeteries and covers more than 20 acres. It was the first, and remains the only, public cemetery in Swedesboro. After its founding, many families had loved ones' remains moved from church cemeteries to this site.



U.S. Marshal Henry C. Garrison

Garrison was born in Swedesboro 10 July 1835. A childhood injury to his leg from a fall exempted him from military service during the Civil War. Nonetheless, Garrison followed the Union Army to the front as an agent for the United States Sanitary

Commission. The avowed mission of the Sanitary Commission was to raise the hygienic conditions of the camps, improve diet, care for the wounded, and facilitate a program to send food and supplies to the soldiers. (In short, to do what the government could not or would not do for the enlisted men.)

Garrison returned home in 1864 and was elected collector and constable of Woolwich Township. Garrison was twice elected county sheriff and also acted as deputy and detective, making

many arrests of horse thieves in the county. In 1889 Detective Garrison was instrumental in securing enough witnesses to lead to a conviction in the notorious Hilman murder case. At the age of 61, Garrison tracked down and recovered in Maryland a horse stolen from its owner in Gloucester County. And from 1897 until 1906, Garrison served as Deputy United States Marshal. Henry Garrison left a remarkable record of service to his community, state, and country. Garrison died in 1913.



Edgar F. Hurff

Born in 1878, Edgar Fisler Hurff was a local farmer and entrepreneur who established a successful business based on a New Jersey specialty – the tomato. In 1913 he opened a cannery in Swedesboro, and soon the Hurff brand name on catsup, tomato puree, tomato

juice, tomato soup and other various products was known across the country, as well as internationally. Also, Hurff was the first to process canned asparagus in the eastern United States. He operated the Hurff Canning Plant until 1945. Mr. Hurff passed away in 1973.



Captain Charles D. Lippincott

Lippincott was originally from Harrison Township, having been born there on his father's farm in 1841. Like many young farm boys eager to "see the elephant" (i.e., experience war for the first time), Lippincott enlisted in the 12th New Jersey Infantry and was immediately appointed

third sergeant. A natural leader, Lippincott would rise in rank to captain. He would receive five wounds fighting in some of the fiercest battles of the war, including Spotsylvania, where he was shot twice in the cheekbone and arm. The historian of Company F wrote that "[Lippincott] always dodged the wrong way, and thus got more wounds than any other man in the company." Having survived the war, Lippincott married Henrietta Weatherby and moved to Swedesboro in 1869. Here he established himself in business, becoming the senior partner in the firm of Lippincott & Gaskill, a well-stocked hardware store. Lippincott was in business for 37 years, earning the respect of all in Swedesboro and surrounding

communities. Lippincott died in 1926. Although the Lippincott building no longer stands, Lippincott's Civil War sword is on display at the Swedesboro Public Library.



Mayor William H. McCullough

McCullough was born in Philadelphia in 1845. "Hugh" was just 16 in 1861 (two years under age) when he enlisted in Brooklyn in the 48th New York Volunteers, Company D. Private McCullough served out his term of enlistment then

promptly reenlisted on 21 December 1863. He was promoted to corporal but was seriously wounded at Strawberry Plains, Virginia, 16 August 1864. Recovering, he spent the remainder of his service in the Veteran Reserve Corps, mustering out on 12 May 1865.

After returning home, McCullough farmed in Woolwich, but because of his war wounds, he sought a less strenuous occupation. Thus McCullough became a dealer in building materials, eventually owning and operating a lumberyard on Broad Street near St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Swedesboro. On his way to becoming a leading citizen of the town, he married Mary McDowell of Woolwich and fathered six children, was active in the local Presbyterian Church, belonged to several fraternal orders, and in 1898 became the first fire chief of the Woolwich Fire Company. McCullough was subsequently elected the first mayor of Swedesboro when the town became incorporated in 1902. McCullough died a well-respected merchant and community leader on 27 March 1909.



John Freedley Musgrave, M.D.

Dr. Musgrave was a native of Reading, Pennsylvania, having been born in the Keystone State on 29 March 1832. Upon graduation from Norristown Academy, Musgrave became a student of medicine, earning degrees from both the Homeopathic College of

Pennsylvania (1853) and the University of Pennsylvania (1854). In 1862 Musgrave enlisted in the 20th Pennsylvania Militia as an assistant surgeon. In July 1865 he was appointed Physician

aboard the steamer, *Circassian*, part of the first American steamship line to Germany. Unfortunately the *Circassian* ran aground during a violent storm in December 1865, beaching on Island Madam (L'Île Madame) off the Atlantic coast of France. Dr. Musgrave received some internal injuries as a result of this maritime disaster and was advised to relocate to a rural setting to recover his health. Therefore, Musgrave moved to Swedesboro in 1866 and soon established a successful practice promoting the homeopathic theory of medicine.



John C. Rulon

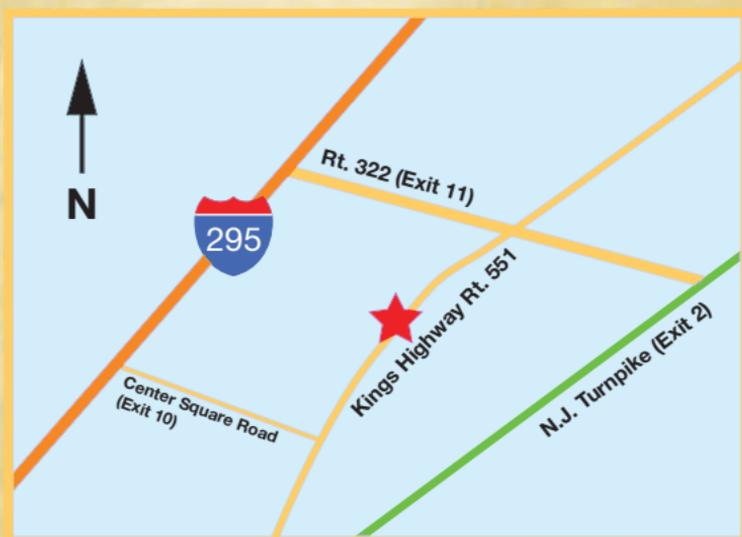
John Charles Rulon was a businessman and prominent citizen of Swedesboro. He established the Swedesboro National Bank, in which place he worked as Cashier, and the Woolwich Water Company that brought water and sewer service to the community. He is also

credited with organizing the Swedesboro Electric Light Heat and Power Company. For these accomplishments and more towards the betterment of Swedesboro, a stone monument (actually a watering trough for horses) was erected by the grateful citizens of Swedesboro in appreciation for Rulon's many civic improvements. The trough once sat precariously on a traffic island in the middle of Kings Highway but was recently moved to a safer spot in front of Borough Hall. The John C. Rulon House still stands at 1428 Kings Highway, the home he purchased and remodeled in 1881. (One of its previous owners was Dr. Charles Garrison). Rulon died in 1908, an "Upright Man [and] Useful Citizen" of Swedesboro.

After visiting the cemeteries in Swedesboro, stop by another historic cemetery, Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal, located in Woolwich Township at 172 Garwin Road. The church was used as one of the stations of the Underground Railroad. Mount Zion Cemetery contains more than 200 graves. Most of the graves are unmarked; the oldest marker is dated 1861. Mount Zion African Methodist Church is still used by the congregation. Please call 856-467-5448 for further information.

Swedesboro is conveniently located
One mile south of Rt. 322
Two miles east of Rt. 295
Two miles west of NJ Turnpike

Before visiting Swedesboro you may want to download a podcast audio tour created by Gloucester County and South Jersey Tourism, highlighting seven historical sites. www.revolutionaryideatour.com



We are so close to:

- Center City 26 miles - 34 min.
- Cherry Hill 29 miles - 32 min.
- West Chester 25 miles - 38 min.
- New Castle, DE 19 miles - 22 min.
- Atlantic City 69 miles - 76 min.

Produced by Swedesboro Economic Development.

www.swedesboro-nj.us

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