

A History of the Old Methodist Cemetery

Church Historian
R. Joseph Latshaw III

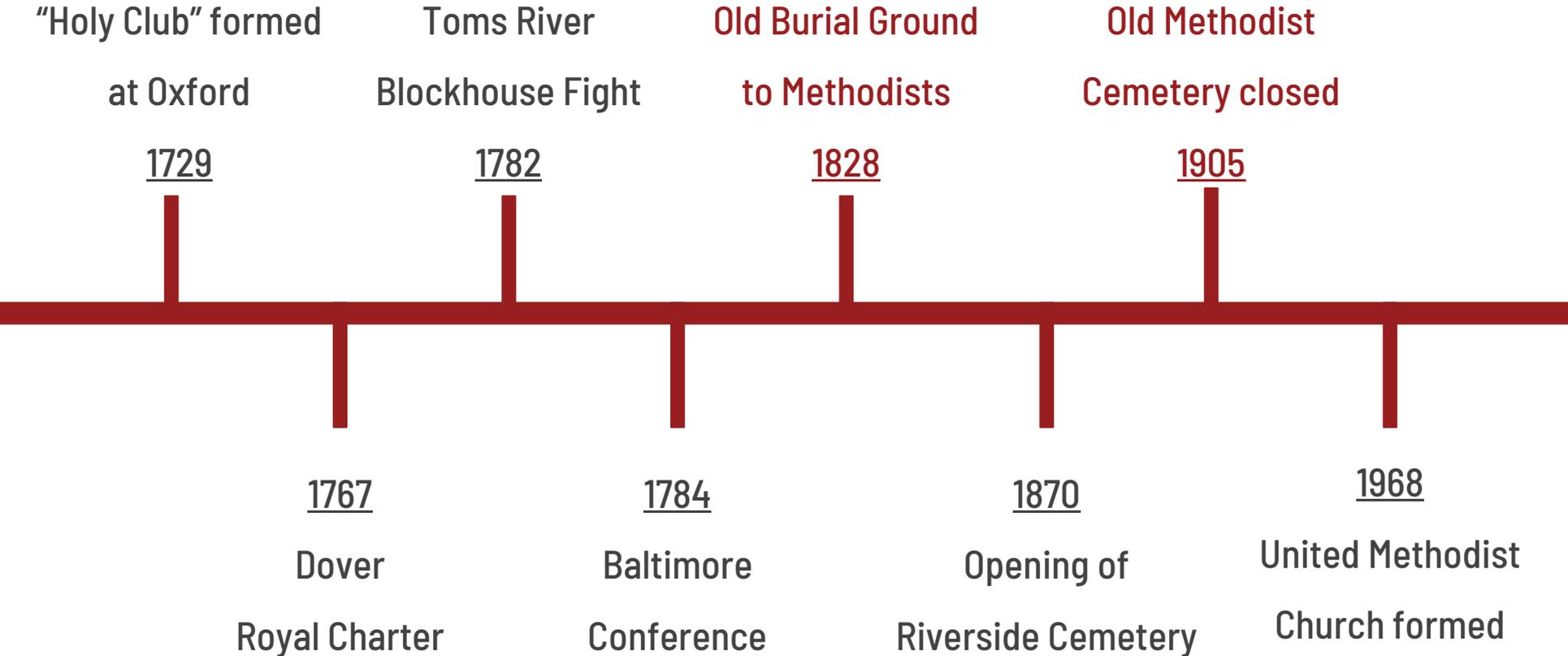


Overview

1. Timeline
2. Cemetery
3. Stories
4. Notable Burials
5. Preservation Efforts
6. Education/Interpretation
7. How to Donate



1. Timeline



2a. Cemetery - Deed June 23, 1828

Joseph Lawrence
& wife
to
The Trustees of Toms River
Methodist Meeting House

Deed Indented This Indenture made the
Eighteenth day of June in the year of our Lord one
thousand eight hundred and twenty eight Between
Joseph Lawrence of the Township of Dover in the
County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey
and Mary Elizabeth his wife of the one part and
Garret Irons Ephraim Potter Ebenezer Applegate Joseph C. Williams
Joseph Lawrence William Giberson and Jacob J. Applegate Trustees
of the Toms River Methodist Meeting House of the Township County
and State aforesaid of the other part Witnesseth that the said party of
the first part for and in consideration of one dollar to them in hand paid
by the said party of the second part the receipt whereof is hereby acknowl-
edged have granted bargained and sold and by these presents do
grant bargain sell alien release convey and confirm unto the said
Garret Irons Ephraim Potter Ebenezer Applegate Joseph C. Williams
Joseph Lawrence William Giberson and Jacob J. Applegate trustees
of the Toms River Methodist Meeting House and to their successors
in office for the use of the Episcopal Methodists at or near Toms River
and also to the free and open for any denomination of Christians
who believe in the atonement of Jesus Christ and are in good stan-
ding in the Church to which they belong when not occupied by the

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2b. Cemetery - Closing

New Jersey Courier
Toms River, N.J. Thursday Afternoon,
April 30, 1905

However, as the burying ground has been used so many years, every nook and corner of it has perhaps been utilized, and it is almost impossible to dig a new grave without disturbing the graves of those buried many years ago. It has been always a free burial place, and no one has any knowledge that it was ever plotted or if any record of the graves was ever made. Probably no such

was ever made. Probably no such plan was ever kept, as in the early days it would not be thought necessary, and later it would be found impossible to get the information needed for such a plan of the graves. Consequently, as many of the earlier graves are unmarked, and they have sunk level with the sod, it is now impossible to tell where many of the dead are lying.

3a. Stories in Stone - Katherine Corliss



To all appearances, the oldest gravestone standing, is close up to the big hickory mentioned in the deed. It is of the brown sandstone, much used for tombstones before marble was located in this country and reads:

“In memory of Kathrine, wife of Samuel Corliss, who departed this life, Nov. 7, 1811, aged 30 years.” Then follows a verse that was much in vogue as a bit of epitaph poetry a hundred years ago or more :

“View me now, as you pass by :
As you are now, so once was I :
As I am now, so you must be :
Prepare for Death and follow me.”

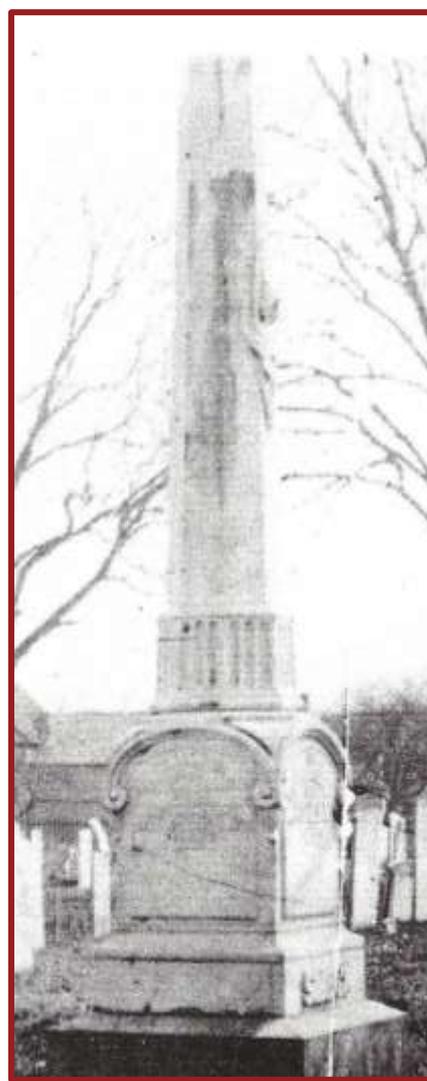
3b. Stories in Stone - Smock Family

Caleb G. - died Nov 12 1877

Andrew - died Apr 20 1879

Louisa - dies Apr 3 1907

Moved from
Old Methodist
to Good Luck



4a. Notable Burials - Oldest existing headstone



Jacob A. Irons
Died October 1, 1795
Age 8 years

4b. Notable Burials - Land Grantor



Joseph Lawrence

55 years, - months, and 19 days

**Deputy Surveyor of the
Province of East Jersey**

Dover Township Clerk

**Deeded the Old Burying Ground
to the Methodists**

4c. Notable Burials - Revolutionary War

Timothy Page
Private- New Jersey Regiment,
Monmouth Co., Militia in Capt.
Wycoff's & Coward Companies



4d. Notable Burials - Revolutionary War



**William Williams
Private, Capt. Bateman Lloyd's
Co. 2nd Regt. N.J. Line,
Revolutionary Army**

5a. Preservation Effort - Needs

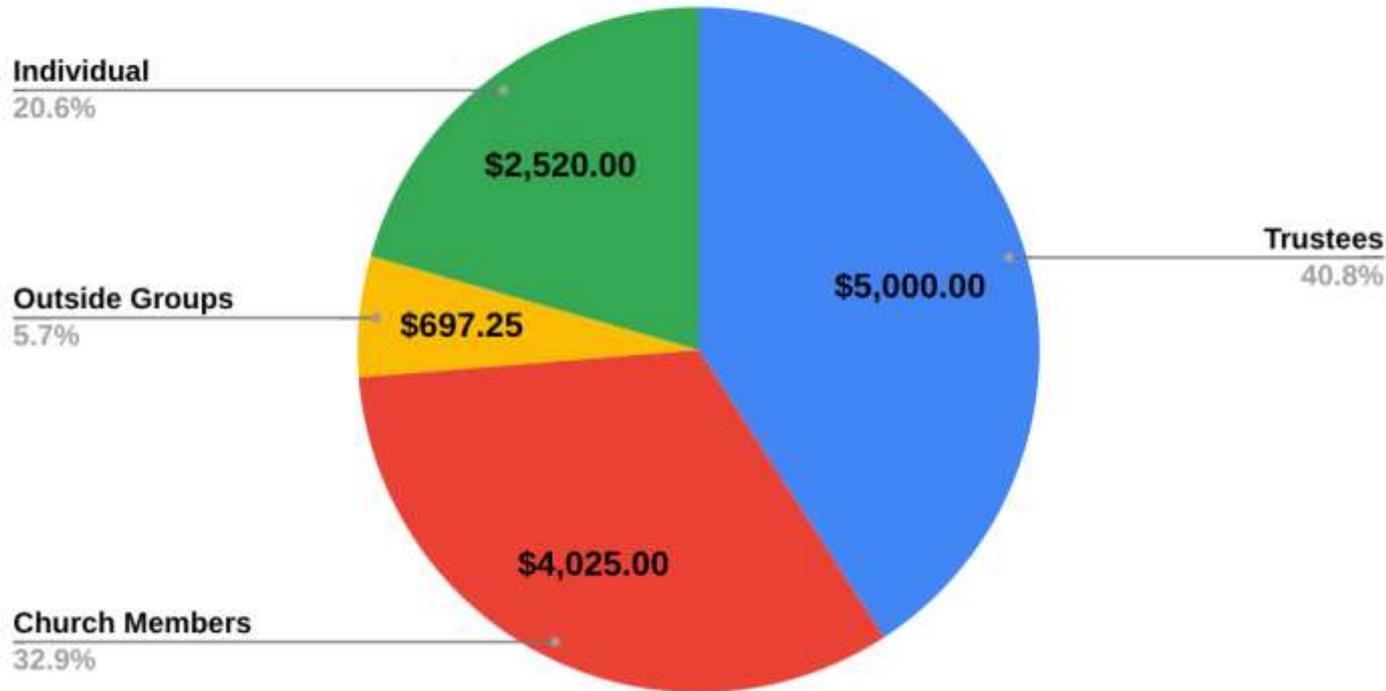
- cleaning
- resetting
- grounds maintenance



5b. Preservation Efforts - Fundraising - GOAL: \$25,000

Donations By Category

As of 1/5/26



Raised so far:
\$12,242.25

Average Cost
To Repair
1 Headstone:
\$200

6. Education/Interpretation

- tours
- speaking engagements
- signage



7. How can Col. Somers Chapter members can help?

Donate online using
the QR code here and
write in other
“cemetery” as the
reason for donation:



To donate by check,
cash or other means
please mail the
donation to the
church office.

Questions?

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