

Parking for the Burying Yard is in the J&R Tabacco parking lot.

The gardens within the Burying Yard were designed by and cared for by the Whippany Garden Club.



This publication is made possible by the **Hanover Township Landmark Commission**.
 1000 Route 10, P.O. Box 250, Whippany, NJ 07981-0250.
 The brochure was designed by © Wieslaw Burdzy at DigiArt.
 Photography by © Wieslaw Burdzy. www.graphics-signs.com



TOUR OF THE WHIPPANY BURYING YARD 1718



WHIPPANY, NJ



On September 2, 1718, Schoolmaster John Richards, a resident of Whippanong, signed a deed that made known his affection and high regard for his neighbors and friends in Whippanong and his interest in promoting and advancing the public interest.

The deed he signed donated to the citizens of Whippanong a tract of land containing three and one-half acres between the Whippanong River and the main thoroughfare. The deed made plain how Richards intended the land to be used: a decent and suitable meeting house for the public worship of God; a school house; a burying yard; a training field (most likely for the militia); and such like public uses and no other.

John Richards died on December 10, 1718, three months after he had deeded the above-described land to the citizens of Whippanong. He became the first to be interred in the burying yard. His grave is the oldest in Morris County.

For the next 200 years, the burying yard was maintained by the members of the Presbyterian Church with which it was closely associated. The cost of burials was kept low: \$2: for Whippanong residents and \$5 for non-residents. The Burial Committee determined who could be interred in the Burying Yard. As far as can be determined, the Cemetery Committee remained under control of the Presbyterian Church.

In 1914 the Presbyterian Church elected trustees for a group that would be known as Whippany Cemetery Association. The Association would serve as caretaker of the Burying Yard for the next sixty-one years. Much of the work done to maintain the Burying Yard—mowing the lawn and such, -- was done by the trustees, as had been by members of the Cemetery Committee.

After a great deal of discussion and in the face of ever-dwindling funds, the Cemetery Association petitioned Hanover Township to accept responsibility for the Burying Yard as an historic site. In 1976, the Township of Hanover agreed to accept responsibility for the Burying Yard. Thereupon, the Whippany Cemetery Association ceased to exist. Hanover Township gave responsibility for the Burying Yard to its Landmark Commission, where it remains.

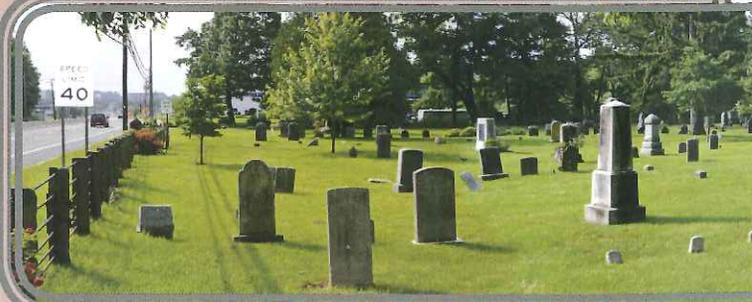
The Burying Yard holds approximately 450 graves. When the Landmark Commission “walked” the yard, They found many stones were badly cracked, covered with lichen or difficult to decipher. Some were broken in half or on the ground, victims of the passage of time. Considering its responsibility, the Landmark Commission focused on two key goals:

The first was to identify professional groups that could repair or restore the oldest or most badly damaged stones. Beginning in 2003 to date, the Landmark Commission has had 40 gravestones professionally restored and/or repaired.

The second goal was to have the Burying Yard listed on both the State and the National Register of Historic Places. In 2011, after years of trying by Whippany residents, the Burying Yard was listed on both the State and the National Register of Historic places.

The Whippany Burying Yard is the final resting place of 11 veterans of the American War for Independence, serving in the local militia. One soldier, Timothy Tuttle, was a member of the Continental Army; nine Civil War veterans are also interred in the Burying Yard. One served in the Navy while, others were attached to various New Jersey regiments. Several of these regiments had distinguished war records, participating in such battles as Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg and Chancellorsville.

Visitors to the burying yard can see gravestones made of three different materials: sandstone, marble and granite. By the late 19th century, granite had become the material of choice. It was found to be very durable and could be carved using mechanized tools instead of hand chisels. Visitors can also glimpse an almost 300-year time span of various commemorative styles. The long period that the cemetery has been in use and its generally good condition makes it a truly significant historical site.



WHIPPANY BURYING YARD MORRIS COUNTY, NJ

The Whippany Burying Yard occupies a 2.31-acre, polygonal-shaped lot located between Route 10 and the banks of the Whippany River in Hanover Township.

Opened in 1718, the cemetery contains several hundred sandstone, marble and granite grave markers, ranging from the early 18 to the 20 century in date and arranged in irregular, roughly parallel rows running north/south and facing east/west. Ground Penetrating and Electromagnetic surveys of the property conducted in the past two decades have revealed numerous unmarked graves. Archaeological remains associated with the Presbyterian Church, built circa 1718 and removed circa 1755, may also be present. **Although its remains are not visible, historical sources locate its site near the Route 10 entrance.** A stone post and iron rail fence, erected in 1851, demarcates the burying ground from the busy highway, and the iron-gated entrance, is located about midway along its length. Pedestrian access currently is by means of a **wooden footbridge** of recent date which spans a drainage swale bordering the east side of the lot. **The bridge leads from an off-site parking lot belonging to an adjoining commercial property, whose owner provides parking and access to cemetery visitors.** The graveyard features a number of informally planted shrubs and large trees, and **natural vegetation borders the south side of the graveyard**, as well as portions of its east boundary. A vinyl chain link fence along the west side of the graveyard lot separates it from the late 18th century **Joseph Tuttle House**, which is listed on both the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. A mix of commercial, industrial and residential uses characterized the surrounding neighborhood along Route 10, which developed from the old village of Whippany.

Consistent with traditional burial grounds, the Whippany Burying Yard does not have any formal internal circulation system, except for the short stub of a driveway or path at the main entrance. The ground surface of the cemetery, although generally level, is quite uneven in places, probably a result of grave settlement, tree removal and animal burrowing. Lacking any formal planting, the site is characterized by a grassy lawn and scattered trees and shrubs, some of considerable age, as well as limited recent landscaping, including the modest planting at the pedestrian bridge entrance. A few large trees probably predate 1930, as appears from overlaying existing site map with a 1930 aerial photograph. Along the drainage swale to the east, mature trees and other natural vegetation partially screen the adjoining parking lot and commercial building from the cemetery, except around the footbridge, where the view is more open. The trees and thick vegetation along the riverbank bordering the southern edge of the site screen most views of the warehouse complex across the river.

Erected in 1851, the Route 10 fence is constructed of thin sandstone posts and small round iron rails. The larger posts

of the central gateway are square in section with pyramid caps; one bears the inscription "**Whippany/1851**" which undoubtedly commemorates the fence's construction. **The central vehicular entry has a two leaf gate; a pedestrian gate abuts it to the south.** The gates consist of **iron pickets with spear finials and diagonal bracing.** The lower edges of the vehicular gate, buried in the earth, no longer swing freely.

The Whippany Burying Yard contains approximately 371 gravestones dating from the 18th, 19th and the 20th centuries. With the exception of one fieldstone marker, nearly all of the oldest grave markers were carved from sandstone, **probably quarried in Newark, Belleville, or at other locations in the Watchung Mountains.** **There are 74 sandstone markers.** Most of the surviving markers are **headstones**, though a small number of **foot stones** are also present. The early headstones typically are of a **simple tripartite form**; though later markers show **more elaborate forms.** With the exception of the aforementioned fieldstone marker (**Stephen Crane, dated 1732**), the markers are the products of trained carvers. **Many of the earliest markers show mortality images, included winged skulls.** These date from 1718 through the 1770s, and were most common during the 1750s. There are noteworthy examples for **John Richards (1718)** and **Sarah Kitchel (1756).** Later markers show **soul effigies or winged cherubs.** The earliest example dates from the 1730s, and they persist until the end of the century. They were most common during the 1780s. Many of these gravestones were carved by an individual known as the **Common Jersey Carver.** His work is also found around Newark and in Woodbridge. **He carved well formed cherubs.** The gravestones of **Elizabeth Crane (1736)** and **John Biglow (1733)** are examples of his work. A **badly decayed sandstone marker for Tabitha Trowbridge** appears to be the work of the **John Stevens Shop in Newport Rhode Island.** Other later cherubs were the products of **Uzal Ward of Newark** and his apprentices. The **Joanna Tuttle (1766)** and **Abigail Kitchel (1768)** markers are attributed to **Ward.** One of his apprentices or imitators carved a noteworthy tombstone for **Joseph Tuttle, Esq.**

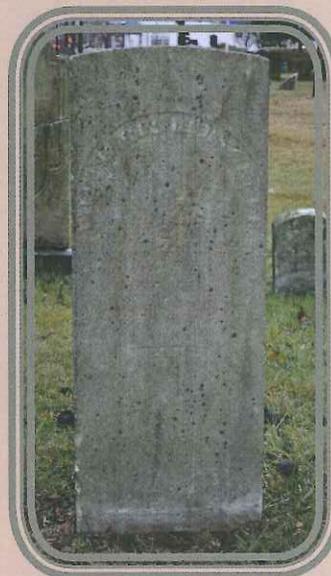
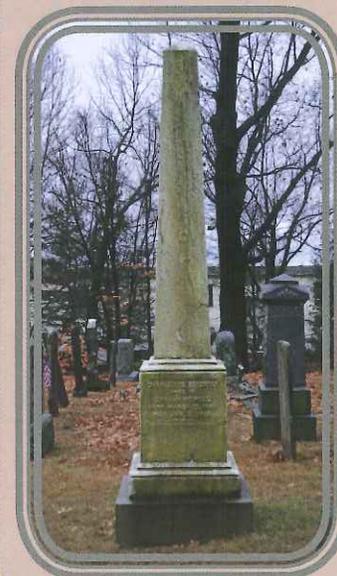
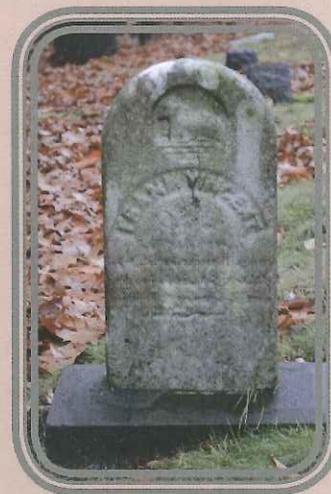
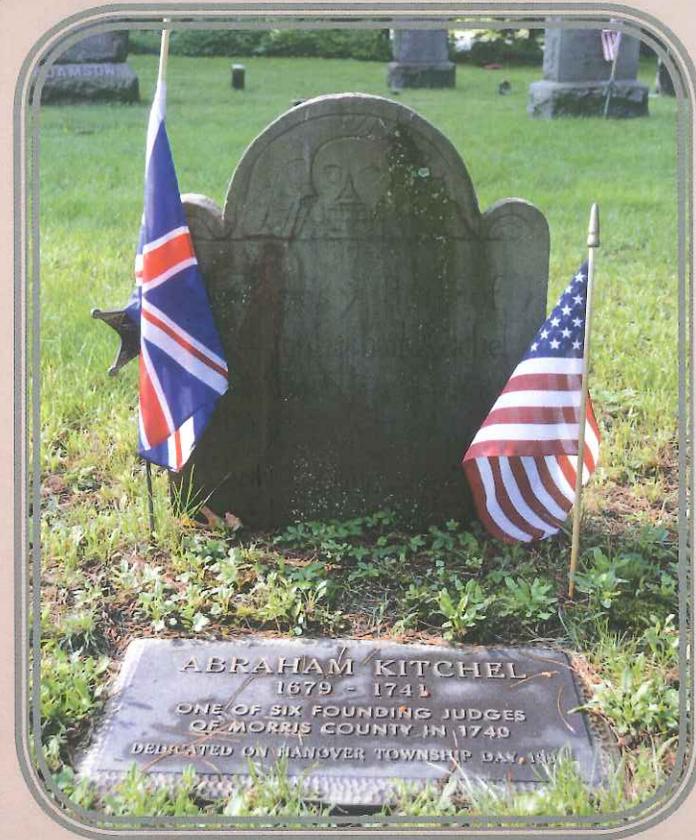
At the end of the 18th century unornamented grave markers, often carved in a plain neoclassical style, became the norm. New fonts were employed by carvers as seen in the script monogram on **Deacon Stephen Munson's marker (1805).** This marker was likely **carved by Zephaniah Grant, presumably a relative of the prominent eighteenth century Newark stone carver, William Grant.** Another late sandstone marker commemorates **David Condit (d. 1837)** and is inscribed **R.T. Wilson & Co.** **Wilson** was a Morristown carver. **Marble** came to replace sandstone as the material of choice after 1800. **White neoclassical markers, which were already the norm in places such as Philadelphia, grew in popularity in the early 19 century.** There are **223 examples** in the burial ground. **One fine allegorical marker commemorates Sarah Charles.** It depicts hope and was signed by **J. Ritter, a New Haven, Connecticut carver.** Sadly, many of the marble markers

are nearly illegible today due to acid rain. A handful of military issue markers also survive in the burial ground. They too were carved from marble.

By the mid-19th century increasingly elaborate marble tablets set on bases had come to replace the more modest early 19th century gravestones. Urns and willows were a widely employed sentimental motif. A good example is the *Uzal Kitchel (1813) marker*. Local carvers, such as **Leondard Schureman of Morristown** were producing these markers. Upward pointing hands were also employed and increasingly single monuments often surrounded by fences came to dominate the memorial landscape. *The Jacob Gray memorial (1828)* is the earliest surviving example in the Whippany Burying Yard. Children's markers employed their own symbolism, such as a **rose bud** with a **snapped stem** or a **sleeping lamb**. The markers epitaphs note that they had **"gone home"** or **"expired"** rather than died.

At the end of the 19th century granite, often grey in color, and carved using mechanized tools became the norm. There are **69 granite markers in the cemetery**. They range from small tablets to large monuments. These late markers are concentrated in the southeastern corner of the burial ground.

A single concrete folk memorial survives near the eastern edge of the cemetery. Simply inscribed **"Daven,"** it has a heart-shaped form and is decorated with **large chunks of purple and white conglomerate stone**. Markers similar to this are common in African American cemeteries in the South and Midwest.



SOME NOTABLE FOREBEARS BURIED IN WHIPPANONG BURYING YARD

JOHN RICHARDS, 1655-1718.

Schoolmaster; donated a prime four-acre lot to his (anonymous) friends and neighbors, to be used for a school, a church, a militia training field, and a burying yard. The tract is believed to be the first and oldest public property in northwest New Jersey. Richards had migrated from Newark to Whippany one year before he died, and was the first to be buried in the new Burying Yard. Before he come to New Jersey from Connecticut, his young daughter Jemima had been kidnapped by Indians, never to return. Richards' original gravestone was preserved within a granite monument by descendants in 1914.

JOHN BIGELOW, 1679-1733.

Son-in-law of Schoolmaster Richards; boatbuilder in Newark; first Tax Collector of Hanover Township in 1723. His small gravestone has the most ornate carving in the Yard, a round-faced cherub with large wings, locally dubbed the "Archangel of the Whippanong." He was a skilled wood worker at the time the church was erected on the grounds which his father-in-law John had donated.

ABRAHAM KITCHEL, 1679-1741.

Early settler of Whippany from Newark; one of six original Judges of Morris County at its founding in 1740. Patriarch of 11 generations of Kitchells to follow in Whippany. His gravestone was refurbished in the mid-1980s at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and professionally restored again in 2002.

SARAH BRUEN KITCHEL, 1679-1745.

Wife of Abraham and grandmother of Grace (Kitchel) Ford first wife of Samuel Ford, Jr., ironmaster of the "Adventure" blast furnace in Hibernia, NJ.

JOSEPH TUTTLE, Sr., 1698-1789.

Blacksmith; Colonel of Morris County militia in French and Indian War. Husband of five successive wives, including marrying Mary Merry. Mary is buried with her Merry family at Hanover Presbyterian Church. Though infirm and blind, old Col. Tuttle's family evacuated him to safety to avoid his being captured by invading British during the American Revolution. His grave is the only above-ground, horizontal vault in the Burying Yard.

MATTHIAS BURNET, Sr., 1723-1783.

Chairman of Hanover Township's Civilian Committee of Observation (observing behavior of local Tories and the British) as the American Revolution was arising in 1775. The clerk of Matthias' Committee was blacksmith Aaron Kitchel who became a US Congressman and Senator. The Burnet farm was located along Whippany Road around present Fieldstone Drive and Karla Drive. His thick brownstone grave marker is believed the product of stone-cutter Ebenezer Price of Elizabeth.

UZAL KITCHEL, 1746-1813.

Private in Patriot militia in American Revolution. Husband of Anna Tuttle. Their farm extended behind the present Bradley-Braviak Funeral Home and Kindercare Learning Center on Whippany Road — the present Bayer property. It served as camp ground for the 5,000-man French Army under General Count Rochambeau halting at Whippany in 1781 and again in 1782. Private Uzal's thin marble gravestone was flattened by a falling tree, late 1990s.

TIMOTHY TUTTLE (II of III), 1748-1816.

Sergeant of the First Company under Capt. Joseph Morris in Lord Stirling's First Battalion of New Jersey's First Regiment in Washington's Continental Army. The daily journal he kept for the year 1776 is archived and published. Captain of Whippany militia company in the 2nd Battle of Springfield when he impatiently lead volunteers into battle without his General's orders. He married Mary, daughter of Lt. Timothy & Jerusula Ward.

KETURAH TUTTLE FLATT, 1764-1850.

Sister of Timothy; raised in family of elder sister Anna (Tuttle) Kitchel and Uzal. Wife of Mr. Flatt for three years; housekeeper for a judge. Charter Member of First Presbyterian Church of Whippany.

ELIJAH HOPPING, 1775-1847.

"Boss" of the committee which built the present sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Whippany in 1834, and then built a virtually identical church for East Hanover the following year. Both sturdy structures remain in constant worship use ever since.

ARTHUR ALBOHN, 1921-2008.

The person most recently buried in the Burying yard to date was Arthur Albohn, a long time mayor and committee man of Hanover Township. He served many terms in the New Jersey Assembly. His widow, Mrs Regina Albohn, will be the last person buried in the Burying yard.



