

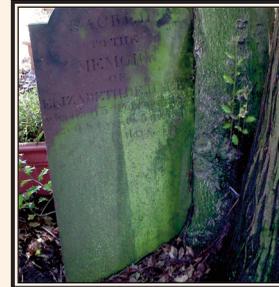
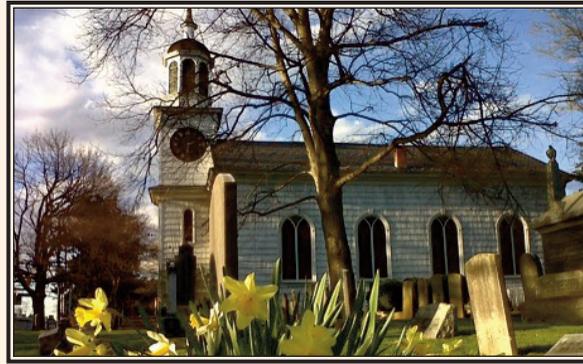
## Costumed Graveyard Tours

The church enacts a periodic portrayal of some of these individuals by costumed actors who tell their stories. The Dead Actors' Guild is the troupe that performs these portrayals.



## Veterans

The graveyard is the final resting place for over 50 veterans of the Armed Forces. These dedicated individuals have served throughout our history from the French and Indian War through the Vietnam War. Each Memorial Day weekend we gather in the churchyard after the Sunday Service and recognize them through prayers, music and the reading of all their names.



The souls interred here are common folk in a modest but historic town and graveyard. In thinking of how to best reflect this sentiment, the following famous poem comes to mind

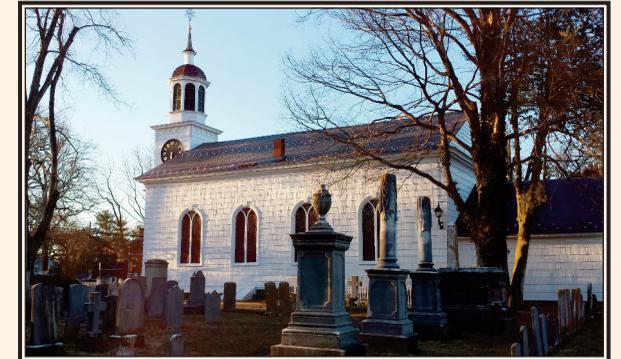
*“Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife,  
Their sober wishes never learn'd to stray;  
Along the cool sequester'd vale of life  
They kept the noiseless tenor of their way.”*

Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard  
BY THOMAS GRAY (1750)  
(Excerpt)

Christ Episcopal Church  
Shrewsbury, NJ  
732.741.2220  
christchurchshrewsbury.org  
christchurchshrewsbury@verizon.net

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
— SHREWSBURY —

# THE HISTORIC GRAVEYARD



Meaningful Worship  
Creative Learning  
Passionate Service  
In an Historic Setting

## Graveyard Overview

The Christ Church Graveyard occupies the preponderance of the 1.6 acre churchyard. This property was acquired by the church in 1706, four years after the parish's founding. Before a church was erected, the land was used as a graveyard with the earliest surviving gravestone dated 1719.

The graveyard has several sections. The largest segment of the graveyard is for traditional full burial plots.

The Memorial Garden is for ashes with individual burials but with memorial plaques on a common gravemarker.

The Sycamore Garden is also for ashes but with dedicated gravemarkers for individual plots.

The Heritage Rose Meditation Garden (HMRG) is the newest section of the graveyard for meditation and memorials including individual interment of ashes.

The graveyard has about 1300 souls interred with about 800 gravemarkers. Due to the graveyard's longevity gravemarkers are a wide variety of materials and styles. The stones are made of slate, brown and white sandstone, marble and granite. The styles range from simple 3-4 foot high slabs, larger thicker slabs, short stones angled from the ground, flat stones on the ground and larger Victorian era edifices. Inscriptions range from simple names and dates to art carvings of cherubs and death heads and scriptural and non-scriptural texts.

## Special Graveyard Characteristics and Features

The graveyard has a number of distinctive features. There are three gravemarkers in the floor of the church. They mark the presence of the remains under the church that resulted from gravestones being moved due to the erection of the

larger 1769 (and current) church.

The Heritage Rose Meditation Garden (HRMG) has two special features. One is the gravemarker of an infant, Edith Georgianna Moore, and the second is a garden bench memorializing Charles Adams Throckmorton.



## 1769 Graveyard Information and Records

A record of all individuals interred in the graveyard is maintained in the parish register which dates from 1733. A database of all burials has been created to allow for graveyard analysis. There is also a surveyor's map of the graveyard indicating the location of each gravemarker linked to the database. In addition the burials with gravemarkers are listed in alphabetical order on a web site, distantcousin.com. Furthermore extensive genealogical information has been developed about many individuals buried in the graveyard providing extensive insight into the church and the community.



Oldest Surviving Gravestone



Excerpt from First Parish Register

## Individuals, Church, Local, and National History

By virtue of its existence and continuous use for over 300 years, the graveyard serves as an historical portrait of the community as it evolved and grew over many years. The graveyard is a thread of our history. It reflects the history of our church, our local community, our State, and our Nation. These are some of the individuals who make this history come alive.

**Benjamin Lippincott** - Benjamin Lippincott left New Jersey traveling on an overland route to California in order to seek his fortune. He became a successful entrepreneur, fought the Mexicans with Fremont, was a member of the California Constitutional Convention, and served in the inaugural California legislature. He returned home and was buried here in 1870.



Lippincott

**William Leeds** - Leeds was a co-founder of the church and critical to the continued existence of the church through the bequest of 439 acres of land to serve as a glebe, an income producing property, for the church. He passed in 1739.



Leeds

**Graham Kearney and Reverend Samuel Cooke** - Graham is buried here in an unmarked grave. Her husband Samuel, to was rector here though he is not interred in the graveyard. He was the rector behind the erection of the current church completed in 1774. His departure in 1775 marks both the Revolutionary War and the transition of the parish from Anglican to Episcopal.

**Reverend Harry and Theodosia Finch** - Harry was the longest serving rector of Christ Church and was instrumental in preserving its history, especially our documents. Both he and his wife ran schools for children.



Finch

**E. C Hazard** - Edward Clarke Hazard was a late 19th century entrepreneur and was emblematic of the Gilded Age in the shore area. He marketed canned goods and owned a ketchup factory in Shrewsbury. He and his family were prominent in the social life of the Borough.



Hazard

**Dorothy Blair Manson** - Dorothy was the first woman vestryperson at Christ Church and first woman Mayor of Shrewsbury. She was active in many community matters especially the Girl Scouts.



Manson

**John Grimke** - Judge John Faucheraud Grimke was a Revolutionary war hero in South Carolina and was Mayor of Charleston, a member of the State legislature, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in that state. Yet he is buried here when he died locally as he was seeking treatment for an illness. His gravestone does not survive but the likely site is depicted. He died in 1809.



Grimke

**Eddie Condon** - Eddie Condon was a prominent jazz musician from the 1930s through the 1950s. He was a jazz impresario organizing bands and performing with some of the most famous names of the era including Bix Beiderbecke, Pee Wee Russell, Wild Bill Davison, and Louis Armstrong. Condon played guitar but also owned his own jazz club in Greenwich Village. His family spent much time in Monmouth Beach.



Condon



Sycamore Garden



Memorial Garden



Heritage Rose Meditation Garden