

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Newton Union Burial Ground
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Lynne Ave and Collings Ave. not for publication
city or town Haddon Township vicinity
state New Jersey code 034 county Camden code 007 zip code 08107

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____ _____ _____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY: cemetery

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY: cemetery

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls _____

roof _____

other STONE: granite

CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria considerations

(mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHAEOLOGY
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

1682 - 1859

Significant Dates

1682
1790
1859

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Camden County Historica Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.6

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	492182	4417597	3	18	492331	4417363
	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Easting</i>	<i>Northing</i>		<i>Zone</i>	<i>Easting</i>	<i>Northing</i>
2	18	492204	4417607	4	18	492239	4417405

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrew Levecchia, Planning Director, Matthew Zochowski, Assistant Planner, & Robert Shinn, Consultant
 organization Camden County Division of Planning date 4/13/2018
 street & number 2311 Egg Harbor Road telephone 856-566-3120
 city or town Lindenwold state NJ zip code 08021

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name Haddon Township - Mayor Randal Teague
 street & number 135 Haddon Ave Telephone 856-854-1176
 City or town Haddon Twp. state NJ zip code 08108

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Newton Union Burial Ground
Camden County, NJ

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Description Narrative

Summary paragraph

The Newton Union Burial Ground is a late seventeenth, early eighteenth-century cemetery located in the West Collingswood neighborhood of Haddon Township, New Jersey. It is bordered by Newton Creek to the south, Lynne Avenue to the west, the former West Collingswood Train Station, parking lot, and driveway to the north, and old Pennsylvania Reading Seashore Line railroad tracks to the east. The older part of the cemetery, the original Old Newton Burial Ground, is approximately one acre in size and was laid out by members of the Newton Meeting in 1682 on land donated by meeting members Mark Newbie and Thomas Thackara. The newer part of the cemetery, the Sloan Burying Ground, is adjacent to and east of the Old Newton Burial Grounds and is approximately one acre in size. James Thackara sold this land to James Sloan in 1790 to provide a burial place for non-Quakers, Quakers who had separated from their meetings, and so-called Free Quakers who took up arms or supported the American Revolution. The two burial grounds united circa 1811 when Joseph Sloan abandoned his claim and conveyed a deed for his grounds to the Trustees of the Haddonfield Monthly Meeting. The Newton Union Burial Ground carries the designation of Block 2.04, Lot 2 on the Haddon Township tax map (Figure 2).

Geographical Setting

The Old Newton Union Burial Ground lies in flat lowlands adjacent to and north of Newton Creek also known as Newton Lake. The south end of the site slopes downward to a marsh area before reaching the stream bank. The New Jersey Geological Survey map, *Surficial Geology of the Camden and Philadelphia Quadrangles* (Sanford 2004) indicates that portions of the burial ground are covered with artificial fill over a base of estuarine silt, sand, clay, and gravel deposited during Holocene sea-level rise, chiefly within the past 10,000 years.

As shown in Figure 1, several blocks of mostly one story, single family homes are located west of the site and the cemetery's western boundary of Lynne Avenue. A multi-family low-rise housing complex is located adjacent to and east of the railroad tracks that lie on the cemetery's eastern border.

Cemetery's Physical Description

The cemetery is located within a semi-wooded setting with several very tall and old trees and some shrubs (Figure 4). Almost the entirety of the burial ground is covered by grass and well maintained (Photos 0001 – 0009). The site appears like a small, tree-shaded, flat, grassy park when approached from the intersection of Lynne and Elm Avenues (Figure 4, Photos 0023-0025). As shown in Figure 1, the cemetery lies within a wedge-like trapezoid whose length is twice its width and whose long axis runs from the short western side to its wider eastern side along Newton Creek.

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The Old Newton Union Burial Ground consists of two parts (Figure 5). The first, closest to Lynn Avenue, is the original Old Newton Burial Ground with no remaining gravestones. The burial ground was the site of the Newton Union Quaker Meeting House which held town meetings for Newton Township until a new Meeting House was built in Haddonfield in 1721. The meeting house was destroyed by fire in 1817. The remains of the meeting house are not obvious on the site today, but are continually mentioned in historical records and on historical maps.

James Sloan laid out the second part of the burial ground in 1790. He placed a stone in the center that read:

“Here is no distinction. Rich and Poor meet together, the Lord is maker of them all. Founded by James Sloan. 1790.”

This stone is no longer visible anywhere on the site. There is a trench that evidently was the dividing line between the Newton and Sloan burial grounds. For further description, please see attached maps.

According to historical maps, the Sloan Burial ground runs the length of the stone wall that still exists at the northernmost section of the burial ground, while the Old Newton section begins just west of where that stone wall ends and runs to the Lynne Avenue. Both burial grounds are rectangular and run perpendicular with Lynne Ave. The Ancient Newton Meeting section ended roughly at the southernmost curb of Lynne Ave/ Newton Avenue while the Sloan Burial Ground is roughly 20 or 30 feet shorter.

According to the 1934 “Ancient Newton” map prepared by Chas S. Boyer and Harry Marvin, there was a “trace of a brick wall” that ran along the northernmost and southernmost sections of the Newton Meeting section. This is not visible today and may be buried underground or have been removed. The only wall that does exist today is in good condition and looks like it was repaired and covered with concrete. According to the map, this wall was a brick wall in 1934, but today looks to be of concrete. It remains unknown if the original brick wall is within the concrete cap. The Sloan Burial Ground is also mentioned to have a wall running along the easternmost section in this map but this is also not visible today. At one point, it is believed that both burial grounds were entirely enclosed.

Graves and Grave Markers at Newton Union Burial Ground

At the time of the burial ground’s creation, Quakers believed tombstones were an undesirable human vanity, intended to elevate one deceased person over others. Quakers did not allow public displays of wealth or position in their cemeteries and most early settlement Quaker burial grounds lack large stones or epitaphs. Where they are present, the stones are small and of uniform shape and size. The 1717 Quaker Book of Discipline provided that: “... in each particular burial ground, such uniformity is preserved in respect to the materials, size, form

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and wording of the stones, as well as in the mode of placing them, as may effectually guard against any distinction being made in that place between the rich and the poor.¹

No stones remain in the Newton section of the Burial ground. Only the Sloan burial ground has stones, due to the age difference of the two burial grounds and evolving Quaker beliefs.

In the late 1700s and early 1800s some Quakers began to mark graves at the Newton Union Burial Ground and elsewhere. They used both flat slabs and upright stones. Generally, the older the stone, the more plain and simple it is. Older stones are half rounded while mid-1800s stones have more detailed cuts.

Carved flat stones of various sizes and shapes mark the graves in the newer part of the burial ground, the "Sloan" section. Most of those still standing show their age as weathering of their lettering has rendered many difficult to read. Gaps between standing grave stones hold fallen stones, some still visible, others covered by grass or no longer present. Some markers at the graves of soldiers have been replaced with updated gravestones.

Today the remaining gravestones in the Sloan section are laid out in regular rows at somewhat regular spacing. In these regards, the graveyard is similar to the Haddonfield Friends Cemetery.

Most stones only have simple descriptions that include the name, birth, and date of the person's death. More detailed stones include a small epitaph about the person. All stones are generally ordered in regular rows and spaced evenly though there are vast gaps in between stones which indicate that badly damaged or destroyed stones were at one point removed or buried underground. Many of the existing stones are badly weathered, and most original grave markers have shown severe erosion.

A detailed "Historical Graves Survey" was prepared for the Sloan section by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1934 and is attached to this nomination document. There are 117 grave markers that are currently visible and one monument constructed in 1931 with a plaque that reads "When this burial ground was placed in order in 1931 these gravestones were found within its borders, and placed here for preservation." This concrete enclosure resembles a type of fish pond or water fountain and includes old grave markers from the Newton section of the Burial Ground.

Substitute tombstones have been added in the Sloan section to the graves of soldiers who fought in the American Revolution. Every year on the Fourth of July and Veterans Day, the local historical society places flags on these graves.

¹ (<https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2014/06/07/gonna-lay-this-body-down-quaker-funerals-burials>)

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Statement of Significance

Summary paragraph

The Newton Union Burial Ground is significant under National Register Criteria A, C, and D. The cemetery's principle connection with the earliest European settlement of Camden County and the third Quaker settlement in West New Jersey provide it with eligibility under Criterion A because of its association "with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history." The first burials in the cemetery occurred in 1684 making it the oldest established cemetery in Old Gloucester County and Camden County, New Jersey. The cemetery holds the remains of the original settlers of the Newton Colony (later Newton Township) and is the location of the first dedicated Society of Friends (Quaker) meeting house, built 1684, in Camden County (formerly Gloucester County) and the third oldest in southern New Jersey. The property meets Criterion C because it is representative of the distinct characteristics of a Quaker cemetery. Due to the nature of the Society of Friends religious and political split around the time of the American Revolution, it also includes a burial plot for non-Quaker persons or those Quakers who were separated from the Society of Friends for not following established requirements for continued membership. The property possesses significance under Criterion D as a site likely to yield significant information important to the Colonial Era history of the West Jersey/Camden County Region. The burial ground has been largely untouched for the past 333 years except for the removal or sinking of the enclosing wall and the removal of gravestones. As a cemetery, the property is required to meet the provisions of Criterion Consideration D. It meets this consideration due both to its great age and its association with the establishment of the Newton Colony.

Local Significance

The Newton Union Burial Ground is locally significant because it is the final resting place of the emigrant founders and families of the Newton Colony, Old Gloucester County, and Camden County and of at least 22 veterans who fought in the American Revolutionary War, including at least 17 who were members of the Gloucester County Militia, making this collection of such veteran burials among the largest, if not the largest, in southern New Jersey. There is no other known appropriate site, building, or structure associated with the productive lives of these people who distinguished themselves during their time in West Jersey as the first settlers of the county, as the elected representatives of the county to the New Jersey Assembly, as defenders of the right of self government, religious liberty, and local self-determination, as judges, sheriffs, and soldiers, and as leaders of the Society of Friends at the Newton Monthly and Philadelphia Yearly meeting on all matters, including defending Quaker orthodoxy against the teachings of George Keith (1638-1716).

Several emigrant founders also acquired sufficient land and capital to enable their descendant to develop Gloucester (now Camden) County by establishing ferries, roads, and other supporting public infrastructure. Their local significance of the founders and their descendants is evident throughout Camden County as many streets, schools, and hospitals bear their names. Perhaps the most locally famous individual interred at the Newton Burial Ground, in addition to the founders of Camden County and the veterans of the American Revolution, is Richard Matlack Cooper (1768 – 1843) who engaged in banking and the following public services: Gloucester county coroner, (1795-99); judge and justice of Gloucester County courts (1803-23);

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member of the New Jersey State General Assembly (1807-18); president of the New Jersey State Bank, (1813-42); and member of the Twenty-first and Twenty-second United States Congresses (1829-1833).

The site is currently maintained by Haddon Township as a park, open to the public. Much is open space covered by turf grass with a wooded area and sporadic trees. Two monuments exist, as well as a wall and approximately 117 gravestones. The total number of people buried is unknown as many Quakers did not place headstones prior to the mid-1800s.¹

Quaker Origins and Emigration

The Newton Union Burial Ground and Newton Colony origins date back to turbulent seventeenth century England, a volatile time for political and religious groups throughout England, Scotland, and Ireland. The decade of the 1630's, leading up to the English Civil War (1642-1651), was a time of economic depression. It was also a time when government officials persecuted individuals and groups not aligned with the established church. The Society of Friends, a Christian religion founded by George Fox in 1647 was a target and victim of this persecution. Friends rejected the established Church of England accepting instead a direct relationship with God through the inward experience of faith that would lead to the purification of Christianity. They also believed in the equality of people and rejected the established social hierarchy

Friends were subjected to persecution, which at times was violent and in some cases led to death in prison or on release from prison. In the 1660s, Parliament passed a series of acts aimed at quelling Quaker and other non-conformist dissent. Failure to comply was punishable by fines and six months imprisonment. The acts banned those not attending a parish church from holding a position of office in local government or the church (Corporation Act, 1661 and Act of Uniformity, 1662), required everyone to swear an oath of allegiance to the king (Quaker Act, 1662), prohibited meetings for worship of more than five people over the age of 16 except in the Church of England (Conventicle Act, 1664 and 1670), and made it unlawful for non-conformist ministers to live, visit, preach or teach within five miles of a town or parish where they had previously ministered (Five Mile Act 1665). In addition, under earlier laws originally introduced against Roman Catholics by Elizabeth I and James I, anyone not attending church on Sundays or receiving holy communion at least once a year faced monthly fines and loss of land. Quakers found themselves being prosecuted for not attending church and holding their own meetings for worship.

Friends continued to meet openly despite these laws. Many were willing to risk punishment for doing what they believed was right. They believed their acts testified the strength of their convictions. Of the estimated 50,000 Quakers in England at the time Parliament passed these laws, as many as 20,000 suffered fines and

¹ "Part B. Burials at the Old Newton Union Burial Ground" in the Appendix of Supplemental Materials attached to this nomination lists known burials and related information. The largest single list includes three hundred three names and known birth/death dates at the Find a Grave website: www.findagrave.com.

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imprisonment (Pomfret: 1973:37). In 1659, Quakers presented a petition to Parliament, signed by one hundred and sixty-four Friends, offering their own bodies, person for person, to lie in prison instead of such their brethren as were under confinement and in danger (Braithwaite, 454-455). More than two hundred and fifty died in prison and while some in England were sentenced to banishment.

New England Puritans, who themselves had left England for America because they had suffered religious persecution, also persecuted Quakers. In the 1650's New England Quakers endured escalating fines, prison, banishment, whipping and ear cutting. Four Quakers were condemned to death and executed by public hanging for their religious beliefs in Boston in 1659, 1660 and 1661.²

The suffering caused by the anti-Quaker laws was a strong motivation to move away, but, as had been demonstrated in New England, migrating to the colonies was not necessarily a solution. Quakers needed a safe place to go. A fifth of those who went to West Jersey and half of those who migrated to Pennsylvania had suffered fines and imprisonment (Pomfret: 1973:37).

Newton Colony and Newton Township

Quaker migration began in 1675 when the first ship of Quaker passengers reached Salem. Migration started on a small scale when other ships followed, sailing beyond Salem to dock principally in West Jersey's Burlington after 1677. The migration expanded dramatically after William Penn and a core group of accompanying Quakers arrived in 1682 to found the City of Philadelphia in the new Colony of Pennsylvania.

The history of the "Irish Tenth" part of West Jersey begins with the English settlement of New Jersey when buyers initially purchased land as shares of large subdivided holdings called proprietorships. While northern New Jersey, then called East Jersey, was largely acquired by Scottish Quakers, South Jersey, then known as West Jersey, was divided into ten parts and sold to English Quakers. One part of West Jersey, the Third Tenth, which extended along the Delaware River between the Pennsauken and Big Timber Creeks, would later be divided into Waterford, Newton, Gloucester, and Gloucestertown townships, which today roughly corresponds to Camden County. English Quakers who had fled from England to Ireland to escape religious persecution purchased the Third Tenth, which then also became known as the Irish Tenth.

In 1677, this group of English-Irish proprietors made plans to establish a settlement. They decided to first send one of their members, Robert Zane, to West Jersey to scout out the best locations for a settlement and to send others later (Promfret 1956:123). The proprietor group, which included Dublin Quakers Robert Turner, Robert Zane, Thomas Thackara, William Bates, and Joseph Sleight and County Wickloe Quaker William Bates, had previously purchased one whole share of the West Jersey propriety (one tenth of West Jersey) from the Trustees of its bankrupt owner Edward Byllynge. This purchase included the right to locate within the limits of West Jersey in the Third Tenth (Prowell 1886: 638-640).

² See Quaker letters describing their persecutions at <http://www.hallvworthington.com/Leddra.html>

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Zane arrived at Salem in late 1677 from which he was in constant correspondence with Robert Turner, the major force behind organizing and financing the undertaking (Pomfret 1956: 123). At least one local historian reports he likely examined various locations for settlements along the Delaware River within the boundaries of the third tenth, tested the soil, and discovered the most eligible place "to settle down by" (Clement 1877:12). Zane would have noticed the scattered dwellings of a Swedish family, the Swansons, who had made their farms where south Philadelphia now stands opposite the mouth of West Jersey's Newton Creek, one of the four navigable streams within the third tenth that flowed into the Delaware River.

In September of 1681, Thackara, Bates, and Sharp, joined with Mark Newbie and George Goldsmith to sail from Dublin, Ireland to Salem, West Jersey, on a small pink named *Ye Owner's Adventure*. They arrived at John Fenwick's Salem Colony on November 18, 1681. The passengers stayed with Quakers at Salem over the winter, and in early 1682, purchased a boat and, with Zane, began searching the eastern shore of their "Tenth" along the Delaware River for a permanent settlement site. In Spring 1682, they chose a site on the north shore of Newton Creek and founded Newton Colony (Leap 1982:6). The area they settled is now known as West Collingswood in Haddon Township.

In 1683, the new colonists settled into their new land, first held in common, but then divided into five parcels. Thomas Thackara, a weaver from Dublin and Mark Newbie, a tallow chandler (Newbie had purchased his share from John Slight) were given the center parcels now in West Collingwood. Thomas Sharp was given land on the Delaware River, now known as Fairview. Robert Zane and George Goldsmith (agent for Thomas Starkey who purchased his share from Robert Turner, a Dublin linen draper and merchant and close friend of William Penn) were given land near the Cooper River, now Collingswood. William Bates, carpenter, was another early settler whose land would later become part of Collingswood. He also represented the Irish Tenth in the Provincial legislature.

Newton Burial Ground and Meeting house Origins

In 1682, the settlers established a Quaker meeting at Mark Newbie's house on Newton Creek. The settlers built a log Newton Meeting house in 1684 next to the Old Newton Burial Ground which they had previously laid out the year before. The meeting house was the first in present-day Camden County.³ The burial ground was also one of the first Quaker burial grounds in New Jersey. Located within the limits of the graveyard,⁴ the Newton Union Meeting house held town meetings for Newton Township until settlers built a new

³ The earliest recorded place of meeting at Salem was the log home of Samuel and Ann Nicholson. In 1681, the Nicholson's gave their home and sixteen surrounding acres to the Salem Meeting making the small building the first structure specifically designated as a

Friend's meeting house in the Delaware Valley (Pomfret 1956:22). The Burlington Monthly Meeting first met at John Woolston's house then Thomas Gardiner's until 1694. Francis Collins completed the first Burlington Meeting house in 1693. (Thompson 2016:24)

⁴ The specific location of the footprint of the original Newton Meeting house has yet to be identified. The text of a bronze tablet placed at the foot of an historical monument installed in the burial ground (Photo 0021) by the Camden County Historical Society in 1931 states "The log meeting house which they built in 1684 probably stood on the adjoining premises to the north of this tablet."

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meeting house in Haddonfield in 1721. Thomas Sharp, one of the early settlers, recorded in his account of their early settlement:

In 1684 the Friends in the vicinity of Newton, desirous of erecting a house of worship, selected a lot of land on the bank of the middle branch of Newton Creek, containing about two acres, it being on the bounds of Mark Newby and Thomas Thackara, which was laid out for a burial-ground, and at the west end a log meeting house was erected. (See Historical Map 1 for referenced location).

William Bates, one of the original settlers, planned and was the primary builder of the Newton meeting house. This meeting house served as a house of worship, municipal building and a school. The first school in the limits of Haddon Township was held in the old Newton Meeting house (Prowell 1886:652). In 1801, Friends moved from the log Newton meeting house to a brick meeting house in Haddonfield on land donated by John Haddon. The log Newton meeting house stood until December 22, 1817 when it was destroyed by fire.

Many of the colony's first families are buried in the Old Newton Burial Ground (Prowell 1886:650). The property was originally owned by Mark Newbie and Thomas Thackara and is approximately two acres in size. The Newton Meeting was directed by a board of trustees who also supervised the burial grounds. The first trustees were Thomas Thackara, William Cooper and William Albertson. In 1708, the trustees were William Albertson, Thomas Sharp, John Kaighn, William and Joseph Cooper, Benjamin Thackara, and John Kay.

The cemetery remains as an important reminder of the region's settlement history. Many of the original founders met, worshiped, and were buried next to the Newton meeting house. Their children were educated at the meeting house during its early years, many were wed on this lot, and colonial government administration likely took place within the meeting house.

Local Quaker Influence and Contribution to Broad Pattern of History

Most settlers of West Jersey were Quakers for one hundred years after the first settlement (Prowell 1886:24). Following the Toleration Act of 1689, people in Great Britain were no longer criminals simply for their Quaker faith and, during this time, people began to recognize Quakers for their integrity in social and economic matters. In contrast to other radical offspring of the Reformation, such as the Amish or Puritans, Quakers believed that government was divinely instituted and virtuous men and women must help make it operate as God intended. From the early to mid-1700s to about 1776, Quakers dominated the governments of Pennsylvania and West New Jersey. This colonial era group of Quakers laid out the foundations of government in the Philadelphia area prior to the American Revolution.

In the mid-eighteenth century, Quakers also became increasingly involved in the abolition movement. The Germantown (Pennsylvania) Monthly Meeting put their opposition to slavery for the first time into their minutes in 1733 and by 1776, The Philadelphia Yearly Meeting was the first American yearly meeting to speak out against slavery and to prohibit members from buying, selling, and owning slaves (Soderland 1985:4). These acts led the way to eventual abolition of slavery in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

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Many early Quaker settlers came to West Jersey following the issuance of the famous West Jersey Concessions of March 3, 1677, written by Edward Byllynge, the chief proprietor of the West Jersey province, with the assistance of William Penn and other initial proprietors (Pomfret 1973:41). The Concessions offered the promise of religious freedom, equitable taxation, and representative government, providing that West Jersey would be governed by an Assembly elected annually through a secret ballot and empowered to enact laws provided they were in conformity with the laws of England. The West Jersey Concessions provided for a much greater protection of Civil Liberties than in East Jersey or anywhere else in the American colonies, including: religious freedom, the right to trial by jury, the absence of debtors' prisons, lack of mandatory death sentences even in capital cases, and security from arbitrary arrest. The Concessions provided that Native Americans were to be treated equally, and that juries on cases involving Indians were to be comprised of six settlers and six native persons.

The Concessions contained a carefully prepared code of law, embodying Quaker notions of justice, which were adopted by the first Assembly with little change (Pomfret 1973:41). For example, Chapter XI of the Concessions specified that on the vital question of taxation:

They are not to impose, or suffer to be imposed, any tax, custom, or subsidy, tollage, assessment, or any other duty whatsoever, upon any color or pretense, how specious so ever, upon the said province and inhabitants thereof, without their own consent first had, or other than what shall be imposed by the authority and consent of the General Assembly, and that only in manner and for the good ends and uses as aforesaid.⁵

This essentially translated to an early version of "No taxation without representation" which was one of the key philosophies of the American Revolution.

The guarantees of individual liberty were the crowning glory of the West Jersey Concessions. The provision that none had the power to rule men's consciences in religious matters, and that every person might freely enjoy his own judgment and exercise of conscience in matters of worship was remarkable and must be considered in light of the increasing persecution of Quakers in England (Pomfret 1956:970). Chapter XVI of the Concessions read in part:

This degree of religious autonomy and free worship was unheard of in the Old and New World. Not one of the New England States, nor New York or Virginia was quite equal to West New Jersey in its practice of religious toleration. According to Prowell (1886), "Under the dominant ideas of the Friends governing here, no man was asked for or about his creed when offering himself as a candidate for public office. Never before,

⁵ <http://westjersey.org/ca77.htm>

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anywhere else that we know of, was there set to the world such an example of absolute and harmless toleration.”

The Concessions was the most liberal and comprehensive set of individual liberties in the Americas. The American Bill of Rights included many of its provisions a century later. As a result of its longstanding history with these freedoms, New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights on November 20, 1789.

Beginning in 1681 the government specified that each tenth on which there were settlements would be represented in the Assembly by delegates. The Irish Tenth had seven Assembly members: William Cooper, Mark Newbie, Henry Stacy, Francis Collins, Samuel Cole, Thomas Howell and William Bates. These men likely met at the site of the Newton Union Burial Ground in the log meeting house to discuss various issues facing the Newton Colony.

In November of 1689, Samuel Jennings, the Deputy-Governor of West Jersey, convened the first General Assembly, and the Friends met together to make their own laws. They reaffirmed the Concessions, declared all races and religions equal, forbade imprisonment for debt and the sale of ardent spirits to the red man, demanded that lands be acquired from Indians by purchase and permitted that a criminal might be pardoned by the person against whom the offense was committed. These views of racial and religious tolerance, openness and accommodation were revolutionary.

Newton Burial Ground and Sloan's Burial Ground Become Newton Union Burial Ground

Early burials at the Newton Burial Ground were very different from current practices. Except for some pre-existing Indian paths, settlers primarily traveled by boat up and down Newton Creek and other Delaware River tributaries. Funeral processions also were mostly waterborne --- from home to the Old Newton Friends Burial Ground. One such noteworthy procession occurred in 1703 after Esther Spicer, Esther Saxby (her servant maid) and Richard Thackara, the son of Thomas Thackara of Newton, were all struck by lightning and killed in Esther Spicer's house on Coopers Creek (near today's Federal Street Bridge in Camden). Two days after their deaths their relatives buried them at the Old Burial Ground after an unusual funeral procession:

The funeral was by night, the family and friends going in boats down Coopers creek to the river Delaware, and down the river to Newton creek, and thence to Newton graveyard. Each boat being provided with torches the scene upon the water must have been picturesque indeed. To the colonists, it was a sad spectacle when they saw one so much esteemed among them being borne to her last resting place. To the Indians it was a grand and impressive sight. Arasapha, the king, and others of his people, attended the solemn procession in their canoes, thus showing respect for one the cause of whoso death struck them with awe and reverence, the deep, dark forest that stood close down to the shores of the streams almost rejected the light as it came from the burning brands of pine carried in the boats, and as they passed under the thick foliage a shadow was scarcely reflected from the water. The colonists in their plain and unassuming apparel, the aborigines in their gaudy and significant robes, and the negro slaves (oarsmen) with their almost nude bodies must have presented from the shore a rare and striking

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picture. Here —all undersigned— was the funeral of a Friend, in which ostentation and display are always avoided, made one of the grandest pageants the fancy could imagine, a fertile subject for the pencil of the artist, and one well deserving an effort to portray its beauty (Clement 1877: 296-297).

Over the following years, most burials in Newton Colony took place in this burying ground until additional Quaker burial grounds, the next one in Haddonfield, were created.

Starting in the early 1700s and through around the time of the American Revolution, there was a significant split among the Quaker faith. During this period, many members of the Society were disowned from, or "read out of," the Meetings they were born into for violating Quaker discipline and core teachings. During the American Revolution, some Quakers were convinced that they could, despite the Friends' peace testimony, take up arms against the British. Calling themselves "Free Quakers," they even organized their own meeting in Philadelphia. The majority of Quakers, however, adhered to the denomination's traditional position of pacifism and disowned their belligerent brethren. This split would prevent many "Free Quakers" from being able to be buried in the original Newton Burial Ground. The Trustees of Newton Meeting prohibited the burial of any Quaker who had been "read out of meeting" from being buried in the cemetery.

In 1790, James Thackara sold James Sloan a small strip of land adjoining the Old Newton Burial Grounds for the Newton Union Burial Grounds to provide a burial place for non-Quakers or Quakers who went "out-of meeting." In 1791, Sloan laid out one acre of ground next to the old burying-ground, and enclosed it with a low wall. A stone with the following inscription was placed in the wall: "Here is no distinction, Rich and Poor meet together, The Lord is maker of them all. By James Sloan, 1791." This stone and most of the wall is no longer in place." The wall and marble stone tablet are described in a 1950 letter by Walter Joyce of Collingswood included in the Appendix. He wrote:

There used to be a marble stone tablet set in the old brick wall that divided the Private "Union" Burying Ground [Sloan's Burial Ground] from the Burial Ground of the Ancient Newton Meeting. While the reason for the Sloan Burying Ground was formerly accepted as a dispute between the Quakers of Newton and the Sloan family over boundary lines, the real reason as more recently unearthed, concerns the refusal of the Friends to allow any burials in the Newton Grounds but Quakers, and they further refused to permit any monuments to be erected therein.

Twenty-two former soldiers, most of whom fought in the American Revolution in the Gloucester County Militia, were buried in the Sloan's Burial Ground section. The Sloan's Burial Ground holds the largest number of American Revolutionary War veteran graves in southern New Jersey. Most of their names, ranks, birth and death years, compiled by Melvina Oehlers of the Princeton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, are listed in the Appendix B.

The whole burial ground, encompassing both the Newton Burial Ground and Sloan Burial Ground, has become known as the Newton Union Burial Ground. According to the legible headstones, the last known burials in this

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cemetery occurred in the Sloan section in 1909 for Mary P. Powell (1808-1909) and Joseph Stokes (1844-1909), and in 1931 for Anna M. Collings (1848-1931).

According to the 1937 Graves Survey by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Old Newton Burial Ground is located closer to the Lynne Avenue while the newer Sloan's Burial Ground is located closer to the current railroad tracks.

A number of old headstones have been enclosed in a concrete walled, square enclosure located toward the Newton Creek end of the burial ground. A bronze plaque states that "When this burial ground was placed in order in 1931, these grave stones were found within its borders and placed here for preservation."

According to a *Camden Courier Post* article dated May 24th, 1934,

The Newton Burial Ground today [1934] is divided into two sections, that under the control of the Newton Friends Meeting, which moved years ago to Mt. Ephraim Avenue and Mt. Vernon Street, Camden, and which has since come under the control of the Haddonfield Friends Meeting, and a section established in 1790 for the Burial of Friends who married "out of meeting." It is the later section, at first known as the Sloan Burial Ground, named after its founder, and since renamed Newton Union Burial Ground, which is being restored. The section under the control of the Haddonfield Friends Meeting was practically destroyed from a historical standpoint several years ago, when all headstones were removed and the ground leveled for a public playground. In this part, the oldest section of the burial ground, believed to have been established in 1684, in buried Mark Newby, New Jersey's first banker, and many others noted in history, whose graves have been lost to the posterity by the removal of head stones. However in response to a general protest against the "desecration" of the graves in the Friends section of the Burial Ground, about 35 or 40 of the old headstones have been enclosed in cement and now repose in a concrete square erected at one end of the burial ground which resembles somewhat a fish pond.

Quaker Burial Ground Background

Historically, Quakers were not permitted to be buried in parish cemeteries in the English Isles. As Quakers established meetings (congregations) they also acquired land for burial grounds. This practice continued when the Quakers came to the colonies.

Quaker meetings believed in very simple burial grounds. Many graves of the original settlers and their families in the Old Newton Burial Ground section do not have headstones because, prior to the early eighteenth century, Quakers did not use them to mark graves. They believed tombstones were intended to elevate some persons above others, which was against their beliefs. They believed that even in death they should bear testimony against practices that prop up human vanity. Instead early Quaker burials grounds could be identified as simple unbroken spans of earth full of unmarked graves. Depending on the location, they could either have a physical perimeter or remain open. Even after marble grave markers began to be used by Quakers, they were largely devoid of ornamentation well into the nineteenth century (Veit 2002:114).

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This tradition changed in the mid-nineteenth century as some Quakers wanted at least a small simple stone to identify the location of their loved ones. By the mid-nineteenth century, the Society of Friends generally accepted small, simple tombstones. For example, The Philadelphia and Ohio Yearly Meetings did not permit headstones until the late 1800s while others started permitting them earlier. Strict limits were placed on height as well as width and no epitaphs, decorations or additions were permitted. Per the 1717 Quaker *Book of Discipline*: "... in each particular burial ground, such uniformity is preserved in respect to the materials, size, form and wording of the stones, as well as in the mode of placing them, as may effectually guard against any distinction being made in that place between the rich and the poor.⁶"

The evolution towards the use of marked graves was not without controversy. Samuel Nicholson, a conservative nineteenth century Quaker, was not able to accept headstones on grave sites. Samuel's home stood next to the Haddonfield Friends Cemetery (Raible 1998:84) His actions were told in *Lost Haddonfield*: "The Story is told that Samuel Nicholson, who died in 1877, disapproved of gravestones and he would push them below ground level. Others would later come along and resurrect the grave-markers" (Rauschenberger 1999:124).

Part of the Newton Union Burial Ground can be identified for having these types of simple stones and even though dates may be unreadable on many, it can be assumed that they were placed after the mid-nineteenth century. According to the WPA's October 1937 Survey, the locations of several graves in the Old Sloan Burial Ground section are known including those of John Dill, John Thackara, John Davis, James Sloan, Jacob Albertson, Joseph Albertson, Isach Albertson, Joseph Collings, Edward Collings, Jacob Eval, and John Heritage. It is highly likely that most of the original members of the Newton Colony are buried in the Old Newton Union Burial Ground, especially those who died prior to the establishment of the Haddonfield Monthly Meeting graveyard in 1720.

Many of the descendants of Camden County's founders are also buried in the Old Newton Union Meeting as families tended to bury their members in clusters, a pattern present in the Sloan section and in the Haddonfield Meeting graveyard.⁷ Other descendants of the founders are buried in the Haddonfield Monthly

⁶ As quoted in Lisa Arnold, "Gonna Lay This Body Down: Quaker Funerals & Burials, 2014

(<https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2014/06/07/gonna-lay-this-body-down-quaker-funerals-burials/>).

⁷ According to the Haddonfield Monthly Meeting website, "Around 1715 Newton Meeting moved from its site along Newton Creek to Haddonfield and changed its name to Haddonfield Monthly Meeting."

http://www.haddonfieldfriendsmeeting.org/wordpress/?page_id=80 An inventory of 794 gravesites listing the names, birth and death dates, and other information is maintained by the Haddonfield Monthly meeting at <http://www.haddonfieldfriendsmeeting.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/HMM-graveyard-inventory.pdf>. The inventory indicates three members buried at the Newton Burial Ground.

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Meeting graveyard and in the graveyard of the New Newton Quaker Meeting that was held in Camden, starting in 1801.⁸

Some of the more prominent members of Newton Meeting who have been specifically identified by early historians as having been buried in the Newton burying grounds and whose close relatives are specifically listed in the burial records of the Meeting include: William Cooper, Thomas Sharp, Thomas Thackara, John Kaighn, and Mark Newbie (also spelled Newby). Short biographies of each, including their civic and religious contributions in the early years of the West Jersey Province, largely drawn from John Clement's *Sketches of the First Emigrant Settlers Newtown Township, Old Gloucester County, West New Jersey*, are profiled in the Appendix. The ways they distinguished themselves during their time in West Jersey are summarized below:

William Cooper

1. First Englishman to settle in the area that became the City of Camden.
2. Held the first Quaker Philadelphia Monthly Meeting in his house in 1682 and hosted local Quaker meetings until the Newton Meeting house was built.
3. Advised William Penn and attended his famous treaty meeting with the Lenapes at Shackamaxon; emulated Penn's fair behavior towards the Lenapes in acquiring land.
4. Acquired and operated the first ferry service between Camden and Philadelphia setting the conditions for a near family monopoly for 150 years.
5. Elected Assemblyman in 1682 at large and again in 1683 and 1685 representing the third or Irish Tenth.
6. Elected Commissioner for Dividing and Regulating Lands in the Province of West Jersey.
7. Provided financial and political support to the local "right of government" claims of Governor Samuel Jennings and Thomas Budd against the counter claims of Edward Byllynge.
8. Appointed to the Council of Proprietors.
9. Served six years on the Gloucester County Grand Jury starting in 1689.
10. Acted as a Quaker preacher and defender of Quaker orthodoxy against the schism initiated by George Keith. Signed statements against Keith representing Newton Meeting and the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to the London Yearly Meeting – the first such communication regarding articles of faith from the Philadelphia to London meetings.

⁸ Newton Friends Meeting house was built c. 1801 on ground donated by Joseph Kaighn at the corner of Mt. Vernon Street and Mt. Ephraim Avenue in Camden and remained in use until 1957. According to the Federal Writers' Project it was the first house of worship in Camden. It is a two-and-one-half-story rectangular building, of post-Colonial design, constructed of red brick with white trim. Quakers met there until 1915. In 1935 the building was restored with PWA funds under the direction of the Camden County Historical Society and 1939 was used by the City of Camden for storage. Today the warehouse built in 1957 remains on the site behind which is the burial ground whose Quaker gravestones now mostly lie beneath the surface. The exact location of burial plots in the New Newton Quaker Meeting burial ground are [detailed in maps at the Camden County Historical Society](#)

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11. Elected a Judge of the Gloucester County Common Pleas Court in 1696.
12. Accumulated sufficient land and wealth to enable his children and grandchildren to assume leadership positions in West Jersey after he died.

Thomas Sharp

1. Wrote the early history of Newton Township and Gloucester County.
2. In 1682 was appointed area constable (sheriff).
3. Served as first Gloucester County clerk and surveyor.
4. Appointed highway commissioner by the General Assembly in 1684 and 1685.
5. In 1685, was elected as a member of the Assembly.
6. In 1689, laid out the city of Gloucester with a design to rival to Salem and Burlington.
7. Sharp's 1700 map of Newton and other areas of the West Jersey Province were the best and only accurate record of local land boundaries and roads.
8. In 1700, was appointed one of the judges of the several courts of Gloucester County.
9. Was one of the trustees of the Newton Meeting, and assisted in the erection of the first house that was set apart for religious worship.
10. Helped select the site for the meeting house at Haddonfield, surveyed the lot, wrote the deed.
11. From 1723 to 1728, was Newton Township clerk. The first town-meeting of which record was made was held at Newton March 12, 1723, when Joseph Cooper and John Gill were chosen overseers of the poor and Thomas Sharp, clerk.
12. On March 9, 1724, was chosen a county freeholder.

Thomas Thackara

1. Elected to the first Legislature in 1682.
2. Appointed, with Mark Newby and William Cooper, one of the judges of the court for the Irish Tenth, until 1685.
3. Represented the Third Tenth on the Council of Proprietors in 1688.
4. Appointed one of the land commissioners of the province responsible for examining titles, directing surveyors in locating land, and preventing interference of adjoining surveys.
5. Donated land for the first Friends' meeting house built at Newton.
6. Sign the address of the Newton meeting to the yearly meeting of London, protesting against the conduct of George Keith, in his differences with the Society of Friends.

John Kaighn

1. John Kaighn arrived in America in the newly-founded town of Perth Amboy, in East New Jersey, in March 1684, an indentured servant and apprentice to carpenter Thomas Warne. He served a four-year indenture, then was released when his time was out. With fellow Warne apprentice carpenters William Newman and Anthony Ashmore, he petitioned for his headland right of 30 acres in 1688. He

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took up his headland and in 1689 bought Ashmore's headland from him. He may have moved to Monmouth County about this time, as his name stopped appearing in Perth Amboy records.

2. Served as a trustee of the Newton meeting with Benjamin Thackara, William Cooper, William Albertson, Thomas Sharp, Joseph Cooper and John Kay.
3. Appointed by the Legislature as one of the judges of the several courts of Gloucester County for four years.
4. Acquired one of the largest tracts of land (four hundred and fifty-five acres) fronting on the Delaware River and which later became the site of a ferry operated by his family and then sold to a railroad and operated until the 1940s.
5. In 1710, sat as a representative from Gloucester county in the Legislature, only a few years after the surrender of the government by the proprietors to Queen Anne.

Mark Newbie

1. Hosted the first Quaker meetings in Gloucester County in his home and the first in West Jersey after Salem and Burlington.
2. Donated land for the Newton Quaker Meeting House and burial ground.
3. Founder of the first bank in New Jersey.
4. Provider of money in the form of his "Patrick Halfpence" (and credit) which was always in short supply.
5. Helped locate the site of the Newton Colony.
6. Elected to the Assembly in 1682 and again in 1683 representing the third or Irish Tenth.
7. Selected a member of the Governor's Council.
8. Served as a commissioner for the division of land in the West Jersey Province.
9. Served on committee of ways and means to raise money for the government's use.
10. With William Cooper was appointed to serve on a committee to address the right of government issue which the early settlers understood had been conveyed under the concessions but which Edward Byllynge later denied.

Meeting house: First Banking Operation in State of New Jersey

According to Alfred M. Heston's 1924 book, *South Jersey, A history, 1664-1924*, "the first banking operations within the limits of New Jersey" were carried on this property. Mark Newbie had brought a considerable quantity of copper tokens struck in Ireland after the massacre of Roman Catholics in 1641. These coins, known as "St. Patrick's half pence" — with the words "Floreat Rex" on the obverse and "Ecce Rex" on the reverse -- were probably intended simply to commemorate that event, and do not appear to have circulated as money in the old country. In infant West Jersey, however, there was a shortage of small coinage, and the Assembly at Burlington, of which Newbie was a member, in May of 1682, passed the following act:

For the convenient Payment of small sums, be it enacted that Mark Newbie's half pence, from and after the Eighteenth instant, pass for half-pence current pay of the province, provided he, the said Mark Newbie, give sufficient security to the Speaker of the House for the use of the General Assembly from time to time, that he, the said Mark Newbie, his Executors and administrators, shall and will change the

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said half-pence for pay equivalent upon demand; and provided also that no person or persons be hereby obliged to take more than five shillings in one payment.(Miller 1924:364)

As required by the act, Newbie put up as security to the Speaker of the Assembly a tract of three hundred acres. The first Jersey banker died in the following year, but the coins apparently continued to circulate for some time, when, having served their purpose, they were called in and redeemed. Only about 200 specimens remain, the highly-prized treasures of numismatists (Miller 1924:364).

Meeting house School Moves to Champion School

In an April 27, 1950, letter Walter Daniel stated that "The old log Newton Meeting House was located North of the Newton Burial Ground, or about opposite the present West Collingswood Rail Road Station. It was used as a Friends Meeting until the Meeting was moved to Camden. The log building was used as a school and called Newton Union School." (Daniel Letter included in Appendix)

Society members sold stock five dollars a share to raise funds for a new school. In 1821 they purchased land adjoining the Newton Friends Meeting House for seventy-five dollars. The Society raised by subscription, one hundred and ten dollars which was paid to Samuel C. Champion for the lot on which the school stood and the deed was transferred to the first Board of Education. This building continued to be used as a school from 1821 until 1907 when the new Thomas Sharp School was completed in West Collingswood.

1800s History and the Railroad

Around the turn of the century, there was much controversy surrounding lot ownership in and around the burial ground. A part of the Thackara estate passed to James and Joseph Sloan prior to 1790, and much controversy arose between them and the Friends in relation to boundaries of the meeting house property. Eventually in 1811, Joseph Sloan abandoned his claim and in 1819 James Sloan released his interest to the trustees of the meeting. The erection of other meeting houses and the removal of Friends from the vicinity gradually withdrew interest in the Society, and little attention was paid to the old house and grounds where the first meeting of Friends in Gloucester County was held (now Camden County). According to Joseph Hinchman's journal, on the 22nd of December 1817, the meeting house, around which clustered many interesting associations, was destroyed by fire, and no effort was made to rebuild it.

Since the time of the last burial (1859), the Newton Union Burial Ground has changed ownership several times with the intent of the future use to continue as a burial ground. In 1886, local historian George Prowell provided a nineteenth century description of the graveyard. He wrote that the cemetery was enclosed "by a brick wall, and is overgrown by low trees and vines" (Prowell 1886: 650).

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In 1891, the Atlantic City Railroad Company, the Collingswood Land Company and Champion Land Company purchased the Newton Union Burial Ground from its trustees for \$800 and agreed that the land would never be built upon or enclosed or used or occupied for any other purpose than that of a free, open public park.⁹

20th Century History

Following the expansion of the rail line, the property sat idle for several decades and only a limited history is available. A 1909 photo by S. Rhoads showed the brick wall along the northern end of the Newton Burial Ground was still standing and that most of the headstones within view south of the wall were still standing, intact, and in good condition (Photo 0026). The brick wall was taken down some time in the 1920s (Raible 1998: 83).

A map created by the Atlantic City Railroad Company dated September 25, 1925 depicts the burial ground. A note on the map also states that the "Railroad wanted section A but never acquired it." This was likely because by the 1920s, the popularity of the railroad began to wane as it received competition from the automobile, and the West Collingswood Train Station no longer needed to expand. Passenger service on the line ceased in 1967.

According to a *Courier Post* article dated May 24, 1934, restoration efforts were undertaken. The newspaper referenced the leveling of the lot to make room for a playground stating:

The section under the control of the Haddonfield Friends Meeting was practically destroyed from a historical standpoint several years ago, when all headstones were removed and the ground leveled for a public playground. In this part, the oldest section of the burial ground, believed to have been established in 1684 is buried Mark Newby, New Jersey's first banker and many others noted in history whose graves have been lost to the posterity by the removal of headstones.¹⁰

The reason why few specific graves can be identified is that many early graves were unmarked, and a number of the later stones were removed. As noted early, some of these markers were moved to a concrete memorial erected in the southeast part of the site.

Another map prepared by Charles S. Boyer and Harry Marvin in November of 1934 depicts a survey of the location of the two burial grounds and shows the potential location of the Old Meeting house.

It is not clear at what date Haddon Township acquired the burial ground. The Township of Haddon currently maintains the property by mowing the lawn and trimming the trees and other forms of ground maintenance.

⁹ For the history of the Atlantic City Railway and its related companies (the Camden and Atlantic, the Philadelphia and Reading Railway, see Towle, Charles L., "History of the "Camden and Atlantic Railroads 1852-1897," *The Railway and Locomotive Historical Society Bulletin*, No. 73 (May 1948) 16-45 and Cook, W. George and William J. Coxey, *Atlantic City Railroad, the royal route to the sea: A history of the Reading's seashore railroad, 1877-1933*. Mount Laurel, NJ: National Railway Historical Society, 1980.

¹⁰J.G. Crate, "Plans to Restore Newton Cemetery Made by Trustees," *Courier-Post* (Camden), May 24, 1934.

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In September of 1954, Boy Scouts of Troop 112, sponsored by the West Collingswood Presbyterian Church, restored part of the burial ground. According to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, these troops found that three Native Americans (Indians) were buried among the early settlers. According to a March 11, 2004 *Courier Post* article, Boy Scouts placed markers to identify the locations of many graves. A September 5, 1982, *Courier Post* article titled "Volunteers replacing headstones," showed a photo of John Wright, a member of the Collingswood Troop 59 Boy Scout group, setting a marker at the Sloan-Newton Burial Ground. The article indicated that Wright and a team of other volunteers were setting new grave stones for 22 Revolutionary War veterans that would be formally dedicated on October 3, 1982. According to the article, the boy scouts had been working on the project since spring that year, and that the project originated from research by Marilyn Tulk, acting chairwoman of the Haddon Township Historical Society. Tulk began researching the project in 1975 trying to determine who was buried there and where the gravesites were. The article stated that the site had been neglected for decades and is "perhaps one of the most historic spots in the township." In 1976, Tulk applied for and received markers from the Veterans Administration for those Revolutionary War veterans who could not be verified. Tulk said the township "will now maintain the cemetery."

Incomplete lists those buried in the Old Newton Union Burial Ground are included in the Supplemental Materials included in the Appendix. These include names listed in Joseph Hinchman's Journal (1811-1828), those listed in available Marriage and Death Meeting Minutes of the Newton Meeting, and those listed on the website "Find a Grave," which includes 303 records under the names Newton Burying Ground, Newton Union Cemetery, and Old Newton Friends Burial Ground.¹¹

Conclusion

For its association with the earliest settlement to establish a burial ground in Camden County, New Jersey the property meets National Register Criteria A, C and D as well as Criteria Consideration D with local significance in Post- Medieval English history. Under Criterion A, the Newton Union Burial Ground is significant for its associations with settlement and the formation of the Colony of Newton and Town of Newton. The Newton Union Burial Ground also meets Criterion A due to the fact that it holds the remains of the original settlers of the Newton Colony (later Newton Township) and is the location of the first Quaker Burial Ground in the County as well as the first dedicated Society of Friends meeting house (built in 1684) in Camden County and the third built in West New Jersey.

As a Friends Cemetery established in the seventeenth century, the Newton burial ground is comparable to the earliest portion of the National Register-listed Riverview Cemetery in Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey. A portion of the cemetery is the final resting place of Quakers, some of whom arrived from Hull, England in 1678 aboard the ship *Shield* to Burlington. The land, encompassing about 2.5 acres and whose precise location is now unknown, was devised by Quaker John Lambert as a burying ground. Unlike Newton Burial Ground,

¹¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/1275992/memorial-search?page=4#sr-184680632>

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sufficient documentary evidence has not been located to substantiate the integrity of this very early cemetery.¹²

The property meets Criterion C as representative of the distinct characteristics of a Quaker cemetery. The evolution from open field with no stone markers to simple markers and later to slightly more elaborate markers shows the evolution of the Quaker faith and related burial practices. Due to the nature of the Society of Friends religious and political split around the time of the American Revolution, it also includes a burial plot for non-Quaker persons or those deemed to be out of line with the faith. These two burial grounds would later be joined and united and are now known as the Newton Union Burial Ground.

The property meets Criterion D as a cemetery that is important both for association with an important event -- the founding of the Newton Colony and Camden County -- and as the final resting place of the political and religious leaders of the Province of West Jersey who took an active role in establishing and maintaining religious liberty and democracy in the early years of the province and of twenty two veterans, most who fought in the American Revolution and who gave up their membership in the Society of Friends to fight for freedom from Great Britain. The property is also likely to yield significant information important to Colonial Era History of the West Jersey/ Camden County region. It also meets Criterion Consideration D because of its extreme age (the earliest burial occurring in 1684) coinciding with the earliest European settlement of old Gloucester County and now Camden County. Under Criterion D, the Newton Union Burial Ground is also significant for its ability to yield significant new information about the health and lifeways of the specific ethnic population of the area.¹³ The founding fathers of the Newton Colony and Gloucester County (now Camden County) are buried in unmarked graves in this ground. Their families and neighbors are also buried within. Twenty- four veterans of the American Revolution are buried in the Sloan Section as well as other Quakers who were separated from their meeting or left voluntarily. Archaeological investigations and analysis of archival records, artifacts (including garments and other personal items) and coffin/casket forms and associated hardware could confirm the range of dates of the burials, growth of the cemetery, and changes in mortuary practices, the spatial organization of burials within the cemetery and possible social differentiation among interred individuals. Ground penetrating radar (GPR) could locate most of the unmarked graves and grave shafts and determine if more than one person occupied any of the graves. Excavation of skeletal remains could, depending on the condition of the remains, determine the health, and demographics of the burial population. The use of GPR and archeological investigations could also reveal the location of subsurface headstones and the foundation or footprint of the original 1684 Newton Union Quaker Meeting House.

¹² Richard A. Sauers, Riverview Cemetery, Trenton, New Jersey, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2016.

¹³ See Favrett, Amy C., *Archaeological Investigations at Terrill Cemetery (15Ma424), Madison County, Kentucky*. Lexington, Kentucky: Kentucky Office of State Archaeology, Archaeological Survey, KAS Report No. 149. 2008 for an in-depth review of the techniques and benefits of archaeological investigations of a cemetery. See also Scharfenberger, Gerry P., *Old Scots Burying Ground National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, certified August 5, 2001* for an example of how GPR identified an additional 137 possible burials and the location of an original meeting house.

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Newton Union Burial Ground
Camden County, NJ

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet**

**Newton Union Burial Ground
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Camden County, NJ

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1808 Deed of Trust (Deed Book M, folio 172)

1810 Deed of Trust (Deed Book W, folio 585 & Deed Book Q, folio 234)

1811 Deed of Trust (Deed Book O, folio 597)

1812 Deed of Trust (Lib Q, Folio 234 of Deeds)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Newton Union Burial Ground
Camden County, NJ

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

The site is bounded on the east by the **Camden and Atlantic Railroad Historic District (ID#3862)**, which is currently a Railroad Right-of-way owned by Conrail. The south end of the site is bounded by the Newton Creek which slopes downward to a marsh area before reaching the bank of the stream. The western portion of the site is bounded by Lynne Ave. The northern portion is bounded by the former "West Collingswood Train Station" parcel. The burial ground is clearly marked by a wall separating the cemetery from the former train station that is now used as a neighborhood meeting place.

Boundary Justification

The nominated area represents that entirety of the Newton Union Burial Ground. The boundary of the property includes Block 2.04, Lot 2 on the appropriate Haddon Township tax map.

Newton Union Burial Ground Camden (County) New Jersey	
Photo Number	Description
NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0001	Photo looking south, shows the northern wall and northernmost graves and vegetation.
NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0002	Photo looking south, shows the northern wall closer up and northernmost graves and vegetation.
NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0003	Photo shows end cap (westernmost section) of the northern wall as well as nearby graves.
NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0004	Photo shows the northern wall at its easternmost section which is surrounded by vegetation growing between the Newton Union Burial Ground and Conrail Right-of-Way.
NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0005	Photo shows wall in better detail (looking west) and how a triangular steep top extends along the entire wall. This concrete either replaced the older brick wall or encompasses old bricks within its shell.
NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0006	Photo looking north shows small gap between wall segments along with three grave markers.
NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0007	Photo shows graves as well as Revolutionary War Soldier Graves with USA flags.
NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0008	Photo shows some older grave markers that have been broken and eroded.
NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0009	Photo shows graves as well as Revolutionary War Soldier Graves with USA flags.
NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0010	Photo depicts the northern wall of the monument built from collected gravestones in 1931. The old Newton Union section of the burial ground was leveled and stones collected. Those stones were placed in this monument.
NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0011	Photo depicts the western wall of the monument built from collected gravestones in 1931. The old Newton Union section of the burial ground was leveled and stones collected. Those stones were placed in this monument.
NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0012	Photo depicts marker on western wall that states, "When this Burial Ground was placed in order in 1931, these stones were found within its borders and placed here for preservation."
NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0013	Photo depicts the southern wall of the monument built from collected gravestones in 1931. The old Newton Union section of the burial ground was leveled and stones collected. Those stones were placed in this monument.

Newton Union Burial Ground Camden (County) New Jersey

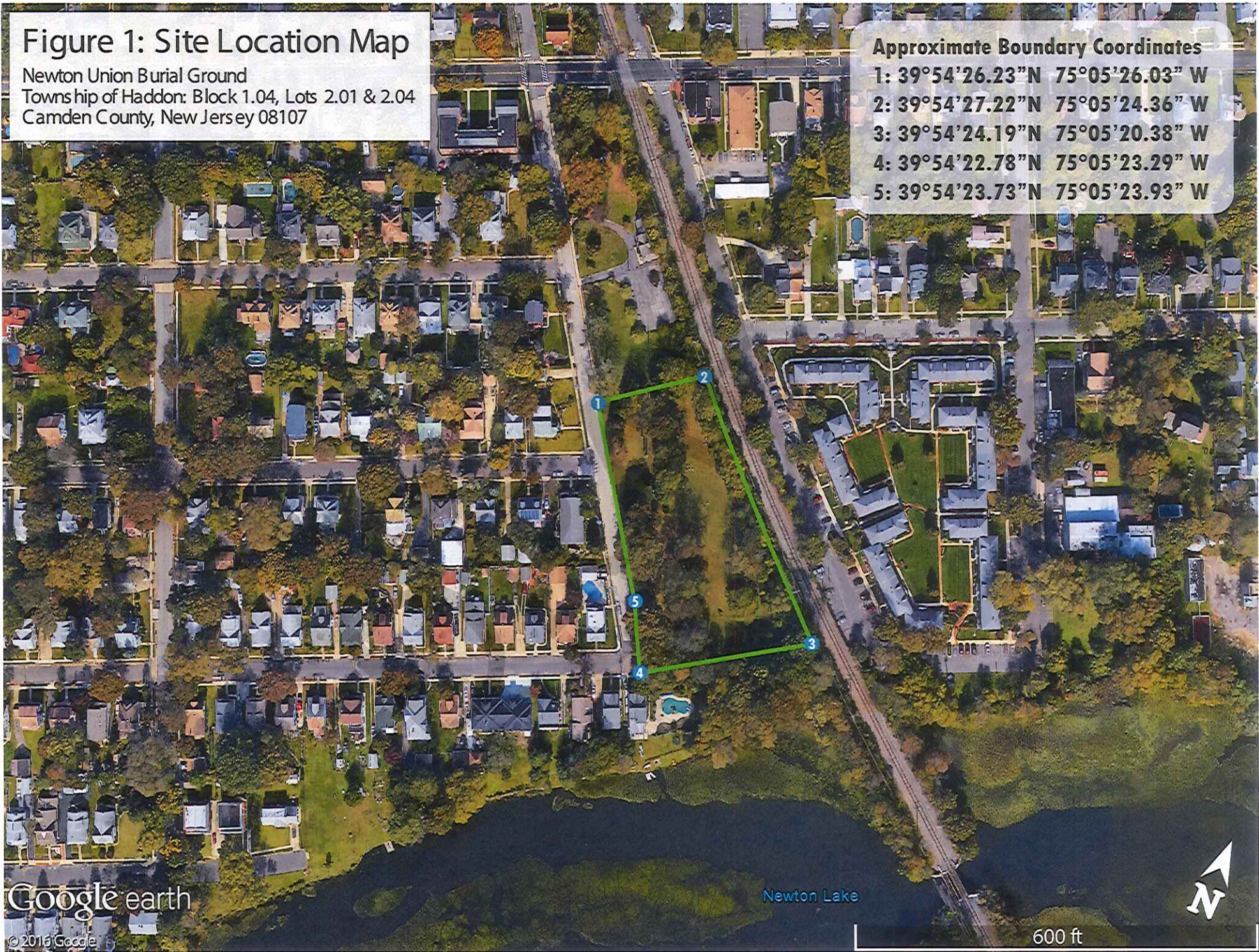
<p>NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0014</p>	<p>Photo depicts the eastern wall of the monument built from collected gravestones in 1931. The old Newton Union section of the burial ground was leveled and stones collected. Those stones were placed in this monument.</p>
<p>NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0015</p>	<p>Photo depicts vegetation and wooded area between the Old Newton Burial Ground and Newton Lake. This is likely the location of where early settlers and Native Americans would land their boats to access the Burial Ground and Meetinghouse and location of old dock.</p>
<p>NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0016</p>	<p>Photo depicts how the Newton Union Burial Ground looks like from the southeasternmost section of the lot.</p>
<p>NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0017</p>	<p>Photo depicts how the Newton Union Burial Ground looks like from Newton Ave.</p>
<p>NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0018</p>	<p>Photo depicts how the Burial Ground looks like from the Lynne Ave in front of "No Parking Sign"</p>
<p>NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0019</p>	<p>Photo depicts monument, vegetation, benches and flag built to commemorate the location of the Old Newton Union Burial Ground.</p>
<p>NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0020</p>	<p>Photo depicts close up monument built to commemorate the location of the Old Newton Union Burial Ground</p>
<p>NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0021</p>	<p>Photo depicts inscription and description of the Old Newton Union Burial Ground.</p>
<p>NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0022</p>	<p>Photo depicts how the Old Newton Union Burial Ground looks like from Elm Avenue.</p>
<p>NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0023</p>	<p>Photo depicts old trees in the northwestern section of the Burial Ground.</p>
<p>NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0024</p>	<p>Photo depicts the division between the Newton Union Burial Ground and lot north of the site. Sidewalk ends where the Burial Ground lot starts.</p>
<p>NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0025</p>	<p>Photo depicts the division between the Newton Union Burial Ground and lot north of the site. Sidewalk ends where the Burial Ground lot starts.</p>
<p>NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0026</p>	<p>Photo depicts the cemetery facing north by north west from the Sloan section with the roof lines of the West Collingswood RR Station and the Champion School in the background .</p>

Figure 1: Site Location Map

Newton Union Burial Ground
Township of Haddon: Block 1.04, Lots 2.01 & 2.04
Camden County, New Jersey 08107

Approximate Boundary Coordinates

- 1: 39°54'26.23"N 75°05'26.03" W
- 2: 39°54'27.22"N 75°05'24.36" W
- 3: 39°54'24.19"N 75°05'20.38" W
- 4: 39°54'22.78"N 75°05'23.29" W
- 5: 39°54'23.73"N 75°05'23.93" W



Google earth

© 2016 Google

Newton Lake

600 ft



Newton Union Burial Ground Photo Location Map

Township of Haddon, New Jersey 08107

Figure 4: Photo Locator Map
Newton Union Burial Ground
Camden County, NJ



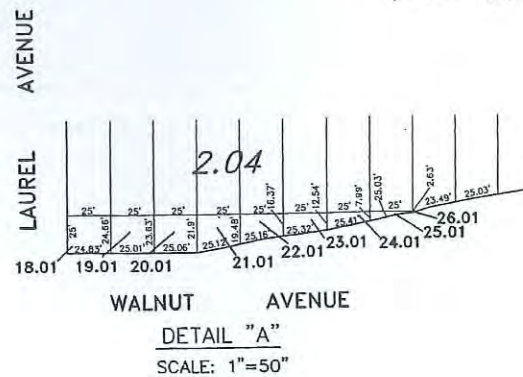
Google earth

© 2016 Google

100 ft

Newton Union Burial Ground/Camden
(County), New Jersey

Block 2.04 - Lot 2



SHEET 1



TAX MAP TOWNSHIP OF HADDON

CAMDEN COUNTY NEW JERSEY
SCALE 1" = 100' DATE 10/27/91

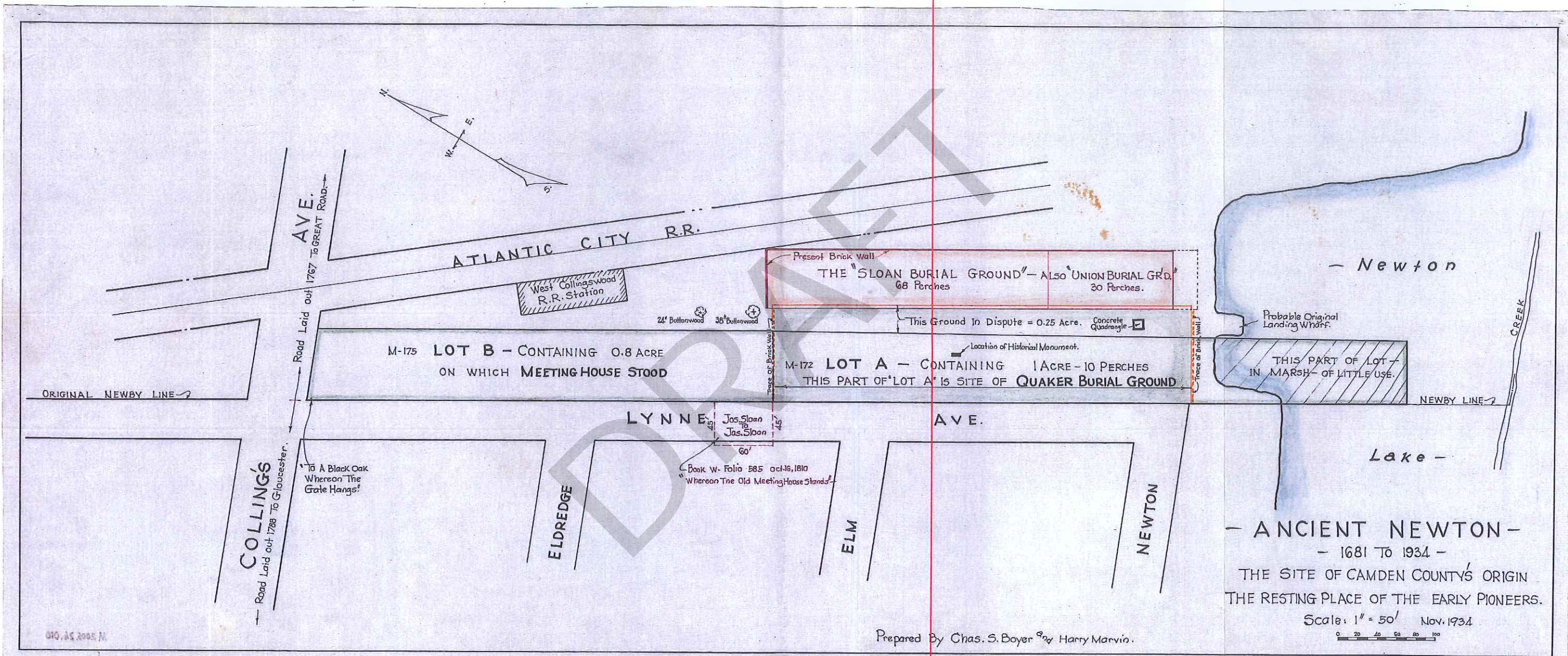
CRAIG F. REMINGTON L.S. 23924

REMINGTON AND VERNICK ENGINEERS
232 KINGS HIGHWAY EAST
HADDONFIELD, NEW JERSEY

BY ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF TAXATION
PROPERTY REASSESSMENT
RECORDED AS A TAX MAP PURSUANT TO THE
PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 125, LAWS OF 1982, ETC.
FOR THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF TAXATION
BY *John P. Remington, P.E. & L.S.*
L.S. # 25434 ENGINEER, JERSEYS GARDEN
DATE FEB 23 1993 SERIAL NO. 749

Newton Union Burial Ground/Camden
(County), New Jersey

M 2005.24.010



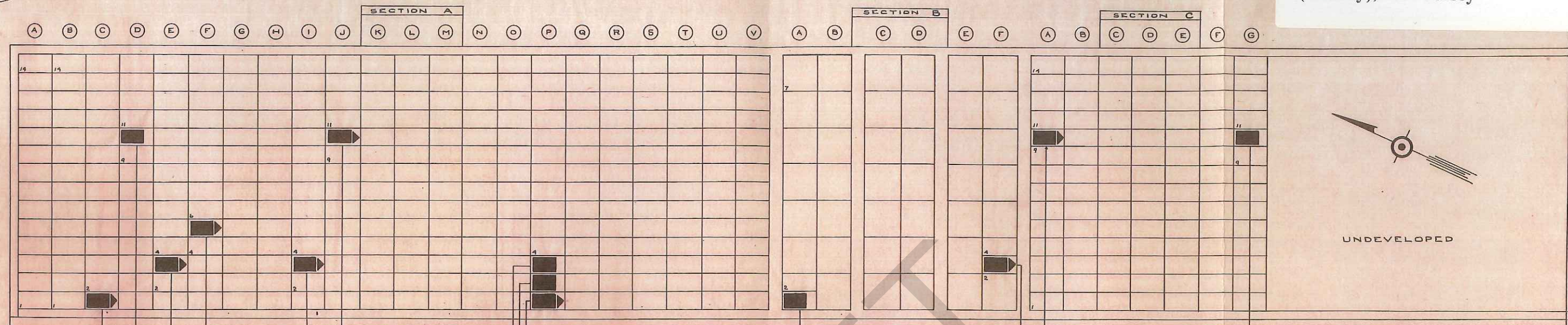
— ANCIENT NEWTON —
— 1681 TO 1934 —
THE SITE OF CAMDEN COUNTY'S ORIGIN
THE RESTING PLACE OF THE EARLY PIONEERS.

Scale: 1" = 50' Nov. 1934

Prepared By Chas. S. Boyer and Harry Marvin.

Newton Union Burial Ground/Camden
(County), New Jersey

READING R.R.



JOS. Z. COLLINGS
EDWARD Z. COLLINGS
JACOB EVAUL
JOHN HERITAGE

E. GITHINS

ISACH ALBERTSON
JACOB ALBERTSON SR.
JACOB ALBERTSON JR.
JOSEPH ALBERTSON

JAMES SLOAN

JOHN DAVIS

JOHN G. THACKARA

JOHN DILL

SLOAN BURIAL GROUND

STONES
OF
OLD NEWTON
BURIAL GROUND

— symbol —
refer to key map for location of cemetery

◼ GRAVE WITH HEADSTONE

◼ GRAVE WITHOUT HEADSTONE

MONUMENT

OLD NEWTON BURIAL GROUNDS

LYNNE AVENUE

NEWTON AVE

SLOAN & OLD NEWTON BURIAL GROUNDS
WEST COLLINGSWOOD N.J.

HISTORICAL GRAVES SURVEY
PROJECT NO. 354-4 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
sponsored by
CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS
AND
CAMDEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

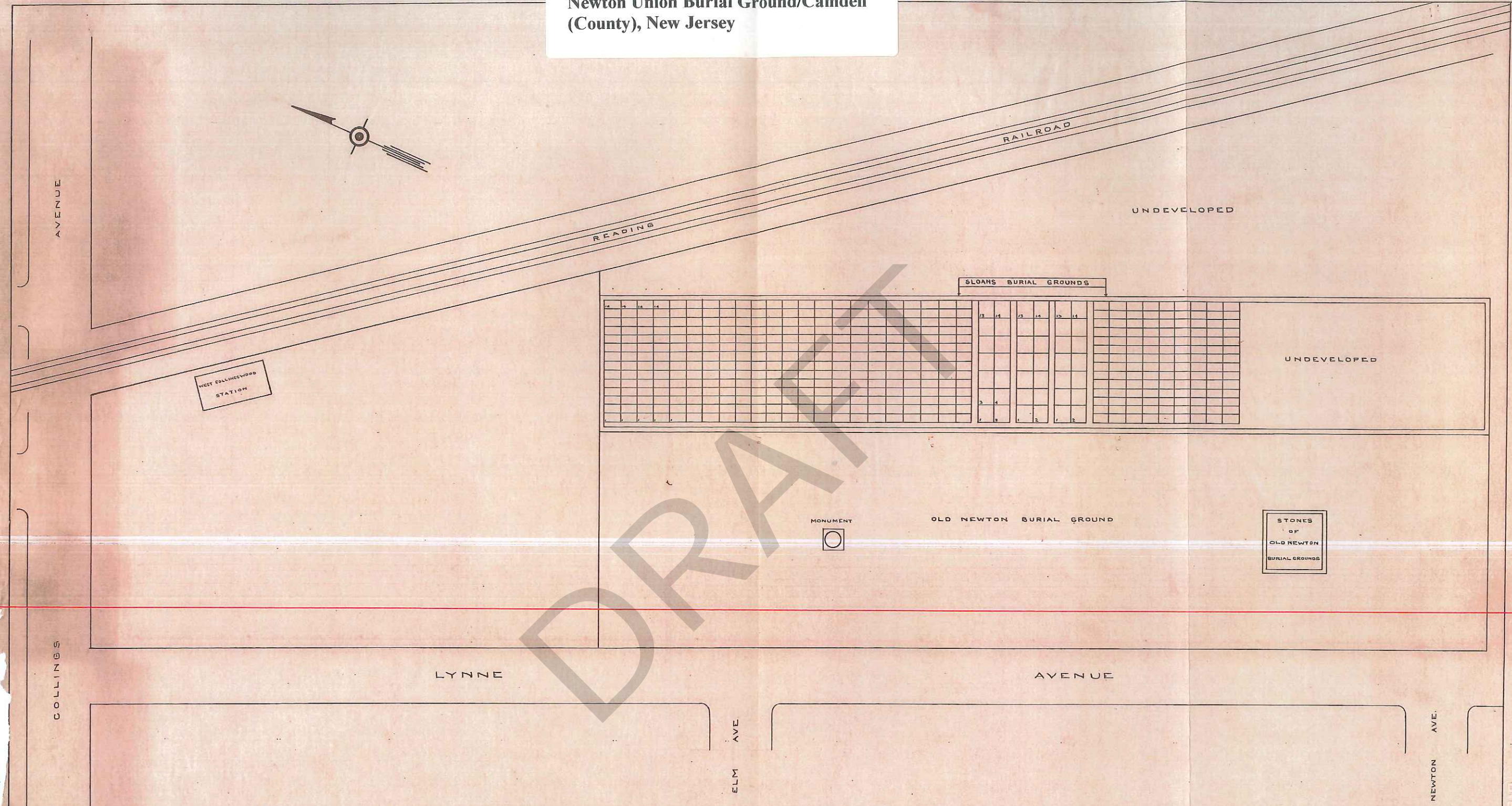
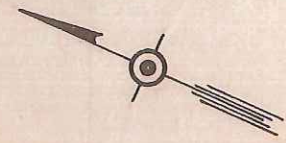
Drawn by Walter I. Reeve
Date Oct 9, 1937

Elmer E. Fowler
Supervisor

SECTION A-B-C
MAP 1 of 2 SCALE 1"=10'

11

Newton Union Burial Ground/Camden (County), New Jersey



SLOANS & OLD NEWTON BURIAL GROUNDS WEST COLLINGSWOOD N.J.

HISTORICAL GRAVES SURVEY
PROJECT NO. 354-4 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
sponsored by
CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS
AND
CAMDEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Drawn by Walter I. Reeve
Date. Elmer E. Fowler
Supervisor.

KEY MAP
SHEET 2-2 SCALE 1"=30'

*Historical description of
Meeting House
from the minutes of the
Friends Meeting*

Map 404

Walker Daniel Joyce
20 Harvard Avenue
Collingswood 7, N. J.

April 27, 1950.

The old log Newton Friends Meeting House was located North of the Newton Burial Ground, or about opposite the present West Collingswood Fair Road Station. Was used as a Friends Meeting until the Meeting was moved to Haddonfield. Then this log building was used as a school and called Newton Union School. The early record tell of a band of earnest men who, "feeling the necessity of giving our children and those entrusted to our care an education which shall enable them to become useful members of society, do form ourselves in to an association known by the name of NEWTON UNION SCHOOL SOCIETY." On May 17, 1821, this Society erected and maintained the property now known as the Hampton School, in honor of the first president of the School Society. Near Collings and Lyme Avenues West Collingswood. Funds were raised by the members becoming stockholders at five dollars a share. Grounds adjoining the Newton Friends Meeting House was purchased for seventy-five dollars and a school house erected in the year 1821. Then the Old Meeting House was torn down. These men raised by subscription, one hundred and ten dollars which was paid to Samuel C. Hampton for the lot on which the school stood and the deed was transferred to the first Board of Education. This building continued to be used as a school from 1821 until 1807 when the new Thomas Sharp School was completed in West Collingswood.

There used to be a marble stone tablet set in the old brick wall that divided the private "Union" Burying Ground from the Burial Ground of Ancient Newton Meeting with the following inscription Here is no distinction rich and poor meet together, the Lord is maker of them all. Founded by James Sloan. 1790". Thus explained:-- "The stone in Sloan or Union burying grounds adjoining the Old Newton Grounds in West Collingswood. While the reason for James Sloan burying Ground was formerly accepted as a dispute between the Quakers of Newton and the Sloan family over boundary lines, the real reason as more recently unearthed, concerns the refusal of the Friends to allow any burials in the Newton grounds but Quakers, and they further refused to permit any monuments to be erected therein.

While the Sloans were also Quakers they did not subscribe to these restrictions and in consequence set the area directly adjoining Newton aside as a burial place for all who did not meet the rigid rules of the Quakers owners.

James Sloan's children also incurred the displeasure of the Friends by "Marrying out of Meeting" which was another source of trouble between the Sloans and their Quaker brethren.

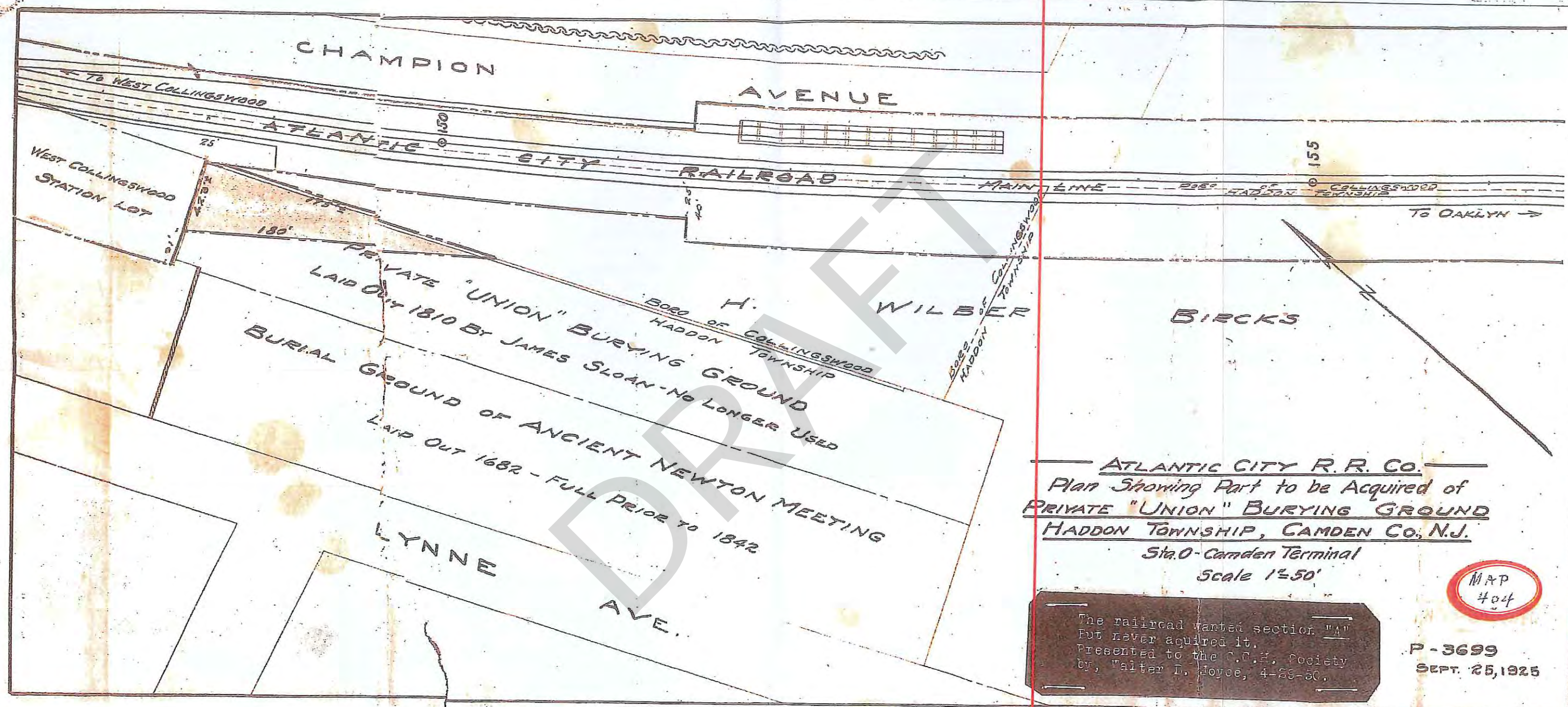
Daniel Joyce

#404

Foot of Hill

Newton Union Burial Ground/Camden
(County), New Jersey

M 83.90.279



ATLANTIC CITY R. R. Co.
 Plan Showing Part to be Acquired of
PRIVATE "UNION" BURYING GROUND
HADDON TOWNSHIP, CAMDEN Co., N.J.
 Sta. 0 - Camden Terminal
 Scale 1"=50'

MAP
404

The railroad wanted section "A"
 but never acquired it.
 Presented to the C.C.H. Society
 by Walter D. Joyce, 4-28-20.

P-3699
 SEPT. 25, 1925

M 83.90.279

CEM 1925 HAT
 SLOAN-UNION A.C.R.R.

Appendix

Old Newton Union Burial Ground Nomination Supplemental Materials

A. Biographies of five of the first settlers of Camden County buried in the Old Newton Union Burial Ground

These biographical summaries supplement Section 8, pages 11-13 of the Newton Union Burial Ground nomination for the National Register of Historic Places.

1. William Cooper

William Cooper and his wife Margaret lived at Coleshill, in the parish of Amersham, Hertfordshire, England before emigrating to West New Jersey. Cooper was born in 1632 and became a blacksmith. The Coopers were members of the Society of Friends (commonly called Quakers) and members of the Upperside Monthly Meeting which included William Penn's home. William Cooper suffered, both in estate and person, for being a Quaker. His horses and cattle were despoiled and he was once dragged to prison from a Quaker meeting.

William Penn and two other trustees for a bankrupt Quaker acquired control West Jersey in 1676. Penn spent winters at his Penn House mansion one mile from Coleshill in 1677 and 1678 spreading invitations to other Quakers to emigrate to West Jersey on account of its wholesome air and fruitful soil.

Wearied by religious persecution and driven to obtain new economic opportunities, especially cheap land, for his family, Cooper, despite being 47 years old, was attracted to Penn's projects on the Delaware and emigrated in the early part of 1679 with his wife, Margaret, and four children ranging in age from six to twenty years old. The Cooper Family arrived in Burlington in October 1680 with a deed of gift for fifty acres from a friend, Samuel Norris, and built their first home in the new world.¹

In spring 1681, Cooper selected three hundred acres at the junction of the Delaware River and Asoroche Creek² (now the Cooper River) and obtained a land certificate for it

¹ Indenture between Norris and Cooper dated July 9, 1679 in the New Jersey Archives.

² Coopers Creek was also previously called Deer Creek by English settlers.

in June 1682.³ Cooper probably knew about other settlers coming to Newton as they secured their land title fifteen months before.

Cooper built his second house⁴ and was the first settler of Coopers Point on a high bank he called Pyne Poynt after the dense pine forest which grew there. While West Jersey land commissioners had already purchased the land between the Oldmans and Rancocas Creeks from the Lenape in 1677, there was a Lenape village within Cooper's new property.⁵ Cooper negotiated an agreement with a local chief, Arasapha, to take up his property in exchange for rum, match-coats, beads, guns, pots, kettles, and pans. In addition to a large house, Cooper erected a blacksmith shop and stable on his plantation. His house may also have served as an inn although the Coopers received no tavern license until 1727.

Thomas Fairman, William Penn's friend and surveyor, preceded Penn to America and moved from Burlington to Shackamaxon opposite Pyne Poynt after marrying Elizabeth Kinsey in 1680. Elizabeth owned both Shackamaxon and the island between it and Pyne Poynt (now known as Petty Island). Local Pennsylvania Quakers began holding meetings at the Fairmans' house in June 1681.

On the opposite shore, Cooper's house⁶ received a similar designation. A general meeting of Quakers at Salem in May 1682 ordered "a six-weeks' men's and women's meeting for ye ordering ye affairs of ye church be kept ye 24th of ye third month at Willm. Cooper's and ye next six weeks meeting as Thos. Fairman's at Shackamaxon and so in course." It provided further "that Friends at Aramus and those at Shackamaxon do meet together once a month, the first meeting to be at William Cooper's at Pine Point at Aramus."⁷

This was the origin of what is now Philadelphia Monthly Meeting – first held in Camden.

Quaker settlers initiated their own ferry service to meet together for religious worship. West Jersey Friends took a wherry (an oar- and sail-powered longboat used as a ferry)

³ Some historians observed that his move to Pyne Poynt was motivated by his being conversant with the project of planting a city near Shackamaxon (now Kensington, Philadelphia). Cooper was friendly with Thomas Fairman, who selected the site for Philadelphia before William Penn's arrival.

⁴ In 1844 local historian Mickle wrote that the site of Cooper's first house was washed away and is near where Fifth Street touches the river. He said that the remains of this house were visible a few years before. According to reliable Cooper family tradition, the house was built of brown sand-stone, probably quarried at Pea Shore, north of Coopers Creek. It had a stone portico, and a door opened out from the second story hall to the roof of the portico. Benjamin Franklin, who was a guest there nearly a century after it was built, wrote that it "a large house."

⁵ Jeffery M. Dorwart. *Camden County, New Jersey: The Making of a Metropolitan Community, 1626-2000* (Kindle Locations 208-209). Kindle Edition.

⁶ The meeting at Mark Newbie's house, to which William Cooper of the Point resorted, had been kept before he removed from Burlington.

⁷ Cooper, Howard M., *William Cooper of "Greenfield" Woodbury, N.J. and His Cooper Ancestry*, 1896, 5.

from Cooper's riverfront front landing to attend meeting across the river in Shackamaxon (later the Kensington section of Philadelphia).⁸

Cooper attended William Penn's celebrated treaty meeting with Lenape chiefs (c. 1682-83) immortalized later in Benjamin West's painting *Penn's Treaty with the Indians* (1771-72).⁹ He also had many communications with William Penn and the other trustees of Edward Byllynge because of the large amount of land which he purchased for himself, and also as agent for others, still residents of England or Ireland. Robert Turner, one of the wealthiest Quakers, employed William Cooper to locate his lands in the Third Tenth and dispose of them.

During the middle and late 1680s Cooper acquired fractional shares of the proprietary stock company that controlled the distribution of land and accelerated the pace of his land acquisitions. In 1684 he bought two hundred acres towards the head of the creek flowing past his plantation. Three years later he acquired nine hundred acres from William Royden. In 1689 he bought seventy eight acres immediately adjacent to and south of his own plantation along the Delaware River from William Royden, which included a franchise Royden held from the Gloucester Court to operate a ferry between his land and Philadelphia. The ferry service remained in the Cooper family for 150 years and the small settlement that grew up around it was known as Coopers Ferry.

It became a center of activity during the Revolutionary War period (1777-1778) while the British occupied Philadelphia. British troops often crossed the river, disembarking at the ferry landing near (near present day Point and Erie Streets in Camden) to forage for food supplies in the surrounding countryside. The local British commander, Colonel Abercrombie, used the Benjamin Cooper House, built in 1734, as his headquarters during the Philadelphia occupation in 1778.

The extensive ferry system at these various points along the eastern shore of the Delaware River was the original impetus which resulted in the growth of a few small settlements which would later consolidate into the city known as Camden.¹⁰

Cooper was invested in the political management of the colony. In 1682, a month before surveying his Pyne Poynt plantation, Cooper was chosen as a representative in the General of West Jersey. His fellow Assemblymen named him as one of ten "Commissioners for Dividing and Regulating Lands" in West Jersey. During this session he participated in making laws to set the province's "chief town" at Burlington, to

⁸ Jeffery M. Dorwart. *op.cit.* (Kindle Locations 209-210).

⁹ <http://www.penn-treatymuseum.org/treaty.php>

¹⁰ Ferry systems were established by William Cooper (Daniel's father) at Coopers Point (c. 1689); on Market Street in 1800 by Abraham Browning, (later called the West Jersey Ferry); another on Market Street by Randall Sparks (c.1820); Federal Street Ferry (est. 1764) by another Daniel Cooper; Wrights Ferry, also on Federal Street, established by Joseph Wright in 1786; and Kaighns Point Ferry on Ferry Street by Joseph Kaighn in 1809.

regulate elections and Quarter Sessions Courts, to establish procedures for marriages, to govern the sale of liquor to Indians, and to allow land as a means of tender for the settlement of debts in a cash poor society.

Cooper was reelected to the Assembly between 1683 and also in 1685.

In 1684, when the trouble with Edward Byllynge in regard to the government was taken up, and Governor Samuel Jennings and Thomas Budd sent to England as commissioners to defend the province's claim to the right of self-government against Byllynge's counter-claim, the sum of one hundred pounds was allowed to each for expenses. To assure the payment William Cooper with nine others joined in a bond as security. Knowing that Jennings controlled the distribution of unclaimed proprietary lands, Cooper and Thomas Thackara sided consistently with Jennings against the followers of Quaker George Keith.¹¹

In 1687, qualified by the purchase of several fractional shares in the West Jersey proprietorship, he was appointed by the Assembly of the province as one of the Council of Proprietors, which critically affected the life of the community by distributing land.

In 1689 Cooper began a six year term of continuous service on the Gloucester County Grant Jury, which acted like a quasi-administrative as well as judicial body. It not only investigated criminal complaints and brought indictments, it also made appointments, monitored local government performance and made ad hoc executive decisions.

William Cooper was an eminent member of the Society of Friends and participated in everything that went to the advancement and stability of the church. He was a preacher and lived at a time when Quakers were persecuted in Great Britain and America. In 1692 Cooper joined with twenty-eight other ministers in signing a declaration of disunity with George Keith. He also signed the similar testimony put forth by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and, with Thomas Thackara, was selected by Newton Meeting to sign the address which it sent to London Yearly Meeting on the same subject

In May 1696, Cooper was elected by the Legislature a Judge of the Gloucester County Common Pleas Court taking his seat in September and holding it for one year --- his last public office.¹²

While Cooper entered into a marriage contract with Ann Thackara, widow of Thomas, in 1705, his own wife Margaret having died between 1695 and 1705, there is no record that the marriage itself ever took place.

¹¹ Dorwart, Jeffrey, *op.cit.* Kindle location 287.

¹² Gloucester County Court of Common Pleas Minutes, Book I, (Typescript/Microfilm), September 1, 1686, NJBAH

In 1709 Cooper sold his home plantation at Cooper's Point, including property land, farm, and house, to his son Joseph for 310 pounds. He then retired a large farm he had acquired in 1685 Waterford Township (now Cherry Hill, NJ) on the north side of Cooper's creek.

William Cooper died at age seventy eight not long after moving to his Waterford plantation on First Month, 11th, 1710. William Cooper "was buried in the old Newton burying ground at West Collingswood."¹³ The funeral party went on boats down Coopers Creek to the river, thence to Newton Creek and up the latter to the old grave-yard.¹⁴

There are other strong indicators that the emigrant William Cooper was buried at the Newton burying ground in addition to the histories of Howard Cooper and George Prowell. First, there was no other nearby burying ground as Haddonfield Meeting was not established until after 1720. Second, there are no less than seven of his close relatives listed as having been buried in the "Burying Ground at Newton" Newton Meeting Minutes, including Joshua Cooper (1727), William Cooper (1727), Mary Cooper (1728), Lydia Cooper (1731), Joseph Cooper (1733), Lucia Cooper (1736) Joseph Cooper (1791), and Elizabeth Cooper (date illegible). Further, Benjamin B. Cooper is buried in Sloan's yard adjacent. Other records indicate that Sara Cooper, Benjamin B. Cooper's wife (1824) and Benjamin Cooper's son (1818) are also buried in the Newton Grave Yard.

The Newton Monthly Meeting issued a memorial regarding William Cooper stating that he had been raised "raised to his gift of exhortation in Hertfordshire in old England" and had "lived here in a Godly conversation exercising his gift in the meeting at Newton whereunto he belonged to the benefit of God's people until it pleased God to remove him."

Cooper's personal estate amounted to upwards of seven hundred pounds sterling,—a large sum for the times. Parts of the estate passed to his many grandchildren.¹⁵

The history of the early settlement of Camden is so interwoven with the acquisition and transfer of land within its limits, largely made by William Cooper and his descendants

¹³ Cooper, Howard M., *op.cit.* 7

¹⁴ Prowell, George, *History of Camden county, New Jersey*, Philadelphia: L.J. Richards & Co., 1886. pp. 713-738, Chapter 17 -- The Township of Delaware (Early Settlers.)
<https://sites.google.com/site/camdencountynjgenweb/biographies/cooper-william>

¹⁵ John Cooper, Hannah Mickle, Mary Thackara, Joseph Cooper, Benjamin Cooper, Isaac Cooper, Lydia Cox, Hannah Thackara, Sarah Raper, Samuel Cooper, Daniel Cooper, Jonathan Woolstan, Samuel Woolstan, Mary Bunting, Sarah Borton, Elizabeth Wills, William Cooper, Rebecca Smith, Hannah Nicholson, and Elizabeth Mickle.

2. Thomas Sharp

According to John Clement, "of the few colonists who settled in Newton in 1681, Thomas Sharp was the master spirit" who infused his energy and good judgment into the whole company which he advised and guided and, was "no doubt, as he deserved to be, their leader in all important undertakings."¹⁶

Thomas Sharp, an Irish "woolstead comber," was the nephew of Anthony Sharp, a wealthy Dublin merchant who owned several shares of the West Jersey Propriety-- part of which he conveyed to Thomas. Thomas acted as Anthony's agent in the sale of the remainder.

Sharp took part in the government of the Province, but, more importantly recorded one of the most authentic histories of Gloucester County and its founding during his lifetime. Later historians of the county never failed to recite his account of how, on September 19, 1681, Mark Newby, William Bates, Thomas Thackara, George Goldsmith, and he set sail from Dublin Harbor in a pink¹⁷ called *Ye owners adventure* to West Jersey in America, arriving at the Capes of Delaware on November 18; and how they landed their goods and families and spent the winter at Salem.¹⁸ The account describes their purchase of a boat to search up and down the shoreline of the Third tenth during favorable weather for suitable settlement and their selection of Newton creek as the most "invitingist place," and their application to the Surveyor General at Burlington, Daniel Leeds, for warrants to survey the 500 acres they had the right to take up.¹⁹

In the division of the original survey as jointly held under the location, he says : "I took the forks or lower end of the land next toward the river. " ^ There he settled, cleared a farm and improved some meadow. He owned property in other parts of the county, although not the holder of much real estate. Thomas Sharp was also appointed ranger for Gloucester county.

1682, in which year Thomas Sharp was appointed constable of the third tenth," which same became part of the said bailiwick. This executive office, although defined as that of constable, must have extended to that of sheriff,

He was made clerk of the new county and was also a surveyor. The maps, surveys, memoranda and other papers are of much value, both for historical purposes and for determining land titles.

¹⁶ Clement, John, *op.cit.* Kindle Locations 295-306.

¹⁷ A small ship with a narrow stern, with a large cargo capacity, and generally square rigged. Their flat bottoms (and resulting shallow draught) were useful in shallow waters.

¹⁸ Recorded in Liber A of Gloucester County deeds, page 98.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* 308-322.

The inhabitants of that region of country, however, did not wait the tardy movements of their law makers, but proceeded with all due solemnity to establish a county for themselves—a faithful record of which was made by Thomas Sharp ye 28th of May, 1686 is still preserved in the Clerk's office, of Gloucester county, at Woodbury.

Being the only surveyor in these parts, his time was much occupied in that kind of business. In addition to the recording of deeds for the county, he kept a private book of all his proceedings, in which he placed maps and memoranda, showing his great care in such matters and his ability as a practical man. He also made other books containing plans of houses, calculations of the movements of the sun and moon, and many other things in accordance with his taste and leisure.

In 1684 and 1685 the General Assembly appointed Sharp with Henry Wood, Francis Collins and William Bates to the commission to lay out highways.

In 1685, Sharp was elected as a member of the Assembly.

In 1689, he laid out the city of Gloucester with a design to rival to Salem and Burlington. Sharp's Gloucester was described as "a splendid city" reaching from Little Timber Creek to Newton Creek with ten streets running east and west and two north and south with a Market place three chains square.²⁰

Sharp's 1700 map of Newton is but part of the valuable records he left extending over a large amount of West New Jersey, in which he was commissioned as a deputy surveyor.

In 1700, Thomas Sharp was appointed one of the judges of the several courts of Gloucester County. Sharp was among the county's first leaders who owned books and small libraries and had studied law.²¹

Sharp married Elizabeth Winn in 1701.

Sharp was one of the trustees of the Newton Meeting, and assisted in the erection of the first house that was set apart for religious worship. By one account, Sharp was chosen the first teacher of the new settlement as he was well versed in arithmetic, surveying, astronomy and literature, having also calculated the phases of the moon and the tides for the community in an almanac.²²

²⁰ Mickle, Isaac, *Reminiscences of Old Gloucester*. Philadelphia: Townsend Ward, 1845. 35

²¹ Dorwart, loc 261

²² <http://www.nj-roots.org/index.php/counties/camden-county/37-history-of-camden-county-new-jersey-by-george-r-prowell/history-of-camden-county-new-jersey-by-george-r-prowell-part-1/24-chapter-15-education-history-of-camden>

With Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh, Sharp selected the site for the meeting house at Haddonfield, surveyed the lot, wrote the deed, and put the same on record in his private book, after she returned from England with it, having the signature of Estaugh's father.

In 1720, Sharp managed a large part of John Estaugh's estate and paid several subscriptions on his behalf towards the building of the Haddonfield meeting house. His work for Estaugh's estate required him to travel from Amboy to Cohansey to places where John Estaugh had landed estate.

From 1723 to 1728, Thomas Sharp was Newton Township clerk. The first town-meeting of which record was made was held at Newton March 12, 1723, when Joseph Cooper and John Gill were chosen overseers of the poor and Thomas Sharp, clerk. On March 9, 1724, Joseph Cooper and Thomas Sharp were chosen freeholders

Sharp participated in every political movement in and about the colony, and his name is often found more often among the records at Burlington, Trenton or Woodbury, than that of any other man of those times.

In 1729, he departed this life, and was, according to historian Clement, "no doubt, buried in the old Newton grave yard."²³ Further evidence of the Sharps' probable burial in the Newton Burial grounds are four entries in the "Births/ Burials" minutes of Newton Meeting contemporaneous Sharps, including Thomas' wife Elizabeth who "departed this life on the first day of the Eight mo. 1709 and was buryed (*sic*) at Newton."²⁴

²³ Clement, *op.cit.* 559-565

²⁴ Other entries listing burials at Newton include Sarah Sharp (died 1699) and Katherine Sharp (died 1720)

3. Thomas Thackara

Thomas Thackara was born in Yorkshire, England. His family suffered much religious persecution, by reason of their adherence to the Quaker opinions and practices of George Fox. In 1656 he was taken from a religious meeting at Leeds and confined for several weeks in York Castle. He was confined a second time in 1660.

Thackara and his family fled England and settled in Dublin, Ireland, where he was engaged as a "stuff weaver" manufacturing linen from flax.

Thackara had sufficient wealth to purchase land in the third tenth of West Jersey that was set apart for emigrants from Ireland (between the Pennsauken and Timber Creeks). In 1677, Thackara and others received a patent in the West Jersey Colony:

1677 April 12, Indenture of Lease. William Penn, Gawen Lawrie, Nicholas Lucas and Edward Byllinge to Robert Turner, linen draper, Joseph Sleight, tanner, Robert Zanes, sergemaker, Thomas Thackerey, stuffe weaver, all of Dublin, and William Bate of County Wickloe, Ireland, carpenter, for one undivided ninetieth share of the ninety equall hundreds of the Province.²⁵

Being somewhat fearful of the Indians, they at first had a communal settlement around what is now the West Collingswood Railroad Station. Finding, however, that the Indians were friendly, they divided their land and lived separately.²⁶ Thackara was the first to separate his interest by taking two hundred and fifth acres as his share. After purchasing another adjacent tract of 200 acres his estate stretched from Newton to Cooper's creek.

Thackara was elected to the first Legislature in 1682, and in the same year was appointed, with Mark Newby and William Cooper, one of the judges of the court for the Irish Tenth, and there continued until 1685.

He was also appointed one of the land commissioners of the province responsible for examining titles, directing surveyors in locating land, and preventing interference of adjoining surveys.

Zane and Thackara represented the Third Tenth on the Council of Proprietors in 1688.

His selection to sign the address of the Newton meeting to the yearly meeting of London, protesting against the conduct of George Keith, his differences with the Society of Friends generally, and specifically with respect to their alleged denial of the Man Christ Jesus, shows the high regard in which he was held by meeting members. To

²⁵ Nelson, William. *Patents and Deeds and Other Early Records of New Jersey, 1664-1703*. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co, 1982) 405

²⁶ <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Thackara-9>

defend the opinions and practices of the society against the reasoning and arguments of Keith required a thorough knowledge of the tenets upon which they stood. William Cooper was his associate in this.²⁷

In July, 1678, a propriety was sold to another group that included several residents of Ireland, but none of them emigrated to West Jersey. These men included Samuel Dennis, a merchant of Cork; his brother, John Dennis, a joiner of Cork. Samuel and John Dennis appointed Thackara their land agent, and he subsequently located their lands.

Thackara's first wife died in a few years, and in 1689 he married Hepzibah Eastlack.

Thackara died December 1, 1702.

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²⁷ See an extract from an Epistle issued by "A meeting in Ministering Friends, held at Philadelphia, in the Thouse of Thomas Lloyd, 17th of the 4th month 1692" to the Friends in London for an account of the difficulties and divisions occasioned in America by the separation of George Keith, signed by Thakara, Cooper and others in Evans, Thomas. *An Exposition of the Faith of the Religious Society of Friends in Some of the Fundamental Doctrines of the Christian Religion*. Philadelphia: Friends Book Store, 209-211.

4. John Kaighn

John Kaighn lived in the Isle of Man before coming to the new world. By 1694 he had come to Pennsylvania and was living in Byberry in Bucks County where he was a carpenter and the husband of Ann, who died in July 1694 a few weeks after giving birth to their daughter. In 1696, John Kaighn married Sarah, the widow of Andrew Griscom and sister of John Dole, then a resident of Newton township.

As a carpenter, John found abundant business as the first order of business for most emigrants after landing and selecting sites was building a house.

John Kaighn first bought land in Newton Township in 1696. Robert Turner sold him four hundred and fifty-five acres of land fronting on the Delaware river and extending from Line street (in today's Camden) to Little Newton creek.

On March 7th, 1708, he became one of the trustees of the Newton meeting with Benjamin Thackara, William Cooper, William Albertson, Thomas Sharp, Joseph Cooper and John Kay. According to Clement, "he is thus shown to have been an active member of the religious Society of Friends; and his remains doubtless lie buried within the walls that now surround part of the first estate dedicated to such purposes in this region of country."²⁸

In 1699, John Kaighn was appointed by the Legislature, one of the judges of the several courts of Gloucester county, and was so continued for three years thereafter.

In 1710, he sat as a representative from Gloucester county in the Legislature, only a few years after the surrender of the government by the proprietors to Queen Anne, and in the midst of the most troublesome times of the people.

John Kaighn's will was proved June 12th, 1724, in which he gave a house and lot in Philadelphia, to his wife Elizabeth, and, after a life interest in some other parts of his property, the remainder to his two sons, John and Joseph.

²⁸ Clement, John, *op.cit.*, 152.

5. Mark Newbie

Mark Newbie was an Englishman, a resident of London, a tallow chandler, and a member of the Society of Friends. The persecutions against the Society led him and his family to move to Dublin, Ireland where the abusive laws were less enforced and where for several years Quakers enjoyed comparative peace and quiet. Newbie disposed of his property in London and established a temporary residence in Dublin, with a view to settling in America and making it his permanent home. The question of moving to America was considered among Friends. The movements of William Penn in this matter were watched with interest, for he had a strong influence in the Society. Newbie immigrated to the Province of West Jersey in September of 1681, bringing his wife Hannah and at least two of his four children.²⁹

Their ship landed in what is now Salem, New Jersey. Among those aboard were Thomas Thackara, Mark Newbie, William Bates, George Goldsmith and Thomas Sharp. The group was met by Robert Zane who had come some years before. Being wintertime, the Quakers did not venture onward from Salem to their new land until the spring of 1682. The land selected was by the advice of Robert Zane, a serge maker from Dublin, who had been sent by the group to look for the best location. The area selected was the land between what is now the Newton Creek and the Cooper River, and off of the Delaware River. This area of the settlement became the nucleus of Newton Colony.

Newbie was a man of considerable estate, and although he lived but a short time after his arrival in America, he became the owner of several large tracts of land.

Newbie's house was the first religious meeting of Friends in Gloucester County and, after Salem and Burlington, the first in West New Jersey. Thomas Sharp wrote:

And immediately there was a meeting set up and kept at the house of Mark Newbie, and in a short time it grew and increased, unto which William Cooper and family that lived at the Point resorted.³⁰

One of the Newton Colony Quaker settler's first priorities was to establish a meetinghouse for their religious services and a cemetery to bury their dead. The meeting house, which became known as the Newton Meetinghouse, was erected by 1684 in the second year of their settlement. It is described as being of log construction. The meetinghouse and cemetery were on a piece of land donated by Newbie and Thackara.

²⁹ Their names were Rachel, Stephen, Edward, and Elizabeth.

³⁰ Clement, John. *op.cit.* (Kindle Locations 614-619).

From 1684 to 1808 the Quakers used the Newton Meetinghouse as a school and a place of worship, although by around 1715 the Newton Meeting moved from its Newton Colony site to hold religious meetings in Haddonfield.

In the political affairs of the colony Newbie took a prominent part, and filled several positions of trust and responsibility. He was elected a member of the Assembly in 1682 and was selected a member of the Governor's Council. He was re-elected to the Assembly in 1683. (Boyer 1922:12-13)

He was also one of the commissioners for the division of land in the province and one of the committee of ways and means to raise money for the use of the government.

In 1682 the question whether the Proprietors had the right of government was up in the air -- a question of serious import to land buyers, one which they considered as contributing to success of their colony, and one that materially affecting their privileges in religious toleration. The Assembly appointed a committee to draft a number of queries touching the question, to be submitted to the home government, and to Edward Byllynge, in order to know whether any difficulty in this regard really existed. Mark Newbie was one of the persons selected to discharge this important duty, but he died many years before the question was settled.³¹

Newbie was the founder of the first bank in the State of New Jersey.³² He brought with him a large supply of currency from Ireland called by many names including St. Patrick coppers and the St. Patrick Halfpenny. "St Patrick's haypenny" was originally minted for use in Ireland. The half-penny, used as the circulating medium by this pioneer banker, was a copper piece of money coined by the Roman Catholics after the massacre of 1641, in Ireland. It had the words "Floreax Rex" on the obverse, and "Ecce Rex" on the reverse. These coins were made probably only to commemorate some event but never obtained circulation in Ireland.

Newbie's St. Patrick coppers filled an important need in local commerce and remained in circulation throughout the colonial period.

Newbie was only forty five when he died in 1683. His estate , which was inventoried in September 1684, included £189.1.0 and a number of indentured servants and/or slaves: William Chester, a serving man, £8, Margett Linch, a woman servant, £8, Thomas Lassen, a boy, £10, Anthony Sharp, a boy, £10, Margery Newby, a girl, £8, and debts due by John Hogg and John Gay.

³¹ Clement, John, *op.cit.* 44

³² For more information see Stewart, Frank H. *Mark Newby, the First Banker in New Jersey and His Patrick Halfpence*. Woodbury, N.J: Gloucester County Historical Society, 1947.

The bank he established closed soon after and the currency he introduced ceased to be distributed by banks. His estate included £30 in coppers, estimated at roughly 10,800 coins. When a settlement was made between the administratrix and the commissioners, a deficiency of thirty pounds was discovered in the banking operations, which was, however, made good out of his personal estate, thus releasing the land before named.



St. Patrick Copper, St. Patrick Farthing,
Newby Halfpenny, Newby Farthing

B. Burials at the Old Newton Union Burial Ground

There are no complete records of all the names of individuals buried at the Old Newton Union Burial Ground and there are no extant headstones or grave markers in the original Old Newton Burying Ground portion of the cemetery. The most largest single list of “memorials” for three hundred three names and known birth/death dates is accessible at the Find a Grave website.³³

The Haddonfield Meeting Minutes list many of the wives, children, and grandchildren of the first Newton Colony settlers as having been buried at Newton, but not all the original settlers themselves. For example, while local historians Howard Cooper and George Prowell both specifically mention that William Cooper, the first to settle in Camden County, was buried at the Old Newton Burying Ground, the Newton Meeting Minutes do not identify his burial place, even as they list seven of his close relatives as having been specifically buried in the “Burying Ground at Newton:” Joshua Cooper (1727), William Cooper (1727), Mary Cooper (1728), Lydia Cooper (1731), Joseph Cooper (1733), Lucia Cooper (1736) Joseph Cooper (1791), and Elizabeth Cooper (date illegible). Further, Benjamin B. Cooper is buried in Sloan’s yard adjacent. Other records indicate that Sara Cooper, Benjamin B. Cooper’s wife (1824) and Benjamin Cooper’s son (1818) are also buried in the Newton Grave Yard.

In 1960, Frank H. Stewart and the Gloucester County Historical Society³⁴ published the following index of names and burial years of Quakers buried in the Old Newton Burying Ground developed by Jeanne M. Hammell in 1918:

Thomas Sharp	1729 (according to John Clement)
John Kaighn	1749
R. L. Sloan	1792
Sarah Henry	1795
William Collings	1796
Mary Cox	1797
Joseph Sloan	1798
John Collings	1798
Mary Sloan	1802
James Sloan	1808

³³ <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/1275992/memorial-search?page=7#sr-42727115>

³⁴ Stewart, Frank, *Stewart’s Geneological and Historical Miscellany No.1*, Woodbury, NJ: Gloucester County Historical Society, 1960

The following persons were buried at the site on the dates listed according to Joseph Hinchman's Journal (1811-1828):

Sarah Eastlack Hinchman	Dec 7, 1811
Hannah Thomas	Dec 7, 1817
Hezekiah Shivers	Feb 22, 1818
Sarah Judgton, daughter of Ed. Collins	May 8, 1818
Samuel Harrison	Aug 12, 1818
Joseph Albertson	Aug 25, 1818
Joseph Collins	Oct 4, 1818
Marta Ellis Hinchman	Oct 18, 1818
Ann Albertson	Nov 23, 1818
Joseph, Thorne	Sept 19, 1819
Edward Zane Collins	May 7, 1820
Joseph Mickle Jr.	May 9, 1820
James Tallman	March 7, 1821
Sarah Branson	April 3, 1821
Beula Mickle	July 26, 1821
Sarah Jones	Oct 31, 1821
Isaac Thackara	Jan 21, 1822
Asher Thackara	Nov 25, 1822
Charles Nicholson Eastlack	July 16, 1823
Richard Collins	Aug 1, 1823
Samuel Eastlack Sr.	Oct 6, 1823
Hannah Thackara	Aug 6, 1825
Hannah Ward	Dec 13, 1825
Sarah Nenry	Feb 6, 1826
Lidia Branson	Jan 5, 1827
John Thackara	Jan 18, 1827
John Dill	??
John Davis	??
James Sloan	??
Jacob Albertson Sr.	??
Jacob Albertson Jr.	??
Isaah Albertson	??
E. Githins	??
Joseph Collins	??
Jacob Evaul	??
John Heritage	??

Veterans of the American Revolution and War of 1812 were buried in the Sloan section of the Old Newton Union Burial Ground. The following list, which includes the soldier's name, rank, unit, and birth/death date were compiled from the findagrave.com³⁵ website:

1. Ephraim Albertson, Pvt. GCM* 1742 - Unknown
2. Isaac Albertson, Lt. GCM 1763-1824
3. Jacob Albertson, Sr., Pvt. 1714-1761
4. Jacob Albertson, Jr., Pvt. 1751-1806
5. Josiah Albertson, Lt., GCM - Unknown
6. Joseph Albertson, Pvt. GCM 1750-1831
7. Joseph Branson
8. George Budd, Pvt. GCM 1737-1815
9. Joseph Zane Collings, Pvt. GCM 1763-1818
10. Edward Zane Collings, Pvt. GCM 1763-1820
11. James Coulter, Pvt. GCM 1742-1811
12. John T. Dill, Pvt. GCM 1762-1845
13. Jacob Evaul, Pvt. Mass Militia 1764-1838
14. Joseph Githens, Pvt. GCM - Unknown
15. David Henry, Pvt. 16 Pa Inf, War 1812 1779-1826
16. Robert Henry, Pvt. GCM Unknown - 1825
17. John Heritage, Pvt. GCM 1740-1817
18. William Knight, Pvt. GCM 1750-1797
19. James Sloan
20. John Thackara, Am. Rev. Unknown-1827
21. William Wolohorn, NJ Militia, Unknown
22. William Wright, Pvt, GCM 1751-1811

*** Note:** GCM = Gloucester Co. Militia, Revolutionary War

This list indicates that at least two officers and fifteen privates who were members of the Gloucester County Militia during the American Revolution are buried in the Old Newton Union Burial Ground. Other veterans buried here include Jacob Evaul, who was a private in the Massachusetts Militia, William Wolohorn, a member of the New Jersey Militia, David Henry, a private in the 16th Pennsylvania infantry during the War of 1812.

Over a quarter of the names listed here were members of the Albertson family, who descended from William Albertson, one of the first settlers in the Newton Colony in 1682.³⁶

³⁵ <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/1275992/memorial-search?page=7#sr-42727115>

³⁶ William Albertson resided at Poquesin, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania at the time of his death in 1709. The list of his children and grandchildren, including some of the veteran Albertsons listed above, is found in Clement, John, *op.cit.*, 104.

Richard Matlack Cooper

As a former U.S. Congressman, Richard Matlack Cooper (1768-1843) was the most significant public figure among the later individuals to be buried at the Old Newton Union Burial Ground. Born in Gloucester County, New Jersey, he engaged in banking and was the Gloucester County coroner (1795-99).³⁷

Cooper was the judge and justice of Gloucester County courts (1803-23) a member of the New Jersey State General Assembly (1807-18) and president of the New Jersey State Bank, (1813-42).

In 1829, he was elected as an Anti-Jacksonian to the Twenty-first and Twenty-second Congresses serving until 1833. Declining to be a candidate for reelection, he resumed his banking interests until his death at age 75 in Camden, New Jersey.

C. Weddings on the site of the former Newton Meeting House:

1684 James Atkinson to Hannah Newby
1685 John Ladd to Sarah Wood,
1686 Walter Forrest to Ann Albertson
1686 Thomas Shable to Alice Stalles
1686 Samuel Toms to Rachel Wood
1687 William Clark to Mary Heritage
1692 Simeon Ellis to Sarah Bates, daughter of William
1695 William Sharp to Jemima Eastlack, daughter of Francis
1695 Isaac Decou to Rachel Newbie, daughter of Mark
1699 Thomas Thackara to Ann Parker, of Philadelphia
1703 Stephen Newbie to Elizabeth Wood, daughter of Henry
1706 Joseph Brown to Mary Spicer, daughter of Samuel
1 706 Edward Newbie to Hannah Chew
1707 John Hallowell, of Darby, to Elizabeth Sharp, daughter of Thomas
1707 John Kay, son of John, to Sarah Langstone
1 708 Samuel Mickle to Elizabeth Cooper, daughter of Joseph
1708 Ezekiel Siddons, son of John, to Sarah Mickle
1709 Simeon Breach to Mary Dennis.
1 709 John Harvey to Sarah Hasker.
1709 Robert Braddock to Elizabeth Hancock, daughter of Timothy
1710 Thomas Bull to Sarah Nelson
1710 William Harrison to Ann Hugg, daughter of John
1710 Thomas Middleton to Mercy Allen
1710 Joseph Stokes, son of Thomas, to Judith Lippincott, daughter of Freedom

³⁷ <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=C000760>

1710 Thomas Sharp to Catharine HoUingsham
1711 Thomas Smith to Sarah Hancock, daughter of Timothy
1711 Jonathan Haines, son of John, to Mary Matlack, daughter of William
1711 Daniel Mickle to Hannah Dennis
1711 Samuel Dennis to Ruth Tindall
1711 Thomas Lippincott, son of Freedom, to Mary Haines, daughter of John
1712 Abraham Brown to Hannah Adams, Jr
1714 Joseph Dole to Hannah Somers
1714 John Hugg to Elizabeth Newbie
1714 John Cox to Lydia Cooper, daughter of Joseph
1716 John Adamson to Ann Skew
1716 Francis Richardson to Sarah Cooper
1716 Thomas Robinson to Sarah Lowe
1716 William Sharp to Mary Austin, daughter of Francis
1717 Alexander Morgan, son of Griffith, to Hannah Cooper, daughter of Joseph
1718 Benjamin Cooper, son of Joseph, to Rachel Mickle
1718 Thomas Rakestraw to Mary Wilkinson, daughter of Thomas
1718 Samuel Sharp to Martha Hall
1718 John Gill to Mary Heritage
1719 John Sharp to Jane Fitchardall
1719 Thomas Eyere to Pricilla Hugg
1719 Joseph Gibson to Elizabeth Tindall

There is a high probability that most of these individuals were buried in the original Newton Meeting Burying Ground part of the cemetery.

D. Newton Union Burial Ground Chain of Title

April 12, 1677

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West Jersey Deeds 1677-1693: Indenture 12 April 1677 between William Penn, Gawin Lawrie, Nicholas Lucas and Edward Byllinge and Robert Turner, Joseph Sleight, Robert Zane and Thomas Thackera and William Bate a grant to land in West Jersey, America. N.J.A., 1st series, vol. XXI, N.J. Records 1664-1705, describes as "one undivided 90th share of the 90 equal hundreds of the Province.

March 10, 1681

351

N.J. Archives (as above) p. 351 for Mark Newbie, William Bate, Geo Goldsmith, Thomas Thackera, Robert Zane, and Thomas Sharp, 1600 a. between two branches of a creek at ARWAWMOSSE bounded by William Coopers Creek (Revels Book, p. 25)

September 16, 1681

A

98

Gloucester County Deeds: Thomas Sharp recorded the deed to the above 1600 a. on February 12, 1718.

March 1, 1683

358

N.J. Archives as above: for Thomas Thackery, 250 a. on Newton Creek adjoining Robert Zane (Revels Book, p. 59) [Trustees at this time were William Albertson, William Cooper and Thomas Thackara]

March 7, 1708

B

50

Gloucester County Deeds: Benjamin Thackara to Thomas Sharp and others, the old Quaker Meeting House lot (of approximately 2 acres set aside by Thomas Thackara from his original grant of ground for use by the Newton Meeting as a cemetery and meeting house lot in 1683. [Trustees at this time were William Albertson, Joseph Cooper, William Cooper, John Kaighn, John Kay, Thomas Sharp and Benjamin Thackara]

January 9, 1712

B

52

Gloucester County Deeds: Benjamin Thackara to Thomas Sharp and others, another lot of ground adjoining the above mentioned land on the northwest and containing about .8 acres (given by Thomas Thackara in 1684 but not recorded)

February 27, 1771

unrecorded

Deed of Trust: between Josiah Kay of Waterford Township and John Gill and others, recently appointed as "Trustees for Meeting House Land at Newton" by the Haddonfield Quarterly Meeting.

June 10, 1771

unrecorded

Deed of Trust: confirms the propositions of the trust by the above-named group of trustees, as appointed by the Haddonfield Quarterly concerning the graveyard and meetinghouse ground.

October 24, 1799 **D** **165**

Gloucester County Deeds: James Thackara and Jane, his wife to Joseph Sloan and Elizabeth, his wife, the lands Stephen Thackara by will, registered at Trenton, 170 acres (which apparently by some miscalculation, included the grounds upon which the Quaker Cemetery and meetinghouse were located).

October 8, 1808 **M** **172**

Gloucester County Deeds: Deed of Trust between Samuel Webster of Newton Township, last surviving Trustee, and Joseph Glover and others, a new group of Trustees appointed by the Haddonfield Quarterly for 3 acres, 18 perches of land.

October 10, 1808 **M** **175**

Deed of Trust: confirms the propositions of the Trust by the above named group of Trustees, concerning the graveyard and meetinghouse ground.

October 10, 1810 **W** **585**

Gloucester County Deeds: Joseph Sloan and Elizabeth, his wife to James Sloan and wife Rachel, for the sum of twenty-five dollars, the lot where the meetinghouse stands and the burial ground.

June 6, 1811 **O** **597**

Joseph Sloan abandoned his claim by his deed to the Trustees of Haddonfield Monthly Meeting, which extended to the Old Newton Graveyard within the brick wall and some adjoining lands.

June 17, 1812 **Q** **234**

Indenture for 98 square perches of Land Enclosed by a Brick wall, for the sole use of a burying-ground from James Sloan & his wife, Rachel, to Samuel Eastlack, Edward Z. Collings & Others.

August 3, 1819 **CC** **315**

James Sloan released his interest by deed to Samuel Eastlack and others, who at the time were responsible for the upkeep of a part of the burial grounds.

September 4, 1842 **Q** **234**

Joseph Branson, Samuel Champion, and William Sloan, the only surviving trustees, transferred title to Joseph Colling, Samuel Hinchman, John Campbell, Issac Eastlack, Issac Collings, and William Sloan Jr., in fee simple, sixty-eight square perches of Land contiguous to the aforesaid a total of 98 square perches, now enclosed by a Brick wall, bounded on the North, East and South by other ground now or late of the said Joseph Sloan and on the West by the Friends burial ground

February 4, 1891

At a Society of Friends monthly meeting on this date, minutes were adopted authorizing the sale of the land “known as the Ancient Meeting House Lot” adjoining the Newton Cemetery in Haddon Township at West Collingswood Station.

March 2, 1891

An agreement was entered on this day between William Battle, Benjamin C. Reeve, Samuel A. Bacon, John Hutchinson and Joseph Lippincott, Trustees and the Collingswood Land Company, Atlantic City Railroad Company, and the Champion Land Company, in which, for a consideration of \$800.00 paid by the the Collingswood Land Company, the Atlantic City Railroad Company and the Champion Land Company, to the trustees, it was agreed that the party of the first part (the aforesaid trustees) shall stand seized of the said land to the intent and purpose and upon trust and confidence that said land and premises shall forever be held and enjoyed as a free open public park under the direction and management of Atlantic City Railroad Company, Collingswood Land Company and the Champion Land Company, their successors and assigns and that the said land shall never be built upon, enclosed or used or occupied for any other purpose than that of a free, open public park. This deed recites that the said trustees became seized of the said land by a deed from Joseph Lippincott to Charles Rhodes to the use of the said trustees, dated Nov. 29, 1889, recorded in the office of the – register of Deeds of Camden, in Book 148 of Deeds on page 386, in which deed it was recited that the land known as the Ancient Meeting House lot shall be held, “in trust for the use, benefit and behold of the members of the Religious Society of Friends belonging to the monthly meeting held at Haddonfield or Newton within the County of Camden and State of New Jersey as a place to erect and maintain a meeting house for the use and service of the said Society and for a place to bury their dead and to for such other public use, intent and purposes as the members of the monthly meeting, aforesaid, shall, from time to time, or at any time hereafter, direct and appoint.”

1933

Present Trustees named by Isaac Collings, the heir and survivor of Z. Collings.



NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0001



NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0002



NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0003



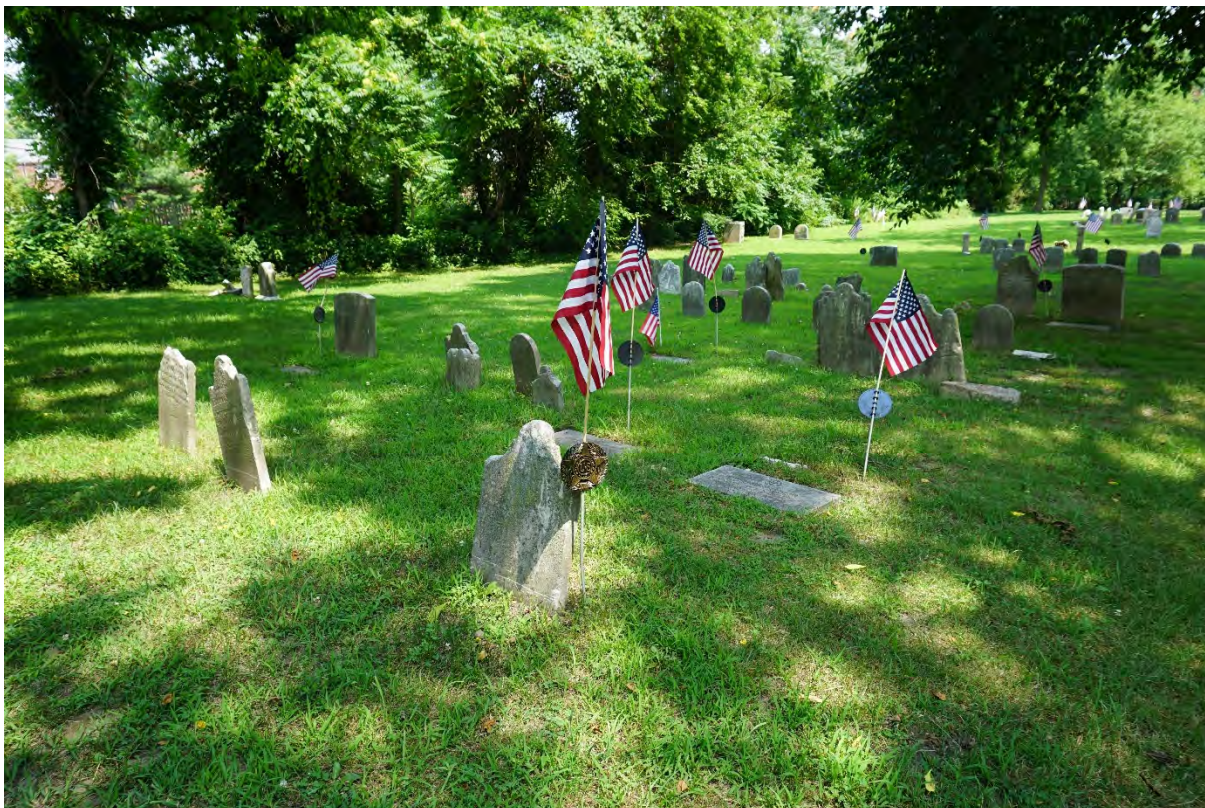
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NJ_Camden County_Newton Union Burial Ground_0010