

**Rock Springs Meeting House
Grave Markers**

Col. Adam Alexander
Who Departed this life
Nov 13 1798
Age 70 years. 7 mo.

Mary [
Shelby] Alexander
Who departed this life
Nov 26, 1813
[Wife of Adam Alexander]

M. D.
(carved on fieldstone)

Cecilia L. Harris
Who died June 10, 1822
In her 23rd year

Maj. James Harris
Born Dec. 23, 1772
Died Sept. 7, 1811

James L. Harris
Who died Feb 16, 1798
In his third year.

Mary Harris
Consort of Laird Harris
Who died July 14, 1849
Aged 73 years.

Jane Harris
Who departed this life Dec 11, 1797
In the 42nd year of her age

Margaret Harris
Who departed this life
April 12, 1782
In the 38th year of her age.

Samuel L. Harris
Who died Aug. 17, 1798
In the 31st year of his age.

Samuel Harris
Who departed this life
May 30, 1825
In the 83rd year of his age.

L M
1794
(carved on fieldstone)

W M
1774
(carved on fieldstone)
#

Catherine Maxwell
Died Aug. 21, 1825
Aged 51 years

Elizabeth Moore
Died Aug 25, 1814
Age 18 years

Hannah Moore
Died May 8, 1821
Aged 50 years.

Elizabeth [Foard] Morris
Who died May 22, 1821
Aged 71 years
[Daughter of John Foard and wife of William Morris]

William Morris
Who died April 20, 1804
Aged 59 yrs. 3 mos. 17 days.
[Husband of Elizabeth Foard Morris]

J. H. Morris
Died 1818
Aged 2 mos.

Sarah Deline Morris
Who died June 25, 1816
Aged 1 yr. 5 mos.

Robert Query
Died Aug. 25, 1827
Aged 64 years

Elizabeth Robb
Departed this life
April 30, 1792
In the 40th year of her age
[Wife of William Robb]

Andrew N. Rodgers
Who died Sept 19, 1814
Aged 25 years.

James Rodgers
Died Nov. 17, 1814
Aged 24 years.

Elizabeth Wilson
Died Nov. 20, 1802
Aged 21 years

Elizabeth Willson
Died Dec 29, 1833
Aged 32 years

**Cemetery at the Second Site of
Philadelphia Presbyterian Church
Circa 1780**

Originally Called Clear Creek Presbyterian

AKA Rice Cemetery & Hartt Cemetery

**Mint Hill NC 28227
Mecklenburg County
Cemetery History**

For 46 years, from 1780 - 1826, the second building of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church was located along the north wall of this cemetery on Matthews-Mint Hill Road until the church moved in 1826 to its third and current site at 11501 Bain School Road, Mint Hill, Mecklenburg County, NC. This cemetery was one of the two original burial sites for the church which was founded in 1770. The first site was Rocky Spring Meeting House Burial Ground is located on Brief Road. Details are provided below on Rocky Spring. It is believed that both cemeteries contain the graves of revolutionary war soldiers.

The Cemetery at the Second Site is enclosed with a wall of stacked stones, with the site of the second church building located outside the north wall. On the outside of the south wall is a burial place for servants of church members. These graves are arranged in neat rows, most unmarked, but some marked with field stones. Originally these graves outside the wall would likely have been marked with pine slabs, however only one remains and is preserved in the church's historical room. Over 200 graves in the servant section are currently marked with field stones and many others are clearly seen as depressions in the periwinkle. Many are marked with temporary white crosses. This Servant Section outside the south wall is believed to be one of the largest remaining the old slave cemeteries in Mecklenburg County. Although it is thought the cemetery dates to 1780 when the church was built, the oldest marked grave found to date is that of Tunis Hood who died in 1797. The cemetery is located at 6400 Matthews-Mint Hill Road at Phyllis Lane in Mecklenburg County, Mint Hill, NC

Marked Graves

Graves currently marked:

Name	Age	Died	Year
A. D. Black		October 5	1837
Elizabeth Black		June	
23	1806	22	
Tunis (Theunis) Hood		1797	78
Wife Elizabeth [Hood] Elizabeth Maxwell			
William Maxwell		June	
1	1820	66	
*W. M. Maxwell		on fieldstone	
James McCombs		October	
10	1813	74	
Robert McCombs		January	
22	1848	81	
Newton Stinson		April	
18	1823	12	
James Young		January	
31	1835	66	
Jane Young		September	
5	1830	54	
Robert Young		September	
5	1811	43	
J. D. McCall			1809
*A. M. McCall		on field stone	
Susannah Query		February	
19	1814	52	
A. B.		October 5	1837
(thought to be A. Black)			
W. B.			1827
M. H.			1817
M. H.			1820
W. M.			1809
E. S.			1816
D. H.			181_
M. W.			1817
W M S			

*From list preserved in the Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library. (These marked with an * have not yet been located.)

Many additional graves sites are marked with foot stones. Over 100 grave markers have been found within the walled section and over 200 have been found outside the wall. Some of

these fieldstones have initials and some have dates, however most have neither. Care is exercised in the restoration process to find and preserve these grave markers. If you walk inside the cemetery, please be careful and do not disturb markers or other artifacts including stones from the wall.

Church Building at Second Site

The first location of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church, which was founded in 1770 and originally called Clear Creek Presbyterian Church, was a log structure located 8851 Brief Road in Mint Hill, Mecklenburg, NC. After the Rocky Spring Meeting House building burned in 1779 or 1780, the church built the second building two miles away at the Second Site Cemetery on the Matthews-Mint Hill Road with the building located along the north rock wall of the cemetery. The front door or doors opened toward the road (now Matthews-Mint Hill Road, NC-51), and a side door would likely have provided access to the cemetery, with space between the church and road providing ample room to hitch horses and leave wagons and conveyances. It also provided for "dinner on the grounds" between morning and afternoon services. The church house was build of logs and perhaps covered with boards, and had small glass windows, a floor, and benches for seating. Erection of this second church building took place in 1779 or 1780. The church name changed from Clear Creek Presbyterian Church to Philadelphia Presbyterian Church after moving to this second site, likely since it was no longer in the Clear Creek watershed basin. (This building information was gathered from the late Rev. Russell Kerr's 2001 book, *The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*).

More history on the cemetery and Philadelphia Presbyterian Church can be found in book *The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*, by the late Rev. Russell M. Kerr, published 2001 by Philadelphia Presbyterian Church. The book is available for purchase for \$25 from the church office at the address below.

Recent History

It is not known when the Second Site cemetery became neglected, and we were unable to locate a deed for the property. The surrounding property was owned at one time by Mr. Rice and became commonly known as the Rice Cemetery. At some previous time some records show it was also known as Hartt Cemetery. In 1988-89 Dr. Christopher Hood had the cemetery surveyed and registered with Mecklenburg County; however, a deed was not obtained. With the development of the adjoining property in 2002, the developer Mr. Lat Purser agreed to donate the cemetery property to Philadelphia Presbyterian Church, and the cemetery was transferred to the church in 2003. The church is appreciative of Mr. Purser's generosity in assuring the cemetery property was finally returned to the church. In 2002 Philadelphia Presbyterian Church assigned responsibility of this cemetery to the church's **Historical Committee**, led by Amelia Ford. In 2003 a **Historic Cemeteries Subcommittee** (of the Historical Committee) was formed and assigned responsibility for both Second Site and Rocky Spring cemeteries.

A primary goal is the completion of a wrought iron security fence around the servant section of the cemetery, and the repair of additional grave markers. A partial wrought iron fence was installed along the west and south sides of the Servant Section in the fall of 2004 using the funds donated to date. Additional donations are needed to complete the remaining 145 feet along the east side.

Current Work and Plans

The Historic Cemeteries Volunteers are continuing work to restore and maintain the cemetery. During the summer of 2005 five headstones were repaired and reset and an additional three have been repaired. In 2005 work also began on the cleanup of Rocky Spring Meeting House Burial Ground, and this work continues in 2006.

Volunteers

The current volunteers working weekly since 2003 are Harry Hood, Bill Hawkins, Charlie

Burdick, and Scot Treadwell. The continued work and dedication of these volunteers is much appreciated. Additional volunteers are always welcome for the Thursday afternoon workdays. The volunteers alternate workdays between the Second Site and Rocky Spring.

Information

For more information regarding the cemetery, contact the church office 704-545-6172, cynthia@philadelphiachurch.org, or judy@philadelphiachurch.org.

Donations may be sent to Philadelphia Presbyterian Church, **Historic Cemeteries Fund**, 11501 Bain School Road, Mint Hill, NC 28227-0272, www.philadelphiachurch.org, **704-545-6172**.

Reference Articles:

Hallowed History, by Carol Timblin, *Our State Magazine*, January 2004.
Cemetery Restoration Uncovers Old Gravestone, by Ellen Poteet, *Olde Mecklenburg Genealogy Society Quarterly*, Vol. 21, No. 4, 2003.
Elvis Presley: A Hood Descendant, by Rustee Lane, *Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 22, No. 3, 2004.
Broken But Not Forgotten: Saving the Tombstones of Our Ancestors, by N. Scot Treadwell, *Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 23, No. 4.
Restoration Thursdays: Volunteers piece together historic Mint Hill cemeteries, *The Mint Hill Times*, March 9, 2006.

GAT Rev 4-22-2006