

## **Deeds for Ye Olde Robbins Burial Place**

When Deborah Lincoln was buried atop the hill where Ye Olde Robbins Burial Place now sits on May 15, 1720, the hill and the land around it was owned by her grandfather, Richard Salter. At some undefined point in time between this date and December 12, 1762, this land passed into the hands of Daniel Robbins. Upon Daniel's possession of this land, the area atop the hill became a cemetery for members of the Robbins family and people who married into the family. On December 12, 1762, Daniel Robbins released his possession of the burial ground.

The original deed for Ye Olde Robbins Burial Place reads:

To all Christian People to whom these presents shall come or anyways Concern, Daniel Robbins of the Township of Upper Freehold in the county of Monmouth and Eastern Division of the Province of New Jersey, Sendeth Greeting. Whereas this is a Burying Ground within the land of sd Daniel wherein the family of the Robbins's have frequently Buried their Dead, and that it may hereafter Be and Remain for a Burying place, Now Know Ye that the said Daniel- for and in consideration of the sum of five shillings money according to the Proclamation to the said Daniel in hand paid by Moses Robbins, Joseph Robbins, Daniel Robbins of Allentown, Neathan Robbins, Zebulon Robbins and Moses Robbins Junr.; the receipt whereof the sd Daniel Doth hereby own and acknowledge and himself therewith fully satisfied, Contented and paid Have remised, Released and forever Quit all and singular of his right and title Interest, Possession, property claim and demand whatsoever off, in or to the Quantity of the acre of Land for the use of a Burying Ground aforesaid. Beginning at a stone planted on a course South Seventy Degrees West and Distant Seventy-five links from Zachariah Robbins's head grave stone, Thence North three chains and thirty three links to another stone, Thence East three chains and thirty-three links to another stone, thence West three chains and thirty-three Links to the place of Beginning.

Containing One Acre To Have and To Hold the said one acre of land to them the said Moses Robbins, Joseph Robbins, Daniel Robbins of Allentown, Nathan Robbins, Zebulon Robbins and Moses Robbins Junr; to them and their assigns, and Successors In Trust for the uses and purposes of a Burying Ground aforesaid. In witness whereof the said Daniel Robbins hath hereunto set his hands and seal this Twelfth day of December Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and sixty-two- 1762.

Daniel Robbins (Seal)

Sealed and delivered in the presence of Mary Johnson, Rekah Cox.

In 1786, the property surrounding the burial ground was bought from Lewis Robbins by Captain Samuel Covell and his wife Jane. The cemetery remained in the possession of the Robbins family, but the burial ground came to be referred to as the Covell Hill burying ground because it was situated atop the hill surrounded by the land of Samuel Covell. Captain Covell and his family were members of the Emley's Hill church and they are buried in that churchyard. It is believed that there was a Covell-Robbins marriage at some time. Basis for this assumption is that in his will, Captain Samuel Covell makes a bequest to Samuel Covell Robbins, son of Ezekiel. Samuel died in 1813, at the age of eighty-two.

The following deed, dated March 3, 1796, dismissed Zebulon Robbins of Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County, and Nathan Robbins of Mansfield Township, Burlington County as trustees of Ye Olde Robbins Burial Place and granted the land to Davis Robbins, George Robbins, Antrim Robbins, Ephraim Robbins and Ezekiel Robbins of Allentown, Elijah Robbins and Isaac Robbins for the use of a burying ground.

On September 16, 1847, a third and fourth deed was written. The fourth reads as follows:

Be it known that whereas Daniel Robbins formerly of the township of Upper Freehold in the county of Monmouth and eastern division of the province now state of New Jersey by a certain deed by him duly made and executed bearing date the twelfth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty two did remise, release and forever quit claim unto Moses Robbins, Joseph Robbins, Daniel Robbins, Nathan Robbins, Zebulon Robbins and Moses Robbins Junior a certain burying ground within the land of him the said Daniel Robbins wherein the family of the Robbins had frequently buried their dead so that the same might hereafter be and remain for a burying place and which in the said release and quit claim is particularly described by metes and bounds as follow that is to say Beginning at a stone planted on a course South Seventy degrees west and distant Seventy five links from Zachariah Robbins head grave stone thence north as the needle then pointed three chains and thirty three links to another Stone thence east three chains and thirty three links to another Stone thence South three chains and thirty three links to another Stone thence west three chains and thirty three links to the place of beginning containing one acre to be had and holden the one acre of land unto them the said Moses Robbins, Joseph Robbins, Daniel Robbins, Nathan Robbins, Zebulon Robbins and Moses Robbins Junior and there assigns and successors for the use and purposes of a burying ground aforesaid and whereas Nathan Robbins aforesaid and Zebulon Robbins survivors of the grantees in the said release and quit claim named afterwards by their deed duly made and executed bearing date the third day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety six did remise, release and forever quit claim unto the said David Robbins, George Robbins, Antrim Robbins, Ephraim Robbins, Ezekiel Robbins, Elijah Robbins and Isaac Robbins the said one acre of land by the metes and bounds herein before mentioned to be had and holden unto them the said David Robbins, George Robbins, Antrim Robbins, Ephraim Robbins, Ezekiel Robbins, Elijah Robbins and Isaac Robbins and their assigns and successors In Trust for the use

and purposes of a burying ground as aforesaid Now these presents further witness that we George Robbins and Ephraim Robbins Survivors of the grantees named in the last mentioned release and quit claim for diverse causes and considerations and also for and in considerations of the Sum of one Dollar to us in hand at or before execution of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have released, remised and forever quit claim unto Elisha Robbins, Jacob F. Robbins, Timothy Robbins of Monmouth County and Nathan Robbins of Mercer County the said one acre of land by the same metes and bounds courses and distances mentioned in the first release and quit claim herein before recited To Have and To Hold the Said one acre of land with the appurtenance unto the said Elisha Robbins, Jacob F. Robbins, Timothy Robbins and Nathan Robbins and their Survivors and Successors and assigns forever In trust nevertheless for the use and purposes of a burying ground as in the before recited grants are mentioned and expressed and for no other use, intent or purpose whatsoever. In Witness whereof we the said George Robbins and Ephraim Robbins have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals this sixteenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty seven.

Signed Sealed and delivered

George Robbins (Seal)

in the presence of

Joseph Robbins

Ephraim Robbins (Seal)

Rebecca H. Robbins

The following deed is dated January 1, 1884. In it, Nathan Robbins of Hamilton Township, Mercer County, being the only living trustee, forfeits his claim of the burying ground to Samuel M. Robbins of Hamilton Township and Barton B. Hutchinson of Trenton, Mercer County.

The subsequent deed is dated May 17, 1923. Grantors of the burying ground were Aaron

H. Robbins of Hamilton Township, and Barton B. Hutchinson of Trenton, Mercer County.

Grantees were George B. Robbins and Charles Perry Hutchinson, the great-great grandson of Joseph Robbins.

In all the deeds described above, the acre of land containing Ye Olde Robbins Burial Place changed hands on the promise that the acre of land would only be used as a burying ground. The last funeral in the burying ground was that of Eliza Steward in 1914. In the 1960's, the Green Acres program acquired the area around the cemetery for Assunpink Creek State Park. The acre of land containing the cemetery was turned over to the state Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife for development as a recreation area. At the present, Ye Olde Robbins Burial Place is the responsibility of the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife.

to claim the same shall and will warrant and forever defend  
In Witness whereof the aforesaid party of the first part have hereunto  
set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Signed sealed and delivered  
In the presence of  
J<sup>r</sup> P. Lewis  
Henry Rainton  
Ann X Rainton  
mark

State of New Jersey  
Morris County

Be it remembered that on the twenty first  
day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand  
and eight hundred and forty seven before me John P. Lewis a common  
justice for taking the acknowledgment and proof deeds de in and  
for said county personally appeared Henry Rainton and Ann  
his wife well known to me to be the grantor mentioned in the within  
deed and having first made known to them the contents of the  
same he the said Henry Rainton acknowledged that they signed  
sealed and delivered the same as his voluntary act and deed for the uses  
and purposes therein expressed and the said Ann Rainton wife of the  
said Henry being by me examined in private separate and apart  
from her said husband acknowledged that she signed sealed and  
delivered the foregoing instrument as her voluntary act and deed for  
the uses and purposes therein expressed freely without any force threats  
or compulsion from her said husband  
acknowledged before me the day and year aforesaid  
J<sup>r</sup> P. Lewis

Received & Recorded October 1<sup>st</sup> 1847  
D. Christopher Clerk

Notice & claim of  
Daniel Robbins  
Moses Robbins  
Joseph Robbins  
Daniel Robbins  
Nathan Robbins  
Jehiel Robbins  
Moses Robbins  
Burying ground

Be it known that whereas Daniel Robbins  
formerly of the township of Upper Freehold  
in the County of Morris and eastern  
division of the province now State of New Jersey  
by a certain deed by him duly made and exe-  
cuted bearing date the twelfth day of December  
in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hun-  
dred and sixty two did demise release and forever  
quitclaim unto Moses Robbins Joseph Robbins  
Daniel Robbins Nathan Robbins Jehiel Robbins  
and Moses Robbins Junior a certain burying ground within the land  
of him the said Daniel Robbins wherein the family of the Robbins  
had frequently buried their dead so that the same might hereafter  
be a reminder for a burying place and which in the said release  
and quitclaim is particularly described by notes and bounds as follow  
that is to say Beginning at a stone planted on a course South seven  
degrees west and distant seventy five links from Zachariah Robbins  
head grave stone thence north as the needle then pointed three  
chains and thirty three links to another stone thence north three chains  
and thirty three links to another stone thence South three chains

and thirty three links to another stone then a west three chains and thirty three links to the place of beginning containing one acre to be had and holden the one acre of land unto them the said Moses Robbins Joseph Robbins Daniel Robbins Nathan <sup>Robbins</sup> Jebulon Robbins and Moses Robbins junior and their assigns and successors in trust for the use and purposes of burying persons and aforesaid and whereas Nathan Robbins aforesaid and Jebulon Robbins survivors of the grantees in the said release and quit claim named afterwards by their deed duly made and executed bearing date the third day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety six did remise release and forever quit claim unto the said David Robbins George Robbins Nathan Robbins Ephraim Robbins Ezechiel Robbins Elijah Robbins and Isaac Robbins the said one acre of land and by the moles and bounds herein before mentioned to be had and holden unto them the said David Robbins George Robbins Nathan Robbins Ephraim Robbins Ezechiel Robbins Elijah Robbins and Isaac Robbins and their assigns and successors in trust for the use and purposes of a burying ground as aforesaid Now these presents further witness that the said George Robbins and Ephraim Robbins survivors of the grantees named in the last mentioned release and quit claim for divers good causes and considerations and also for and in consideration of the sum of one Dollar to us in hand at or before the execution of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have released remise and forever quit claimed and by these presents remise release and forever quit claim unto Elisha Robbins Jacob H Robbins Timothy Robbins of Monmouth County and Nathan Robbins of Mercer County the said one acre of land by the same moles and bounds courses and distances mentioned in the first release and quit claim herein before recited To Have and To Hold the said one acre of land with the appurtenances unto the said Elisha Robbins Jacob H Robbins Timothy Robbins and Nathan Robbins and their survivors and successors and assigns forever in trust nevertheless for the use and purposes of a burying ground as in the before recited grants are mentioned and expressed and for no other use intent or purpose whatsoever. In Witness whereof in the said George Robbins and Ephraim Robbins have hereunto set our hands and official seals this twentieth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty seven.

Signed sealed and delivered  
in the presence of  
Joseph Robbins  
Rebecca H. Robbins

George Robbins  
Ephraim Robbins



New Jersey Monmouth County ss.

Be it Remembered that on the twenty third day of August eighteen hundred and forty seven personally appeared before Daniel W. Bell one of the Judges of the court of common pleas in and for said County of Monmouth Joseph Robbins of full age who being duly sworn according to law on his oath saith that he saw the said George Robbins and Ephraim Robbins the within named grantors sign seal and deliver the within indenture as their voluntary act and deed and that he the said Joseph Robbins and Rebecca H. Robbins subscribed their names to the same at the same time as aforesaid.

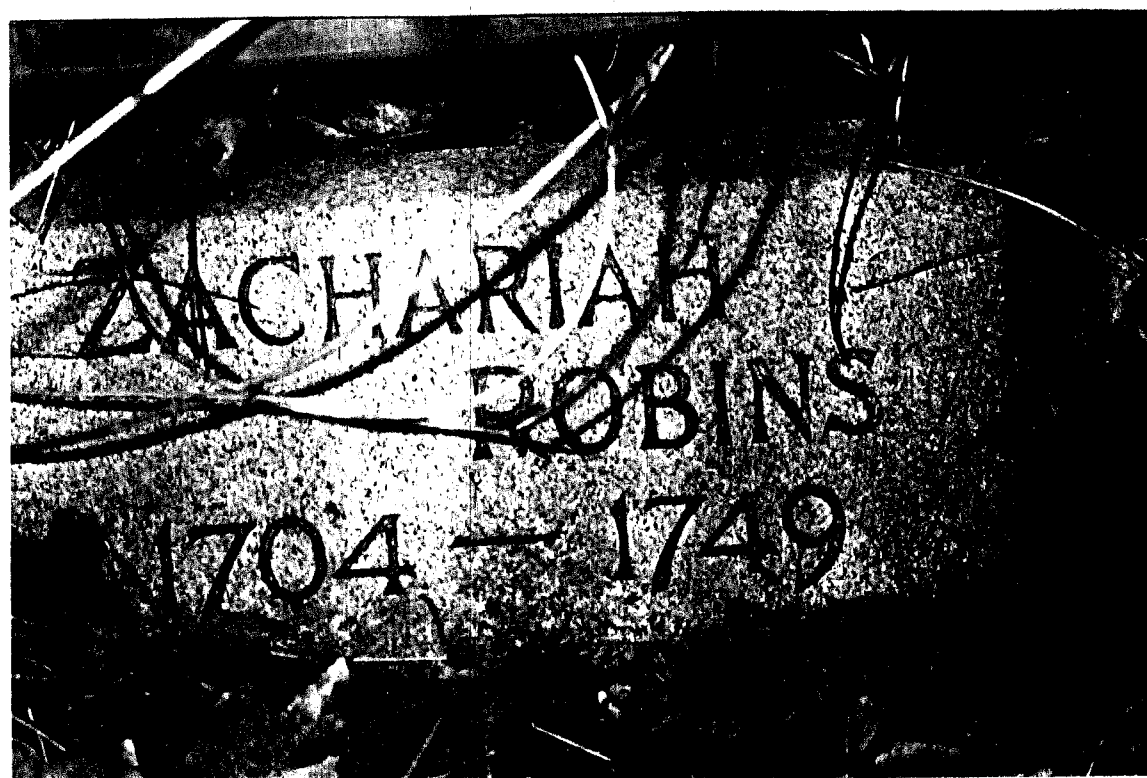
## Characteristics of the Gravestones

Most of the headstones in Ye Olde Robbins Burial Place are unmarked ironstones. The practice of marking graves in such a way was a common practice of the Quakers. It is likely that Daniel Robins, the patriarch of the family, is buried in a grave marked by one of these stones. Many of the other type of stones, which are sandstones, can be read and much can be learned from them.

Study of the graveyard has revealed that all headstones made of sandstone face west, for the engraving on each stone is on the western side. Footstones made of sandstone always face east. Usually, initials of the individual buried in that plot are found on the footstone. These initials are always on the eastern side. This next point is a peculiarity belonging to the cemetery. The footstones are east of the headstones. This means that the engraving on the headstones is facing away from the individuals under the ground. Most cemeteries place headstones facing toward the head of the deceased. This is not so in Ye Olde Robbins Burial Place. In an article written in 1938 by Mrs. James West it is said, "A careful observer has noticed that all those sleeping on this hill are buried with their feet facing towards the sunrise". It cannot be concluded that graves marked by ironstones follow the same order but it is very likely.

The names of the families and individuals buried in the cemetery can also be discovered by studying the sandstones. The graveyard is the resting place of members of the Robbins family and of those who married into the family. Names to be found atop the hill are Robbins, Sprouls, Preston, DeBow, Estel, Thomas, Giberson, Martin, Coleman, Jameson, Pittman, Schuyler, Rose, Steward, Johnson, Davis, Major, Jansen, Smiles, and Worth. The known names of each individual can be found in Appendix A.





## **Facts About Individuals**

In the Revolutionary War, Thomas Robbins and William Robbins served in the Continental Army. Isaac, John, Jesse, and Joseph Robbins served in the militia. In March, 1782, Moses Robbins, who was living in Toms River, was wounded in a British attack on the Block House. The village was burned by the British and Moses Robbins was one of the first to rebuild a home. Elijah Robbins, who had owned the land where the Block House had been, was the first postmaster of Toms River.

In 1740, Moses Robbins bought a plot of land from Nathan Allen on Main Street between what was (in 1938) Dr. Farmer's Private Hospital and the brick house of Charles Havens. This land would become the site of his home. In later years, the house would become the home of Moses' cousin, Joseph Robbins. Joseph was a tailor. He was also the great grandfather of the West twins, James and Palmer. In an article written by Mrs. James West, it is told how these twins remember "about 1871, when they sat on the front stoop of this old house and great grandfather gave them big copper two-cent pieces". In 1938, the West twins erected a monument in front of Ye Olde Robbins Burial Place in memory of their great grandfathers, Joseph Robbins and George Sproule, and their great grandmothers, Elizabeth Robbins and Charlotte Robbins Sproule.

Joseph was the son of Randall Robins, who was the father of fourteen children, all of whom are buried in Ye Olde Robbins Burial Place, save one. Sarah is buried in the graveyard next to Robins Meeting.

A peculiar stone stands next to the grave of George H. Robbins, twin brother of Jacob F. Robbins. It is a short, uncut stone with the engraving RB Robins. The RB stands for Rebecca Blake. George, Jacob, and Rebecca were all children of Randall. Rebecca was the wife of Thomas

Blake and she died in 1845. Seven small ironstones can be found near the grave of Rebecca Blake Robins. These stones mark the graves of her seven children who died at a young age.