

# Walking Tour of Historic Shawnee Church Cemetery

## Shawnee Presbyterian Church

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## Mission Statement

*To be a friendly congregation where all people can freely come and worship, experience family fellowship, and feel the presence of God's love in a historical and recreational setting, and be a beacon of God's light to the world.*

## History of The Shawnee Presbyterian Church

Shawnee Presbyterian Church in Shawnee on Delaware PA traces its history back to 1750, when William Allen of Philadelphia conveyed five acres of land to Nicholas DePuy for a "Presbyterian Meeting House." The meeting house was erected by the 1752 committee. The cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Monroe County, Pennsylvania.

The original "Old Stone Church" featured a high pulpit with a sounding board and window sills above the heads of the seated congregation to thwart Native American attacks. It was used by Presbyterian, Dutch Reformed, Lutheran, German Reformed, and Baptist congregations.

The present brick structure was later erected on the original stone foundation in 1853. (Ann DePuy) Erb, great granddaughter of Nicholas DePuy, laid the cornerstone. The narthex and chancel were added in 1893.

### Church Worship Hours

September - June 11:00 AM

July -August 9:30 AM

The Sacrament of communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

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## #1. CHURCH BUILDING COMMITTEE (1752 / 1853)

The "Old Stone Church" was founded in 1752 and the "1752 church building committee" constructed the building. The committee names are inscribed on the left side of the of the church. These initials are N.D.P., S.D.P., A.V.K., and Nicholas DePuy, and Abraham Van Kampen. Then 100 years later the "1853 Church building committee" reconstructed the church in red brick, and also inscribed their names on the left side of the church. Their names are J.D. Labar, S. Dietrich, F. Bush, A. Bush and R.R. DePuy.

## #2. Capt. Philip Shrawder (Dec 16,1745 - March 17, 1820)

On **Sept 11, 2016** a dedication ceremony for a new stone in the cemetery was held by the family of Philip Shrawder, who died in 1820 and had a distinguished background which included crossing the Delaware with George Washington in the Battle of Trenton. In 1806, Captain Shrawder was commissioned Justice of the Peace for Northampton County and in 1810 opened the first SHAWNEE MERCANTILE BUSINESS STORE. A brief description of Capt. Shrawder's accomplishments can be found on the new headstone found under the cedar tree on the left side of the church.

## #3. Fred Malcolm Waring (June 9, 1900 - July 29, 1984)

Fred Waring was a popular musician, bandleader and radio-television personality sometimes referred to as "American's Singing Master" and "The Man who Taught America How to Sing". From 1923 to 1932 he directed "Waring's Pennsylvanians". He created, rehearsed and broadcast his radio program from the Shawnee's Worthington Hall throughout the 1950's. During the 1940's and 1950's Waring and his Pennsylvanians produced a string of hits, selling millions of records. He was the recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal in 1983 in Music Achievements.

## #4. Cullen Yates (January 24, 1866 - July 1, 1945)

Cullen Yates was one of the few artists in the Northeast to be inducted into the National Academy of Art. He studied with American impressionist painter William Merritt Chase. He traveled to Europe and studied art at the Academie Julian during the day, Ecole des Beaux-Art in the afternoon, and the Academie Colorossi in the evening. He returned to America to teach, and was involved in art shows, and art clubs who put him in contact with influential artists. Yates was a long time resident of Shawnee on Delaware, PA whose paintings have been compared to Winslow Homer's and whose prolific body of work during his life won awards throughout America and abroad.

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## #5. **DePuy Family (Behind the church)**

The DePuy Family were the founding fathers of the church and Nicholas DePuy lived at the edge of the Delaware River. His home, with the help of Benjamin Franklin, became the Fort DePuy of the French and Indian War. The DePuy family maintained strong spiritual leadership in the affairs of this church which is evident from the fact that Nicholas DePuy, who served as elder in the year 1752, had ten children (four boys and six girls) and the four sons were active in the church. Two of these served as elders, one as deacon and another as trustee, while a grandson, Nicholas Depew (DePuy), who was chosen elder in 1774 and died in 1808 is on the right corner in the back of the church. He was an "honest man" who fought in the Revolutionary War. Next to him are his children, Nicholas DePuy (1788-1816, 28 years old), Jane DePuy (1779-1815), and on the left corner Ann (DePuy) Erb (1781-1862). Samuel Depui (DuPuy) (1716-1766 who is also located on the back of the church, was one of the sons of the founding father Nicholas DePuy, was an elder in the church, and was on the 1752 committee that built the "Old Stone" Church with his initials on the side of the front of the church "SDP". Samuel was the father of Nicholas DePew (DePuy), who died in 1808. When the church was expanded, their grave stones were embedded in the back of the church.

## #6. **Robert K. Christenberry (1899-1973)**

Robert Chistenberry served in the US Marine Corps during World War 1; He lost his right hand and wrist in a grenade explosion; He was the US Vice Consul in Vladivostok, 1919; He was the President of Hotel Astor in New York; He was a candidate for the mayor of New York City, N.Y., 1957; He was the New York City Postmaster, 1958-1966; He was a member of disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Freemasons. He was the chairman of the New York State Athletic commission and was credited for making boxing a safer sport, creating the boxing corner pads. He was a Presbyterian and Sunday school teacher at the Shawnee Presbyterian Church.

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TOUR**

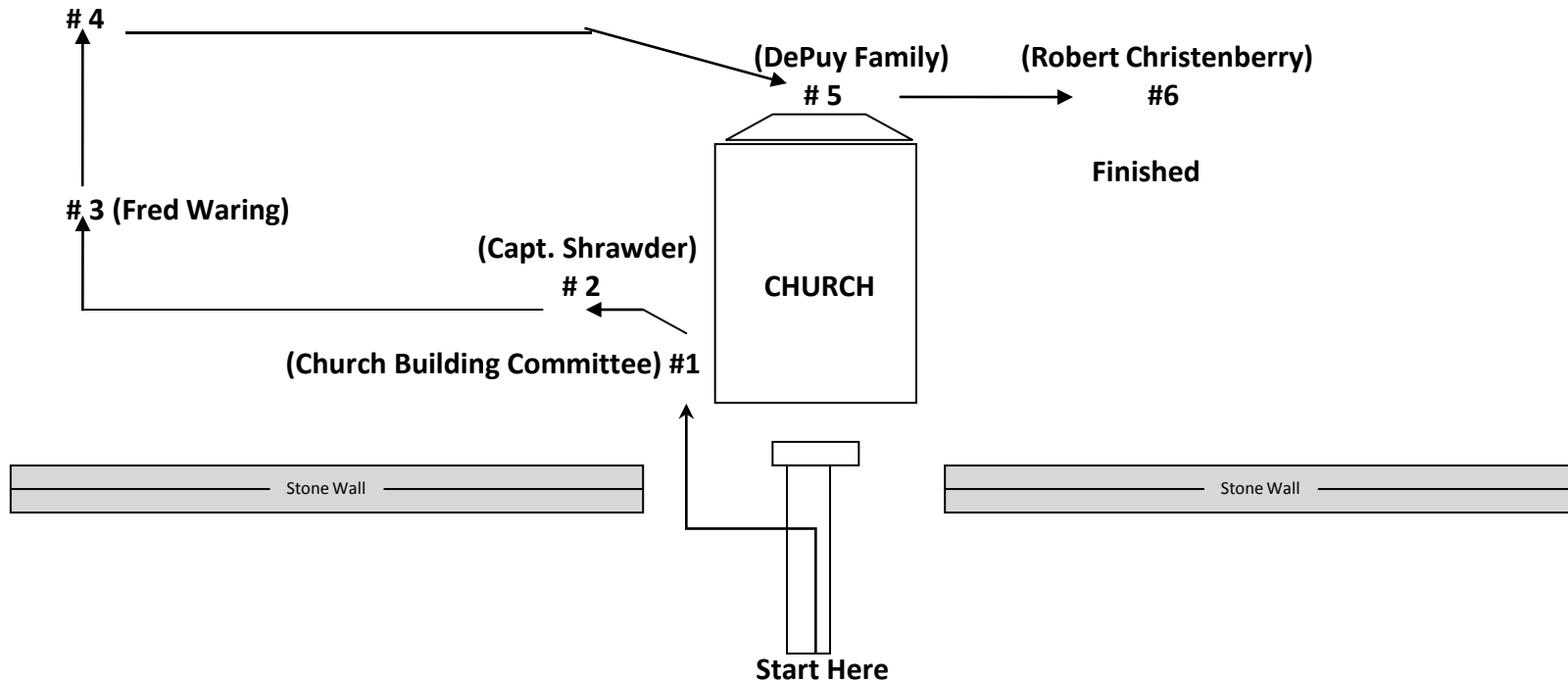
**Shawnee Presbyterian Church**

**Website: [www.shawneepresbyterianchurch.net](http://www.shawneepresbyterianchurch.net)**

**Visit us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/shawnee.church>**

# Walking Tour of Historic Shawnee Church Cemetery

(Cullen Yates)



ONE WAY

Shawnee Church Road

Pathway of Hearts

Lining the walkway in front of our church is the Brick "Pathway of Hearts" in memory and honor of loved ones"

## Natural Stone Bench

Located under the cedar tree on the west side of the church is a natural stone bench discovered and donated to the church.

## Memorial Benches

Located at various places throughout the cemetery are wooden Memorial Benches donated in memory of loved ones