Harper

Presbyterian Cemetery · a Valley Forge rope maker and a War of 1812 doctor

Presbyterian Cemetery Context, or burial not confirmed

Family tree by Gravestone Stories · gravestonestories.com

Capt. John Harper & Sarah Wells
Captain's Row; Meeting House churchyard
→ see the other Harper tree

Capt. William Scull & Jane Lodge
He: 11th Virginia, 1777; d. 1813
Burial: *here; no marker found*

Capt. William Harper
(Mar 14, 1761 – Apr 18, 1829) · of Philadelphia
Crossed the Delaware; Trenton; Valley Forge
Rope maker, probably at Jones Point
Commanded the Alexandria Artillery at **Washington's funeral, Dec 18, 1799**
One of Adams's **"midnight" justices** of *Marbury v. Madison*; never took the seat
Burial: *Section 42, Row 43, Plot 8*

m. 1781

Mary Scull Harper
(1763 – 1842)
Married June 14, 1781

Dr. William Harper
(Apr 23, 1787 – Oct 7, 1852)
War of 1812, 60th Va. Militia;
fought at the **Battle of the White House**
Ruling elder, Second Presbyterian, 1842
Ten children
Burial: *43:11, obelisk with a shroud*

m. 1810

Mary Thomas Newton
Married Oct 17, 1810,
near Leesburg
→ see the Newton tree

Wells Andrew Harper
(Sept 2, 1818 – Dec 7, 1876)
Named for his grandmother's family

John Newton Harper
(Mar 25, 1823 – Aug 3, 1907)
Co. G, 23rd Virginia, C.S.A.

Father and son at war: the father crossed the Delaware with Washington and wintered at Valley Forge; the son fought the British at the White House in 1814. His brother Edward lies in the Meeting House churchyard.

The midnight judges: Capt. Harper and Col. Dennis Ramsay were among President John Adams's last-minute justices of the peace. The fight over those commissions became *Marbury v. Madison* (1803). Harper never took the seat.

Mary Thomas Newton: the records cited here don't say how Dr. Harper's wife connects to the Newtons of plot 42:45, but their son John Newton Harper carried the name.

Capt. Harper's ropewalk was probably at Jones Point, one of three in Alexandria in 1810 that together made more than 400 tons of rope.