

Colonel Richard Somers Burial Ground

New York Avenue & First Street (New York Avenue School)

Large Cenotaph Monument

Here lies buried Sarah Keen, widow of Capt. Jonas of Philadelphia, and daughter of Richard and Sophia Somers,
b. Dec. 31st, 1772, d. Jan. 21st, 1850
Estimable for Many Virtues

In Memory of Richard, son of Richard and Sophia,
Master Commandant in the Navy of the United States,
b. Sep. 15th, 1778.

“He perished in the 25th year of his age in the Ketch *Intrepid* in the memorable attempt to destroy the Turkish Flotilla in the Harbour of Tripoli on the night of the 4th of Sep., 1804.

Distinguished for his energy, courage and manly sense of honour.

Pro patria non timidus mort.”

In Memory of Constant Somers, Junr.
Son of Constant & Sarah Somers
Born 3rd Jan. 1794
Died at Cronstat, Russia
29th Aug. 1811

*Life in an instant took its flight
And winged its way to heaven above.
There to rejoice in endless light,
And praise his God with songs of love*

Stones are Embedded into the Wall

Sophia Somers, Wife of Richard Somers
d. Feb. 3, 1797 in 56th year
Jane, infant daughter of Sophia & Richard Somers
d. aged 14 months
Colonel Richard Somers
d. Oct. 22, 1794 in 57th year
Constance Somers, Esq.
June, 1797 in 37th year
Edward, son of Constance, Esq.



history starts here!

A WALK, BIKE or DRIVE brochure is available at the Somers Point and Atlantic County Historical Museums or online at www.somerspointhistory.org.

The Somers Family

In 1695, John Somers purchased from Thomas Budd three thousand acres. He settled on the mouth of the Great Egg Harbor River, and the place became known as Somerset Plantation, or Somers Point. He built a log cabin near where the Somers Mansion now stands. John and his wife Hannah had nine children.

Richard's two oldest sons, John and Richard, each inherited a part of the land. John inherited the Mansion and the surrounding land, while Richard's land was northeast, and included Lousy Harbor and acres surrounding that area. Richard ran a tavern located on the corner of Shore and Bethel Roads and also engaged in shipping and many other ventures. He was a leader in the early days and also served as a Colonel in the Gloucester County Militia fighting in several battles of the Revolutionary War and privateering. Other land was owned in and around Philadelphia.

His son, Master Commandant Richard Somers, served in the US Navy and fought in the Quasi War and the First Barbary War. He died a hero in an explosion in Tripoli, Libya, in 1804. The cenotaph marker was erected by his sister in memory of her brother whose remains have never been returned despite ongoing efforts.

The burial ground was located on family lands. Later the first wooden schoolhouse was built here, then moved to another location, and the current brick school built on land donated by the Somers Family. Only members of the immediate family are buried here.

Placard

Burial Ground of Col. Richard Somers 1737-1794
and His Immediate Family

Grandson of John Somers, first Settler, 1693
Member of 3rd Regiment Gloucester County Militia
Monument Erected 1850 in Memory of his Son
Master Commandant Richard Somers, U.S.N.
1778 - 1804

Site Restored 1981

Somers Point Board of Education

Marker Presented by Somers Point Rotary Club

Follow *The Trail of Richard Somers*. Brochures are available at the Somers Point Historical Museum, Atlantic County Historical Society, Somers Mansion, Somers Point Library, and Richard Somers Monument.

For additional information, visit a local museum today.

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