

Cokes Chapel Cemetery

is a 200-year-old historic cemetery whose church was established in 1833. It contains the graves of families from the community, soldiers and veterans from the following wars; War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, and a recognized slave cemetery. The oldest gravesite is dated 1817. All efforts have been made to ensure existing graves have been marked.

However, if during the opening of a new burial site, previous remains are found, then a new location will be assigned.

Guidelines and Regulations:

Please adhere to the following to be buried in the Coke's Chapel United Methodist Church cemetery. This will help preserve the historic nature of the church and grounds which is maintained by members of Cokes Chapel and volunteers.

1. The church has a unique history. First service is given to current members of Coke's Chapel and their family or claim to a family plot contained within the historic cemetery or slave cemetery. The cemetery request for burial plot or cremains space form should be submitted or on-file with the church office. All requests must be approved by the designate of the Board of Trustees and Pastor.
2. Requests from non-members of the church are welcome and are reviewed, especially in the case of historic family plots. Please note that those wishing burial in the slave cemetery are requested to pick a space in the main cemetery due to our wish not to disturb the slave cemetery.
3. Once your request is received, a trustee or designated member, will meet to help you pick your gravesite or cremains space, unless there is already a designated space at which time the site number will be confirmed.
4. Vaults are required in all graves. Every grave, vault or cremains bench or cremains container must meet all state of Georgia and Federal laws and regulations governing burials. Before any grave can be opened, the church pastor and the Board of Trustees must be notified. In closing a grave the grave must be packed as it is being back filled with a motorized power packer. The person or funeral home closing the grave must recheck the grave ninety days after closing and relevel the grave and replace the grass or gravel.
5. As of 2013, a memorial walkway for cremains bench space became available. Cremains bench space, with a level base, is also allowed in the historic 1800's cemetery with Trustee approval.
6. All graves after August 2, 2010 must have engraved headstones. These are to be installed within 180 days after burial and/or funeral. Fencing and walls are no longer allowed, however stone or granite coping is acceptable. Bench sites located in grass must have a leveled base.
7. Coping must have two layers of thick plastic placed on the ground and turned up at least four inches on all sides before gravel can be placed on the grave site.
8. All spent flowers and out of season arrangements should be removed from the cemetery by family. Volunteers of the church will remove items as needed. Flowers and in-season arrangements must be kept up by the family members. No fences, trees, shrubs, etc. may be added to present or future graves.
9. Any structure: grave markers, monuments, benches. coping or other, will need approval of Trustees on a case by case basis.
10. One gravesite per person unless one or both burials are for cremains (example, husband and wife) Family plots may encompass more than one gravesite.
11. **Fees:** Cokes Chapel has established fees that are set aside for care of the historic cemetery. It is due by the time of placement but may be paid at the time of selecting your gravesite or space.
Members: \$500.00 per new burial gravesite and \$250.00 per memorial walkway. There is a \$250 fee for placement in existing "spoken for" historic family plots.
Non-members: Those who are not members of the church and wish to purchase a new gravesite in the historic cemetery are asked to pay a one-time fee of \$1,500 that is set aside for care of the cemetery. Funeral, service, and monument expenses are separate from the cemetery maintenance fee and should be arranged with the service providers.

Any variance to the above use of the cemetery must be Pre-Approved by the Board of Trustees at Coke's Chapel UMC and recorded within the church office cemetery records.

Cokes Chapel Cemetery Contacts:

Church Office (770)-253-6052

Pastor Lisa Dempsey, Chairman of Board of Trustees

Cemetery Subcommittee, Lara McCarthy, 678-548-2670

**At your time of loss, Friends and Family
may be comforted by making donations in memory of
your loved one.**

Additional Donations to the historic Cemetery are much appreciated and are helpful with recent Cemetery Projects, Improvements, and Restorations:

*"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."
— Mother Theresa*

- **2006 Gravesite Survey, Bert Lyons, Larry Huckaby, Jerry Lenox, and XenoGenesis** – locating unmarked gravesites with sound radar.
- **Eagle Project 2008, Scout McCully** – Identification and clearing of the unmarked Slave Cemetery
- **2010 Gravesite Survey, Harvey Armstrong, Bellisle Survey of Senoia** – survey to identify available gravesites and create the current numbered plot map.
- **Eagle Projects 2018, Scout Henderson and Thom McCague** – Located slave gravesites and placed stone crosses for markers.
- **Summit Project 2019, Scout McCarthy and Thom McCague** – Researched the wills of 1800's Church members to identify the names of owned slaves. Erected Slave Monolith *Stone cutting, and placement, were donated by Coweta Monument.*



Photo by Sean McCarthy

Cokes Chapel Cemetery

Guidelines and Regulations



Cokes Chapel UMC
4096 Lowerfayetteville Rd., Sharpsburg, GA 30277 Office 770-253-6052