

## *Episcopal Church Cemetery Inventory*

State and Water Streets, Dover DE 19903

### **Walking Tour #13**

Lot Number: 300 Space: G 96\*

Find A Grave # 7534127

**This grave is UNMARKED, and listed in church maps as UNKNOWN. It has been assigned to James Sykes II., as he is listed as being buried here close to his son John.**

Name: **Sykes, James II<sup>1</sup>**

Birth date: July 2, 1725 Death date: April 4, 1792 Burial Date: Age: 66-67  
Birth: New Castle, Delaware Death: Dover, Delaware

Spouse: Mary *Shannon* Sykes (1726 – before 1752) m. 1750; Elizabeth *Carpenter* Sykes<sup>2</sup> (1725-1756) m. 1752; Agnes *Bell* Sykes ( -1792) m. 1759

Children: With Mary *Shannon* Sykes: Mary Sykes Wethered (1752-1832); With Agnes *Bell* Sykes: Dr. James Sykes, III (1761-1822); John Sykes (1769-1786); Harriot Sykes, Lucy Matilda Sykes; Ann Sykes; George Sykes, Nathaniel Sykes; Stephen Sykes

Parents: James Sykes (1690-1729) and Mary Sykes

Siblings: Nathaniel Sykes (1716-1726), Stephen Sykes (1717-1747)

Residence: Dover, Delaware

Cause of death/Burial/Obituary:

Service/occupation information: Politician, lawyer, and judge

Officiate:

**No Marker: Cenotaph # next to son John Sykes' headstone; records indicate an unmarked grave there.**

Inventory date: January 10, 2022, Recorder: Nancy Quinn; Update 13 February 2022, Cynthia E De Bellis

**\* Indicates people with unmarked burial space**

**See following pages for more information:**



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<sup>1</sup> In news articles, James Sykes is often referred as the elder, and his son Dr. James Sykes as the younger.

<sup>2</sup> Cousin of Mary Shannon Sykes. Both are descendants of Jöhan Kyn (1620-1693), of New Sweden (now in Pennsylvania). This was the earliest European colony on the Delaware River.

U.S. Continental Congressman. He studied law, was admitted to the bar, and commenced to practice law in Dover, Delaware. He served as a Lieutenant in the Dover Militia in 1756 and was a member of the council of safety (1776, 80). In 1777, he was elected a member of the First Continental Congress, was clerk of the peace, (1777-92) and prothonotary of Kent County (1777-93). From 1792, he was judge of the High Court of Errors and Appeals of Delaware, until his death. His great-grandson George Sykes, served as a Major General in the Union Army during the Civil War.

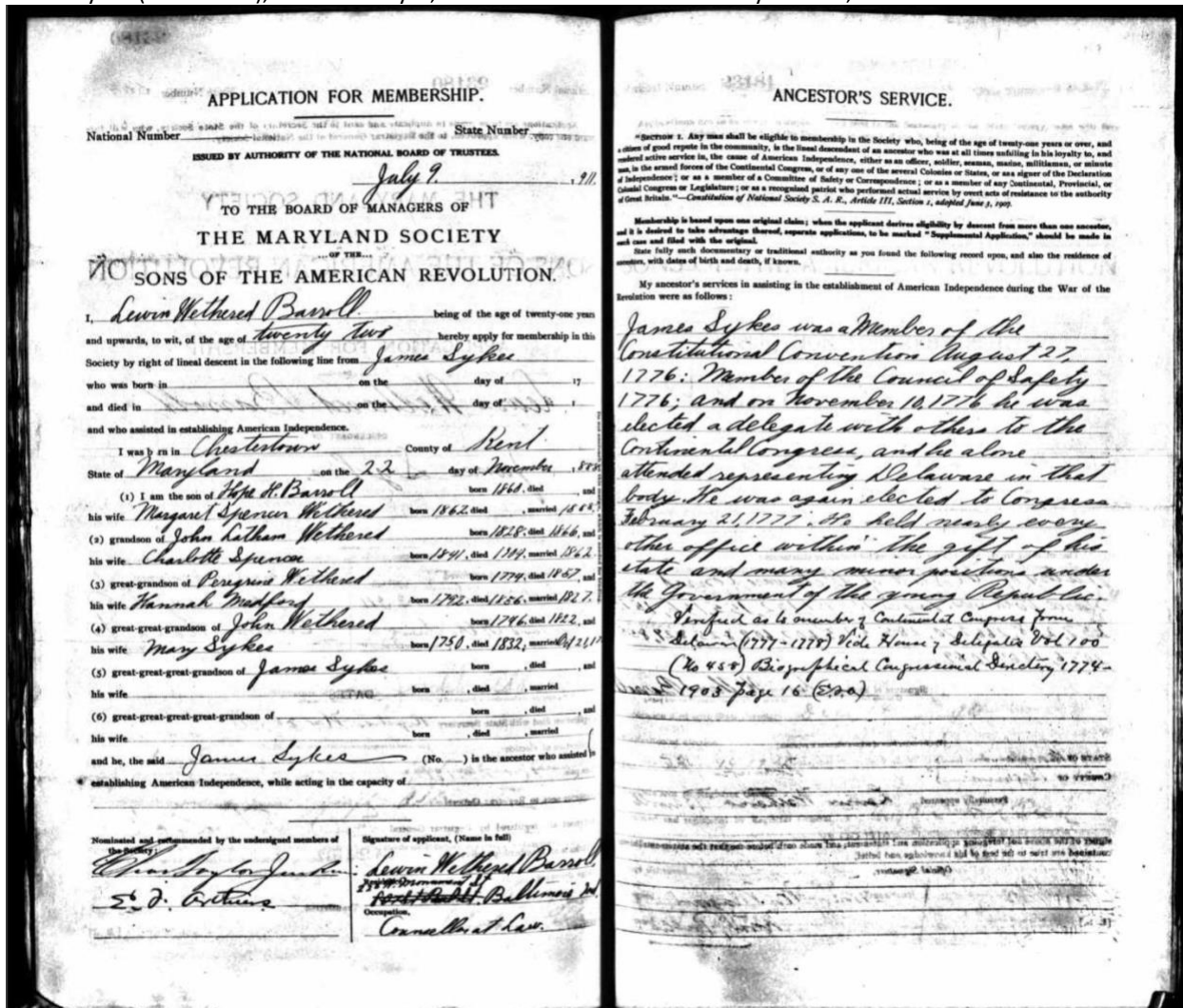
**From ancestry.com January 11, 2022; Delaware Wills and Probate Records, Kent Co. Book M-N 1783-1800**

His will dated April 2, 1792, details money and land left to all of his children and his wife Agnes. His wife and son James were named executors.

**Sons of the American Revolution application, July 9, 1911** for Lewis Wethered Barroll, great-great-great grandson of James Sykes II. Lists lineage going back to James Sykes' daughter Mary Sykes Wethered (1752-1832) (also spelled Whethered). Retrieved from ancestry.com on January 10, 2022

Source: <https://delawareday.delaware.gov/delaware-signers-ratifiers-us-constitution/kent-county/>

James Sykes (1725-1791), a Dover lawyer, was a member of the Assembly in 1773, of the constitutional



conventions of 1776 and 1791, and of the Delaware convention that ratified the federal constitution in 1787. At the beginning of the Revolution, he served on the Kent County Boston Relief Committee, Council of Safety and Levy Court. In 1776 he became a member of the Legislative Council and the following year he served as a delegate to the Continental Congress. Later he became a member of the Privy Council. The owner of several farms totaling more than 500 acres, in 1768 his poundage rate was £40. He belonged to the Anglican Christ Church in Dover. (Scharf, History of Delaware, 1: 218, 225, 242, 271, 482; KC Probate Records; KC Levy Court Assessment List, 1768, DSA.)

SYKES, JAMES, a Delegate from Delaware; born in 1725; studied law; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice; lieutenant in Capt. Caesar Rodney's company of Dover Militia in 1756; member of the council of safety in 1776; delegate to the state constitutional convention held at New Castle, Del., in 1776; member of the Continental Congress in 1777; clerk of the peace 1777-1792; prothonotary of Kent County 1777-1793; served in the state council in 1780; member of the state legislature which ratified the Federal Constitution on December 7, 1787; again a delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1790; judge of the High Court of Errors and Appeals of Delaware; died in Dover, Del., April 4, 1792; interment in the burial ground of Christ Church.

Source: **The descendants of Jöran Kyn, of New Sweden, Gregory B. Keen, LL.D., Vice President of Swedish Colonial Society, Philadelphia, 1913, page 250**

# NEW PORTRAIT FOR THE STATE

**That of James Sykes, Early Delaware Judge, Gift of David T. Marvel.**

An oil portrait of James Sykes, who was a judge of the Court of Errors and Appeals during the period which immediately followed the birth of Delaware statehood, has been presented to the state of Delaware through the efforts of former Judge David T. Marvel, and will be added to the collection of portraits of distinguished Delawareans now in the State House at Dover. Judge Sykes not only was prominent in the law, but as a presidential elector, voted for George Washington for President of the United States, and was a member of Congress, representing this state. Judge Marvel obtained the portrait from a descendant of Judge Sykes, and it has been turned over to Governor Miller in behalf of the state. It was made from the only portrait of Judge Sykes in existence.

James Sykes, the son of James Sykes, was born in 1725. He was a man of great force and influence in his generation, but little is to be found concerning him in any of the Delaware histories. In many instances, he is confounded with his son, Dr. James Sykes, who was Governor of this state. He occupied many positions of honor and trust. In 1776 he was a member of the Council of Safety. He was a member of the constitutional convention that met at New Castle August 27, 1776, and promulgated the constitution on 29th September, 1776. Was Prothonotary from 1777 to 1792. Was Clerk of the Peace from 1777 to 1792. In November 19, 1776, George Reed, John Dickens and John Evans were elected delegates to Congress. The two latter resigned and Vandyke and James Sykes were appointed in their place, and for awhile James Sykes alone attended. Was a member of Congress 1777-78. Was a member of the council in 1780 and member of the Deputies, or Legislature, which ratified the constitution, December 7, 1787. Was a member of the constitutional convention that met in 1790. In 1792 was elected presidential elector and voted for George Washington and John Adams.