

Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery Inventory

State and Water Streets, Dover DE 19903

Walking Tour # 25

Lot Number: 7 Space: G3

Find A Grave # 11937730

Name: **Thompson, William Heyl**

Birth date: 1892 Death date: 1974 Burial Date: Age: 81-82
Born in Birdsboro, Berks County, PA

Spouse: 1st: Jane *Brown* Thompson (1899-1939), m. 1926 ; 2nd Margaret Greeby *Simon* Thompson (1908-1973)

Children:

Parents: Rev. Benjamin F. Thompson (1857-1950) & Edith Chapman *Stockett* Thompson (1865-1950)

Siblings: Bertric Ayleworth Thompson (1887-1948); John Stockett Thompson (1889-1977); Dorothy Stockett Thompson (1893-1914)

Residence: Philadelphia, PA

Cause of death/Burial/Obituary:

Service/occupation information: Architect: see next page

Officiate:

Lot Owner: Rev. Benjamin Fish Thompson

Marker: Shared with Jane Brown Thompson and Margaret Simon Thompson

Inscription:

Jane Brown Thompson
1899 – 1939
Margaret Simon Thompson
1908 – 1973
William Heyl Thompson
1892 - 1974

DIMENSIONS: H x 15" x W 43" x W 10"

STYLE: headstone

No repairs needed



Inventory date: May 22, 2019 Recorder: Ellen Richardson

William Heyl Thompson was born in Birdsboro, PA.

He graduated from the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art in 1913, but he had begun working for Frank R. Watson, church architect, in 1910. By 1911 he was associated with Wilson Eyre, and he remained there through 1917.

From 1918 to 1921 Thompson disappeared from Philadelphia city directories, presumably due to World War I activity; but the Clyde Shuler Collection at The Athenaeum of Philadelphia preserves a project signed by both Thompson and Shuler for alterations to houses on Cypress Street in Philadelphia.

By 1922, however, he had returned to Frank R. Watson, this time in the firm of Watson, Edkins & Thompson, with George Edkins. This relationship lasted until 1936 when Edkins moved to New Jersey.

Then in 1940 Watson died, but Thompson retained the office name of Watson & Thompson through 1948. In 1948 Thompson continued independent practice, but under his name alone.

Most of Thompson's independent work continued in the frame set by his association with Watson, i.e., the design of churches. On his own he designed St. James Episcopal Church in Newport, DE (1949) as well as the Calvary Episcopal Church in Wilmington, DE (1946).

(Article submitted by: [Michael Bogoslawski](#))

From Christ Episcopal Church, Dover, DE walking tour notes: "Prominent Philadelphia architect, designed several significant buildings and institutions in Dover including this church's Parish Hall (1947), the Presbyterian Church, the Murphy School, and a number of homes in the area. Also well known for designing the Tomb of the Father & Mother Divine in Bala Cynwyd, PA. He was involved with renovations in St. George's Chapel in Harbeson, DE.

William Heyl Thompson's designs were significant to Christ Episcopal Church, Dover DE. The interior renovations in 1913, 1917-18, and 1949 as well as the historic brick wall (1918) surrounding the Christ Episcopal Church property were all of his creation. All of the architectural drawings of Christ Church and its Parish House are now in the possession of the Delaware State Archives.

Submitted by Nancy Quinn, 2019, 2023

THOMPSON-BROWN.

Dover, Jan. 4.—Saturday evening at Christ Church Chapel, Philadelphia, at 8 o'clock William Heyl Thompson, of Dover, and Miss Jane Eleanor Brown, of Philadelphia, were married by Rev. Benjamin F. Thompson, rector of Christ P. E. Church, Dover, father of the groom, assisted by the vicar of the chapel, Rev. R. L. Nisbett.

The brother of the groom, J. Stockett Thompson, was best man and the mother of the bride, Mrs. Blanche Baird Brown, of Philadelphia, stood near the bride.

News Journal, Mon, Jan. 4, 1926