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July 30, 2025

To the Hillsborough Town Council,

Hillsborough is extremely proud to be the site of the grave of North Carolina's greatest patriot, William Hooper, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. In fact, the town has been so proud of this site that when Guilford Courthouse arranged to have Mr. Hooper's body exhumed and re-interred in their battlefield park, town leaders supposedly negotiated a compromise where some of his body and the original marker would be returned to Hillsborough.

However, another famous Hooper lived on Tryon Street and is buried in the Old Town Cemetery: Anne Hooper, William's wife. Anne was as involved in Revolutionary politics as a woman of her time could be. Not only did she support her husband by maintaining their farm and caring for their children so he could go to Philadelphia for the Continental Congresses, she also wrote letters to the governor and other political figures in attempts to influence policies.

At the time of her death, Anne was living in the house known today as the Nash-Hooper House. Accordingly, she was most certainly buried either with her husband or beside him. This placement was – and still is – the standard. This site in the OTC is also the resting spot of their grandson. Mary Claire Engstrom maintained that the property belonged to the Hoopers and not the town in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Yet, no marker or monument exists in the OTC to commemorate her life.

We would like to rectify this oversight by erecting a marker to her as designed by the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, Inc. (DSDI), an organization that Hillsborough resident Sheryl Albert belongs to. DSDI offers two options, one is a flat plaque; the other is a stake (see photos included), both of which could be easily added to the gravesite without causing any disruption to the current mowing system.

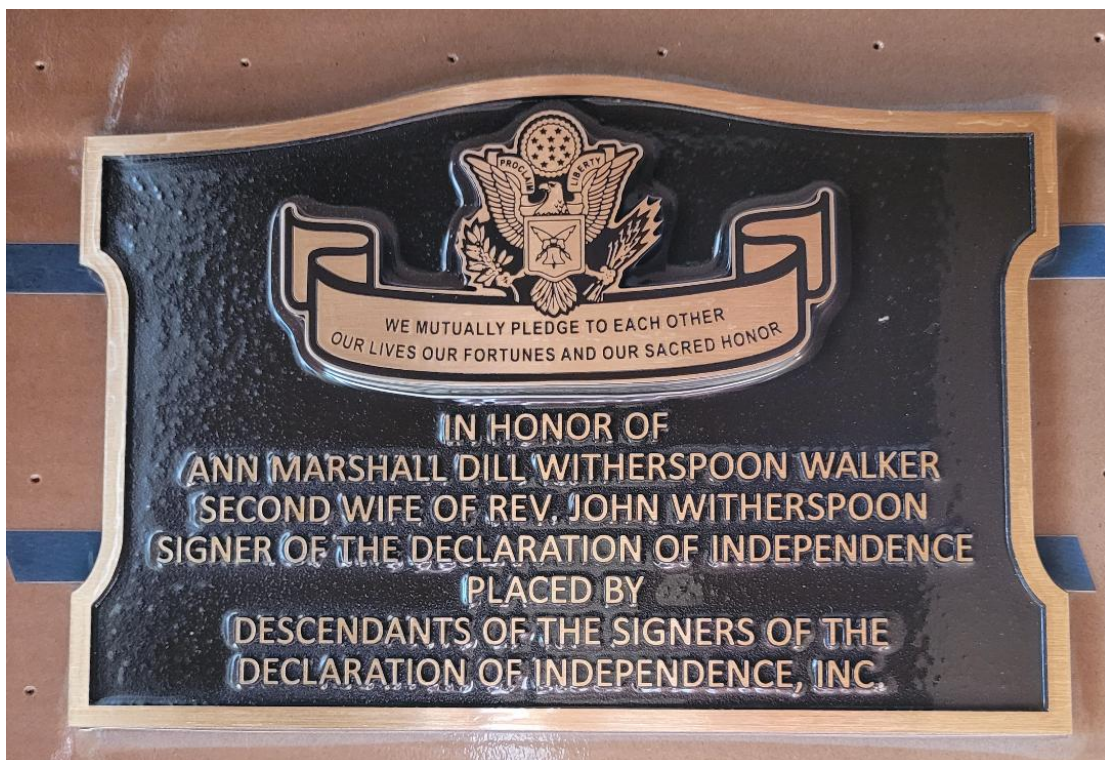
Even though the cemetery is old, commemorative markers and monuments have been added to the graveyard for milestone celebrations. For the semiquincentennial, we believe it would be appropriate to erect a marker honoring Anne Hooper.

Thank you for your consideration,

*Courtney Soling Smith*

Sincerely,  
Courtney Smith  
Exhibits and Programs Coordinator

## Markers and Plaques Designed by DSDI



William Hooper Gravesite



(Please note: the standing plaque was added in 1937.  
The entire stone for William Hooper III was added in 1976.  
I'm not certain who placed the lantern on this grave, but it is not attached and can easily be removed to create a space for a plaque to Anne Hooper or another stake could be added beside the one on William Hooper Sr.'s grave)

