

St. George's Episcopal Church
Some "New News" Tidbits, May 2005¹

part 2
transcribed by John Pearce

The [Fredericksburg] Daily Star 1 May 1889 3x2

Centennial Services

Appropriate centennial services were held yesterday in St. George's (Episcopal) church and the Presbyterian church. At the latter church Rev. I. W. Canter assisted in the services. Rev. Jas. P. Smith delivered an appropriate address.

At St. George's Rev. J. K. Mason officiated. He also delivered an address suitable to the occasion. The service used, with one or more slight alterations, is the same as was used one hundred years ago at the inauguration of President Washington. It is drawn from what is known as the "Proposed Book," a somewhat abreviated [sic] and peculiarly arranged revisions of the English Prayer Book—the present American Episcopal Prayer Book not then being in use. The formal ceremonies of the first inauguration over [,] Gen. Washington repaired to St. Paul's Chapel, New York, where religious services were conducted by the first Bishop of New York, Dr. Samuel Provoost, an ardent patriot during the war, and a chaplain of Congress at the very time. A leading feature of the "Proposed Book" was an office for the 4th of July, the title of which was "A Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the inestimable blessings of Religious and Civil Liberty, to be used yearly on the 4th day of July, unless it happen to be on Sunday, and then on the day following."

The following is the order of service referred to:

1. *Sentences*.—The Lord has been mindful of us and He shall bless them that fear the Lord, both small and great—Ps.cxv:12-13

[illeg. line]

[. . .] Lord for his goodness and declare the wonder that He doeth for the children of men.—Ps.cvii:27

2. *Minister*—Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

3. O Lord, open thou our lips.

Ans.—And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

All standing.

GLORIA PATRI

4. Then shall be sung: "Praise the Lord, O my soul," &c.

5. Psalter. Psalm 118.

¹Note that, though a few typographical errors have been marked and/or corrected, most of these transcripts *do not have corrections to factual errors.*

6. Lesson.—Deut. 8.
 7. Te Deum.
 8. Apostles Creed.
 9. *Minister.*—The Lord be with you.
People.—And with thy spirit.
Minister.—Let us pray.
Minister.—O Lord show thy mercy upon us.
People.—And grant us thy salvation.
Minister.—O Lord bless and preserve these United States.
People.—And mercifully hear us when we call upon Thee.
 10. Prayers. Hymn. Address. Hymn
-

The [Fredericksburg] Daily Star 5 January 1915 3x4

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

Some of Its Past History. The first Rectors, Etc.

To The Daily Star:

The name of this church is St. George's. The first church building was erected in 1732, several years after the town was laid out and named. It was a wooden structure, 30 by 40 feet, with wings that gave it the shape of a cross. Several years before the erection of this church in Fredericksburg there was a church building in Spotsylvania county, 10 miles from Fredericksburg, on a tributary of the Po river, the Po being one of the four streams that form the Mattaponi. The first pastor of this country church was the Rev. Jas. Marye. While pastor of it he also had charge of the church in Fredericksburg, the St. George's [illeg.] This country church was called the "Mother Church" because the pioneers worshipped [sic] there before the Fredericksburg church was erected.

The first pastor of the Fredericksburg church was the Rev. Theodosius Staige; the second, the Rev. Rothan Kenner; the third, the Rev. Patrick Henry, uncle of the great orator of that name. Rev. Mr. Henry was succeeded by Rev. James Marye who served 34 years. He was a Huguenot who lived in the city of Rouen, France, and fled that country after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantz [sic]. He went first to England where he married a Miss Staige. Rev. Theodosius Staige, the brother of this lady had come to America and settled at Fredericksburg. Soon after the marriage of Mr. Marye he, following in the footsteps of his bride's brother, came with his wife to America and settled in the same town, Fredericksburg. He, as above mentioned, succeeded Rev. Patrick Henry in charge of St. George's church, and while rendering this service he also, as above stated, had charge of the country church we have mentioned on the Po river. He was the great, great grandfather of the late Gov. John L. Marye. Rev. James Marye was succeeded in the charge of St. George's by his son, Rev. James Marye, jr. He served 11 years, so that the joint service of these two pastors, father and son, extended over the period of 45 years. From the time of the death of Rev. James Marye, jr., in 1780, until 1813, a period of 33 years, there were several

pastors, but their pastorates were short and unsatisfactory.

In 1813, Edward C. McGuire, of Winchester, Va., came to the church as lay reader, being highly recommended by Rev. William Meade, afterward Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia. Mr. McGuire was soon afterwards ordained and became rector of the church, serving it in a highly satisfactory manner until his death in 1858 a period of 45 years. He was a man of exemplary piety and his ministerial labors were signally blessed.

There have been three buildings erected on the site of the present church; the first, the wooden structure above described, built in 1732. As the congregation increased this structure was found to be too small, and in 1814 a larger building, constructed of brick was commenced and completed in 1816. This in time proving inadequate to the accommodation of the growing congregation, in 1849 the present handsome edifice was built.

After the Civil War many members of St. George's church withdrew and formed a new church, Trinity Episcopal church.

Bishop Meade says that with the pastorate of the two Maryes, father and son, there came a change for the better in the history of the Episcopal church in Virginia. They were, he says, men of sobriety and high moral character, presenting a pleasing contrast with the clergymen who had preceded them in the closing years of the 18th and the opening years of the 19th centuries, many of whom were of a low moral and religious character, some of them being addicted to horse-racing, wine-drinking and other dissipations. A duel was fought between two of them in Caroline county behind a church building near the Rappahannock river. It is cause of thankfulness to the giver of all good that in these latter days our lot has fallen upon better and happier times.

Antiquary [L. S. Marye]

Charlottesville, Va.

The above article is from the pen of Col. L. S. Marye. He writes us he did not sign his name to it for the reason that the article passes a high encomium upon two clergymen who were his forefathers and bore his name, and he does not wish to appear as the eulogist of his own ancestors. He says he offered the article to the Southern Churchman, but the Churchman declined it. He then offered it to the Christian Advocate and it was accepted.

Col. Marye asks us to make this statement as an apology to his Episcopal friends in Fredericksburg for publishing the narrative of their church in a Methodist paper instead of in the organ of their denomination. He requests us also to state that many of the facts he is indebted to Capt. S. J. Quinn's valuable and interesting History of Fredericksburg.

The [Fredericksburg] Daily Star 7 January 1920 1x7

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF FREDERICKSBURG

In the year 1732, seven years after the town was laid out and named, the first church building was erected in Fredericksburg.

This church was known as St. George's Episcopal church. The first pastor of this church was the Rev. Patrick Henry, uncle of the great orator of that name. He served the church for two

years and in 1735 was succeeded by the Rev. James Marye, who died in 1769, having served the church as pastor for 34 years.

He was succeeded by his son, the Rev. James Marye, jr., who served the church as pastor for eleven years.

The joint pastorates of the two Marye's [sic] covered a period of 45 years.

In 1787 the church building was enlarged by adding another wing (one having been previously constructed) which made the church cruciform in shape.

President James Monroe was for many years a vestryman of St. George's church.

In 1813 Edward C. McQuire [sic; i.e., McGuire], of Winchester, came to the church as lay reader, having been recommended by Bishop Meade as a man of character and piety. He was soon ordained and became rector of the church, serving with great acceptance to the day of his death in 1868 [sic; i.e., 1858], a period of forty-five years.

From the death of Mr. McGuire to the present time the church has had seven pastors, who served in the following order: Rev. A. M. Randolph, afterwards, Bishop of the Southern Diocese of Virginia; Rev. Magruder Maury, Rev. Edward C. Murdaugh, Rev. Robert J. McBryde, Rev. Rev. J. K. Mason, Rev. Wm. M. Clarke, Rev. Wm. [illeg.] Smith, Rev. Robert J. McBryde (a second time), who was succeeded by the present rector, Rev. John J. Lanier.

L. S. Marye

Charlottesville, Va.

The [Fredericksburg] Daily Star 30 October 1922 2x2

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

Large Congregations Attend Sunday.

Large congregations attended St. George's Episcopal church, both morning and evening, Sunday. The Rev. J. W. Hayes [sp?], of New Bern, N. C., preached at both services. The sermons were especially good.

Taking as his subject, "Friends and Friendship," he handled his subject in an eloquent and interesting manner, showing that friendship like the oak, increases its strength; it is not casual but is the definite result of effort. In order to have a friend you must first be a friend.

Friendship is a rare experience, he said, that can be had only when we are able to purchase it with coin of personal character and moral worth. It is a spiritual experience which can be obtained in no other way than by the accepted currency of the spiritual realm.

He dwelt especially on the fact that true friendship can be easily counted as a rule on the fingers of your right hand, and urged that those who desired friends, and to have friendships, should make it clear to humanity, that you are striving to keep yourself out of the grip of falseness and you will be able to draw to you the first born among men. It is stupid to talk of choosing friends, words that you often hear. Friends cannot be chosen but must be drawn to you by the spiritual magnet, which is your soul.

He said, that when you get a friend always remember that friendly associations must be a

compromise. "To be honorable, I must make myself the equal of my friend." He would much prefer you to act originally than to be his echo.

Real friendships are the solidest things we know of. Friendship wears well.

Your true friend is the person with whom you can be sincere—before him you can think aloud. If you have such a friendship in your life don't use it as a transitory luxury, try to estimate his real worth by approaching him with a courage trust in the truth of his genuineness.

In closing he urged that we remember that our savior is the truest friend we have. One whom we can put our whole trust in and lay bare our souls before at all times and who is always ready to help us.

The music by the choir was very pleasing especially the solo rendered by Miss Myrtle Wheeler, "Hear My Cry, Oh Lord," by Alfred Wooller, as an offertory.

The [Fredericksburg] Daily Star 19 May 1925 1x3

COMPLETING IMPROVEMENTS

Extensive Work on St. George's Church Nearing End. Many Changes Made.

Extensive improvements to St. George's Protestant Episcopal Church which will make the building one of the handsomest religious edifices in this section of Virginia, while preserving all of its old atmosphere, are nearing completion and it is hoped the building will be entirely ready for use before the opening of the Episcopal Council here next week.

The improvements, which costs [sic] more than \$12,000, will permit change in the form of service to include a vested choir and will give the building an added seating capacity of approximately 200, making it one of the largest churches in Northern Virginia. The essential features of the new work, which was planned by [mixup of lines] covered with cork. Treadlite flooring [returning to prior line] Philip N. Stern and executed under his direction, consist of the addition of a transept to the north side of the building in which is located the new organ chamber, two robing rooms, a rectors room and wash rooms. The removal of these features to the transept permitted the enlargement of the chancel to a depth of 12 feet and the removal back that distance of the old reredos, the old chancel rail and the old stained glass windows, which gives the church a depth prospectus much more in keeping with its other dimensions than under the former plan of architecture.

The old organ of the church has been thoroughly renovated and cleaned and removed to the new organ chamber where it will be electrified, the console being placed in the chancel as will the choir stalls. All of the aisles and the chancel floor have been [{{inserting from above}} covered with cork. Treadlite flooring] material of slate colored blocks with heavy black borders and the interior color scheme has been restored to the original walnut, the light oak pews having been stained walnut and the walnut top rails restored to their original color.

All details of the work conform to the old style of decorations so upon completion the building will be harmonious and pleasing whole.

When the organ has been removed to the transept the space formally [presumably for

“formerly”) occupied by it in the gallery will be used for seating purposes and, it is estimated, will accommodate approximately 200 additional persons with comfort.

N.B. John Pearce gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Nick Cadwallender for access to the clippings and draft copied or referenced below.

[Fredericksburg] *Free Lance-Star* 31 July 1946 page not known (actual clipping)

Church Will Sign Organ Contract

St. George's Episcopal Church is expected to sign a contract this week for the purchase of a new organ from the firm of Lewis and Hitchcock, Inc., of Washington. The organ will be delivered in from 10 to 12 months.

Because of the fact that much material can be salvaged from the present organ the cost of the new one, about \$14,000, will be reduced to \$10,000.

The sum of \$4,200 has already been contributed and \$5,800 is still to be raised.

The church will discontinue its Sunday School during the month of August.

The rector, the Rev. Thomas G. Faulkner, Jr., will be on vacation from August 5 to 24, and services during that period will be conducted by other ministers. The 8 a.m. service of Holy Communion will be discontinued during August.

[Fredericksburg] *Free Lance-Star* 6 November 1948 [?] page not known (actual clipping)

St. George's Plans Extensive Work

Projects Expected to be Finished for 100th Anniversary

Workmen this week began the first lap of an extensive building program St. George's Episcopal Church hopes to have completed by next April when the church celebrates its centennial anniversary.

Projects, which will include repairing the steeple, laying a new roof, replastering, and painting, are expected to result in a bill totaling approximately \$30,000, but it may run higher, the Rev. Thomas G. Faulkner, pastor, said today. The major part of the money is yet to be raised.

As the first major job workmen are repairing the entire steeple and covering it with a new copper roof. Its sheathing and structural work as well as dormer windows have rotted. Cost of the work has been set at \$15,000.

A new roof for the church and parish house are being planned at a cost of approximately \$3,000 to be installed by the first of the year. Replastering part of the church will be another major task.

Mr. Faulkner said that most expensive part of the rebuilding program will be painting the

interior and exterior next year. Bricks must be pointed up and scraped and the interior "sized up" into good condition and redecorated [sic].

As a memorial to the men and women of St. George's who served in World War II the organ is being rebuilt and expanded by the Lewis & Hitchcock Company of Washington. Cost of the project is expected to amount to \$10,000, of which \$7,500 already is in hand.

..... In preparation for the [centennial] event Dr. Carrol H. Quenzel, professor of library science and history at Mary Washington College, is preparing a history of the parish and present building

[Fredericksburg] *Free Lance-Star* 26 May 1949 page not known (actual clipping) [not copied]

St. George's Orga[n] Will Be Rebuil[t]

Instrument to Becom[e] Memorial to Dead of War II

[not copied for this report]

[Fredericksburg] *Free Lance-Star* c1951, date and page not known (actual clipping) [excerpt]

St. George's Votes to Keep All-Male Board of Vestry

Congregation Elects Five Board Members

Women should not serve on vestries of the Episcopal church, in the opinion of St. George's Church.

Members of the congregation, in a test vote of 29-28, objected last night to any possible influx of feminine vestry members, now prohibited under a ruling of the Diocese of Virginia. The diocesan council has asked for a vote from individual congregations to guide it in formulating a policy.

One woman member, who objected to women serving on the vestry, explained that she did so for fear that men, faced with greater competition on the board, might lose all interest in the church and drop out.

.....

[Fredericksburg] *Free Lance-Star* 19 [?] December 1953 page not known (actual clipping)
[excerpt]

St. George's Plans Revival of Old Anglican Carol Service

St. George's Episcopal Church here will follow an old Anglican custom tomorrow when it presents a revival of the Carol Service of the Nine Lessons.

.....
Tomorrow's service will be the first at the church after the completion of a long redecoration project.

[Fredericksburg] *Free Lance-Star* c 31 August 1956? typescript for an article, date and page not known (or whether it was printed)

[no title; concerning gravestone of Col. John Dandridge]

A workman toiling in the cemetery of old St. George's Episcopal Church one morning around the turn of the century struck a hard object with his rake. Removal of the soil disclosed a long, flat sandstone slab and thus brought to light the fact that the graveyard was the repository of the remains of another distinguished Virginian whom or which (?) few of the townspeople knew rested there.

The inscription on the tomb read:

Here lies Interr'd the Body
of Colonel John Dandridge
of New Kent County who
departed this life the 31st day
of August 1756 aged 56 years

The oldest residents of the town at the time scarcely remembered that John Dandridge was among them, though John Dandridge was the father of the first "First Lady" of these United States, Martha Dandridge Custis Washington.

Why was he there and how had his grave been hidden so long? The correct answer to the first part of the question may be debatable; the answer to the second part probably easy.

Taking the second part first, it is more than likely that the grave was covered with dirt from the excavation for the present church when the digging began more than 50 years before, though such carelessness in concealing the colonel's tomb from view is hard to explain away.

Why was Colonel John Dandridge of New Kent County, Va., in Fredericksburg in August of 1756? Fredericksburg historians and most others seem to be in agreement that he had come here to attend the races, although that is not definitely known. Anyway, that is the way the story goes and tradition has it that he fell dead of a heart attack while watching the horses run. And the

story goes on to say that he was buried in St. George's Church yard because the weather was excessively hot and it was deemed inadvisable to transport his body the long way back to his home. Col. Dandridge departed this life 200 years ago Friday, August 31, 1956.

Some writers have contended that Col. Dandridge was visiting George and Martha Washington when he succumbed so suddenly. That could hardly have been the case because that union had not then been consummated. Others have maintained that he was at the races at "Chatham," the home of William Fitzhugh, just across the Rappahannock River from Fredericksburg in Stafford County. That is improbable because William Fitzhugh was then a mere stripling of 15 and hardly of an age to be conducting horse races. Moreover, it is known that races were run on the outskirts of Fredericksburg in Spotsylvania County in 1756.

Persons who know the entire family picture think it most logical that Col. Dandridge was visiting his niece, Mary Dandridge Spotswood, who lived at nearby "New Post" in Spotsylvania County. Mary was the daughter of John's brother, the Hon. William Dandridge, a member of the Council of Colonial Virginia, and she had married Colonel John Spotswood, son of the famous Governor Alexander Spotswood of the "Knights of the Golden Horse Shoe."

Although Col. John Dandridge was a man of wealth and influence, not much is known about him, chiefly because the record of New Kent County for the Colonial period has been completely destroyed. He lived at "Chestnut Grove" and in the parish of St. Peter's. His wife was Frances Jones, daughter of the Rev. Orlando Jones, who is buried in Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg.

The inscription on the Dandridge stone in St. George's Church cemetery has been disintegrated so badly that it is hardly readable. In order to preserve the inscription for posterity, it has been reproduced on a bronze plaque by Mrs. Stephen Fahs Smith, of York, Penn., and the plaque has been attached to the slab.

Mrs. Smith has the distinction of close blood relationship to both the Washington and Dandridge families. Her grandfather, George Washington Bassett, was a grandson of Col. John Dandridge, and her grandmother was a granddaughter of Colonel Fielding Lewis and his wife, Betty Washington Lewis. Betty was the sister of George Washington.

[Fredericksburg] *Free Lance-Star* 15 August 1959 page not known (actual clipping)

St. George's Church to Use New \$10,000 Organ Sunday

Four Washington craftsman [sic], working in the tight, bakeoven heat of a small chamber room, today had checked off part of the 700 manhours it will take to complete installation of a new organ at St. George's Episcopal Church by net Sunday.

Today the organ is a jumbled, inarticulate mass of wires and pipes. By the end of this week, when the final screw has been assembled into place, the organ, with its rich orchestral music and elaborately intricate network of internal workings, will stand ready to begin its service in the century-old church.

A service dedicating the organ to its holy purpose will not be held until late September because the rector, the Rev. Thomas G. Faulkner, Jr., is now on vacation. At that time a tablet

will be erected, and the instrument will be consecrated to St. George's men and women—living and dead—who fought in two world wars.

Workmen from the Washington firm of Lewis & Hitchcock, Inc., which is building the organ, have been at work 12 hours a day, morning and night, since August 2 to complete the \$10,000 "king of all instruments."

When it is finished the two-manual organ will contain [1000?—partly illegible] pipes, 10 miles of wire, and thousands of individual parts. Operated by a two horsepower motor, it will be a modern electro-pneumatic type instrument providing for quicker response between the keys of the console and the pipes than the electrically run organ used until May.

The forest of pipes in the organ chamber will range in size from one much smaller than a pencil which emits the high thin note of a string instrument, to a huge fellow 16 feet tall in red sugar pine wood, which booms forth with a deep base [sic] tone.

A number of pipes have been salvaged from the old organ to preserve lovely tones which cannot be duplicated. A few of the pipes are wooden, but most of them are zinc or a "spotted" metal, an alloy of tin and lead. Sugar pine has been used for the wooden pipes because it is less affected by such atmospheric changes as moisture [sic] and dampness.

A salient feature of the new organ will be a set of cathedral chimes, described by Ted Lewis, organist-supervisor of the work, as "one of the finest made."

It will be the gift of Miss Ida Wooding as a memorial to her late brothers—Lewis Augustus, A. Corbin, Charles Clifton and Lewis Emmett Wooding. For the present the chimes [sic] will not be amplified and will be heard only from the inside of the church.

Two Keyboards

The desk-like console, with its two sets of keyboards, will be of walnut finish with mahogany trim. It will be located in the chancel away from the upstairs chamber room which houses the mechanical parts of the instrument.

Connecting the two together will be a relay station, more complicated than the usual telephone board, which contains 196 electrical relays to distribute the current through a vast, interlocking chain of wires to various units of the organ.

A huge "swell box" 12 feet long and nine feet deep also is in the chamber room. Its 16 shutters are used to control the tonal expression of the organ.

Mr. Lewis described the instrument as "middle size," explaining that organs of that size customarily include from 750 to 1,250 pipes. The organ in the Washington Cathedral at St. Albans, which is large probably has as many as 10,000 pipes.

Cost of the organ has almost entirely been met. Some \$9,000 already has been obtained, partly through special Christmas and Easter offerings taken since 1946. Funds for the balance of the cost [will?] be raised in the next . . . [incomplete clipping].