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ST. GEORGE'S CEMETERY:

An Historical Sketch.

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Prepared By

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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
35906

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Fredericksburg, Virginia.

1892

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# St. George's Cemetery:

A SKETCH

PREPARED IN THE INTEREST OF THE LADIES' CEMETERY  
GUILD OF ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, FREDERICKSBURG,  
VIRGINIA, AND CONTAINING A LIST OF BURIALS  
IN ST. GEORGE'S CEMETERY.

*Miss Marcella S. Goodwin*

*President - Charles, O'Brien*  
*Fredericksburg, Va.*

*Miss Lizzie Neunolds*

Printed by order of the Guild.

*Treasurer.*

*Miss Alice B. Gordon*

*Secretary.*

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MISS FANNIE DOSWELL, SECRETARY OF ST.  
GEORGE'S CEMETERY GUILD.

Fredericksburg, Virginia.

1892.

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## St. George's Cemetery.

A SPOT of more than usual interest to all who are interested in the History of Virginia and the antecedents of its Tidewater families, is old St. George's cemetery, in the city of Fredericksburg. It adjoins St. George's Church, and is held in trust by the Vestry, but as there is no longer room for new graves, it has, by order of the Vestry, ceased to be used as a place of burial. When it was first laid off and used as a place of burial, or by whom it was done, it is now impossible to ascertain, as many of the Parish Records were removed to Richmond for safe keeping at the time of the bombardment of Fredericksburg, during the Civil War, and were destroyed when the capital of the Confederacy was burned.

An Act of the Virginia Assembly founded the City of Fredericksburg in 1727, but tradition says this spot was used as a "God's Acre" long before that event.

The first record of any settlement on the present site of Fredericksburg is an Act of Assembly establishing a fort at the "Falls of the Rappahannock" in 1676, and possibly the use of this spot as a place of burial may date from that event.

The first legal recognition of St. George's Parish is an act of Assembly in 1720 founding the Parish, which probably extended, at that time, from about the present western line of Essex county to the Shenandoah river, but it is almost certain that the cemetery outdates this event.

There have been three buildings on the present site of St. George's Church, all bearing the same name, and by the name testifying to the fact that not only its sponsor, Governor Spotswood, but its early congregation, was purely English, and probably

better versed in civil than in ecclesiastical lore. The first building was erected in 1731, and at that time it was certainly surrounded by a burying ground. But the very difficulty that exists of fixing the date of the first use of this cemetery shows how essential it is that something be done to preserve the fast vanishing memorials of Virginia's past, and what is to be done must assuredly be done quickly.

The first legible date in the cemetery—that is to say, a date in such state of preservation as to leave no doubt of its accuracy—is 1752, but unquestionably there were burials here long before this date, as tradition is positive on this point, and only twenty years later, in 1772, the upper part of the burial ground was so full that an act of Assembly of that date authorizes the Vestry to sell the lower part, on Main street, as “unsuitable for burial purposes,” and purchase land elsewhere. The “lower part” was sold, but the money was lost in the upheaval of the Revolutionary war, and the “further purchase” was never made. St. George's Parish at that time embraced territory that now includes many counties and parishes, and the cemetery, like the parish, was by no means a local affair, but was used by families living at a considerable distance from it, as is evidenced by the tombs of Col. John Dandridge, of White House, New Kent county; the father of Mrs. George Washington; Mrs. Catherine Maury, wife of the uncle of Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury, who died in Liverpool, Eng., while her husband was American Consul to that city; Carter Beverly of Blandfield, Essex county, and so on. And these tombs further testify that at as early a date as 1756 the cemetery was old enough to have become surrounded by a strong atmosphere of sentimental attachment, that bodies should be brought a great distance to be buried in the “midst of their people.”

When the present church building (the third) was erected by St. George's congregation it was made considerably larger than any that preceded it, and as bodies had been buried almost under the eaves of

the former buildings, this necessitated the removal of some graves, and the unknown bodies were all reinterred under the basement floor. At the same time the vestibule was extended over others without disturbing them, and among these latter were Col. Fielding Lewis, brother-in-law to General George Washington, and three of his infant grandchildren.

In the course of time, as those most nearly interested and concerned in the proper preservation of this spot died, or moved away, and also, in large part, owing to the social and financial crash consequent upon the civil war, this cemetery was allowed—as was the sad case with so many other places of sentimental historical interest in Virginia—to fall into a state of great neglect and disrepair. People whose whole time, talent and attention were peremptorily demanded by the urgent calls of life and the necessity of almost beginning life anew, had small time or money to bestow upon matters of sentiment. When the wants of the living were daily and hourly pressing on their minds and hearts, they must, of necessity, appear to neglect the dead. Then, too, that awfullest of all calamities that ever visited an American city—the bombardment of Fredericksburg in 1862—did much damage to the cemetery, and many mutilated stones to-day bear mute but powerful testimony to the terror and dismay of that dreadful occasion. St. George's Church being the highest and most striking object in the city, of course attracted to a large extent the attention of the bombarding force, and the church and all in its immediate vicinity suffered proportionately. So, it had come to pass that many grave-stones were down and many badly injured; bushes and briars and weeds had overgrown the graves, and while a few isolated graves were still looked after by living friends or descendants, the far greater number were hidden by the undergrowth. The record of many graves was almost lost, and as an illustration, it was only by an accident, in the course of the improvements that the tomb of Col. John Dandridge was unearthed.

One year ago this winter a few members of St. George's congregation, as usual chiefly ladies, interested in the history and traditions of the Parish, began to agitate the matter of clearing and restoring the cemetery. At first it seemed to many hopeless on account of the expense it would involve; however, the agitation soon took shape in action. On the 8th of April, 1891, the ladies interested held a meeting and formed "St. George's Cemetery Guild," whose sole object should be the restoration of the cemetery, and whose sole requirement for membership was *interest* in that work. The Guild collected, as far as possible, the names of all parties, all over the Union, who were in any way interested in the matter, issued a circular stating their object and its needs, and proceeded to the collection of funds and the eliciting of all possible interest. Their efforts met with a gratifying degree of success. Nearly all to whom appeal for assistance was made responded with kind words of cheer and encouragement, and with some aid; many responded with great liberality; only a very few made no response at all.

By an expenditure of about \$150 the cemetery has been thoroughly cleaned: all bushes and roots removed, the ground rolled and sowed in grass, and in some places terraced and sodded. Some trees have been planted, and many tomb-stones cleaned, and some tombs repaired. The Guild still has some money in hand, and as soon as they are able they propose to enclose the front of the cemetery with a handsome iron fence, and after that to make such other improvements as their contributions will enable them to make. The Guild gladly gives its time, care and attention to this laudable work, but is unable to bear the financial expense; hence they depend on their friends for this assistance.

For the information of all who may be interested, a list of all known burials in this cemetery—with date of death and age, when they are known—is appended:



**A List, as far as can be ascertained, of all  
buried in St. George's Church-Yard,**

	Died,	Age.
Rev. Edward C. McGuire, (Rector for 45 years), .....	1858	65 years.
Mrs. Judith Lewis McGuire, (wife of above), .....	1882	82 years.
John Fenton McGuire (their child,).....	1843	3 years.
Col. Fielding Lewis, (grandfather of Mrs. McGuire, and brother-in-law of General Washington). He was a Vestryman of St. George's Church,...	1781	56 years.
Three of his infant grand-children,.....		
Col. John Dandridge, of New Kent county, father of Mrs. Martha Washington,.....	1756	56 years.
John Jones, .....	1752	
Archibald Macpherson,.....	1754	49 years.
William Lewis, } Cannot ascertain and his children, } whether they belong Ann Lewis, } to the Fielding George Lewis, } Lewis family,.....	1766 1755 1763	40 years.
John Whitfield, of Whitehaven,.....	1766	24 years.
Charles Colson,.....	1770	66 years.
William Paul, .....	1774	
Margaret Garts, .....	1789	23 years.
James Duncanson,.....	1791	56 years.
Mrs. Mary Duncanson (wife of above),...	1790	42 years.
James Fisher,.....	1792	Infant.
Mrs. Catharine Maury, wife of James Maury, American Consul to Liverpool. He was appointed by General Washington, and held the office until removed by General Jackson,.....	1794	38 years.
Maria Gregory, .....	1794	3 years.
Mrs. David Simmons and her two children,.....	1794	35 years.
Jane Sarah Newby,.....	1795	Child.
Eliza Newby, .....	1795	Infant.
Mrs. Eleanor Benson, .....	1799	38 years.
French Strother, .....	1800	61 years.
Alexander Rose, (resident of Island of Jamaica, originally from Scotland),...	1800	

	Died.	Age.
James Ridley, .....	1800	
Samuel Fox, .....	1801	72 years.
Mrs. Priscilla Edrington, .....	1801	23 years.
Michael Jackson, .....	1802	Infant.
John B. Pearson, .....	1804	5 years.
Samuel Leonard Duffel, .....	1803	Child.
Samuel Duffel, .....	1806	Infant.
N. R. } Only foot-stones—head-stones gone— } probably broken during the bom- G. R. } bardment in 1862, .....	1802	
	1807	
Charles Rothrock (part of a head-stone), ..	1804	3 years.
Mrs. Winifred Richardson, (wife of Daniel Richardson), and three of her children, .....	1763	23 years.
George Richardson, .....	1807	45 years.
Nancy Richardson (daughter of above), ..	1802	Infant.
Mrs. Elizabeth Young, .....	1807	27 years.
James Young, (of Lincolnshire, Eng.), ..	1831	63 years.
Mrs. Susan Smith Young, .....	1836	52 years.
Robert Walker, (of Belfast, Ireland,) ...	1808	41 years.
Mrs. Ann Robey, .....	1811	38 years.
John Patterson, .....	1814	34 years.
William W. Ashby, .....	1815	Infant.
Miss Lucy Chew, .....	1815	
Mrs. Ann Chew, .....	1821	66 years.
John T. Ford, .....	1824	43 years.
James Baggott, .....	1825	60 years.
James Edgar Marshall, .....	1825	18 years.
R. W. Ball, .....	1826	17 years.
Bradstreet Moon, .....	1827	25 years.
Eliza Cox, .....	1805	Infant.
Mrs. Elizabeth Cox, .....	1831	52 years.
Henry Garrett White, .....	1822	Child.
S. W. Fry, .....	1828	Infant.
Chester Bailey, .....	1841	71 years.
Philips Helmstatter, .....	1831	31 years.
Mrs. Ann Tayloe (Braxton) Mason, .....	1831	23 years.
Margaret Hitz, .....	1832	10 years.
F. G. H. T.—on foot-stone—more than half of head-stone broken, and no trace of it, .....	1832	20 years.
Mrs. Mary Hildroop, .....	1832	76 years.

	Died.	Age.
Virginia Dade,.....	1833	Infant.
C. Elizabeth Carter,.....	1833	Infant.
Elizabeth Edmondson Carter,.....	1840	Infant.
Mrs. Frederick Pilcher,.....	1827	57 years.
Frederick Pilcher,.....	1832	63 years.
Hiram Pilcher,.....	1833	33 years.
Walter Spillman,.....	1837	4 years.
Mrs. Elizabeth P. Lyon,.....	1838	52 years.
John Coalter,.....	1838	68 years.
St. George Tucker Coalter,.....	1839	30 years.
John C. Hull,.....	1841	35 years.
Mrs. Frances A. Hull, (wife of above,)...	1841	43 years.
Sarah Hill,.....	1841	Infant.
Benjamin Boughton,.....	1842	65 years.
Seth Barton,.....	1813	58 years.
Edward Seth Barton,.....	1823	2 years.
Louisa Nevison Barton,.....	1826	Child.
John Barton, .....	1829	Infant.
John Francis Botts,.....	1833	Infant.
Susan Catharine Botts,.....	1835	Child.
Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, M. D.,...	1843	29 years.
Eliza Campbell Barton,.....	1846	Infant.
Daniel Jenifer Barton,.....	1848	Infant.
William Strother Jones,.....	1852	Infant.
Mary Barton Jones,.....		Infant.
Eliza Somerville Knox,.....	1841	Infant.
John Knox,.....	1849	Infant.
Joseph Henry Downman,.....	1856	Infant.
Carter Beverly, (of Blandfield, Essex county,) .....	1844	70 years.
Mrs. James G. Blakey,.....	1845	42 years.
Lawrence Berry,.....	1846	53 years.
Mrs. Ann Scott Berry, (wife of above,)..	1872	71 years.
Kate Berry,.....		4 years.
John Berry,.....		2 years.
Eleanor Pearson Scott, .....	1862	Infant.
William Montandon,.....	1848	
James W. Lucas,.....	1850	51 years.
Fielding Lucas,.....		
Mrs. Elizabeth Lucas,.....	1857	77 years.
Miss Maria Lucas,.....	1862	
Mrs. Sarah A. Lucas,.....		

	Died.	Age.
Mrs. Jane Parke Hillyard, .....		
Parke G. Hillyard, .....	1857	22 years.
Mrs. Mary Parke Hanson, .....	1850	
Olivia Hanson Beck, .....	1857	Infant.
Mrs. Sarah Hanson Beck, .....	1858	
William Pearson, .....	1824	63 years.
William Garrett Pearson, .....		2 years.
Mrs. Emily W. Oooke, .....	1832	32 years.
Mrs. Eleanor Pearson, .....	1861	
Miss Margaretta Pearson, .....	1891	
Larkin Johnston, .....	1831	34 years.
Mrs. Frances Johnston (wife of above), ..	1872	
Mrs. Ann Johnston, .....	1841	74 years.
Miss Jane W. Johnston, .....	1889	82 years.
George W. Rothrock, .....	1865	67 years.
Mrs. Louisiana Johnston Rothrock, (wife of above,) .....	1888	84 years.
Miss Jeannie Rothrock, .....	1851	21 years.
Miss Fayette Rothrock, .....	1863	21 years.
William Allen, .....	1866	
Mrs. Ann Turner Allen, (wife of above), ..	1875	
William Smith, (Gloucestershire, Eng.,) .....	1802	56 years.
William Smith, Jr., (died in the service of his country, .....	1813	35 years.
Mrs. Mary Smith, .....	1822	72 years.
Miss Mary Smith Allen, .....	1836	35 years.
Thomas Goodwin, Jr., .....	1823	22 years.
Thomas Goodwin, Sr., .....	1836	65 years.
Mrs. Anna Maria (Smith) Goodwin, .....	1849	74 years.
Elizabeth Goodwin, .....	1819	Infant.
John Harwood Goodwin, .....	1842	35 years.
Casper Wistar Goodwin, .....	1851	12 years.
Catharine Rose Hart, .....		Infant.
Miss Sarah Goodwin, .....	1866	
Miss Mary Goodwin, .....	1882	72 years.
Littleton Goodwin, .....	1871	
Mrs. Anna Maria (Smock) Goodwin, (wife of above,) .....	1881	
William Smock, .....		
Mrs. Sarah Smock, (wife of above,) .....	1874	

	Died.	Age.
Mrs. Mary Jane (Chewning) Carlin,....	1885	
John Coakley,.....	1795	3 years.
Catherine Coakley,.....	1811	8 years.
John Coakley,.....	1820	60 years.
Mrs. Mary Coakley, wife of above,....	1835	70 years.
John Coakley, Vestryman and Warden,,	1874	71 years.
Mrs. Elizabeth Coakley, wife of above,,	1890	80 years.
Reuben Triplett Thom, Vestryman 52 years, and Warden 40 years,.....	1868	85 years.
Mrs. Eleanor Reat Thom, wife of above,	1865	79 years.
Miss Catherine Thom,.....	1886	70 years.
Thomas Ware, Sr.,.....	1820	
William Ware,.....		Infant.
James R. Ware,.....	1850	38 years.
Mrs. Catherine Reat Taliaferro,.....	1869	78 years.
Thomas R. Ware, U. S. N., and C. S. N.	1889	75 years.
Miss Mary Coakley,.....	1866	

There is an old tombstone with the whole face of it so entirely gone that only a capital H is legible. It is quite near Parke Hillyard's and it may be his mother's or aunt's, Mrs. Mary Parke Hanson.

There are 164 names; of these four adults and a few children are without dates, and twenty-four adults without ages. There are twenty-nine graves without any stones.

Since work commenced last June, (1891), six new head stones have been put up.

At present Col. Fielding Lewis' descendants are taking steps to place in the vestibule of St. George's Church, just over his place of burial, a handsome bronze memorial tablet for him and his wife, Bettie Washington. In conclusion, the Guild would extend its cordial thanks to all who have so kindly and cheerfully assisted them in their work, and they trust that they may meet with such further responses as will enable them to carry out with entire success their contemplated improvements. To this end they

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 GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
 OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
 OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

invite the co-operation of all who are interested in the preservation of this old landmark.

FREDERICKSBURG, VA.,

February 15, 1892.

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NOTE—The 164 names in the above list by no means comprehend all the burials in this cemetery, as there are scores, possibly a hundred, possibly many more, of which not even a tradition remains. The above list only contains those that we have been able positively and accurately to locate.

