

St. George's Episcopal Graveyard



When the City of Fredericksburg was established in 1728, two lots were set aside for the church and graveyard. The present church and graveyard occupy one of the original lots. The graveyard is the oldest one in Fredericksburg.

Although some graves were removed to make room for the present church building in 1849, most were not disturbed. There is an old tradition that says Colonel Fielding Lewis of Kenmore, Revolutionary War patriot and brother-in-law of George Washington is buried beneath the front steps of the church. Fielding Lewis more likely lies at his son's plantation in Clarke County.

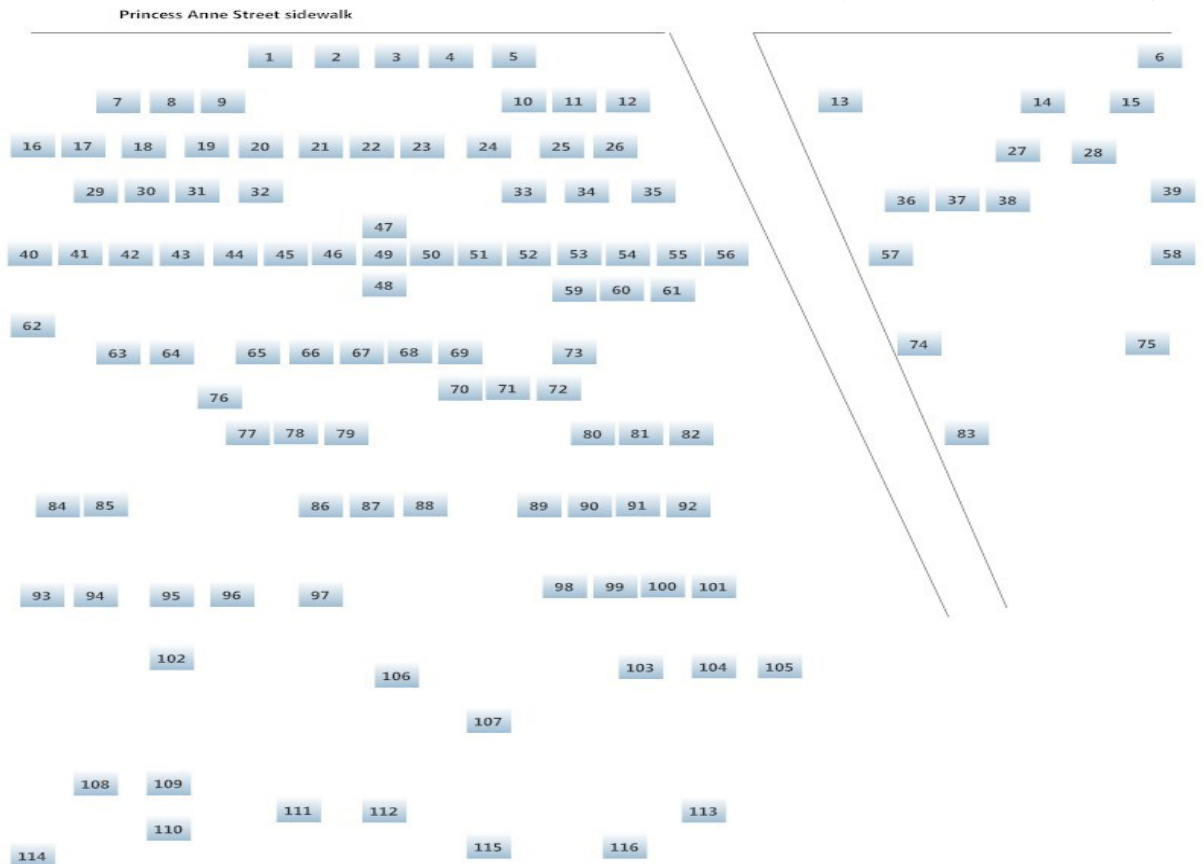
In 1892, the Ladies' Cemetery Guild of St. George's Church undertook to clean up and document the history of the cemetery. The earliest legible date to which they could attest without question was 1752, John Jones, tavern keeper. Two years later, there was an Archibald MacPherson, aged 49; and two years William Paul, brother of John Paul Jones, was buried there in 1774 [#14]. The latest ascertainable date is 1924, on the grave of Virginia B. Patton. [#21]. See *listing and map*.

At the time of the ladies' survey, 164 tombstones could be identified; some had no dates, others, no ages. There are 35 known burials without stones. As part of their project, the ladies spent \$150 of the funds raised for cleaning, landscaping, planting, and sowing the cemetery grounds. At the time of their report, they were planning to use the remainder of the money to "enclose the front of the cemetery with a handsome iron fence," which is still in service today.

On All Saint's Day 2002, St Georgians re-interred the remains of six 18th Century Fredericksburg citizens were excavated during the renovation of Market Square. On All Saint's Day 2007, a plaque was added to that site. In 2008, St. George's began interring remains in a memorial garden near Faulkner Hall.

1	Unknown - rock marker	14	Mrs. Mary Duncanson
2	John Jones	15	James Duncanson
3	Mrs. Winefrid Ritchardson	16	Unknown - rock marker,
4	Mr. George Richardson & dau. Nancy. George H. Rothrock is probably buried next to her	17	Catherine Taliaferro (F-CT)
5	Miss Lucy Chew	18	Thomas Ware (F-TW)
6	Archibald McPherson	19	Thomas R. Ware (C.S.N.)
7	Reuben & Eleanor Reat Thom	20	James Ware (F - JRW)
8	Catherine Thom (F - "CT")	21	Anthony & Virginia Patton (F - ABP VBP)
9	Mary Thom	22	Mary Coakley (F-MC)
10	Sam Duffel (F-"SD 1806)	23	John Coakley (F - JC)
11	Mrs. Ann Chew	24	Mrs. Elizabeth Coakley (F -EC)
12	Mrs. Elizabeth Young	25	Catherine Coakley
13	William Paul	26	John Coakley (F-JC)

27	Unknown	50	Thomas Goodwin (F - TG)	73	Unknown - sandstone/slate	96	Unknown - flat table, broken, illegible
28	Margaret Garts	51	Mary Goodwin (F - MG)	74	Unknown - rock marker, no	97	Unknown - rock marker, no headstone
29	Joseph H. Downman	52	Thomas Goodwin (F - TG)	75	Charles Colson	98	Mrs. Margaret Pilcher
30	Unknown	53	Ann Maria Goodwin (F - AMG)	76	Elizabeth Sommerville Knox	99	R.W. Ball (F - illegible)
31	Parke G. Hillyard (F - PGH)	54	William Smith	77	Mrs. Maria Ann Blakey (F -	100	Alexander Rose
32	Elizabeth Lucas (F - EGL)	55	Mrs. Mary Smith (F - MS)	78	Elizabeth M. & Eliza Cox (F -	101	Mrs. Catherine Maury
33	Unknown - rock marker	56	William Smith, Jr. (F - WS)	79	William & Ann Turner Allen (F	102	George W. Rothrock (F - GWR)
34	Unknown - rock marker	57	Mary C. Harrison (F - MCH)	80	Unknown - rock marker, no	103	Mrs. Anna Taylor Mason (F - ATM)
35	Casper W. Goodwin (F -	58	Mrs. Catherine Simons	81	Seth Barton	104	(also A.T.M., broken)
36	John B. Pearson	59	Elizabeth Goodwin (F - EG)	82	Samuel L. Duffel	105	John T. Ford (F - JTF)
37	Unknown - rock marker	60	Catherine Rose Hart (F - CRH)	83	Unknown - rock marker, no	106	Unknown - sandstone face flaked off
38	Unknown	61	John Whitfield	84	Mrs. M.J. Chewning Clark	107	Margaret Hitz (probable)
39	William Lewis & son George	62	Walter Spilman (F - WS)	85	Larkin Johnston	108	S.W. Fry (F - SWF)
40	James Baggott	63	William & William Garrett Pearson (F -WP)	86	St. George Tucker Coalter	109	Henry Garrett White
41	Elizabeth Edmundson Carter	64	Mrs. Emily Cooke (F - EMC)	87	Judge John Coalter	110	John F. McGuire (F - JFMc)
42	Felix H. Taliaferro (probable)	65	Benjamin Boughton (F-BB)	88	Mrs. Mary Hildroop (F - MH)	111	Rev. Edward & J.C. Lewis McGuire
43	Elizabeth Carter (F - illegible)	66	John Patterson (F - unreadable)	89	Unknown - illegible	112	Mrs. Ann Robey (F - AR 1811)
44	Eleanor Benson (F - EB)	67	John S. Berry	90	James W. Lucas (F - JWL)	113	James E. Marshall (F - JEM)
45	Michael Jackson (F - MJ)	68	Lawrence & Anne M. Berry, and infant	91	Hiram Pilcher (F - ? P)	114	Col. John Dandridge
46	John G. & Frances A. Hull	69	children John & Catherine Carter Beverly (F-CB)	92	Frederick Pilcher	115	Chester Bailey (F-CB)
47	Sarah Hill	70	Philip J. Helmstatter (F - PJH)	93	Louisiana Johnston Rothrock & Fayette (F- LJR / FR)	116	William Ashby
48	Mary Allen	71	Mrs. Elizabeth Lyon (F - EPL)	94	Jane W. & Ann Thompson	117	Unknown
49	John H. Goodwin (F - THG)	72	Edward Seth Barton	95	Jeannie J. Rothrock (F - JJR)	118	Six 18th Century Fredericksburg citizens



St. George's Graveyard Tours

We have several tours—the one below is 5 minutes. We have others that highlight our war veterans, women, relatives and parishioners in the church as well as art-related tours on gravestones and typography.



#2 John Jones (1752)

This is our oldest known grave, 1752, John Jones. Jones owned a tavern in what was called the “upper neighborhood” on the corner of Amelia and Caroline It was in the upper end of the town that an assembly of Scotsmen congregated and socialized at the neighborhood tavern of John Jones. Some were managers of Glasgow franchises. Some were political refugees from the conflict with England. Hugh Mercer (who came a bit later) and John Sutherland were doctors. By now, Col. Lewis’ store was established just outside the town line.

#13 William Paul (1774)

William Paul was the brother of John Paul Jones.

William Paul conducted a tailor shop in Fredericksburg. William prospered sufficiently to purchase from Thomas Blanton, a carpenter, a house and lot in Fredericksburg in June 1770. It stood on a substantial parcel at the corner of Caroline Street and Lafayette Boulevard.

The last four years of his life were trouble-ridden. He was in court more than once, presumably suing clients. About the time he acquired the house, he married Fanny, and a stormy marriage! ensued

He died in 1773, and his executors, (as appointed by him) William Templeman and Isaac Heslop declined to serve, and it was not until November, 1774, that anything was done about the estate. It is assumed that John Paul Jones arrived here then. Jones knew Fredericksburg having visited Fredericksburg 1761, 1762 and, 1763 repairing ships and then loading cargo – tobacco, pig iron, barrel staves.

Jones acquired his last name due to a murder in the West Indies. He was assaulted by mutinous crew member whom he killed in self-defense. There was no sitting court to hear case his and he fled America . There are 20 months where his whereabouts cannot be traced.

This gravestone, 1930, encompasses the original grave which is on the back of this stone.

#21 Virginia Patton (1852-1924)

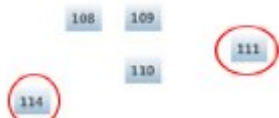
Jones was the first buried here and Patton the last in 1924. The Graveyard was closed to further burials. However, since 2008 cremains have buried along Faulkner Hall wall. You can see a plaque there. Thus the graveyard continues to serve the community

Buck Patton her husband was a cousin of General George Patton. Both are descended from Robert William Patton (1750 – 1828) of Scotland. George Patton’s father was killed in the Civil War. Due to the economic struggles after the Civil War his part of the family migrated to California.

Buck Patton was a merchant living and served in Fredericksburg Virginia Light Artillery during the Civil War He was discharged from combat duty due to disability, chronic rheumatism, on November 1862. He was detailed 6/1863 Richmond, VA. to serve as a clerk in the Medical Director’s Office.

#114 Col John Dandridge (1700-1756)

Colonel John Dandridge was the father-in-law of George Washington.. He had grant of a water-front lot in Hampton, Elizabeth City County. His children were all born there. He served as County Clerk, which in the colonial period was considered a very lucrative position.



Colonel Dandridge married Frances Jones, daughter of Orlando Jones on July 22, 1730. He was the father of Martha Dandridge who married first Daniel Parks Custis and then secondly George Washington.

He died on August 31, 1756, aged 56 years. Historians do not seem to know why he died in Fredericksburg. Some state that he was here visiting his daughter, Martha who married General Washington, but that cannot be true because he died more than two years before his daughter was married. It was possible he was here attending races at “Chatham”, held by William Fitzhugh.

This grave was lost for over 50 years after the building of St. George’s in 1849. Apparently his grave was covered up and only workmen in the early part of the 20th century uncovered him.

#111 Rev. Edward McGuire (1793-1858)

McGuire was our longest serving rector from 1813-1858. He was involved with all 3 St George’s churches including the current church of 1849.

What accounts for his success? He was a church builder first and foremost at St. George’s. At his death, the newspapers wrote many accolades and focused on the numbers he brought to the Church. The Fredericksburg News wrote on October 12, 1858 wrote “Under his faithful culture his congregation has greatly multiplied in numbers and flourished in all of its highest spiritual interests” The Weekly Advertiser at the same time noted he had baptized a whole generation in his communion and increased the church from a mere handful to hundreds.

From a small number when he arrived the Church had grown to 259 communicants a year after his death.

He was an evangelical, spreading the “good news” through action and participation. The qualities noted in the plaque – amiable in character, prudent in action, sound judgment and consistent conduct united both his work as a builder and evangelical. McGuire came here as a lay reader since he was too young at age 20 to be ordained in 1813. He was ordained in 1814. He was never trained in a seminary but read with three ministers, including two future leaders in the Church, Rev. William Meade, rector of Christ Church in Alexandria and then with Rev William Wilmer, rector of St. Paul’s in the same city. He entered the church at a time of disarray. Carroll Quenzel in his history of St. George’s corroborates this point. When he came there were “less than a dozen” in the Church. He reports the congregation was in a “state of complete prostration” where those that remained were much “discouraged.”

He held frequent services (6 or 7 times a week) and performed baptisms often after morning services as well as preaching in Falmouth in the afternoon. By the late 1840’s Philip Slaughter in his history reported he had baptized 807 persons, including 50 adults and married 524. Just before his death in 1858 he had presented 88 people to Bishop Meade for confirmation, certainly a high point in his ministry. Joseph Packard, a professor at Virginia Theological Seminary, writes that “McGuire not only built up his own parish, but went through Spotsylvania, Stafford, Essex, Caroline, Culpeper and Organ counties preaching and visiting. “ McGuire was able to personalize religion based on his own religious struggle.