

Bicentennial Bulletin

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 9, 2018 Homecoming

The commemorative memorabilia will be available for purchase—ties, scarves, crosses, and recordings of the Choir of Christ Church.

Christ Church Timeline

Haven't seen the timeline yet? It will be back on view Sept. 9.

Sunday, October 14, 2018

10:00 a.m. Bob Pritchard on history of the Episcopal Church part I.

Sunday, November 4, 2018

10:00 a.m. Time Capsule loaded by Youth

1:00 p.m. Tom Crocker speaks on the CCG founders' Georgetown homes followed by a walking house tour

Sunday, December 2, 2018

1:00 p.m. Sidney Lawrence speaks on theme and process of his 1818–2018 commemorative painting

Sunday, December 16, 2018

10:00 a.m. Bob Pritchard on history of the Episcopal Church part II.

Sunday, January 6, 2019

4:00 p.m. Evensong for the Feast of the Epiphany, followed by a festive reception in the Parish Hall Auditorium.



Christ Church
Georgetown
200 years

Thomas Henderson M.D. (1789–1854)

Even though he moved to Georgetown just a year before the founding of Christ Church, Dr. Thomas Henderson was a major backer of the project, subscribing for 20 shares valued at \$500 (the second highest category consisting of five subscribers). He was a member of the Committee of Eight, served on the first two Vestries and was a pew owner. In the April 12, 1819 Vestry election he received more votes than anyone else, and he served along with Clement Smith and Thomas Corcoran on a committee of three to superintend the building of the steeple of the church. In 1822 he joined with fellow Christ Church founders Clement Smith and Francis Scott Key to serve on a board for the establishment of a theological seminary in the Diocese of Maryland (the project did not succeed). Even though he was just 28 years old at the founding of the church and lived in Georgetown only 10 years, Dr. Thomas Henderson played an active and influential role in the establishment of the church and in its early years.

Dr. Thomas Henderson was born at Dumfries, Prince William County, Virginia. He was of Scottish descent. His older brother General Archibald Henderson was the longest serving Commandant of the Marine Corps and is known even today as “The Grand Old Man of the Marine Corps.”

Dr. Henderson completed his medical studies in Philadelphia and commenced a medical practice in Warrenton, Virginia. In 1816 he moved to Georgetown and thence to the City of Washington in 1826, where for many years he was Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine at Columbian College (today's George Washington University). In 1833 he entered the U.S. Army as Assistant Surgeon and served for over 20 years. Dr. Henderson's Army service took him away from Washington.

Dr. Henderson was the author of at least several published medical treatises, including “Criticism on Washington's Essay on Yellow Fever” (1824) and “Hints on the Medical Examination of Recruits for the Army” (1840). The latter was a lengthy treatise which was reissued in 1856 and was regarded as the authoritative treatment of the subject, its influence lasting through the Civil War. He was an honorary member of the Philadelphia Medical Society.

Thomas Henderson married Anna Maria Truxton (1792–1857) of Philadelphia. She was the daughter of Revolutionary and Quasi-War naval officer Commodore Thomas Truxton. Together they had nine children. At least seven survived and led long lives, with two surviving into the 20th century. One son, Francis William, was a lawyer and a captain in the Confederate Army. A daughter, Sarah, was married to the Virginia Military Institute's first Superintendent Francis H. Smith. It is believed that Dr. Thomas and Anna Maria Henderson have numerous descendants living today.

Dr. Henderson died on August 11, 1854 at age 65. The obituaries at the time of his death variously report him as dying at Fortress Monroe, Old Point Comfort, Virginia, or at the residence of his son-in-law, VMI Superintendent Smith at Lexington, Virginia. Both he and his wife are buried in the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery, also in Lexington, Virginia.

John Stoddert Haw (1769–1832)

One of the older founders of Christ Church, John Stoddert Haw was born in 1769 in Charles County, Maryland. He was the son of Christopher Haw (1736–1773) and Sarah Stoddert Haw (1738–1777). He also was a nephew of the influential first Secretary of the Navy under George Washington Benjamin Stoddert—tobacco merchant, land speculator and builder of Halcyon House in Georgetown. The Stodderts were of Scots descent and emigrated in the 18th century.

Forty-eight years old at the founding of the church, Haw subscribed to 10 shares worth \$250, was on the Committee of Eight, was one of the 26 committed pew owners, served on the first Vestry, and was in fact an original pew owner.

In 1816 he is shown as being a clerk under Joseph Nourse in the Register's Department at the Department of the Treasury. His annual pay of \$1075 was that of a middle grade official. This position most likely was a sinecure which was in addition to his private sector business dealings, perhaps in collaboration with his uncle Benjamin Stoddert after the latter left government service. His former residence, built between 1816 and 1817, is a Federal brick townhouse at 2808 N Street, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. At the time of his death it comprised not only the main dwelling house but also a smoke house, stable, and a carriage house.

Haw married Mary Anne Penn (1772–1830), also from Charles County. They had one son and three daughters, all of whom lived to adulthood and married.

He was a member of the Georgetown Auxiliary Colonization Society and in 1827 and 1828 made

contributions to the American Colonization Society, which was also supported by his fellow parishioner Francis Scott Key.

KIDS' CORNER

This window is helping to tell the story of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42). Martha is cleaning the dishes up after dinner and Mary is sitting at Jesus's feet listening while he teaches. Jesus tells Mary that she is doing the right thing to listen to him.

Color the Window

Use your favorite markers, crayons, or colored pencils and color the stain glass window. Walk around inside the church and discover where this window is located.

