

Bicentennial Bulletin

Upcoming Event

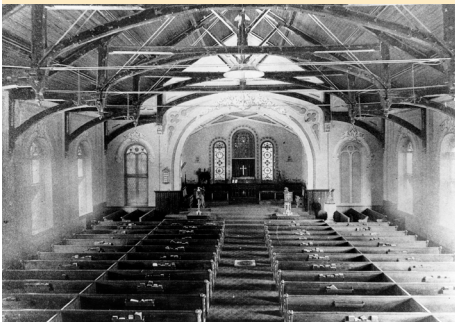
Sunday, January 6, 2019

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

Fun Fact

July 12, 1885

The last service was held in the old church, which was demolished to build a more adequate structure.



Interior of the second church before demolition, c. 1885.



Christ Church
Georgetown
200 years

John Pickrell (1783–1851)

John Pickrell was a major subscriber for the construction of the church in 1817, committing to 20 shares valued at \$500, which placed him among the top tier of founders financially. He was not among the 26 who committed to purchase pews, but he was in fact an original pew owner, and he served as a Warden.

He first appears in the historical records as buying property in Georgetown in 1807 when he was 24 years old. He continued to buy, build and sell all his life. In addition he ran a major lumber business starting in 1807.

Pickrell married Ann Wilson (1788–1874), the daughter of Zadok Wilson, a prosperous tobacco planter of Scots descent who owned land where Silver Spring, MD is now located. Zadok Wilson had earlier moved to Georgetown, and in 1809 Ann was a member of St. John's Church Georgetown. The Rector, the Reverend Walter Dulaney Addison, befriended her when she and Pickering fell in love. Her father opposed the marriage. The couple eloped, and Addison married them near what is now Silver Spring without her father's knowledge. Her father refused to speak to her following the elopement—until the Pickrells' first child (of which there were nine) was born. Only then the father and daughter had a rapprochement. Thereafter, records show Zadok Wilson working in conjunction with Pickrell in his lumber and building businesses, and in 1815 Pickrell gave his father-in-law the house that is now 2708 P Street.

Pickrell was active in business affairs around the time of the church's founding. In 1815 he had an interest in the business of John Lipscomb located on the southeast corner of what is now Wisconsin Avenue and N Street, and sold it in 1817. He owned what is currently 3025 P Street before 1817 and may have built the current brick house at the front of that property. In addition, Pickrell purchased and flipped what is now 3258 M Street to fellow Christ Church founder Clement Smith in the months preceding the organizational meeting of the church in November 1817. He also owned a half interest with Clement Smith in a wharf at the foot of Thomas Jefferson Street in 1817 and later sold his interest to Smith. His name appeared on the tax list of Georgetown in 1818, at which time he owned property assessed at \$13,950, a significant sum. Tunlaw Farm, in current Glover Park, also reportedly was owned by the Pickrell family.

The 1834 City Directory of Georgetown lists John Pickrell as a lumber dealer living "near the Bank" on Prospect Street. His house stood on the hill that was cut down to build the Wormley School, probably on the same level as the house there now, just to the west next door. The Pickrells later lived at what is now 3233 N Street, which became the Odd Fellows Lodge (still standing). Clement Smith, a church founder, business partner and friend of Pickrell, built the front part of that house around 1809.

At his death in 1851, Pickrell left a considerable estate to his widow Ann. His funeral almost certainly would have been at Christ Church, but the church burial records for 1851 to prove it are missing. He is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

After he died Ann carried on the lumber business with the help of her two older sons for 23 years. She died in 1874, at age 86 at what is now 3233 N Street and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery with her husband. Her epitaph reads: "She hath done what she could."

Jeremiah Williams (1774–1857)

Jeremiah Williams' founding subscription for Christ Church was a relatively modest five shares, worth \$125. He was not a member of the founding Committee of Eight, but he was a pew owner and was elected to the Vestry of the church in 1819. He served as a delegate to the Diocesan Convention in Baltimore in 1824.

Jeremiah Williams was a first cousin of the three Clagett brothers profiled earlier. He does not appear to be related to the Revolutionary War hero General Otho Holland Williams, who owned a house at what is now 31st and P Streets in Georgetown. However, he was a cousin of Harriet Beall Williams who raised many eyebrows in Georgetown when, in 1839 at age 16, she was courted by and married the 63 year old bachelor Russian Imperial Minister to the United States Baron Alexander de Bodisco. (By all accounts the marriage was a happy one; they attended Christ Church and baptized numerous children there, including their first child, Nicholas Alexander de Bodisco, whose sponsors were "His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias" and "his parents").

Jeremiah Williams was an important shipping merchant in Georgetown. His company, Jeremiah Williams & Co. owned wharves and warehouses. Later city directories also list him as an auditor at the Department of the

Treasury, so it is likely that, like a number of well-off Georgetown merchants, he held a government sinecure simultaneously with his private sector ventures.

In 1801 Jeremiah Williams purchased a frame house at what is now 3035–3037 Dumbarton Avenue and lived there the rest of his life. His stepdaughter Eleanor M. Carter, who married William Benton Boggs, a Navy paymaster and Vestryman at Christ Church, eventually inherited the house and most likely erected the present mid-19th century house on the site of the earlier frame one. The house has since been divided into two dwellings which at various times in the 20th–21st centuries have belonged to Supreme Court Justice William Brennan, NBC news correspondent Richard Harkness, National Gallery Director J. Carter Brown, and currently by the author Kitty Kelly.

Jeremiah Williams was married to Susan Katherine Steuart (1781–1865); it appears that Eleanor was the sole heir. Williams died February 8, 1857 and his funeral was held Christ Church. His wife's will was dated March 17, 1858 but she did not die until 1865. Both are buried at Oak Hill Cemetery.

For the complete articles on Pickrell and Williams, visit the Bicentennial page of the parish website: www.christchurchgeorgetown.org/bicentennial.

KIDS' CORNER

Do you know that a Founding Father of Christ Church, Georgetown, Francis Scott Key, wrote "the National Anthem?" The song, also called "the Star Spangled Banner," was written on September 14, 1814, when he was 35 years old. He was inspired by the large U.S. flag, flying triumphantly above Fort McHenry after the U.S. victory of the War of 1812.

Eyes on 200 Word Search

Find words below relating to all that we celebrate on the Fourth of July.

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| BLUE | RED |
| FLAG | USA |
| FRANCIS SCOTT KEY | EQUALITY |
| JULY | FOURTH |
| PATRIOTIC | HOME |
| STRIPES | LIBERTY |
| EAGLE | STAR |
| FOUNDER | WHITE |
| JUSTICE | |

"The National Anthem"

F R E D N U O F B C Y W P J A
U R J I B Y H Q E T H V A P N
J U A H O M E Q R I T J T H Z
L O Q N L B U E T J Q J R Z B
S Q M M C A B E G F J Z I E M
K E J K L I Y F S K K U O A U
F I P I L Y S R K N I W T G S
D O T I Y J U S T I C E I L A
M Y U N R L Z K C L G Z C E V
O C T R A T U O G O G A L F L
D E A S T V S J W Q T B I X E
E X J J S H X N E R V T R G S
E T P N F R S U O Y E D K O V
R B C C A F L R E O P D Z E O
F W L E R B N S B K T E L B Y

For the answer, visit the Bicentennial page of the parish website: www.christchurchgeorgetown.org/bicentennial.