

Bicentennial Bulletin

Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 15, 2018

1:00–4:00 p.m.

Bicentennial Founders Lunch and Oak Hill Cemetery Outing
A luncheon-lecture by parishioner and historian Tom Crocker followed by a guided tour of the gravesites of 13 Christ Church founders.

Sunday, April 22, 2018

10:00–11:00 a.m.

Bicentennial Adult Forum
The Very Reverend Ian S. Markham, Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary, explores the state of the Episcopal Church in 2018.

Saturday, May 12, 2018

10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Bicentennial Floral Display and Open House

A multi-faceted event coinciding with the annual Georgetown Garden Tour, featuring architectural tours and musical offerings by the Choir of Christ Church.

Sunday, May 13, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Bicentennial Garden Party and Picnic

A combined celebration of the Holy Eucharist will be followed by a family-friendly Garden Party and Picnic at Georgetown's historic Tudor Place Mansion.



Christ Church
Georgetown
200 years

Eloise Randolph Page (1920–2002)

To this day, Eloise Page is a legend not only as a groundbreaking female CIA operative, but also as an all-around participant at Christ Church. She was a Sunday school teacher, Vestry member, and directed the Altar Guild and the Flower Committee. Altar Guild members still speak in reverent tones of her precise standards as head of the Guild, but remember also her colorful and very social personality, always complemented by white gloves, conservative dresses and a lovely smile. She was, said a CIA colleague, “a perfect Southern lady with a core of steel” or, as former Christ Church Rector The Rev’d Stuart Kenworthy described her, “a major-league spy.”

The descendant of Virginia aristocracy, Miss Page (as she preferred to be called, and never Ms.) was a native of Richmond, a graduate of Hollins College and George Washington University, and a teacher at the National Defense University. She began her career in 1942 as an assistant to Army Maj. Gen. William J. (“Wild Bill”) Donovan, head of the Office of Strategic Services, which later became the CIA in 1947. Her career spanned positions in European capitals and Washington and, quintessentially, as the CIA’s first female station chief in Athens.

One of the CIA’s leading terrorism experts and its highest-ranking female officer, Miss Page was (among others) honored with a Trailblazer Award on the CIA’s 50th anniversary. She died at 82 in 2002, 15 years after retiring. Upon her passing, then CIA Director George Tenet said: From her earliest days of service with OSS, she was a source of inspiration to others. She will be forever.”

Miriam Hedges Crocker (1913–2010)

Miriam Hedges Crocker, known to her contemporaries as “Mimi,” was a member of Christ Church Georgetown for over 55 years. She was elected to the Vestry in 1975 and was one of the earlier women to serve. Among a number of CCG projects, as chair of the Fine Arts Committee, she and Mary Weinmann decorated the Rectory when the Kenworthy family arrived.

A native of Arkansas but with long Anglican family roots in Maryland, she married Thomas E. Crocker in 1937 and quickly thereafter was drawn into the life of an Army wife. At the end of the war Colonel Crocker was stationed at the Pentagon, and he and Mimi settled in Georgetown.

From 1947 to 1972 Mimi was the proprietor of the Miriam Crocker Shop, a well known decorating and lamp studio on Wisconsin Avenue in Georgetown. Clients included many embassies, the Kennedy



White House and homes in Georgetown and nationally. A number of her artisans in those years were refugees from strife-ravaged Europe, and she was always proud to have helped these people gain a new life in the United States. In the darkest days of the Cold War the Voice of America interviewed and profiled her for broadcast behind the Iron Curtain for what she had done for these people and for her example as a successful American woman.

In addition to her work at Christ Church, Mimi also served two terms on the Board of Governors at St. Albans School and was for many years Executive Vice President of the Georgetown Citizens Association and an officer of the Sulgrave Club. She also spent untold hours as a member of the Building Committee at the Washington National Cathedral, where she helped plan stained glass windows, space usage, seating and the library.

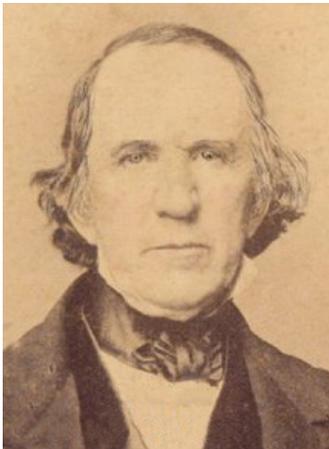
It was particularly gratifying to Mimi that many years later, in her 90th year, Tudor Place recognized her love of Georgetown by honoring her at its annual spring party as “a distinguished and beloved citizen of Georgetown whose creative style, wit, grace and business acumen are widely recognized and whose countless good works are deeply appreciated.”

Mimi was a dedicated Christ Church parishioner and quintessential Georgetown. Later in life, she took delight in her two grandsons, as well as her role as matriarch of her larger extended family, which gave her great pleasure.

The Reverend Ulysses Ward (1792–1868)

Christ Church founder Ulysses Ward was a bricklayer and Methodist minister who appears to have been only briefly, if indeed at all, a member of Christ Church.

At age 25, he was a member of the Committee of Eight elected at the organizational meeting on November 10, 1817. Listed as one of the 26 committed pew owners, he served as a Warden but appears to have never actually occupied a pew and was not on a 1819 holders list.



During the War of 1812 Ward served as an enlisted volunteer. He married Susanna Verlinda Beall, member of the large founding Beall family of Georgetown. They had six children.

A trained bricklayer, it is likely that he was the head mason during the construction of the first Christ Church. The last reference to Ward in the context of Christ Church

occurred when he was finally paid for his overdue construction costs, in 1821.

Ward became a lumber and coal dealer, maintaining a lumber yard near what is now 12th and Constitution Avenue. Probably before and after his sojourn at Christ Church, Ward was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1828 he helped found the Methodist Protestant denomination, becoming a minister at its church on 9th Street, although without seminary training or ordination. He was a staunch advocate of abstinence from alcohol.

Ulysses Ward died at age 77 and is buried in Glenwood Cemetery. At the time of his death he reportedly had accumulated property worth an astounding \$250,000.

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

KIDS' CORNER

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