

# St. Paul's Church

1832

ORIGINALLY

## The Borough Church

1739

Elizabeth River Parish

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA



PUBLISHED BY

The Altar Guild of St. Paul's Church


NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

1934

## FEATURES OF INTEREST AND MEMORIALS

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### THE OLD CANNON BALL

 ONE of the most interesting features of the Church is the cannon ball fired by Lord Dunmore, the last Colonial Governor of Virginia, during his bombardment of Norfolk in 1776. The ball, after striking the Church, fell to the ground beneath, and was covered up there for many years, remaining buried in the earth till 1848.

The Daily Southern Argus, a newspaper published in Norfolk, gave, in its issue of Saturday, May 13, 1848, an account of "the recent finding" of the ball in the earth beneath the indenture which it had made in the wall of the Church where it first struck. This account says the ball was found about two feet below the surface of the ground immediately under the indenture in the wall. The ball was replaced in the indenture and there cemented, where it now attracts much attention and interest from tourists, thousands of whom visit the Church every year—being located on the south side of the Church, just at the corner, near Church street. It is marked by a plate on which is the inscription:

Fired By  
Lord Dunmore  
Jan. 1, 1776

This plate was placed there in 1901 by Great Bridge Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. The bombardment above referred to occurred between three and four o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, January 1, 1776, the first gun being fired by the warship "Liverpool". The ball which struck the Church is reputed to have been fired by the "Liverpool".

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### JOHN HANCOCK'S CHAIR

A highly interesting relic at St. Paul's is the chair in which John Hancock sat when he signed the Declaration of American Independence. It is a mahogany arm chair, upholstered in leather, and upon it is a silver plate bearing the following inscription: "This chair was occupied by John Hancock when he signed the Declaration of Independence. It was bought by Colonel Thomas M. Bayley, of Accomac County, Va. At his death it became the property of his daughter Ann, who subsequently intermarried with the Rev. Benjamin M. Miller, once rector of St. Paul's Church, Norfolk, Va., who presented it to the parish." Comparatively few people know that this chair is in St. Paul's.

RECORD OF INSCRIPTIONS ON THE TOMBSTONES IN  
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH YARD

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WORK DONE BY BISHOP RANDOLPH'S CHAPTER  
"DAUGHTERS OF THE KING"

This list of inscriptions on the tombstones was gotten up by the Bishop Randolph Chapter, Daughters of the King, 1902. It is indexed and very handy. It shows that there are 265 tombs in the churchyard. Many others have disappeared.

The oldest tombstone in the yard is on the south side of the church, and bears the following inscription: "Here lies the body of Dorothy Farrell who deceased the 18th of January 1673."

Another of the older and most striking tombs is inscribed as follows: "Here Lyeth The Body Of John Taylor Merchant in Norfolk. Born In The Parish Of Fintrie In The County Of Sterling In 1694. And Died On The 25th Of October 1744 In The 51st Year Of His Age." Coat of Arms cut with motto, "Fide et Fiducia." This inscription was restored by his great-great-grandson, F. S. Taylor, of Norfolk, in 1892.

On the East Wall is an old tombstone that does not mark a grave. It is inscribed as follows:

Coat of Arms. "Here lyeth the body of Elizabeth, the wife of the Honorable Nathaniel Bacon, Esq., who departed this life the second day of November One Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety-One, in the Sixty-Second yeare of her age." This tomb was brought from King's Creek, James River, at the request of Rev. N. A. Okeson, D. D. Elizabeth Bacon was the wife of Col. Nathaniel Bacon. He was President of the Virginia Council and a cousin of young Nathaniel Bacon, the patriot of 1675. She was a daughter of Richard Kingswell, gent, and was married first to Capt. Wm. Taylor, also member of the Virginia Council.