

COPYRIGHT / USAGE

Material on this site may be quoted or reproduced for **personal and educational purposes** without prior permission, provided appropriate credit is given. Any commercial use of this material is prohibited without prior permission from The Special Collections Department - Langsdale Library, University of Baltimore. Commercial requests for use of the transcript or related documentation must be submitted in writing to the address below.

When crediting the use of portions from this site or materials within that are copyrighted by us please use the citation: *Used with permission of the University of Baltimore.*

If you have any requests or questions regarding the use of the transcript or supporting documents, please contact us:

Langsdale Library
Special Collections Department
1420 Maryland Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21201-5779
<http://archives.ubalt.edu>

++++
+ Concerning Old Saint Paul's. +
++++

Concerning Old Saint Paul's.

While much has been said and ably written about Old Saint Paul's Church, a few additional lines and illustrations may not go amiss.

Let us then begin at the beginning and sweep away (in fancy) all the present familiar sites and conditions and go back to what would now be called a primitive age; for St. Paul's was in existence before the founding of Baltimore Town.

This first St. Paul's was - we are told - somewhere in the neighborhood of Holabird (or Colgate's Creek) and of which, no trace now remains, although it was one of the thirty Parishes established in the reign of Queen Anne in 1692. Some of us remember the 250th celebration we had a few years ago.

At the laying out of Baltimore Town, St. Paul's acquired Lot 19, the then highest point in the infant town and became St. Paul's-on-the-Hill.

Those Old Colonials certainly knew how to select the best sites,

as is also shown in the location of St. Thomas' Garrison Forest, and also St. James' up on My Lady's Manor.

We must try and live again in those times for the moment, for Baltimore was then so small that the records show it had a fence around it, as recorded in the transactions of the Town Commissioners, in which these items occur:

Monday, March 9th, 1752: "Whereas many rails which fenced in the town have been taken away and destroyed, the Commissioners do therefore Order the Clerk to make inquiry whether any person can inform them who is the offender and can prove it on them, particularly the Rev. Thomas Chase, Dr. John Stevenson, Mr. William Payne and Sarah Walker, the Commissioners having heard they were seen to take them away." (The Rev. Thomas Chase was the Rector of St. Paul's.)

But at the meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 1752 we read: "As many of the rails which fenced in the town have been taken away and destroyed, it rendered the remainder useless. The Commissioners

therefore disposed of them to Mr. Nicholas Rogers at the rate of 5 pounds 10 shillings currency per thousand and ordered the Clerk to deliver them the next morning."

As this occurred in 1752, if any have seen or possess a copy of the picture "Baltimore in 1752," it will give an idea how primitive things were in that day. There was this picture in my home and I had an enlarged photo. made of that portion of it showing St. Paul's in that far-off time. This picture was, of course, but a drawing, for photography was yet unborn. The town had but few houses and one could look over green fields to the water.

There was then a street known as Long Street, which became Market Street and in turn the present Baltimore Street; and also one with the poetic name of Lovely Lane.

The streets were not paved and with probably street lamps of whale oil. There was the night watchman with his big wooden rattle and who on his rounds called out the hours. Candles lighted the homes. Street cars were unknown and the rail road was yet a dream;

while periwigs and knee breeches and large shoe buckles were no doubt the apparel of that day.

The 2nd St. Paul's - but first on the hill - begun in 1731 and finished in 1739, stood in the centre of the block of what is now Charles, Saratoga, St. Paul and Lexington Streets, with its graveyard all around it. It had a bell-tower atop, but which was saved in tearing down this building - to be used as a detached bell-tower for the 3rd St. Paul's - begun in 1779 (and finished in 1784.)

When this new Church was built, it fronted on what was afterward called New Church Street, then so named - we presume - in honor of the new Church, but which subsequently became Lexington Street.

This bell, in addition to calling to service was evidently used at other times, for I have a photostat of the original "Bill for the tolling of St. Paul's bell" and also one for the Presbyterian Church in connection with a parade and memorial service for the death of Washington; but as the sexton of each Church signed the receipt, we must not hold either Church with anything mercenary

nor unpatriotic.

But now comes what seems the apparent shortsightedness of our forbears. There may have been good reasons for so doing, but the 3rd St. Paul's while again doomed to be torn down, remained until the building of the 4th St. Paul's; (begun in 1814 and consecrated in 1817.) The square containing the graveyard was then sold, with only a corner portion of the lot left for the erection of that building, which stood until burned in 1854, but replaced on the same site by the present edifice, completed and consecrated in 1856.

In 1800 the present St. Paul's cemetery was acquired - then some distance in the country - but now Fremont and Redwood Streets; the bodies disturbed and removed to that place. My ! what a show place and breathing spot the square would now be with its surrounding God's Acre, and in keeping with - say Trinity, New York.

However much our architectural ideas may differ, it seems the previous building was far more picturesque with its steeple showing the three orders of architecture - Doric, Ionic and Corinthian -

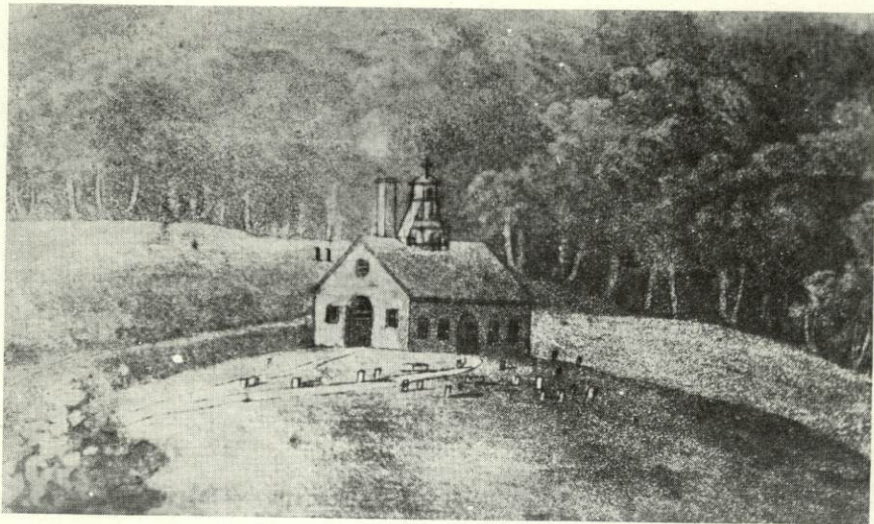
together with its bell, which rang out for service and at other times.

The present building has seen many notable visitors and occasions. We might mention that General Robert E. Lee once attended service. At another time we were honored by the Archbishop of York (Dr. Lang) later becoming Archbishop of Canterbury.

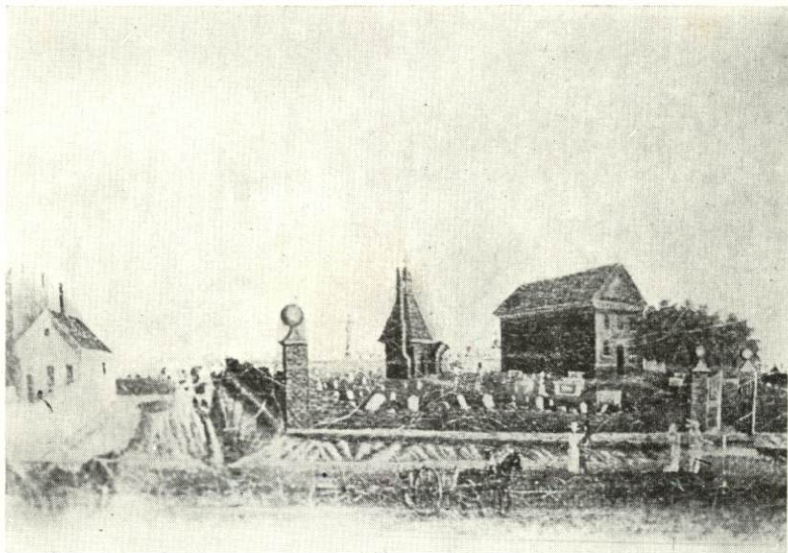
We have had memorial services at the death of Queen Victoria, Edward VII and George V.

There are no doubt other interesting instances in the romance of Old Saint Paul's, but it would take one more competent to properly tell the full story, even if sufficient material were available, though realizing this age is mostly intolerant of any appeal to a would-be-forgotten time.


Thomas R. Herring,
August, 1946.



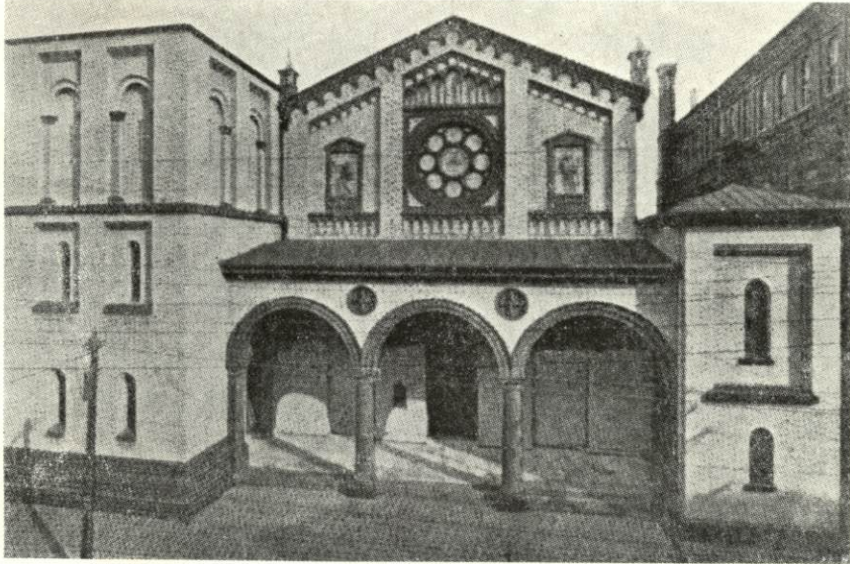
2nd St. Paul's- but 1st on the Hill.
Begun in 1731- finished in 1739.



3rd St. Paul's- Begun in 1779
Finished in 1784.



4th St. Paul's: Begun in 1814
finished and consecrated in 1817.
Burned in 1854, but replaced by
present edifice; completed and
consecrated in 1856.



The present St. Paul's. 1856 to-