
BILL OF RIGHTS MUSEUM
at Saint Paul's National Historic Site

Mount Vernon, New York

Historical Time Line

1642

One of Westchester's first European settlers Anne Hutchinson, a pioneer for religious freedom, and her family flee persecution in Boston then Providence to a site in New Netherland near present-day St. Paul's.

1665

The original Eastchester parish (Presbyterian) is established.

1692

The first recorded Church/Meeting House is constructed north of the present structure at the location of the memorial flag pole.

1702

Lord Cornbury, Governor of the British province of New York, declares all church edifices belong to the Church of England. Parishioners here peacefully resist the decree.

1706

Reverend John Bartow commences regular Church of England services after successfully converting enough parishioners to the Episcopal faith.

1733

The Great Election of 1733 is held on the Village Green on Oct. 29th. John Peter Zenger's published account, and subsequent articles, lead to his trial (Aug. 4, 1735) and free press in the Bill of Rights.

1758

The Freedom Bell is presented by Rev. Thomas Standard. It is the "twin sister" of the Liberty Bell because they were cast in London's Whitechapel Bell Foundry at the same time.

1758

A militia company is organized, during the French and Indian War, to defend Eastchester. Its four officers worshipped here and three are buried in the Churchyard: Thomas Pinkney, William Pinkney and Daniel Searing.

1763

Construction of present edifice begins. It's made of local fieldstone and timber. Shells from Eastchester Creek, sand from a Churchyard pit and lime from Long Island are mixed to make mortar.

1775

The Freedom Bell is buried with important items inside, by order of General Washington, to prevent it from being melted into ammunition.

1776

On October 18th, the Battle of Pell's Point is fought. Colonial troops, the Marblehead Mariners, delay advancing Hessians who use the Church as a hospital. Many Hessians are buried in a mass grave here.

1787

Completed Church is used during the week as a Court of Oyer and Terminer (to try serious crimes). Aaron Burr practices here. It is the oldest extant courthouse in Westchester County.

1790

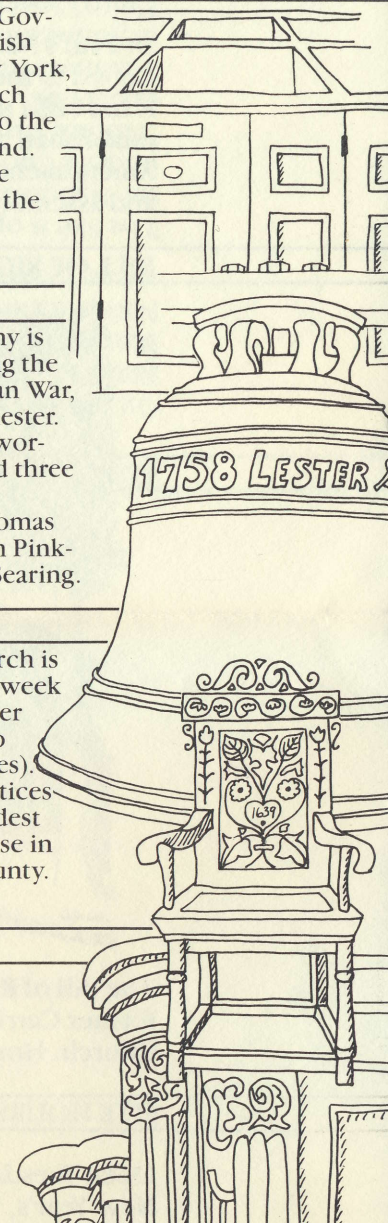
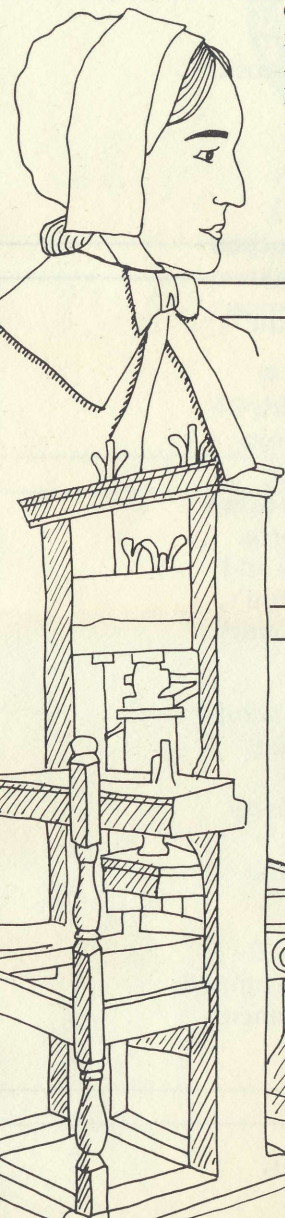
Among the pewholders listed in parish records are the Pells, Van Cortlandts, Pinkneys, Bartows, Wards, Vallentines, Morgans, Drakes, Fowlers, Guions, Webbs, Underhills, Rapeljays, Honeywills and Roosevelts.

1791

On December 15th, the Bill of Rights is ratified by the First Session of Congress.

1797

President John Adams and his wife, Abigail, attend services here when he moves the White House to Eastchester near St. Paul's, during a yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia.



THE
New-York Weekly JOURNAL

1723
Mr. Zanger,



1825

General Lafayette visits grave of his friend Col. Philip Pell III, Judge Advocate to General Washington.

1833

An organ built by Henry Erben, of New York City, is presented by parishioner George Rapeljay. It is one of the oldest working organs in the country.

1848

Four Wooden Prayer Tablets are presented in honor of Elizabeth Bayley Seton, who later became the first native-born American, Roman Catholic Saint.

1931

A ten year restoration of the Church to its original colonial appearance is begun by Honorary Chairman Sara Delano Roosevelt, mother of Franklin D. Roosevelt—a descendant of an original pewholder.

1942

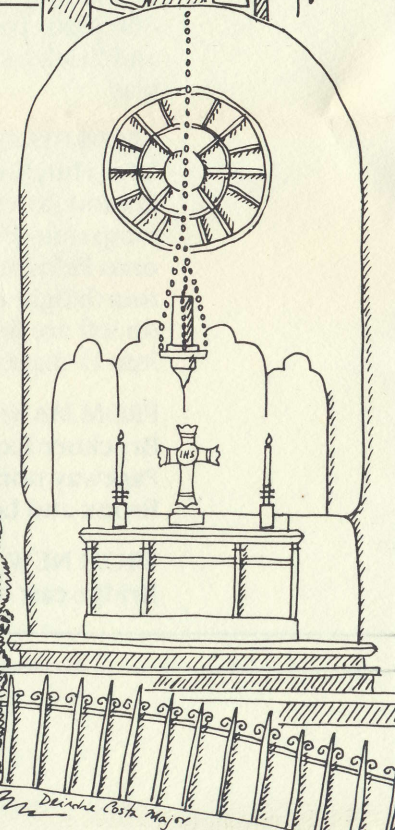
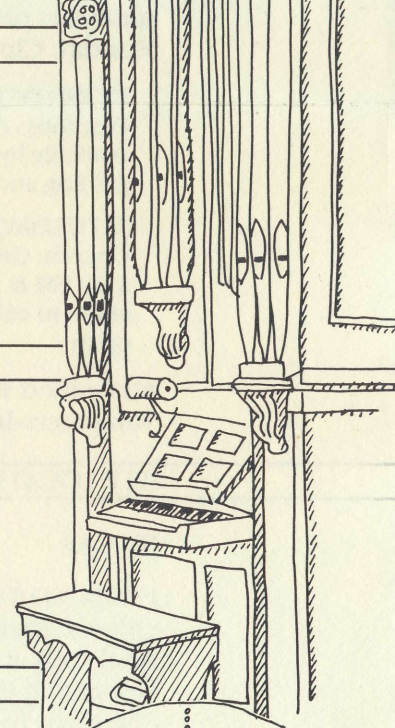
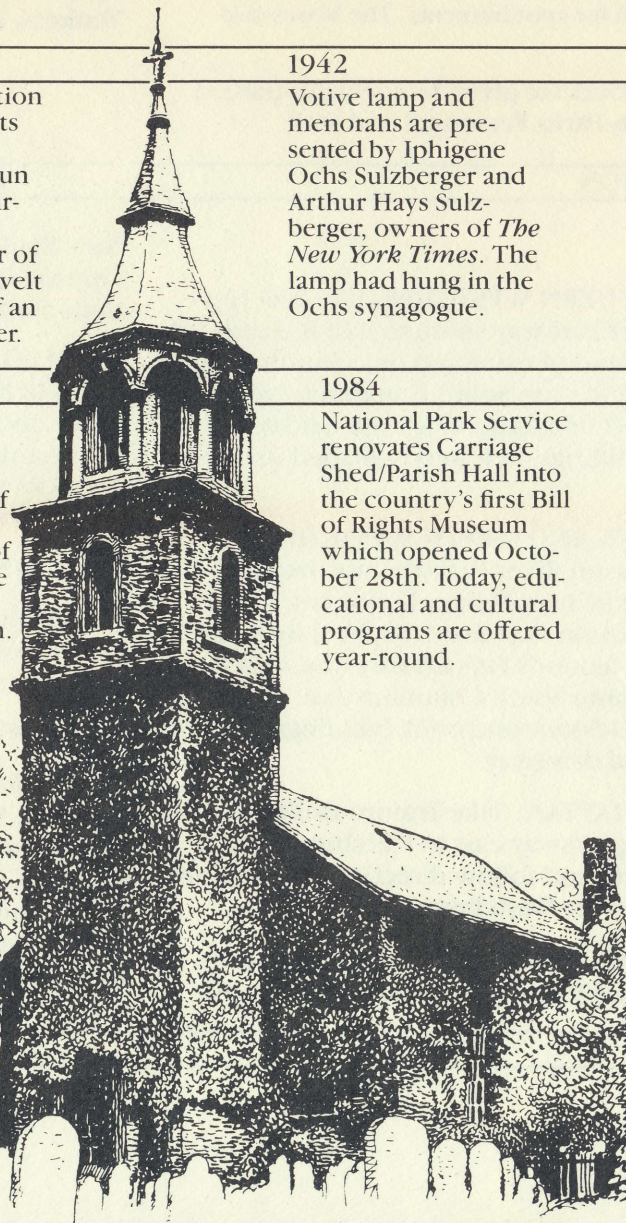
Votive lamp and menorahs are presented by Iphigene Ochs Sulzberger and Arthur Hays Sulzberger, owners of *The New York Times*. The lamp had hung in the Ochs synagogue.

1980

The National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior, assumes ownership of St. Paul's through the generous donations of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and the City of Mount Vernon.

1984

National Park Service renovates Carriage Shed/Parish Hall into the country's first Bill of Rights Museum which opened October 28th. Today, educational and cultural programs are offered year-round.



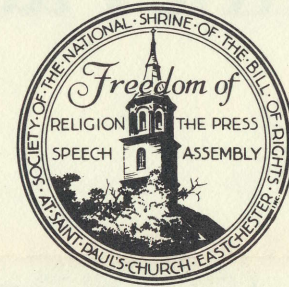
Debra Costa Major

ADMINISTRATION

On July 5, 1943, St. Paul's was declared a National Historic Site by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. The Site became part of the National Park Service in 1980. Church services are no longer held at St. Paul's.

The Site is operated by the non-profit Society of the National Shrine of the Bill of Rights, Inc., under a Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service. All contributions are tax-deductible. The Society is composed of representatives from historic, civic and religious organizations. The National Park Service, of the United States Department of the Interior, is responsible for the preservation of natural and historic resources. A Volunteers-In-Parks program enables the community to participate in Site functions. The ten member organizations of

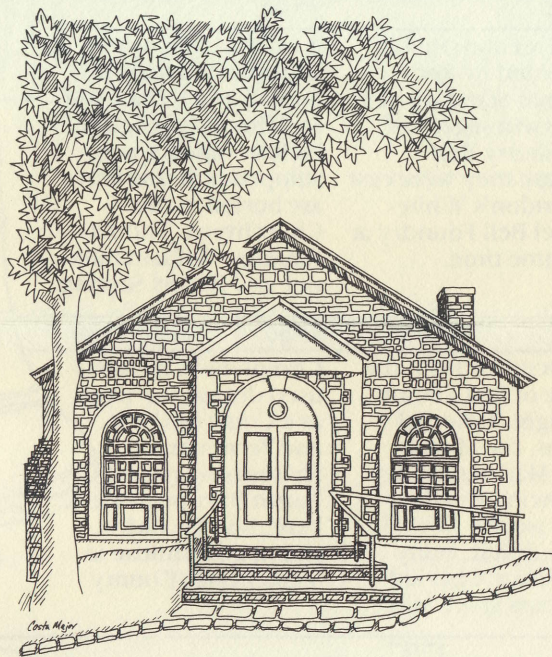
the Society are: Bronx County Historical Society, City of Mount Vernon, Eastchester Historical Society, Episcopal Diocese of New York, Huguenot-Thomas Paine Historical Association, Interfaith Clergy of Mount Vernon, International Garden Club, Pelham Historical Society, Steuben Society of America and Westchester County Historical Society.



YOUR VISIT

St. Paul's National Historic Site is intimately connected to the development of the Bill of Rights. It has been the setting of historical events which established an early foundation for the First Amendment freedoms of religion, speech, press and assembly.

Free guided tours of the restored colonial St. Paul's Church, the Village Green and Historic Churchyard Cemetery are available.



The Bill of Rights Museum is located in the former Carriage Shed/Parish Hall adjacent to the Church. Horse rings that early parishioners used

to tie up their horses are still embedded in the wall.

Exhibits include a working replica of an 18th Century printing press and hand-crafted dioramas about Zenger and his trial. A Legislative Journal from the First Session of Congress shows the Bill of Rights in its original 12 article form. Also on display are artifacts, pictures, maps and text panels which cover the history of St. Paul's, the American Revolution in Westchester County, early Westchester history and Zenger.

The Museum Shop offers to both adults and children a fine collection of books and pamphlets on early American and Westchester history. There are reproduction colonial toys and documents as well as notepaper, postcards and a limited edition stamp cachet commemorating St. Paul's history.

The new Museum is completely handicapped-accessible including limited parking. Handicapped-access to other Site areas are under development. Call for details.

SITE HOURS AND TOUR INFORMATION

Open Tuesday through Saturday all year except New Year's, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Saturdays prior to federal holidays that fall on Monday. Closed Sunday and Monday.

TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 9AM-5PM:

Free tours of Church, Grounds and Cemetery are available by appointment. The Museum tour is self-guiding and is also available by appointment.

SATURDAY, 12 NOON-4 PM: Free tours of Church, Grounds and Cemetery at 12:30 PM, 1:30 PM & 2:30 PM. Groups over 5 persons are asked to call for appointments. The Museum is open.

All Guided Tours are given by specially-trained Volunteers-In-Parks Personnel and Staff.

Guided Student Group Tours for grade levels 4th-graduate are available by appointment. School Group Tours up to 30 students are preferable. Tour takes place both indoors and out. Appropriate dress and shoes are recommended.

For appointments, please call (914) 667-4116. Phone answered electronically when Site is closed. Mailing address: ST. PAUL'S NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, 897 South Columbus Ave., Mount Vernon, NY 10550-5018. Overnight accommodations available in New Rochelle, Yonkers, Larchmont and Mamaroneck.

SITE LOCATION

BY CAR:

FROM NORTHERN WESTCHESTER: Take Hutchinson River Parkway south to Exit 8, Sandford Blvd. Left at end of exit ramp onto Sandford Blvd. Left at first light onto South Columbus Avenue. 300 yards past first light on left are fieldstone and brick buildings. Left into U-shaped driveway.

FROM BRONX AND LOWER WESTCHESTER: Take Hutchinson River Parkway north to Exit 7, Boston Road/Pelham Manor. Left at end of exit ramp onto Boston Post Road. Right at first light onto Pelham Manor's Pelham Parkway. Left at fourth light onto South Columbus Ave. 300 yards on left are fieldstone and brick buildings. Left into U-shaped driveway.

FROM MANHATTAN: Take Triboro Bridge to Bruckner Expressway east to Hutchinson River Parkway north and follow directions above from Bronx and Lower Westchester.

FROM NEW JERSEY: Take George Washington Bridge east to Cross Bronx Expressway east to

New England Thruway, Route 95 North to Hutchinson River Parkway north and follow directions above from Bronx and Lower Westchester.

FROM LONG ISLAND: Take Throgs Neck Bridge north to New England Thruway, Route 95 North to Hutchinson River Parkway north (or take Whitestone Bridge north to Hutchinson River Parkway north) and follow directions above from Bronx and Lower Westchester.

BY TRAIN:

FROM GRAND CENTRAL STATION: Take Metro-North New Haven Line to Mount Vernon stop. Take taxi to Site.

BY SUBWAY & BUS:

Take Uptown IRT No. 5 to last stop, Dyre Ave. Take No. 55 bus at corner of Dyre Ave. and Light St. Bus stop marked with blue and white Westchester County Dept. of Trans. sign. Bus passes by St. Paul's. Ask driver. Schedule varies. Call Westchester County Transit at (914) 682-2020 for more information.