



Exploring Early American History at Saint Paul's

A 13 Point Self-Guided Tour of Historic Cemetery and Village Green

This is a self-guided tour of the historic cemetery and Village Green at Saint Paul's Church National Historic Site. It takes approximately 45 minutes. The tour covers the early history of Westchester County and of America, with an emphasis on the colonial and Revolutionary periods. The points are marked by 13-star American flags. The map on the reverse side will assist in locating the points. **The tour begins at the flagpole on the Village Green.**



1 This is a remnant of the **Village Green** of the Town of Eastchester, founded in 1665. The Green was the site of an important election for a seat in the General Assembly of the colony of New York on October 29, 1733 between Lewis Morris, a former Chief Justice of the province, and County clerk William Forster, favored by New York's Royal Governor, William Cosby. In an effort to help Forster, the Cosby-appointed sheriff supervising the election disqualified Lewis's Quaker supporters by requiring them to swear an oath on the Bible that they owned sufficient property to qualify as voters, realizing Quaker religious beliefs prohibited such oaths. Even without the Quaker votes, Morris easily won the election. But a year later, in direct response, the legislature passed a law giving Quakers the right to affirm rather than swear on public occasions, an important milestone in the development of religious freedom in the colonies.

2 The original settlers of the town in the 1660s were Puritans, dissenters opposed to the official (Anglican) Church of England. But they were forced to accept the Anglican church in the early 1700s as part of the English attempt to strengthen colonial administration. Buried beneath the church is **The Rev. Thomas Standard**, who served as Anglican rector from 1727 to 1760. Originally buried beneath the first church on the property, about 40 yards west of this structure, Rev. Standard was re-interred here in the early 1800s. In 1758, Rev. Standard presented the congregation with a bronze bell. Like the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, it was cast at the Whitechapel Foundry in London. The bell hung in the belfry of the first church until the Revolutionary War, when it was hidden to prevent possible destruction for military purposes. After the war it was installed in the tower of this church.

3 **Samuel Treadwell Pell** was an officer in the American Army during the Revolutionary War, and his postwar life was deeply affected by the political divisions of the Revolution. Pell enlisted in the Continental Army in June 1775 and was part of the unsuccessful campaign to capture Canada. In 1777 he distinguished himself in the Battle of Saratoga, a major American victory and turning point in the war. After the war, he returned to Eastchester where he tried to resume a normal life, but without success. According to local tradition, his fiancée and cousin, Mary Pell, a Loyalist, refused to marry him, declaring she would not allow someone "who had the scent of a rebel" near her. Pell's finely carved sandstone grave marker includes the Trophy of Arms at the top and an allusion to Mars (the Roman God of War), in the epitaph.

4 The tombstones of **Elizabeth Wright** and her children shed light on religion and life expectancy in colonial Eastchester. Protestants believed that salvation could not be guaranteed by good deeds, and that life was unpredictable, with death always lurking around the corner. These themes are represented by the skull and crossbones and the (partially obscured) words "Remember To Die." The epitaph also reflects this message: "Mortals be wise, improve ye day/While vital spirits animate ye clay." Contagious diseases, the primitive state of medicine, local conflicts and colonial wars combined to make life expectancy brief in the 18th century. Elizabeth died at age 34, shortly after her two sons, who are buried in a common grave at right, had died at ages 10 and eight months.

5 Remarriage upon the death of a spouse was common in colonial America because economic survival often depended upon the participation of both husband and wife. The stones of his two wives flank **Caleb Morgan's** tombstone. After Abigail died at age 54, Caleb married Isabella, who was a widow. English common law provided that a husband acquire the property of a woman upon marriage, revealed in Caleb's will leaving Isabella "all the furniture which is remained of what she brought with her at the time of our marriage." Widows retained control of 1/3 of their husband's property unless they remarried. The cherubs on the stones of Abigail and Caleb, representing the soul in heaven, also reflect the influence of the Great Awakening, a popular religious movement of the 1740s that emphasized a more emotional form of worship and assurances of salvation.

6 **Edmund Ward's** life during the Revolutionary War is reflective of the experience of many lower New York Loyalists. A large landowner in Eastchester, he sided with the Crown and was imprisoned in White Plains in 1776. Later banished and confined in Massachusetts, he escaped and fled to New York City, the headquarters of the British army, where he spent most of the war. The property on his estate was confiscated in 1777, although his wife Phoebe (gravestone at left) and children were permitted to remain on the land, perhaps because his younger brother Stephen (also buried at St. Paul's) was the local confiscation officer. But in 1783, the remainder of the estate was seized. Part of it was sold at auction to raise money for the state, and a segment was given as a gift of appreciation to David Williams, one of the captors of British spy John Andre' in 1780. The Ward family became refugees and like many Loyalists moved to Nova Scotia, a British possession. Edmund and Phoebe returned to Eastchester prior to their deaths in the early 1800s.

7 The **Fowler family tomb** reveals divisions over the American Revolution. Theodosius Fowler (see footstone) joined the American army as an Ensign in early 1776, and recruited for the Patriot cause on the Eastchester Village Green. This disturbed his father Jonathan (also interred here), who was a judge, former militia leader and leading citizen of the town. A Loyalist, Jonathan fled during the war to Nova Scotia. Theodosius, who was eventually promoted to captain, fought in several major battles, including the Battle of Long Island in 1776, the critical Battle of Saratoga in 1777, and the Battle of Monmouth (NJ). In September 1781, Fowler, in command of the Light Infantry company of the 2nd New York Regiment, was ordered down to the Yorktown, Virginia peninsula, where he participated in the final siege that forced the surrender of Lord Cornwallis's British army, effectively ending the Revolutionary War.

8 **Jeremiah Fowler**, who died in 1724, is representative of the economic life of colonial America, which was largely agricultural, but included trades. As a farmer, Fowler would have cultivated such subsistence crops as hay, wheat, corn, rye, buckwheat and flax. As a carpenter, Fowler would have built barns and houses. He was probably paid through goods or services--hard money was rarely used in such transactions. The inscription on his fieldstone grave marker--simply the initials JF--reflects the size of Eastchester, since that would have been enough to identify him in a town of about 350 people.

9 **Thomas Pinkney** was a son of Phillip Pinkney, one of the founders of the town, who drew up the 26-point Eastchester Covenant upon emigrating from Fairfield, Connecticut in 1665. This was a method of developing civil and religious community life among New Englanders who were Congregationalists and Presbyterians. The Covenant required residents to live a life of Christian love and public honesty and to maintain a "good fence about all his arable land." Thomas worshipped in the first church at Eastchester, actually a small wooden meetinghouse completed about 1700 and located near this spot. Following English custom, he was buried behind the church.

10 **Will Pinkney**, who died in 1755, was a captain of the Eastchester militia, which was created in the 1670s primarily because of conflicts with local natives. The militia, which drilled on the Village Green, included all able-bodied white men, ages 16 to 60. Members of the militia also fought alongside the English army in the colonial wars, conflicts between England and France for supremacy in what became eastern Canada and the northeastern United States. Captain Pinkney fought in Queen Anne's War or King George's War.

11 New York had more slavery than any other northern colony. New York's merchants were heavily involved in the slave trade and the colony's restrictive land policy discouraged settlement by free laborers. Until bondage was abolished in New York State in 1827, enslaved Africans, or "servants," represented 10 to 15-percent of Eastchester's population, including **Thomas**. They were used as farm hands, domestic servants, and as apprentices to craftsmen. To the right, and behind you, are the partially legible stones of two former slaves, Hannah and Nathaniel Franklin, who took the last name of their master, Gloriana Franklin. Upon her death in 1824, Gloriana freed them, leaving them \$750 to buy a farm.

12 During the Revolutionary War, the British hired soldiers from the German state of Hesse-Cassel to help fight the Americans. The **Hessians** accounted for most of the 4,000-man British force which fought the Patriots in the nearby Battle of Pell's Point, October 18, 1776. This was an important engagement in which the English tried to cut off George Washington's army, which was retreating from northern Manhattan to White Plains, following a series of defeats around New York City. Skillfully led by Colonel John Glover, the American force of 750 Massachusetts troops held off the much larger British army long enough to allow Washington to complete his movement. After the fighting, wounded and sick soldiers of the Hessian Regiment von Knyphausen took shelter in the half-completed church, dismantling the first church for firewood. At least five Hessian privates who died of illness were buried at this spot, a sandpit used to make mortar for the construction of the church.

13 During the Revolutionary War, New York City was the headquarters of British operations. St. Paul's was just north of the perimeter of English defenses and just south of American encampments in northern Westchester County. As a result, this "neutral ground" was a no man's land, with no governmental authority controlling it. Many civilians fled to safer ground, and those who remained were subject to frequent foraging raids from Loyalist parties based in southern Westchester County and occasionally from American units as well. In one such attack on March 16, 1777, the British surprised an American foraging party stationed at the Eastchester house of Stephen Ward, who was in charge of obtaining supplies for the American Army and seizing Loyalist property. Several **Americans** were killed. They were buried near the road, and the skeletons were removed to this spot in the early 20th century.

Saint Paul's Church

National Historic Site
 Manhattan Sites
 National Park Service
 U.S. Department of the Interior

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1 Village Green



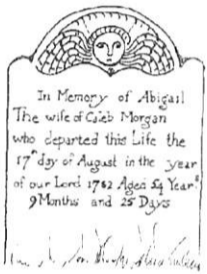
2 Rev. Thomas Standard



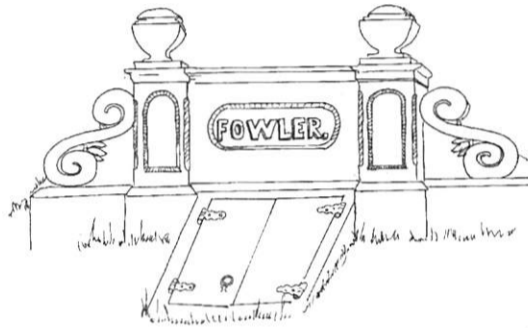
3 Samuel T. Pell



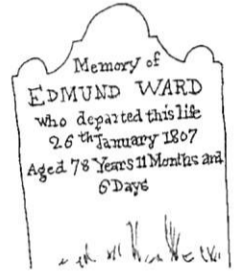
4 Elizabeth Wright



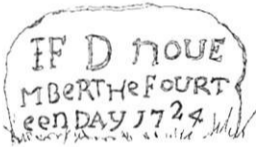
5 Morgan Family



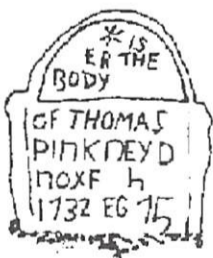
7 Fowler Family Tomb



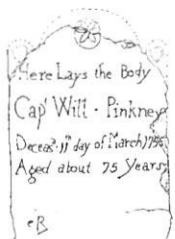
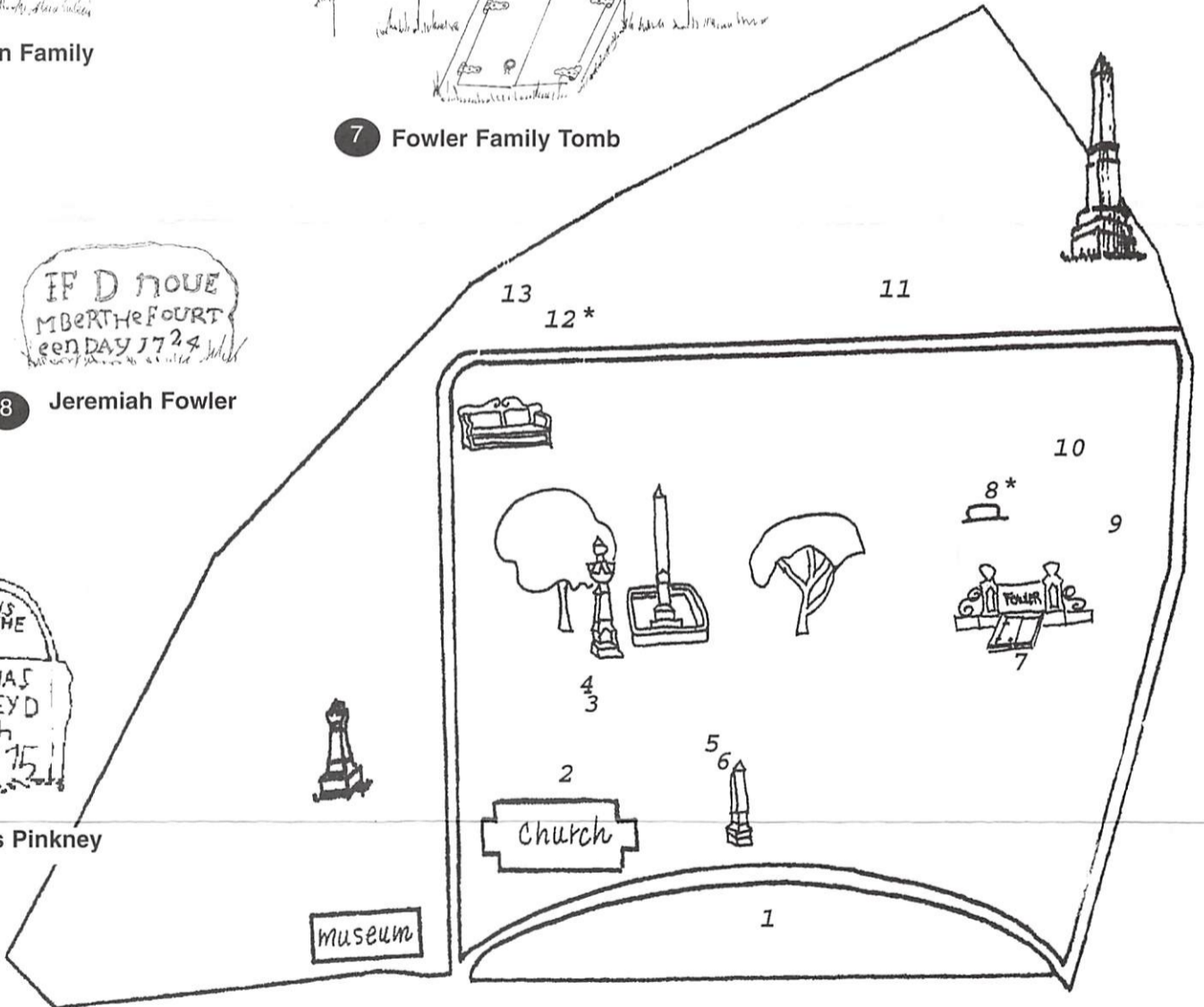
6 Edmund Ward



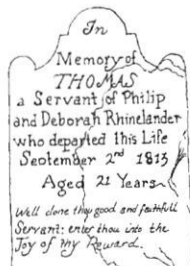
8 Jeremiah Fowler



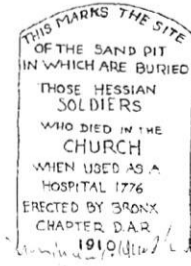
9 Thomas Pinkney



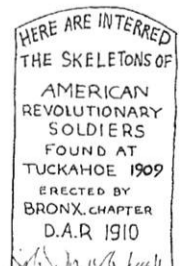
10 Will Pinkney



11 Thomas



12 Hessians



13 Americans

*The inscriptions on these stones face the back of the cemetery.