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ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BATH, N.C.

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**ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BATH, NORTH CAROLINA
1734**

The Shrine Of St. Thomas

(With Permission)

*The fathers might have raised a shaft,
Of bronze or brass or stone;
With every name cut deep and large,
That all men might be shown,
Who settled here and owned the soil,
And manned the halls of state;
They might have built a monument,
Proclaiming they were great.*

*The fathers might have anchored here,
A shrine to fame and sword;
But better still, they builded well,
A temple of the Lord.*

*They majored faith and courage here,
And pledged the twain their troth,
And every brick is sacred to
The memory of both.*

*Aye, every brick and board and beam,
Through years that are to be;
Will be a monument to faith,
And stalwart piety;
And pilgrim bands from near and far,
Will follow trail and path,
To where their sires put first things first,
St. Thomas Shrine at Bath.*

Rector Emeritus—Alex C. D. Noe.

A GUIDE FOR THE VISITOR

As you stand in the church yard, look at the pile of stones which were brought in as ballast by the old sail ships and thrown into Bath Creek. They were recovered for the purpose of building a wall around the Church property, and a future Colonial Garden.

The Glebe House, or Rectory, was built in Bath in 1762, and was the only one ever erected in Colonial North Carolina. It was adjacent to the Church, on a Glebe of 300 acres, and the house now in front of the Church, looking toward Bath Creek, is presumed to be the original one. It is now being restored. It has lovely mantles, interesting floors and woodwork, and wide boards in the breezeway.

Follow the walk to the Church and raise your eyes to the marker over the doorway, which tells you that St. Thomas was built in 1734. On either side are markers in memory of John Lawson, Joel Martin, Simon Alderson and Thomas Boyd—the founders of Bath.

Please stop and examine the old brick walls, two feet thick at the base, and of Flemish-Bond workmanship. The brick were brought from England and the mortar is of oyster-shell lime.

As you enter the building, please remember that we entrust our Church to your reverent care, and ask that you proceed quietly, remembering always that St. Thomas is an active Church, continuing to further Christ's work.

Under your feet are the original English tile, under which are the graves of many early settlers. Until a short while ago the tile was laid in sand, presumably to make it easier to bury the dead. The story goes that the early Church people did this to protect their loved

ones from the Indians; but more likely it was to follow the English custom.

You will observe that the wood in the pews is very old and perhaps they are the original with some change in form.

About midway the Nave of the Church, you will observe a large beam. This is one of the original beams, and for a number of years was the only one to support the wall. Farther down the Nave, to the left, in a glass case is an interesting old Bible, printed in England in 1703. It is one of the oldest in the State, and was presented to the Vestry of St. Thomas by Captain Samuel Ashe, in memory of his ancestors, who were prominent members of the Parish when they lived in Bath. It is a Church Bible, and in all probability was used in Church services when they were being held in the homes before the present building was erected.

Look toward the Altar on your left. There is a tablet in memory of Mrs. Margaret Palmer, wife of Robert Palmer, Surveyor-General for the Province, which describes in detail the long and patient suffering of the deceased, who was buried under the chancel in 1765.

The first Rector of the new Church, was the Reverend John Garzia, who came from Virginia in 1733 and remained until his death. It was to him that the Bishop of London gave the communion service, the Chalice of which is still in the possession of the Parish.

Mr. Garzia was succeeded by the Reverend Alexander Stewart of Scotland, who according to tradition is buried under the right side of the chancel.

As you turn to go back down the aisle of the Church, look up at the gallery which is a restoration of the one used by the slaves.

Standing in the Nave, look out the window on your left and get a view of the "Queen Anne Bell," in the small belfry adjacent to the Church. The bell was purchased with Queen Anne's Bounty, a fund established by her for the purpose of Church furnishings and charity. Queen Anne's Bounty is still in existence in England, testimony to the piety of Queen Anne who established the fund in 1704. "The Queen Anne Bell," as it is called, bears the inscription "Cast in England in 1732—Recast in New York in 1872," making the bell 21 years older than the Liberty Bell, which was cast in 1753.

St. Thomas Church is also in possession of a pair of three-branched Sheffield candelabra given to the Parish by King George II of England.

Before you leave the Church, sit and rest in the quiet and remember us in your prayers.

As you leave, please sign the register. We will appreciate an offering to aid us in the continuance of our work, and the preservation of St. Thomas.

THE VESTRY OF ST. THOMAS

The Reverend Stanleigh Jenkins, Rector
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