



# ST. LUKE'S

## HISTORIC CHURCH & MUSEUM

Volume 8 | Spring 2021

## ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE “OLD BRICK”: A New Look at Past Discoveries

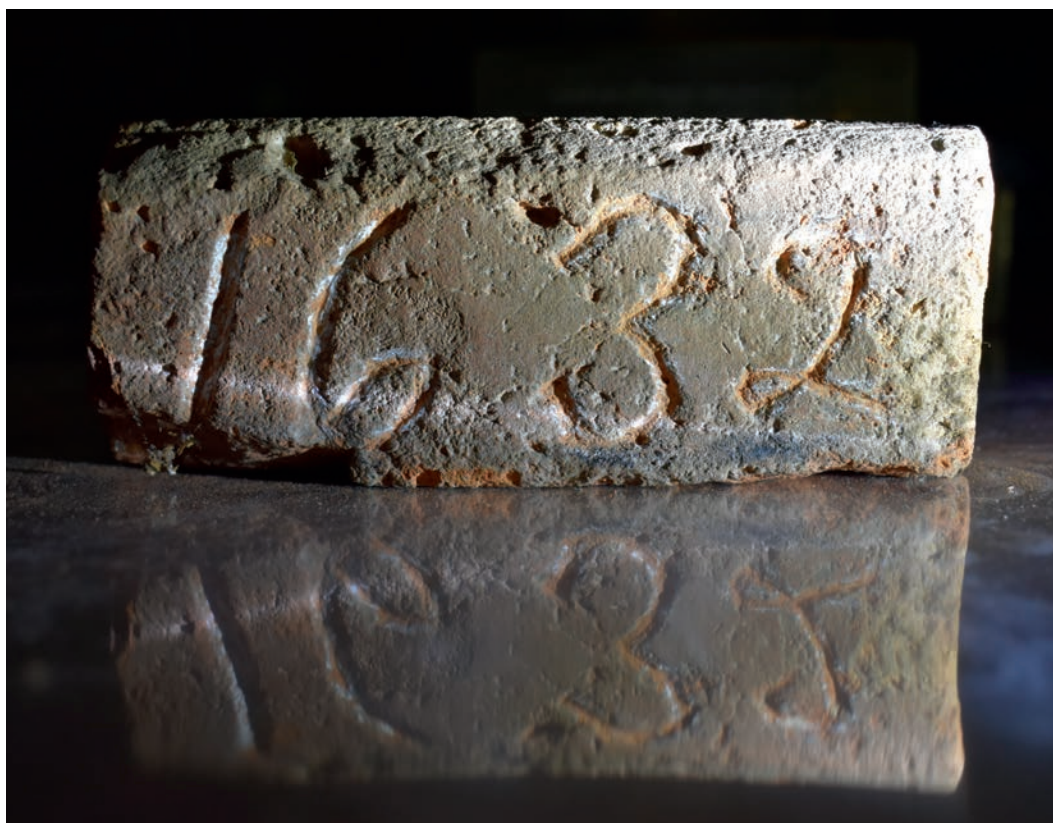
By Alain C. Outlaw, Principal Archaeologist, Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc.  
and Historic St. Luke's Restoration Advisory Council Member

A restoration/stabilization project in 2007 brought to light new subsurface clues to the church and grounds of St. Luke's (Old Brick Church, an earlier designation). A drainage ditch needed to protect the foundations, beginning at the northwest corner of the church and headed north into the creek dividing the old and new cemeteries, revealed ten unmarked graves dating c.1770 - 1815 and c.1830 - 1860 during an investigation project I oversaw in 2007.

This investigation yielded important interpretive (burial practices and skeletal data on the decedents) and practical management (location and depth of graves) information. Aside from providing a small demographic profile of the community, the excavations indicated that the graves were only three to five feet deep and were certainly not “six feet under” as is commonly thought. Moreover, with the earliest marked grave at St. Luke's (James Easson) dated 1767, over 80 years of cemetery use is unaccounted for around the church. Finally, a stone Morrow Mountain projectile point (4500 B.C.) and later pottery are reminders of the presence of Native Americans on the property in the distant past.

Grave found in 2007 drainage ditch. Unknown white female, 40 - 45 years of age, buried c.1770 - 1817.

Note: Ground level (below bottom scale); grave shaft (total depth 2.9'); coffin outline; skeletal remains. Scale in tenths of feet.



Original brick reduced to 25% of former size by sawing, and inscribed with the date 1632.



Also in 2007, I excavated the relocated (in 1894) Joseph Bridger grave beneath the floor of the church for the Bridger Family Association, which encouraged the ongoing Historic St. Luke's Restoration explorations at the nearby Bridger plantation called “Whitemarsh,” the original burial site (1686). This investigation of the remains was carefully planned to not disturb the polished gravestone, now turned black by the shoe soles of the visiting souls

who have passed through the church for over a century. As it soon became evident, the once rounded edges of the dull gray limestone ledger did not suit installation into the floor, so a convenient groove surrounding the inscription was used to chisel off the outer two inches of the stone. Access to the small brick crypt containing the bones was gained by removing a small section of the brick tile floor, concrete, and a brick wall along the north edge of the stone. Sadly, less than 20% of the skeleton was present and larger bones were deliberately



Principal Archaeologist Alain C. Outlaw excavating Joseph Bridger grave in chancel in 2007. Note: Protective cover to control dust (rear); brick tile floor set in concrete; metal heating system pipe bisecting the floor opening.

(Continued on page 2.)



(Continued from front page.)

broken to fit the small crypt under the floor. Nevertheless, renowned Smithsonian Institution Human Osteologist Dr. Douglas W. Owsley was able to conclude, among other findings, that Bridger was afflicted with dental disease, gout, and lead poisoning of seven times today’s average. This data adds to Owsley’s larger study of life and death in Chesapeake Society since Bridger is a known individual of high status. The remains were re-interred under the stone in 2014.

St. Luke’s continues to enrich our knowledge of the past through research and review of its collections, as well. Recently, significant information was gleaned from review of three artifacts that have been curated for many decades. The first find was from a group of objects religiously collected by the Jordan Sisters inside the church building during the 1950s



Jordan Sisters, c. 1955.

Restoration. These artifacts were in an envelope labeled “Jordan sisters interior of church found June 1955.” The second find was located among mostly nondescript modern architectural materials, such as mortar, concrete, and brick fragments. It is a small fragment of turned lead used to hold glass window panes. Upon closer examination, it was found to bear the impressed manufacture date of 1685 on the interior of the channel used to hold the glass. This crucial clue



Turned lead fragment from the 1955 Jordan Sisters Collection, showing unknown makers’ initials “·W·M·” and “·R·D·” flanking the date 1685.

provides physical evidence from inside the church building of when it was completed, based on the installation of the fragile leaded windows. The third artifact was previously enclosed in a wooden reliquary since the 1890s Renovation, preventing closer examination. A recent inspection confirms it is a modified colonial brick, once part of the “bones” of the church, which was altered by sawing away all sides, save one original face with a dark red patina that formed over 200 years, through which the date 1632 was inscribed more recently. The original brick was reduced in size by 75%. A closer look at this enigmatic object clearly indicates that the salmon color of the interior of the brick exposed by the sawing and the color revealed by the inscription were made visible at the same time.



Closer view of the inscription on the original brick reduced to 25% of former size by sawing and inscribed with the date 1632.

St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum continues to research, promote, and maintain the oldest standing church building in Virginia. Fresh looks at existing artifacts and archaeological investigations of both St. Luke’s and related sites, like Colonel Joseph Bridger’s Whitmarsh Plantation, continue to expand our understanding of the history of this “Old Brick Church.” It is only through the long stewardship of many, including present day partners like myself, that we can continue to expertly care for this important piece of history.

**Author Bio: Alain Charles Outlaw**

*As Principal Archaeologist with Archaeological & Cultural Solutions, Inc., President of the Wheatland Foundation, Inc., and Adjunct Professor in the History Department at Christopher Newport University, Alain C. Outlaw has directed multiple projects since 2007 at St. Luke’s Church and at Whitmarsh, the Joseph Bridger plantation. A professional archaeologist for nearly 50 years, he has worked in state government (Commissioner of Archaeology/State Archaeologist for the Commonwealth of Virginia), the Private Sector, and Academia. Among his publications is Governor’s Land: Archaeology of Early Seventeenth Century Settlements (1990 University Press of Virginia).*

# TOWNEBANK FOUNDATION: A Community Partner That Helps Preserve History

The archaeological dig at Whitmarsh Plantation is still going strong and many discoveries are being made. However, an excavation of this size isn’t without its expenses. That’s why St. Luke’s was delighted to learn of the ongoing support of the TowneBank Foundation in January 2021.

When asked why TowneBank Foundation chose to support St. Luke’s, Robyn Leavy, Executive Director responded, “TowneBank Foundation is proud to further support St. Luke’s important cultural exploration and academic findings at the Whitmarsh Plantation Archaeological Project in Isle of Wight County. This most recent commitment of \$150,000 will help to complete the archaeological dig and assist St. Luke’s in telling a more complete story of its

principal benefactor, Colonel Joseph Bridger, who is attributed with financing the majority of the 17<sup>th</sup> century construction of St. Luke’s. We hope that generations of scholars and the visiting public will find the project’s artifacts and stories enlightening and inspirational in telling of our Nation’s founding.”

With the TowneBank Foundation’s support, St. Luke’s staff and volunteers will be able to continue the hard, detailed work of preserving the history and stories that formed St. Luke’s.





# “BEHIND THE TOMBSTONES”

## Early Graves at St. Luke’s

At St. Luke’s, we often receive requests for information on early graves potentially located in the Ancient Cemetery. With our earliest marked (original to here) tombstone identifying a death year of 1767, answering these questions often proves difficult. We know that we have several unmarked graves surrounding the church building but are unable to identify these occupants.



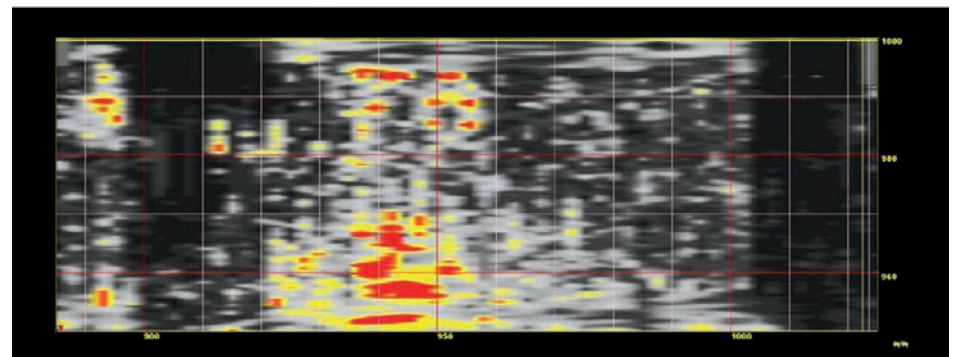
*A team from Jamestown Rediscovery using Ground Penetrating Radar equipment in the Ancient Cemetery behind the exterior of the church building during a recent GPR investigation conducted in October 2020.*

In 2007, as mentioned in our front page article, an archaeological investigation of part of the Ancient Cemetery was completed for a necessary drainage project. During this excavation, 10 unmarked graves were discovered. This confirmed suspicions that there were unmarked graves surrounding the church building. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century and early 18<sup>th</sup> Century, poorly or unmarked graves in a churchyard would not have been unusual. Wealthy landowners living in Isle of Wight County often had family cemeteries located on their private property. Because of this, only those who fell within a lower economic bracket would typically be buried in a churchyard. With fewer funds to put towards expensive and often imported tombstones, poorer members of the Newport Parish would have graves marked with wood that rotted away long ago or nothing at all.

In 2016, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) was used in and around the church building to identify possible unmarked graves

and other areas of potential interest. GPR identifies areas of soil disturbance. This can be particularly sufficient when looking for unmarked graves because of the typical sizes, shape, and East to West orientation of these disturbances. The results of this and subsequent GPR investigations suggest that there are many unmarked graves surrounding the church building.

While these investigations have helped St. Luke’s better understand the extent of our unmarked graves, they have not helped us identify the names of individuals and likely never will. Archaeological investigations are kept to a minimum in what remains an active cemetery out of respect for our past and present occupants and their families. Today, the question remains: Who is buried in the unmarked graves at St. Luke’s?



*An example of Ground Penetrating Radar set to 3 feet below the surface. Pulled from the March 2017 GPR Survey Report of the Ancient Cemetery at St. Luke’s, completed by Archaeologist Clay Swindell and Dr. Malcolm LeCompte.*

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Cemetery Preservation Workshops

Saturday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

May	June	July	August
15	5	24	14

Free Workshops, RSVP Required

Join us for these hands-on workshops where volunteers will learn techniques for cleaning and preserving historic tombstones based on industry best practices. The necessary tools for the workshop will be provided.

An RSVP is required. Please visit our website and fill in the registration form to successfully reserve your spot. Keep in mind that spots are limited and these workshops fill up quickly.

These workshops may be subject to cancellation or change based on the pandemic guidelines and weather forecast.

To learn more about all upcoming events, please follow us on Facebook or check out our calendar of events on our website at [www.stlukesmuseum.org](http://www.stlukesmuseum.org). All RSVP forms and event tickets can be found on our website. Please contact Education Coordinator Rachel Popp via email, [rpopp@stlukesmuseum.org](mailto:rpopp@stlukesmuseum.org), with questions or concerns regarding lectures, workshops, and events.





# TODD TALK: Updates from the St. Luke’s Team



practice government-suggested and required restrictions in efforts to prevent transmitting COVID-19.

Through these operational challenges and to select audiences, we delivered our *17<sup>th</sup> Century Isle of Wight County: A Living History Event*, *Twilight Cemetery Tours*, and *A Day of Remembrance: Honoring Our Veterans* Events. Recently, we hosted our first virtual presentation featuring Nicole Brown and her program, *So Pious an Undertaking: Slavery, Religion, and Virginia’s Bray Schools*, amplifying the African American experience in Colonial Virginia and how religion played a role in their education.

Visitors question a Living Historian about the cheese making process at “17<sup>th</sup> Century Isle of Wight County: A Living History Event,” held annually at St. Luke’s.



We hope to host future virtual presentations and launch new digital initiatives later this year.

Our Building and Grounds Committee, the Cemetery Sales and Services Manager, and our Groundskeepers continue to address maintenance challenges while improving the period-appropriateness, sacredness, and aesthetic of our 43-acre campus. We hope you are enjoying our improvements. Now, as Spring’s warmer days combined with cabin fever inspires us to get out of our homes, we warmly welcome you to return to stroll and picnic with your friends and loved ones.

Although we are presently closed to normal guided tours, we are available for private church building tours via advance reservations. Contact the museum via phone or email to schedule your tour. Please also stay tuned on Facebook and our website for upcoming operational announcements, events, and the latest goings on. Stay safe, and we look forward to seeing you soon.



View of the east side of St. Luke’s Historic Church from the Ancient Cemetery.



St. Luke’s Historic Church & Museum staff find creative places to work while the office is closed.

## A SIGN OF OUR TIMES: Smaller Weddings Are In Vogue

Now more than ever, there are many factors to consider when planning a wedding, especially as couples adapt to fit pandemic restrictions. St. Luke’s is a perfect venue for a small intimate ceremony. Located in Smithfield, Virginia, our historic colonial church building is a beautiful backdrop for a “minimony,” aka a tiny wedding ceremony. A microwedding is a scaled-down affair with fewer than 50 guests, while a minimony is restricted to 10 guests. Intimate ceremonies are often accompanied by a plan for a larger party later. Gathering restrictions continue to limit the number of people allowed; therefore, we recommend you contact us for the latest information regarding gathering limitations.



Couple exchange vows inside the church building during a small ceremony.

If you plan a small event, you may not be able to invite everyone to share the day with you. Pare down the guest list to close family and friends. Keep in mind that many people are not traveling right now. You can even create a video event or share the photos online, complete with a stunning invitation.

Even when we do not have to worry about masks and social distancing, many couples elect to invite a smaller group for the ceremony (due to space restrictions) and invite a larger group of people to the reception. This is a great way to keep your wedding intimate, yet still celebrate with friends and family.

Fewer guests equal less money spent. Use those savings to splurge on your dream photographer/videographer, get over-the-top flowers, and deck out a tent for a reception with dazzling decor!

If you’re looking for a small wedding venue in Coastal Virginia, look no further than St. Luke’s. You’ll find our historic charm an elegant backdrop for your wedding ceremony.

For more information, please visit our website, [stlukesmuseum.org](http://stlukesmuseum.org), or contact our Sales & Services Manager, Fred Hodges, by phone at (757) 357-3367, or by email at [fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org](mailto:fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org).



# THE BRIDGER FAMILY IS FOREVER

Over the past year, St. Luke’s has been working with the Bridger Family Association to create a perpetually-functioning legacy fund. The Bridger Family Association (BFA) stepped up and committed to beginning an enduring gift of operational support for generations to come. Individuals who descend from Colonel Joseph Bridger have already been supporting St. Luke’s through Annual Fund and Tower Society Operational Gifts and investments in the Whitemarsh Plantation Archaeological Project and other capital projects, but now they demonstrate their passion in a legacy-building manner befitting the Colonel himself.

By February 2021, the BFA already committed \$400,000 in writing toward a goal of \$1,000,000 to be used in support of genealogical research at St. Luke’s. Bonnie Bridger Mittelman, of the Bridger



Northern half of large “new house” cellar under excavation in 2019, during Bridger Family Association visit. View looking west.

Family Association, who was one of the first to commit to this Fund stated, “Please know that I remain committed to continuing as a partner in preserving the St. Luke’s historic landscape, cemetery, sacred grounds and structure of our ancient church building, as well as with promoting the history and contributions of our shared Virginia history, this location, and the people who have enabled it. Congratulations and keep up this vital and monumental work!”

We hope more Bridger descendants and other Newport Parish-related family descendent groups will follow in considering such legacy gifts of perpetual support. Contact Todd Ballance, Executive Director, if you have any questions about leaving St. Luke’s a legacy gift in your estate plans. Your gift will help ensure our National Symbol of Religious Freedom endures forever.



Overhead view of partially excavated 1650s “ould bricke house” (between scales) found below the superimposed surviving portion of a c. 1760s - 1770s outbuilding ruin (center). North is at the top of the photo.

## GIVE TODAY TO SUPPORT THE ANNUAL FUND!

June 30, 2020, we ended our fiscal year by exceeding our Annual Fund goals for the first time ever. We rely heavily on Annual Fund support in order to accomplish our goals of preservation and education initiatives such as our educational blogs, upcoming podcast series, and ongoing “Out of the Ashes” project.

The *Tower Society* is the financial leadership circle of Annual Fund supporters. These donors make gifts of \$1,000 or more each year to support the mission of St. Luke’s and they make up the top 65% of our Annual Fund support.

Give today to support our Annual Fund! You can fill out the attached remittance envelope and mail it back to us, or donate online at [stlukesmuseum.org/donate](http://stlukesmuseum.org/donate). You can also view the many giving options available, such as monthly sustained giving, donor advised funds, or stock transfers on our website, [stlukesmuseum.org](http://stlukesmuseum.org).



A not yet identified woman sits to the left of Elizabeth Jordan, the first secretary of Historic St. Luke’s Restoration.

## Why Do You Support St. Luke’s?

“The Diocese is proud to support Historic St. Luke’s. As one of the oldest surviving church buildings in Virginia, these walls have been the steward of countless prayers to the Almighty and an abiding witness to the religious liberties on which our nation was founded.”

*The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes  
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of  
Southern Virginia*



## TOWER SOCIETY GIVING LEVELS

**Old Brick Church Council: \$5,000 +**

**Chancel Circle: \$2,500 - \$4,999**

**Newport Parish: \$1,000 - \$2,499**

*Please contact Todd Ballance, Executive Director, for more information by phone 757-357-3367, or by email at [tballance@stlukesmuseum.org](mailto:tballance@stlukesmuseum.org)*



# WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR LEGACY TO BE?

While it's common to have plans and life goals, no one likes thinking about their own mortality, much less planning for it. Untimely passings are always painful for those left behind, but they needn't be stressful. With just a little bit of forethought, you can leave behind one final parting gift for your loved ones: a plan.

Once you have developed a plan, write it down. Establishing a Will is the best way to ensure your heirs clearly understand your wishes. You'll want to work with an estate planning and probate lawyer to ensure that your instructions are legal and precise. If you have a spouse, talk to them. These are emotional conversations, but it's important to get on the same page. Planning before a stressful event is much easier than planning during a stressful event.

## Ask yourself:

*Where would I like to be buried?*

*What should be done with my remains?*

*Do I prefer burial or cremation?*

*Is establishing a family plot important to me?*

Another way to save your family considerable stress is to leave a debt-free legacy. Consider making arrangements or setting aside funds for funeral services. Picking out burial locations, purchasing plots, and deciding on details like headstones can alleviate stressful guesswork and decision-making for your family.



Beautiful roses in bloom on the left side of the Columbarium, located in St. Luke's Memorial Park Cemetery.



Sales and Services Manager, Fred Hodges, walks through the Ancient Cemetery with prospective cemetery clients.

At St. Luke's, we can help you with this process and inform you of all your options.

For many, charitable giving is another way to ensure that your legacy will live on. If you plan to make a major estate gift to a charitable organization, you might consider establishing a Charitable Remainder Trust. These tax-exempt trusts can generate fixed income later in life using appreciated assets, like stocks. If St. Luke's mission is something that's important to you, you can learn about legacy gifts and other ways to

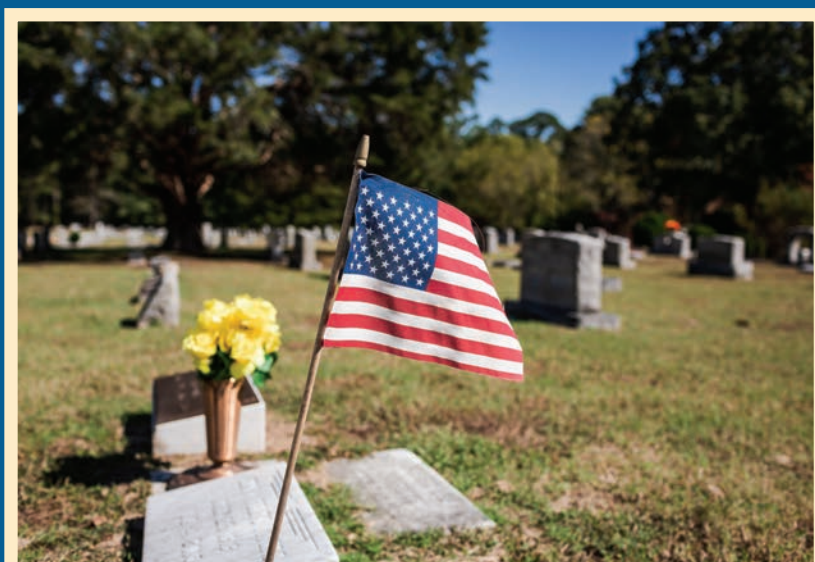
further our mission on our website, [stlukesmuseum.org](http://stlukesmuseum.org), or by calling Todd Ballance, our Executive Director, at 757-357-3367.

Take that first step and start planning today. You'll breathe a huge sigh of relief knowing that your family's future is secure and stress-free. Contact our Sales & Services Manager, Fred Hodges, by phone at (757) 357-3367, or by email at [fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org](mailto:fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org).



Historic tombstones in the Ancient Cemetery of St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum. Note St. Luke's in the background, the oldest surviving church building in Virginia.

## HONORING OUR VETERANS PROJECT UPDATE



As part of the research for the Honoring Our Veterans Project, the Education Department began featuring their findings in a series called the *St. Luke's Veteran Spotlight* on our website in May of 2020. This project has inspired members of the community to share their anecdotes and information with us regarding veteran loved ones and ancestors buried in our cemeteries. The Honoring Our Veterans Project is ongoing and St. Luke's will continue to feature findings both in our newsletter and on our website at [stlukesmuseum.org/veteran-spotlight/](http://stlukesmuseum.org/veteran-spotlight/). Thank you to the community members who have already taken the time and care to share their stories and photos with us. Together, we can preserve this history for future generations.

American Flag placed next to the headstone of a Veteran buried in St. Luke's Memorial Park Cemetery.



# JOSEPH BRIDGER HODSDEN: War of 1812 Veteran

By William “Bill” Hodsden

Joseph Bridger Hodsden was born on March 29, 1776 and died on November 19, 1815. He married Mary Wilson Pasteur on November 23, 1799 and in fifteen brief years managed several farms, fought in the War of 1812 and fathered nine children. His last child, Julia Ann Hodsden, was sadly born after her father had passed away.



*Print portraying the British attack on Fort Ontario in Oswego, New York during the War of 1812. A reprint appeared in Harper's Magazine in 1864.*

Joseph Bridger Hodsden, according to the United States War of 1812 Service Records, 1812 – 1815, was inducted into the Virginia Militia with a rank of ‘Private’ and was discharged with the rank of ‘Ensign.’ Hodsden served in “Ballard’s” 29<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Virginia Militia for his entire tenure.



*Photo of the War of 1812 sword that belonged to Joseph Bridger Hodsden.*

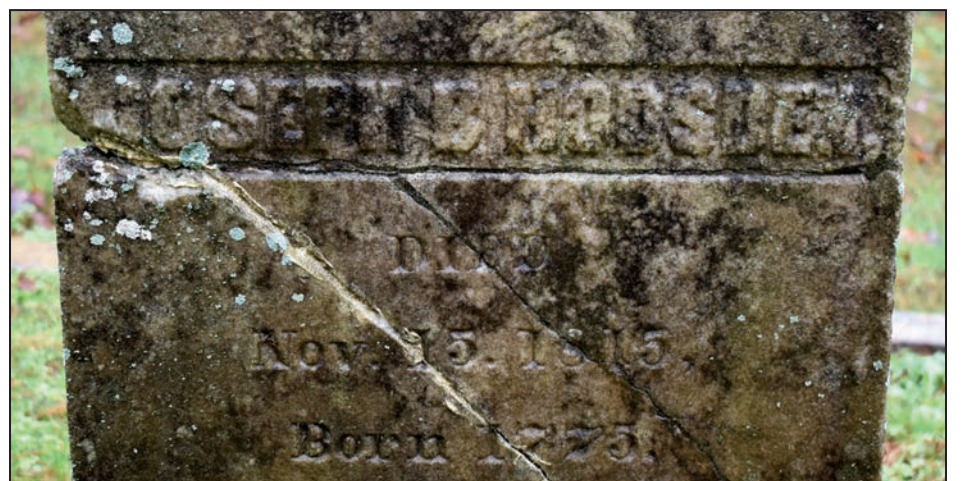
While little is known of engagements participated in by Hodsden, his battle sword (pictured) made silent testament for over 140 years as to his very intimate involvement in the United States’ “Second War for Independence.” After his discharge, Hodsden retired his sword to a safe place where it stayed virtually untouched for years. The sword was passed down from father to son for generations. The claim was that the rust looking areas on both the blade and the guard of the hilt were in fact blood stains earned in the heat



*Close-up photo of the handle and details on Joseph Bridger Hodsden's sword.*

family, who responded to her efforts with a giant groan. The sword still remains in the Hodsden family after 205 years, albeit a bit cleaner than when they received it.

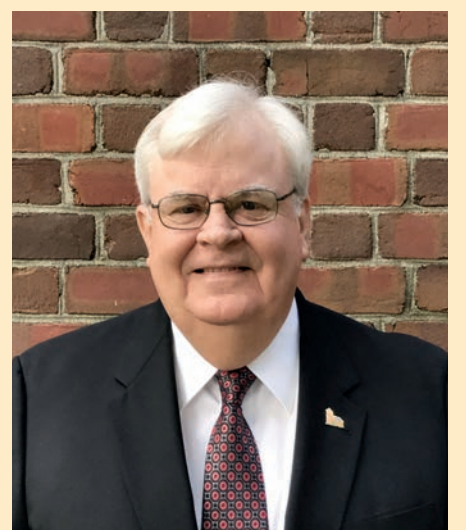
This Joseph is the 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandson of, and the 5<sup>th</sup> generation descended from, the Joseph Bridger who is largely given credit as the principal benefactor responsible for the building of St. Luke's Historic Church and who is buried in the church's chancel. Joseph Bridger Hodsden is also the 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandfather of, and the 5<sup>th</sup> generation ascended from, Bill Hodsden, the current President of St. Luke's Board of Directors.



*Close-up photo of Joseph Bridger Hodsden's tombstone, located in the Ancient Cemetery at St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum.*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

William “Bill” Hodsden has been a member of the St. Luke's Board of Directors for several years and is currently serving as President. Mr. Hodsden recently retired from a long and illustrious career in banking which included co-founding TowneBank in 1998. Bill Hodsden is an 11<sup>th</sup> generation descendent of Colonel Joseph Bridger, chief patron of St. Luke's Historic Church at the time of construction. In his retirement, Mr. Hodsden continues to invest his time and energy in supporting the historic church building his 9<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather helped create.



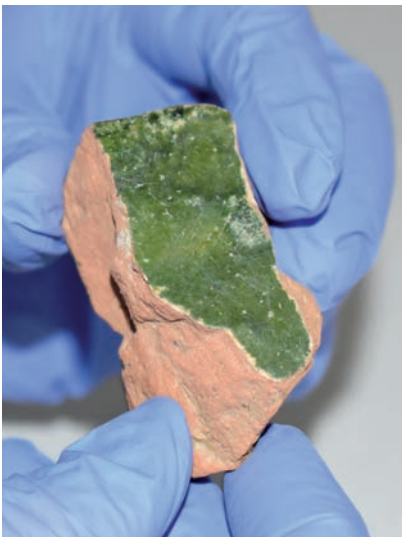


# Old Brick Gift Shop Product Feature

Blossoming dogwoods and cardinals are enduring symbols of Virginia as the state tree/flower and bird, respectively. We recently added a new item to our Gift Shop at St. Luke's: an ornament with images of cardinals and dogwoods. The ornament consists of panels that fit together to create a globe inspired by the "triskele" motif found in traditional Celtic art. The Cardinal and Dogwood Ornament sells for \$10.95 and is a beautiful year-round decoration.



 **ST. LUKE'S**  
HISTORIC CHURCH & MUSEUM  
14477 Benn's Church Boulevard  
Smithfield, VA 23430



What does the Education Department do while the office is closed to tours? Work on the collection! Pictured here is one of our Museum Interpreters inspecting an archaeological artifact from Whitemarsh Plantation, a fragment of Flemish tile with a green glaze. We continue to work behind the scenes by inspecting the collection, updating accession files, and completing minor conservation and preservation projects.

Schedule has been adjusted due to COVID-19. For more information about operating hours, please visit our website, [www.stlukesmuseum.org](http://www.stlukesmuseum.org), email us at [contact@stlukesmuseum.org](mailto:contact@stlukesmuseum.org), or call 757-357-3367.

## MINOR REPAIRS TO AN HISTORIC ORGAN

The last several months have proven to be a great time for focused projects and repairs. In August of 2020, St. Luke's reached out to John Watson, Maker and Conservator of Musical Instruments, regarding a necessary repair to the historic organ. A bass pipe on the underside of the circa 1630 Hunstanton Hall Organ had detached, inflicting minor damage on the pipe when it fell.

John R. Watson was an obvious choice as Project Conservator, due in part to his long history with the historic organ and St. Luke's. Mr. Watson was instrumental in the facilitation and completion of extensive restoration and conservation work conducted on the Hunstanton Hall Organ in the late 1990s. The project was massive and multifaceted, pulling input from instrument conservators and experts around the world to discuss not only the best options for the historic organ at St. Luke's, but historic instruments as a whole.



From left to right: John Watson and Jay Gamble work diligently to reattach a bass pipe to the underside of the historic organ.



A photograph of one of the oldest organs in the U.S., often called the Hunstanton Hall Organ. It was commissioned by the LeStrange Family of Norfolk, England in 1630.

These more recent repairs were completed on the organ during September 2020 by John Watson and Jay Gamble, who assisted on the project as well. Watson fabricated a poplar wood support and two metal brackets that allow the pipe to hang between the rear apron of the organ stand and an oak dowel that passes between an old wood block affixed to the side of the pipe and a new block attached to the organ's baseboard. The project was completed with great care and expertise as St. Luke's continues to preserve and conserve

the church building, collections, and archives for the enjoyment of future generations – an undertaking that would be difficult without the support of knowledgeable experts within our community like John Watson.



From left to right: Jay Gamble and John Watson work together to temporarily brace the bass pipe against the underside of the historic organ.