



ST. LUKE'S

HISTORIC CHURCH & MUSEUM

Volume 14 | Spring 2024

BORN FROM CONFLICT: CAVALIERS AND PURITANS OF NEWPORT PARISH



Left: King Charles I, Circle of Sir Peter Lely, Oil on Canvas, c.1660. Right: Oliver Cromwell, Studio of Sir Peter Lely (1618-1680), Oil on Canvas, c.1653. Images Courtesy of the Cromwell Museum, Huntingdon, UK

How did the most violent century outside of the 20th century move a new nation towards religious freedom? This is just one of the questions we hope to explore in St. Luke's upcoming thematic year of events titled "Born from Conflict: Cavaliers and Puritans of Newport Parish."

Born from Conflict refers to the 17th century violence that engulfed England and included regicide, civil war and a series of rebellions that finally ended in 1688 with the Glorious Revolution. Much of the warfare and internal division centered on the English

Reformation and the degree to which reforms would be achieved.

This theme will be the focal point of St. Luke's upcoming blogs, podcasts, facebook posts, and live events.

In early March, St. Luke's Education Coordinator John Ericson and Executive Director Todd Ballance traveled to England to film a documentary titled "Born from Conflict: Cavaliers and Puritans of Newport Parish." While there, they asked questions about the connections between the English conflicts and what was happening back in Virginia and other Colonies. Their trip took



St. John the Evangelist Church, Slimbridge. The church where Joseph Bridger's grandfather served as Rector (the Reverend Lawrence Bridger).

St Andrew's Church in Holborn, London. The natal church of the Reverend Robert Bracewell who served in the Lower Parish in the 1650s and 1660s.



(Continued on page 2.)

Born from Conflict: Cavaliers and Puritans of Newport Parish
(Continued from front page.)

them to London, Oxford, Somerset, Gloucester, and Norfolk and connected some of the families that came from England and resettled in Virginia. Names like Edward Bennett and Nathaniel Basse, along with ministers such as the Reverend Robert Bracewell and Col Joseph Bridger, the patron of the “Old Brick Church,” represent Isle of Wight residents with roots in the UK, who we will continue to examine. We will continue this theme in our upcoming lecture series and in our re-envisioned 17th Century Living History Event in September. We hope you will follow along on social media as well as visiting us for daily guided tours and our special events.



Westminster Abbey - Oliver Cromwell and fellow Parliamentarians Henry Ireton and William Bradford were buried in the Abbey but exhumed after the Restoration and their bodies hanged at Tyburn.



Quaker Burial Ground, Milverton UK

What's Next?

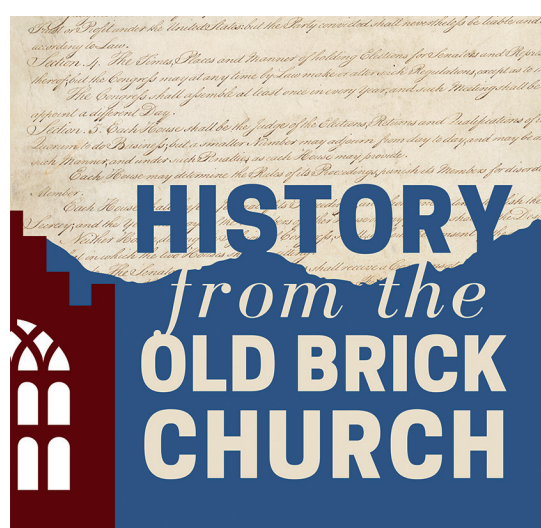
The History from the Old Brick Church went on the road to the UK back in March. We visited locations that are part of the UK/Isle of Wight, VA story. Our Documentary: “Born from Conflict: Cavaliers and Puritans of Newport Parish” will be out this Fall. The film will tie several Isle of Wight Colonists to their roots in England and the conflicts that were waged in the 17th century. Prominently featured will be Edward Bennett, the Fulgham family, the Reverend Robert Bracewell, and Colonel Joseph Bridger, who was the patron of the Old Brick Church. We will be looking at the War of the Three Kingdoms otherwise known as the English Civil Wars, as well as the Monmouth Rebellion, and peer into the various religious groups and tensions between them and the Established Church.

Our thanks to many friends in the UK for their cooperation in this endeavor. For this venture we are asking for your support!

Please contact our Executive Director Todd Ballance at Tballance@stlukesmuseum.org or call us at 757-357-3367. We thank all of those from the Bridger, Fulgham and Bracewell families who have so generously supported this project.



John and Todd at Sedgemoor Inn. The Battle of Sedgemoor was the last battle of the Monmouth Rebellion in 1685.



TUNE IN TO THE ST. LUKE'S PODCAST!

Remember to listen to “History from the Old Brick Church,” available on all major podcasting platforms. With 24 episodes exploring topics like religious freedom, Bacon’s Rebellion, and Indigenous people, there is sure to be something you can dive into!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



Summer Series Part I: Born from Conflict – Religious Strife in Jamestown

Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Free Admission, in-person event. Advance registration required.

Our Summer Series will continue our look at the violence and discord of the 17th Century. Part 1 of our Summer Series will focus on the religious tensions at Jamestown. Contrary to earlier belief, Jamestown was religiously very diverse and the differences were the cause of a great deal of tension and even violence. Perhaps a plot to murder? St. Luke's Education Coordinator John Ericson will examine the religious context at Jamestown and the implications of being "Born from Conflict." Drinks and snacks provided, or bring your own lunch if you like!



Summer Series Part II: Born from Conflict – Puritans in Virginia

Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Free Admission, in-person event. Advance registration required.

We think of New England as the place of Puritanism but the movement had deep roots in Virginia even before the founding of the Plymouth Colony. St. Luke's Education Coordinator John Ericson will examine the history of Dissenters in the Virginia Colony and why it died out by the mid-17th Century. Drinks and snacks are provided, or bring your own lunch if you like!



Summer Series Part III: Born from Conflict – Virginia Quakers

Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Free Admission, in-person event. Advance registration required.

The Society of Friends (Quakers) were early to the Virginia Colony. Prominent Virginians like former Governor Richard Bennett converted to the movement. St. Luke's Education Coordinator John Ericson will give an overview of the Quaker movement in the Virginia Colony, including a dramatic event at the "Old Brick Church." Drinks and snacks provided, or bring your own lunch if you like!



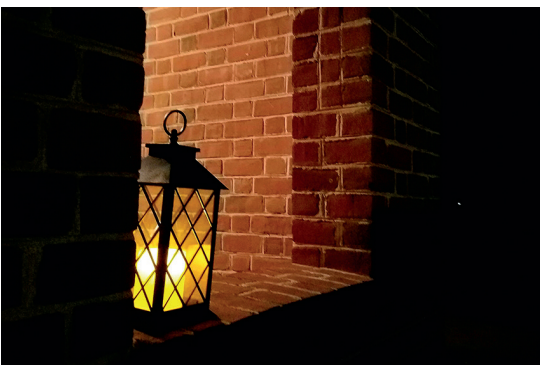
Born from Conflict: A 17th Century Living History Event

Saturday, September 7, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 8, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Free Admission, in-person event. Advance registration required for Lectures and concert.

The 17th century was a time of violent upheaval and social unrest. St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum will be examining the Colonial conflicts in this living history event with costumed reenactors, historians, a period concert, and presentations. Come and enjoy this free event and learn more about the time before our Nation's founding.



Alcohol Free Twilight Cemetery Tour

Friday, October 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

\$15 per person, children under 5 are free, in-person event, snacks and warm beverages provided.

They say "Dead men tell no tales," but that's not true! Come out and hear the stories of those buried in Virginia's oldest continuous cemetery at St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum. This is NOT a ghost tour but it might get a little spooky at times.



Adults Only Twilight Cemetery Tours

Friday, October 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., and 9:00 p.m.

\$30 per person, 21+ Adults Only in-person event.

Enjoy a tasting from Sly Clyde's Cidery and take a tour of St. Luke's Ancient Cemetery to learn about families that were part of the "Old Brick Church." St. Luke's has been the site of burials since the 1600s. Guests must be 21 years of age or older to participate. The experience will take approximately 1 hour. IDs are required and are checked at the door!



Cemetery Preservation Workshops

May 18	June 15	August 24	Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free Workshop, RSVP Required
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The Cemetery Preservation Workshop is a free program designed to educate volunteers on the necessary training needed to safely preserve and protect historic tombstones and markers. This program promotes engagement and preservation of the church cemetery through education and practical experience. An RSVP is required. Please visit our website and fill in the registration form to successfully reserve your spot: www.stlukesmuseum.org/preservation-form. 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 weather forecast.

For ticketed events, advance ticket purchase is encouraged as spots are typically limited.

For ticket information and purchase, please check out these events on our website at www.stlukesmuseum.org.

Please contact Education Coordinator John Ericson via email, jericson@stlukesmuseum.org, with questions regarding lectures and events.

ST. LUKE'S HISTORIC CHURCH & MUSEUM GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL GIFTS IN SUPPORT OF THE MAJOR GIFTS INITIATIVE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



Dear St. Luke's Friends,

In the Fall 2023 Newsletter, we recognized a select group of donors and foundations who supported our Major Gifts Initiative between 2015 and 2023. This newsletter we would like to take another moment and recognize another select group of donors who supported our recent capital improvement campaign. Only with your collective

charitable and generous support were we able to accomplish all of these important projects. Join me in thanking these generous donors and foundations for their love and dedication to St. Luke's.

Thankfully,

Todd Ballance,
Executive Director

\$100 - \$999

Mr. and Mrs. David Ross
Mr. and Mrs. John Bates
Smithfield VA Events
Ms. Nancy Poynter
Rev. Connie Gilman

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Mr. E. Henry Doggett III
Hallwood Properties, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Broadwater
Mrs. Mary Elise Clevenger
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Pitt
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
Mrs. Bonnie Mittelmaier
Mrs. Reed Lawson

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Norwood Jr.
Ms. Joy Herron
Mr. William Laine Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. John Edwards
Mr. and Mrs. A. Bridger Eglin
Camp Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fortier

\$10,000 - \$59,999

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Schaubach
Honorable and Mrs. Robert Edwards

BACK TO NORMAL?

I do not like the word "normal." I regularly tell people, "Normal is a setting on the dishwasher." What is a normal wedding? I cannot answer that question because no two weddings are exactly the same, especially at St. Luke's. Weddings are different because of the location, officiant, decorations, musicians, photographer, wedding planner/coordinator, and any vendor who is involved. Most weddings are unique because of the couple. The choices that the couples make are personal and reflect those personal choices.

Again, no two weddings are alike, so how can I consider that weddings are back to normal? The weddings themselves are always unique, but our inquiries and bookings are getting back to normal.

Prior to 2020 – remember 2020 – St. Luke's averaged 18 to 20 private event rentals per year. Covid - 19 changed that, although we ended 2020 with 17 weddings – 9 of which occurred between the last weekend in September through the first weekend in November. 2021 and 2022 brought a dip in our average bookings. In 2023 we saw an increase in bookings, but most of those were booked and executed within four to seven months. 2024 seems to be a return to normal. We had twelve inquiries in January and six to date in February. While we are still experiencing requests for smaller weddings on shorter planning time-lines, larger weddings and more prior planning are trends we are tracking.

St. Luke's continues as the location where couples have pledged their love and commitment in five separate centuries. We want to be the place that offers the most memorable location for couples to share their vows.

For Private Event inquiries, please contact Fred Hodges, Sales & Services Manager at 757.357.3367, ext. 1 or fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org



Top left: Wedding couple processing out of the church following their ceremony.

Top right: Newlyweds share a kiss in the tower arch at St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum.

Left: Happy couple posing in front of the wicket door at St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum.

GIVE TODAY TO SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL FUND!

We rely heavily on Annual Fund support in order to accomplish our preservation and education initiative goals, such as blog production, podcast series development, and the presentation of educational events. By supporting the Annual Fund, you allow us to use your donation in the area of greatest need.

The Tower Society is our financial leadership circle, made up of donors who give \$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund. Members of the Tower Society fulfill an important role in providing vital funds for the day-to-day operations at St. Luke's. This group makes up over half of our Annual Fund donations, making the most significant impact with their support.

To donate, please fill out the attached remittance envelope and mail it back to us, or donate online at stlukemuseum.org/donate. This webpage also details the many giving options available, such as monthly sustained giving, donor advised funds, and stock transfers.

The Development Department works hard to ensure that your

donations support the most critical parts of our operations. As a donor, you will receive quarterly updates detailing what St. Luke's is doing and how we are using your financial support to drive our mission of preservation, promotion, and protection. Donors also receive monthly emails with updates on upcoming events, blog posts, and more. **Give today to support our Annual Fund!**

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.

TODD TALK: BORN FROM CONFLICT: A YEAR TO LEARN, REFLECT, AND VOTE



Todd in Gloucester Cathedral while on the recent trip to the UK.

In 1957, the recently-established nonprofit "Historic St. Luke's Restoration" created with the express purpose to restore the 1685 church building and continue advancing its new mission as an historic preservation entity to preserve, promote, and protect the 43-acre campus, collections, cemeteries, history, and buildings. Although considered a resounding success on May 17th, 1957

during a special ceremony and service commemorating the

completion of the scope of work, the restoration of the church building was contentious among donors, consultants, and board trustees. Recommendations, generous conditional and unconditional donations, and emotional restoration treatment and interpretive debates are well-documented among our Corporate Archive Records (currently undergoing meticulous imaging and information preservation). Today, we look back through these records and are honored with what the earlier generations accomplished. Each year, the St. Luke's team learns more about its past in efforts to help best interpret our shared history to you and to be best informed to make the most informed decisions possible as stewards of this incredible American treasure. Similarly, the great American Experiment of the United States of America is worth preserving and continuing to responsibly steward. We hope in 2024 you will join us in choosing to learn more about, pausing to reflect, and electing to vote in favor of preserving and advancing St. Luke's and the Great American Republic.

I am proud to present History from the Old Brick Church's 2024 theme—"Born from Conflict: Cavaliers and Puritans of Newport Parish." We recognize that this great Nation was born from more than one and three-quarter centuries of conflict, division, resolution, and unity. Throughout the 17th century, English

America—in particular Virginia—suffered through substantial growing pains from settlers invading and colonizing an already inhabited land all while going through turbulent religious, military, and political challenges as English colonial subjects of the emerging British Empire. Classic narratives of early American history are constantly being challenged with more research and historical analysis. Whether it is from our recent research trip to England and forthcoming documentary or themed lectures and special events, this year will push to the forefront how the 17th century in Virginia was full of conflict and from these events, subsequent generations of Americans would challenge norms to try a new experiment—The United States of America.

The American Constitutional Republic is the second oldest constitutional republic in the world. We invite you to help us stand together this year and choose to be an active citizen and vote to preserve our Republic, our Constitution, and our elected representative form of government so many have fought to preserve and protect. You may read a theme here—it is intentional. Preserving our history and the stages where history took place, is preserving our Republic. Our National Symbols provide sites for us to learn, reflect, and vote. As we discover our history, we find inspiration. From this inspiration, we choose to be more active and engaged in our communities, states, and nation.

We deeply value your investment in our Annual Fund, membership in our financial leadership circle of the Tower Society and concurrently ask you to vote this November. As American citizens, we have the right and obligation to defend and advance our Republic and assure that all citizens benefit from the rights we all share. Only together can we continue to learn about, reflect on, and vote in favor of preserving our history and our Republic.

Todd Ballance, St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum's Executive Director, welcomes conversations about St. Luke's past, present, and future. He can be reached at 757-357-3367. Email: tballance@stlukemuseum.org

“BEHIND THE TOMBSTONES” IRON FENCE RESTORATION PROJECT

By John Ericson, Education Coordinator



Iron fencing after restoration.



In the fall of 2023, St. Luke’s staff and volunteers undertook a project to restore iron fencing surrounding the Todd plot in our ancient cemetery. Covered in lichen and rusting, volunteers and staff collectively devoted more than 137 hours to scraping, cleaning, rebuilding and painting. This 137-hour investment equates to a remarkable 75% of the total cost of restoration. We extend our gratitude to all volunteers who generously contributed their time, with special acknowledgment to Cindy and Brett Meyers of Forever Rose Headstone Cleaning for their exceptional support.

Fencing is used in cemeteries to denote family plots and associated graves. Within St. Luke’s ancient cemetery, we have several examples of fencing. This particular project focused on the enclosure surrounding the Todd plot, the largest and most prominent family plot within our cemetery. The Todd family holds significant historical importance in both Isle of Wight and St. Luke’s narratives. This plot includes those such as John Robinson Todd, a Veteran of the War of 1812, and Mallory Moore Todd, the person who is known to have offered up the land that would become the site for Christ Episcopal Church in downtown Smithfield, the current home of the congregation who formerly worshiped at St. Luke’s.

It is with the success of this project that we look forward to the restoration of three other iron fences in our ancient cemetery. These fences represent important features within our cemetery and necessitate periodic maintenance and repainting every seven years.



Iron fencing before restoration.



Staff and volunteers clean the Todd plot iron fencing.



Volunteers clean the Todd plot iron fencing.

For more information about this project or for information about upcoming similar projects please contact Education Coordinator John Ericson at jericson@stlukesmuseum.org or at (757) 357-3367.

ST. LUKE'S CEMETERY: CUSTOMER SERVICE IS ESSENTIAL

By Fred Hodges, Sales & Services Manager



Sales & Services Manager, Fred Hodges, meets with cemetery clients.



Clients meet with Fred Hodges, Sales & Services Manager in St. Luke's Memorial Park Cemetery.

Since 2018 I have written about the options available in our cemetery. By now, you should know that we are Virginia's Oldest Open Cemetery and we place great importance on perpetual care.

As the Sales & Services Manager, I am a relationship builder and problem solver. I provide information so that clients can make informed decisions regarding their end-of-life plans. That is my story, and I am sticking to it. In this newsletter, I will let a recent client tell her story:

My sister and I recently completed burial planning for our family with Mr. Fred Hodges at St. Luke's Cemetery. Although adjoining plots to our parents' (purchased in 1956) were not available, Mr. Hodges researched and identified very suitable plots that were in close proximity. He communicated via email and met with us in person several times, including 2 site visits to the cemetery to ensure that we fully understood the available options for us and the next generation. Once site selection was complete, Mr. Hodges carefully navigated us through the purchase contract, once again spending plenty of time to fully explain the legal process. At each encounter, Mr. Hodges was professional but also very personable, making a difficult task more manageable.

**Drusilla Powell,
St. Luke's Memorial Park Cemetery Client**

I am fully aware that death is an uncomfortable topic. I have two groups of clients: those who plan the details for their end-of-life plans and those who must make immediate decisions regarding the disposition of a loved one.

I welcome, encourage, support, and hopefully ease the difficult task for both groups. Come and join me for a visit where we can engage in lively and enjoyable conversation while exploring all that St. Luke's has to offer. We can build that relationship and maybe you will find an option to provide yourself and your family peace of mind for the future.

Become Part of History at St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum. Contact Fred Hodges, Sales & Services Manager at 757.357.3367, ext. 1 or fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org



Flags adorning the graves of veterans in St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum Cemetery.

SEMI-ANNUAL CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

In order to maintain the beautiful aesthetic of the cemetery, St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum staff remove all flowers and decorations twice a year. Those dates are the **Second Monday in January** and the **First Monday in August**. If you would like to preserve a specific arrangement, please remove that arrangement by the day before and return the day after the clean-up day. All arrangements in the cemetery on the day of the clean-up will be removed.

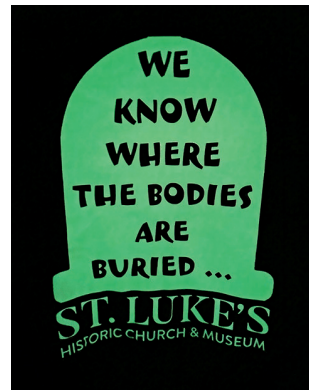
For more information Contact Fred Hodges, Sales & Services Manager at 757.357.3367, ext. 1 or fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org

Old Brick Gift Shop Product Feature

St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum T-Shirt

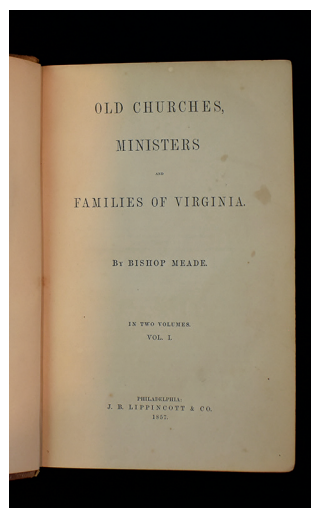
At St. Luke's, we try not to take ourselves too seriously. Come and get some St. Luke's swag. This T-Shirt is a conversation starter, or the last word ... you decide.

Call or email Fred Hodges for more information at 757-357-3367 or fhodges@stlukesmuseum.org.



14477 Benn's Church Boulevard
Smithfield, VA 23430

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Permit #287



Volume I of "The Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia."

Written by Bishop William Meade and published in 1857. Both volume I and II contain compiled histories from Virginia parishes as they were shared with Bishop Meade. In Volume I Meade gave an account of Newport Parish. Meade was the third Bishop for the Diocese of Virginia of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America; he died in 1862 as the Country was embroiled in Civil War.

Museum tours and gift shop are available Thursday through Saturday, 9:30-5 p.m. Administrative offices open during normal business hours by appointment only. Cemetery and grounds are open daily from sunrise to sunset. Learn more at www.stlukesmuseum.org, email us at contact@stlukesmuseum.org, or call 757-357-3367.

EMILY KORFF MEMORIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIMULATION AREA



Above: Photograph of Emily Korff, courtesy of her parents.

Since 2019, St. Luke's archaeological simulation area has served Isle of Wight 4th grade students through our annual field trip program. After years of use and weather exposure, this area needs to be rebuilt. To better serve local students, we plan to build a new simulation area in honor of Emily Korff.

Emily is interred in our Memorial Park and loved nature and teaching. Please help us continue this essential program and honor a courageous young woman by donating towards this construction.

Please contact Executive Director Todd Ballance at tballance@stlukesmuseum.org

or at (757) 357-3367 ext. 4 to contribute.

Below: Example of damage to the archaeological simulation area.



Top Right: A fourth grade Isle of Wight student poses with a recovered artifact during St. Luke's 2023 field trip.

Right: Fourth grade Isle of Wight students excavate reproduction artifacts.