

A History of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Parish Register, Volume II:

Authors: Tebeau/Craighill/Burke

Historiographer's Note, 2016:

Early in the 1900's, Miss Margaret Tebeau--parishioner and headmistress of "Miss Tebeau's Boarding and Day School for Girls"--penned the history of Holy Trinity in the standard book provided for that task, *The Parish Register*. For ease of reading, here is the history retyped. Miss Tebeau's record carries the history forward from 1868 to beyond the building of the 1907 church. Changes in handwriting indicate that the history was continued through 1911 by two rectors, the Rev. Francis B. Craighill (1/3/1904-9/9/1909) and the Rev. Thomas Haughton Burke (January 1910-April 1911). Font variations indicate where the changes in authorship occur. Pagination and punctuation corresponds to the handwritten text. Parish Registers also record births, baptisms, confirmations, communicants, marriages, and deaths. Registers are maintained through the present time, although the parish history has not been recorded therein beyond Volume II. Holy Trinity has been fortunate to have complete histories written by Dr. B. P Richards, Jr., Frank Pisani, *The Women of the Church*, and Dr. George R. Bentley.

(Carolyn Horter, Historiographer, 2016, Holy Trinity Church)

Here is the first History of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church from the Parish Register, Volume II:

Page 5: Title Page: History

Page 6 begins in Margaret Tebeau's hand:

Trinity Parish, Gainesville Florida, was organized in the early part of the year 1868. Rev. B.F. Dunkin Perry, Rector. Capt. Henry Dozier, Senior Warden, Mr. James Chesnut of Alachua, Junior Warden. At that time there were five families devoted to the Church. For several years, previous to the organization, services were occasionally held by Rev. O. P. Thackara, Fernandina. The Rev. Wm Perry was an earnest worker, sincere Christian, and his daily life commended the Church and her ways to many who had hitherto held her but lightly. The Congregation soon numbered sixty, the greater part gathered in from those who were brought up in other faiths. For a year Services were held in the Court House; then a new town-hall having been finished, was rented, fitted up in quite a Churchly manner, and occupied for three years. The Parish from its inception made strenuous efforts to secure a lot and to erect a building wholly dedicated to Divine worship. The second year a lot was purchased on what is now called West Main Street, for eight hundred dollars, which amount was promptly paid. It was determined by the first Vestry never to incur a debt. Then all efforts were directed to the building of the Church. Another year rolled by and sufficient funds with help promised by Bishop Young were now in hand to begin. Slowly the work progressed, often stopping entirely for need of money--until the spring of 1873, when the building was covered in, and could be comfortably used, though far from completion. Mr. Thackara

[Page 7] *having received a gift of five hundred dollars from a Northern gentleman, donated it to this Parish, with this exception, all the expenses were borne by the people alone. In December 1871, Mr. Perry resigned, and returned to South Carolina. For several months lay service was held by Dr. Babcock. In February 1872, Rev. Wm. Doan Mitchell took charge. He died the following September. In Nov. or Dec., 1872 Rev. E. W. Meany, a zealous worker came to the Parish and remained several years, subsequently, removing to Tallahassee. Lay service was resumed by Dr. Snowden and Mr. Wm. C. Miller. Rev. Leek next became Rector, but being an invalid, was unable to do the work and soon returned to the North. Again a fold without a shepherd. Lay reading resumed by Dr. Snowden. Notwithstanding so many changes, the people continued faithful, and the Sunday School was never given up. At this time Mr. Thackara, that most noble servant of the Master, often visited the Parish. He organized a branch of the Woman's Auxiliary, to which a few of the people have always belonged, and have contributed regularly, the one cent a day usually paying quarterly. In the winter of 1876, Rev. Charles A Gilbert assumed the rectorship. The people were devoted to him. The Church being finished, a debt remaining kindly paid by Mrs. H. Dutton it was consecrated April 22, 1877. Mr. Gilbert remained in the Parish until Jan. 1878. An interval of some months—lay reading conducted by Dr. Snowden and Mr. E.M. Hampton. Mr. Meany was asked to return and accepted. Through his*

[Page 8] influence a lady of Baltimore gave a set of Altar linen and a Prayer Book for the Chancel. The ladies of the congregation purchased the Font and Chancel furniture—not including the Altar, it with the cross, vases, and altar desk being given by the “Violets,” a society of children. The brass candlesticks were given by Mrs. H.M.C. Thomas, the Altarbook by Rev. Joseph R. Gray. Mr. Meany’s health failed, he went to New Mexico. The Parish again vacant—lay reading taken up for a while longer. Rev. C. Stroh staid one winter. The Parish was the pensioner of sick and traveling Clergy. Rev. Joseph R. Gray was rector two years, but he was an invalid—too ill to perform the duties. Later on Rev. F.B. Dunham came. During his incumbency, the rectory was built, and occupied, the Church painted and improved, a sterling silver Communion Service presented—the cruet of French glass mounted in silver—and the beautifully engraved Paten—in memoriam—were given by Mr. A.M.C. Thomas, the cup by a Communicant. Of the old service that was given in the early days, the Paten and one Chalice were sent to St. Stephen’s, Interlachen, and the other Chalice to Brooksville. Mr. Dunham greatly endeared himself to the children. The name of the Parish was now changed to Holy Trinity. Mr. Dunham left in the summer of 1888. Lay reading by Wm. Wade Hampton. Rev. Gouvener Kruger remained in the parish the following winter. April 1889, Rev. W.S. Simpson Atmore became rector—resigning April 1891. Other gifts to the church were the

[Page 9] *Chancel windows and rail by a Communicant. An embroidered Altar Cover, carpet, and bronze candlesticks, Dr. and Mrs. Ashmead. Two illustrated Bibles—Mrs. B.C. Drake. A Litany desk of native wood—Rev. E. Meany. A debt on the old organ paid by Mrs. Drake. A new organ purchased by the ladies. A Bible that was given to Mr. Gilbert by Dr. Ashmead was returned to the Church, after Mr. Gilbert's death, by Mrs. Gilbert in memory of Dr. Ashmead and Mr. Gilbert. A pair of Easter Bible Markers by Mrs. Colclough. A Chandelier by Mr. Price and a Chancel Chandelier by the manager of the factory from whom Mr. Price purchased his gift. These were afterwards donated to the Church at Fairbanks. The Chandelier now in use now in use [sic] by St. Mary's Guild. A Prayer desk and stall by Lamb of New York. The History of the Parish up to this entry was kindly prepared by Miss Margaret Tebeau. [N.B. handwriting changes dramatically], who also wrote what follows as far as the Rectorship of Rev. John Gray. Rev. Andrew T. Sharpe succeeded Mr. Atmore in Nov. 1891, and remained three years. During his incumbency new pews and windows were placed in the Church.*

About December, 1894 Rev. C.C. Leman was called to the Rectorship. He was greatly liked by the people. The erection of a new Church edifice now began to be thought of, but no definite action was taken. After a stay of six years, Mr. Leman moved from our midst, Jan. 1901, and the Parish was again in the care of visiting

[Page10] clergy, Rev. Wiley J. Page, Rev. Neville Joyner, Rev. Douglas F. Forrest D.D. and Rev. Sherwood Fison serving in turn, before and after the brief Rectorship of Dr. Matrau.

Rev. Benjamin F. Matrau, D.D. accepted the charge as Rector in May 1901, but remained only a few months. Under his direction an enthusiastic Parish meeting was held June 17, 1901, and pledges amounting to \$6000 were given for a new Church. Dr. Matrau resigned October 18, 1901, and died soon after. In the fall of 1902 Rev. John Gray assumed charge. The work of building the new Church was now taken up, and on account of the noise from the ACL Railroad, it was deemed advisable to purchase a lot on another Street. Feb 7, 1903 a lot was secured on the south-west corner of East Main and Mechanic Streets, for the sum of \$1600, and plans were secured, the work of Rev. L.A. Spencer, Dean of the Cathedral in Orlando. Ground was broken and a foundation of concrete laid during the latter months of 1903.

Rev. John Gray left Dec. 31st, 1903, and Rev. Francis H. Craighill assumed charge as Rector on the Feast of the Epiphany, 1904. It was deemed inadvisable to build on the plans prepared by Mr. Spencer, and in May, 1904, another set was ordered from Mr. J.H.W. Hawkins of Jacksonville. The foundation already placed for the Nave and Tower was used but the Chancel end was entirely changed and greatly enlarged.

[Page 11] The contract for the building was let to the Mc Carrel Compo Stone Co. of Jacksonville, and the stone made by them was selected as the material for the exterior of the building. It is a patented combination backed with coquina and faced with a composition of which Nassau coral rock, sand, and cement are the chief ingredients. The effect is that of Bedford limestone. Each block was cast double size, split in two and the face pitched by hand. All trimmings including the mullions of the windows, are of the same material. Behind a four inch veneer of this stone the walls are of Georgia brick.

The erection of the walls was begun about Feb. 1st, 1905, and the corner-stone of Georgia Creole marble, the gift of Mrs. C.D. Schafer, was laid by Bishop Weed in April of the same year. The work was done slowly, but very thoroughly, and it was almost a year before the roof was on. Work was suspended for some months, largely because of lack of funds, but was resumed during the latter part of 1906, and the first service was held in the still incomplete structure on the second Sunday after Easter, April 14, 1907, Rev. John H. Brown of St. Peter's Church, Fernandina, preaching the first sermon. During the ensuing week a very successful and largely attended Mission was conducted by Archdeacon Percy C. Webber.

During the same month the lot immediately in the rear of the Church was given by the Senior Warden, Mr. W.W. Hampton, to be the site of a future Parish House.

[Page 12] The total cost of the Church and its furnishings was about \$25,000, and it was finished with a debt of \$5,200, secured by mortgages on the Rectory and the lot for the Parish House.

As the Church may not stand forever to speak for itself or may be materially altered at some time in the future, it may be well to append a brief description of its dimensions and appearance.

In general appearance it is rather low and massive, being 52 ft to the top of the tower and the top of the cross on the front gable, and having very heavy buttresses and copings. The main entrance is at the S.E. corner, through the tower, and there is also an entrance at the N.E. corner covered by a porch. The Nave measures 40 ft. x 80, the Chancel is 28 ft wide and 31 ft deep, of which 14 feet forms the Sanctuary, and 17 ft its Choir. The tower vestibule is about 13 ft square, the organ chamber the same, and the Vestry room 13 by 16 ft.

A paneled oak wainscoting, 5 ft 4 in high runs around the interior of the Church. Above the walls are of plaster, marked out like blocks of stone. The doors are of oak, and the ceiling open timbered and paneled, with heavy scissors beams, is of yellow pine stained like the wainscoting.

Among the gifts and memorials may be mentioned the following. The altar and reredos are the gift of Mrs. H.F. Dutton, and its side paneling, into which are built the

(continued on Page 226)

[Page 226] Bishop's Chair and Credence was given by St. Elizabeth's Guild. The row of three Sedilia at the right of the Sanctuary was paid for out of the proceeds of an entertainment given by the Choir. All these were made by the Manitowoc, Furniture Co. [Waukesha, Wisconsin], and are of heavy carved oak.

The brass Altar Cross was given by the Major W.P. Van Ness and his sisters, in memory of their mother, Julia Anne Van Ness; and the seven branched candlesticks by Miss Hattie Dennis in memory of her sister, Alice Dennis Wray, and her niece, Winifred A. Young. The Sanctuary tiling is the gift of St. Mary's Guild.

The brass and oak Altar Rail and the white marble Font were given by Mrs. Esther Chesnut Jordan, the former in memory of her husband, Birkett Fry Jordan, who was Treasurer of the Parish during the building of the Church, and who was very active and useful on the Building Committee, and the font in memory of their daughter, Amelia Chesnut Jordan.

The brass eagle Lectern, the Bible, and the brass and oak Litany Desk were the joint gifts of Miss Margaret Tebeau and Miss Alice Thomas. It is appropriate to remark here that these same noble women either gave or raised the money for a large part of

[Page. 227] the Chancel furnishings in the old Church, though as Miss Tebeau prepared the earlier part of this history, her name does not appear. They, and other members of their family, also gave the Communion Service still in use.

The stained glass windows were made by the Jacoby Art Glass Co. of St. Louis. Among the windows are the following gifts and memorials. The first window on the right, just by the font, is in memory of Clara Eleanor Hampton, and was given by her parents, Mr. & Mrs. W.W. Hampton. The second window on the right represents Christ with hands outstretched,—"Come unto Me"—and was given by Mr. and Mrs. James Chesnut in memory of their three sons, James Chesnut Jr., John McCaa Chesnut, and William Lowndes Chesnut. The third, representing Christ in Gethsemane was given in memory of Birkett Fry Jordan by his friends and business associates. The fourth window was the gift of Dr. and Mrs. Watson Porter, and the subject is "*Noli Me Tangere.*" The fifth represents the Annunciation and was given by Mrs. F.D. Warner in memory of her mother, Sarah Moore Kincaid. The first window on the left is in memory of Susan Emma Colclough, given by her son, C.A. Colclough. The subject is the Resurrection Angel. The second window was given by Mrs. C.A. Colclough in memory of

[Page 228] her father, mother and brother, Stephen F., Latitia A. and Louis F. Harvard. It represents a Madonna and child. The third shows an Angel with a palm branch, and was given in memory of Elise Withers McCaa Haile by her sons and daughters. The fourth is in memory of two children who died in the Rectory, Elizabeth Lee Leman and Frederick Reese Craighill. Its subject is The Good Shepherd, and it was paid for partly with money raised by a society of children, called the Little Gleaners, and partly with what was left of a fund originally started for a rose window in the Church which was to have been built on Mr. Spencer's design. The large central window in the east gable was given by the Woman's Guild, and represents the Ascension. The window to the right of it is in memory of Thomas Franklin and Mary Eliza Hampton, and to the left in memory of Edwin Marcy and Charles Oliver Hampton, both given by their son and brother, W.W. Hampton. The subject of the former is the Purification, and of the latter, the Resurrection. W.W. Hampton also gave the oak front doors. The "Ecce Homo" head of Christ in the Trefoil over the Altar was given by the makers of the windows.

The old Church was bought by the Bishop for the use of St. Augustine's Colored Mission, and was removed to West Church St. where it now stands.

[Page 229] The lot was sold to B.F. Hampton for \$2,000, and is now the site of the Masonic Temple.

In May 1907 the Diocesan Council met in Holy Trinity Church. The new building was still far from complete, the windows were occupied by canvas screens, its wainscoting had not been placed, temporary doors closed its openings, and none of the new furniture had arrived.

At the 66th Annual Council of the Diocese which met in St. Augustine, May, 1909, the private school, conducted by Miss Margaret Tebeau, was adopted as the official Diocesan School for Girls. Through the will of Miss Tebeau the School will ultimately become the property of the Diocese.

Rev. Francis H. Craighill resigned and left the Parish, Oct 1st, 1909.

[A third style of handwriting begins here]

The Rev. Thomas A. Haughton Burke of St. Mark's Washington Irving Memorial Church, Tarrytown, New York, was elected and called to the parish and preached his first sermon as Rector on Sun. Feb. 20th, 1910. The following gifts were made for Easter 1910

1 Pair of Eucharistic candlesticks very handsome & made by Gorham, N.Y., the Gift of Miss M. Tebeau. 1 pr Vesper lights, made by Guiler, N.Y., the gift of Miss Alice Thomas. The handsome hand carved antique oak pulpit, clergy stall, & prie dieu were the gifts of Mrs Phillips and are memorials to her husband,

[Page 230] *Dr. Phillips, who was for many years a warden of the parish, and her two daughters.*

The following gifts were made during 1911 and consecrated for Easter 1911.

One pair of handsome solid brass vases, 14in. high, made from original design, given by Mrs Edwards in memory of her little daughter - Julia Annette.

The stall and prie dieu for right side of chancel was given by Mr. Colclough in memory of his father and brother.

The beautiful Balustrade, surrounding the chancel front was made by the Fond-du-luc Church Furniture Co., Fond-du-lac, Wis, and was the gift of St. Elizabeth's Guild. The Choir frontals were the gift of St. Mary's Guild aided by Mrs. Dutton.

The pews and rear screens were donated by the following persons. See list adjoined. The inscription "Diocesan School" & "University" were the gift of Miss Alice Thomas.

The handsome aisle carpets were donated by Mrs. Annise Porter, in memory of her husband, Dr. Watson Porter, who was Vestryman and Warden of the parish for many years and who took a personal and deep interest in all the work of the Parish, not only giving of his substance most liberally but giving his time & labors in the erection of the Church & looking to the care of the building & the beautifying

[Page. 231] *of the lawn. In his death the parish lost its most devoted laborer.*

The Rector feeling unable to stand the long summers has resigned on March 1st to take effect on April 15th 1911. During the years of Mr. Burke's rectorship the Church was completely furnished and the many costly gifts had been made.

[In pencil and in another handwriting]

Rector Bernard Campbell served the parish for more than four years, resigning November 1, 1920.

[N.B., Note, this last sentence is inaccurate as the Rev. Raymond H. Edwards served November 22, 1911, through July 23, 1913, before Mr. Campbell.]