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Church Parishes



of

Old Rappahannock and Essex Counties

The established Church in Colonial Virginia was the Church of England. As in England, parishes were "local units of ecclesiastical and community organization".² The Virginia General Assembly, through legislation, created parishes and defined their boundaries. As the population of Colonial Virginia grew, new parishes were formed and boundary lines changed.

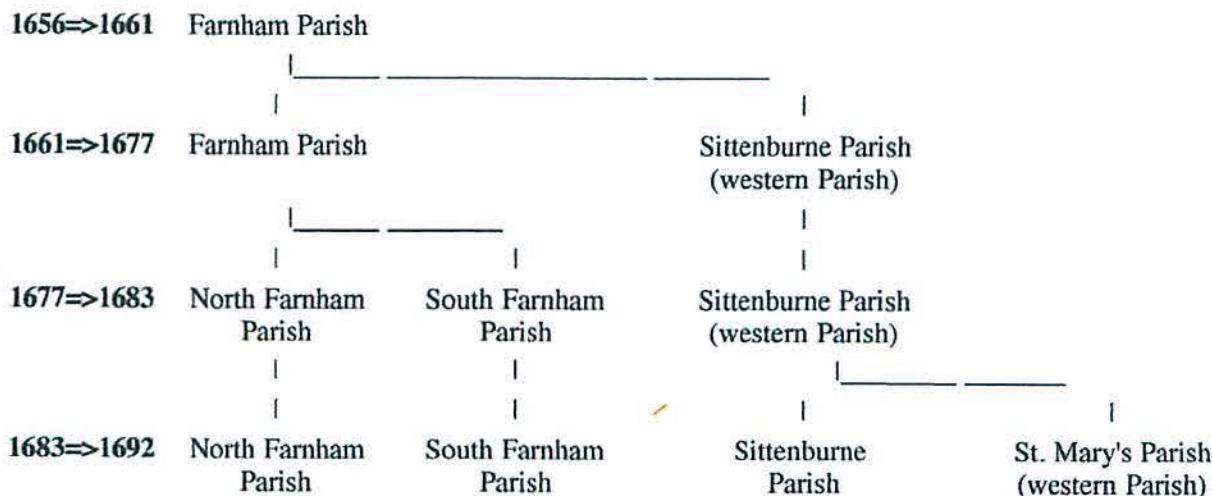
Although the Church of England was dis-established as the official Church following the American Revolution and most of the duties of the vestry turned over to county officials, the parishes continued in existence. The parish boundaries were also used as geographic designations with the residence of parties to deeds being given by parish and county. These designations may be useful in determining in which part of the county the persons resided and the land being conveyed was located.

The charts below diagram the changes in the parishes of Old Rappahannock and Essex Counties from 1656 until the present.

Parishes of

Old Rappahannock County

1656 - 1692



Old Rappahannock County became extinct in 1692 when it was divided into Essex and Richmond Counties.

North Farnham Parish fell wholly into Richmond County at the division.

**Parishes of
Essex County**

1692 - Present

1692⇒1704	South Farnham Parish 	Sittenburne Parish ^a 	St. Mary's Parish (western Parish)
1704⇒1727	South Farnham Parish 	St. Anne's Parish ^b 	St. Mary's Parish (⇒ Caroline Co. 1727)
1727⇒Present	South Farnham Parish (Lower Parish)	St. Anne's Parish (Upper Parish)	

a. A portion of Sittenburne Parish was in Richmond County during this period.

b. St. Anne's Parish was cut off from Sittenburne Parish in 1704. The portion retaining the Sittenburne Parish name fell into Richmond County.

Sources:

1. Cocke, Charles Francis, *Parish Lines in the Diocese of Virginia*, (Richmond, Virginia: Virginia State Library), 1978. Pages 140-147.
2. Salmon, Emily J. and Campbell, Edward D. C. Jr., Editors, *The Hornbook of Virginia History*, (Richmond, Virginia: The Library of Virginia), 1994. Pages 179-187.

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St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
516 McCormick Boulevard
Clifton Forge, VA 24422

Amelia County, 1735

Charles City County

Raleigh Parish, Diocese of Southern Virginia, was formed by the same Act which established Amelia County. When Amelia County was divided in 1748 to form Prince Edward County, Raleigh Parish became coterminous with Amelia County.

At the Virginia State Library there is a photostat of a Vestry Book 1790 and 1827-1926. The records are far from complete and contain only miscellaneous entries. It is said to be a transcription of the original records. There is also a manuscript copy of the Vestry Book 1790 and 1827-1895 which appears to be those used in the transcription listed above. The mother church of this parish was St. John's Church, Grub Hill. Some later records of this church are available at Christ Episcopal Church, Amelia, VA 23002.

Christ Episcopal Church
Amelia, VA 23002

1882

All records from 1882 to the present are held by the church. They may be seen by making an appointment with the rector.

Amherst County, 1761

Henrico County

Amherst Parish, 1761-1808, Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, originally covered all of Amherst County. It was created from St. Anne's Parish, when Amherst County was made from Albemarle County. When Nelson County was formed from Amherst County, the name "Amherst Parish" became extinct as Nelson Parish became the accepted name for the parish within the new Nelson County. Lexington Parish was the other parish in Amherst County. When Lexington Parish was split in 1876 the name Amherst Parish was given to that portion which had been in the original Amherst Parish.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Pedlar Mills
c/o P.O.
Monroe, VA 24517

All early records were burned in a house fire in the late 1950s. Current records are kept at the following address:

Mr. Thomas Wallace IV
131 Royal Circle
Madison Heights, VA 24517

These records may be seen by appointment.

Lexington Parish, Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, was formed by an Act of the General Assembly in 1778 when the original Amherst Parish was divided.

The Virginia State Library has a Vestry Book 1779-1880. There is not too much of genealogical interest, but there is a list of subscribers for the building of St. Mark's Church, 1888. There is a photostat for research.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Rt. 151 (P.O. Box 867)
Amherst, VA 24521

Ascension Episcopal Church
622 S. Main St (P.O. Box 867)
Amherst, VA 24521

According to the Report of the Archivist, University of Virginia, 1934-1935, there was a Register 1869-1915 for this church.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Kenmore Rd.
Amherst, VA 24521

Appomattox County, 1845

Henrico County

Patrick Parish, Diocese of Southern Virginia, seems to have become the accepted name for the parish created within Appomat-

Information is included on baptisms, marriages, burials and Vestry meetings. Records may be seen by an appointment with the rector.

Slaughter Parish, Diocese of Virginia, was formed in 1879 from Ridley Parish, and in 1890 a portion of St. Thomas' Parish in Orange County was added.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church 1874
P.O. Box 81
Rapidan, VA 22733

In the Virginia State Library there is *Emmanuel Church registry, Rapid Ann, Culpeper Co., Va, 1873-1914* and a Vestry Book, 1942-1973.

Records from 1937 to the present covering baptisms, marriages and funerals are available at the church. These may be seen by making an appointment to do so.

Cumberland County, 1749

Henrico County

Leighton Parish, Diocese of Southern Virginia, came into existence in 1852. In 1744 Southam Parish (also known as St. James-Southam) was established covering the area in Goochland County, a parent county to Cumberland. In 1772, and with adjustments a little later, Southam Parish was divided so that Southam Parish was in Powhatan County and Littleton Parish was in Cumberland County. In 1852, Littleton Parish was divided into Littleton Parish and Leighton Parish.

St. James' Episcopal Church 1840
Cartersville, VA 23027

All records from 1840 to the present are held by the church. An appointment with the rector would be necessary to see the records.

Genito Parish, Diocese of Southern Virginia, is one of the parishes which crosses county lines. The parish was established in 1912 when three small churches in Southam Parish and Genito Parish in Powhatan County and Littleton Parish in Cumberland County

were consolidated to form a new Genito Parish. The new parish covers the original Littleton Parish in Cumberland County and a portion of Powhatan County.

Records of Littleton Parish were transcribed into a series of notebooks kept by the Rev. Stephen O. Southall, who became minister of Littleton Parish in 1901. These records are held by the Virginia State Library with a xerox copy for use. There are baptisms, marriages and burials as well as a list of communicants.

Grace Episcopal Church
Ca Ira, VA

Records for this church from 1840 do exist. They are not available for public use, but questions concerning them can be answered by the Rev. Jonathan T. Glass, P.O. Box 481, Powhatan, VA 23139.

There are also some minutes for 1956 and 1958 held at Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

Dinwiddie County, 1752

Charles City County

Bristol Parish, Diocese of Southern Virginia, was established in 1643, and it included the valley of the Appomattox River. When Prince George County, which covered this area, was divided, Bristol Parish became the parish for Dinwiddie County, as well as for a small portion of Prince George County.

There is a photostat of a Register and Vestry Book of this parish at the Virginia State Library. The Register, including births, baptisms and a few deaths, covers the period 1685-1798, and the Vestry Book, 1720-1789. These may also be researched at the Virginia Historical Society where there is a microfilm of the above. The originals are held by the Virginia Historical Society.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church c1788
110 North Union Street (P.O. Box 564)
Petersburg, VA 23804

There are records from approximately 1855 to the present giving baptisms, marriages and burials. These have been microfilmed through 1983 and may be researched at the Virginia Historical

office. An appointment to see the records would be helpful and the staff would be happy to make the records available.

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church 1905
1242 W. Queen Street (P.O. Box 367)
Hampton, VA 23669

Records of baptisms 1916, and 1931-1987, marriages 1914-1921 and 1946-1987 are held at the church office. Letters concerning the records will be answered.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 1963
1835 Todd's Lane (P.O. Box 7430)
Hampton, VA 23666

Records for baptisms, marriages and burials from the founding are available at the church. Records will be made available upon request, or church staff will be happy to respond to letters concerning the records.

Essex County, 1692 *York County*

South Farnham Parish, Diocese of Virginia, was formed in 1683 when Farnham Parish was divided into North and South Farnham Parishes.

The originals of a Vestry Book, 1739-1779, 1819-1827, and 1833-1876 are held at Southside Bank, Tappahannock, VA. At the Virginia State Library is a photostat of these records. Also at Southside Bank are Registers, 1825-1870, 1870-1901 and a Vestry Book, 1877-1896. There are microfilm of these at the Virginia State Library.

St. John's Episcopal Church 1849
Duke Street
Tappahannock, VA 22560

There are Parish Registers from 1871 to the present, giving baptisms, marriages and burials. These may be seen by appointment.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church 1849
Millers Tavern, VA 23115

Grace Episcopal Church
Millers Tavern, VA 23115

St. Anne's Parish, Diocese of Virginia, was formed in 1704 when Sittenburne Parish was divided.

Vauter's Episcopal Church
Loretto, VA 22509

At the Virginia State Library there is a Vestry Book, 1787-1857, with scattered entries.

Fairfax County, 1742 *York County*

Truro Parish, Diocese of Virginia, was formed in 1732 when Hamilton Parish, Prince William County, was divided. When Fairfax County was formed, it embraced Truro Parish.

There is a Truro Vestry Book, 1732-85, held by the Library of Congress. A xerox and filmed copy are available at the Virginia State Library, with the filmed copy being more legible.

Truro Episcopal Church 1732
10520 Main Street
Fairfax, VA 22030

Records of baptisms, marriages and burials from about 1850 on are held at the church. An appointment is necessary to see the records. The staff is not available to help with any research whatsoever of any kind.

Pohick Episcopal Church 1732
9301 Richmond Highway
Lorton, VA 22079

Records are available for baptisms, marriages and burials from 1881 forward. These may be seen by appointment, or questions will be answered by mail.

Pittsylvania County, 1767*Charles City County*

Camden Parish, Diocese of Southern Virginia, was created in 1767 from Antrim Parish by the same Act which established Pittsylvania County from Halifax County.

There is a photostat of a Vestry Book, 1767-1785, and Overseers of the Poor, 1788-1852, for this parish available at the Virginia State Library. The original of this material is held in the clerk's office, Chatham, VA.

Church of the Epiphany 1840
205 Stratford Place
Danville, VA 24541

Records of baptisms, marriages and burials are available from 1840 to the present. These may be seen by calling the church office to make arrangements.

Christ Episcopal Church 1922
Franklin Turnpike and Ridgecrest Drive
Danville, VA 24540

Parish registers from 1922 to the present are at the church. These may either be seen by appointment or letters concerning them will be answered.

Bannister Parish, Diocese of Southern Virginia, was created in 1858. It was enlarged in 1918 when some area originally in Camden Parish was added to it.

There is a Bannister Parish Register 1902-1956 held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chatham, VA.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 26
Chatham, VA 24531

According to the Report of the Archivist, University of Virginia Library, 1934-1935, there was a register dating from 1859 held by this church.

Pruden Parish, Diocese of Southern Virginia, was created from

Bannister Parish in 1918.

There is a Pruden Cure Register, 1902-1956, held at Dabney House Center, Route 1, Java, VA 24565. This may be seen by appointment.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church 1892
(Peytonsburg)
Route 1
Java, VA 24565

Current records, 1956-1987, are held at the Dabney House Center, Route 1, Java, VA 24565. These may be seen by appointment.

St. John's Episcopal Church 1891
(Mt. Airy)
Route 2
Gretna, VA 24557

Current records are held by Mrs. Kathryn T. Waller, Route 2, Box 175, Gretna, VA 24557. The records may be seen by appointment.

Powhatan County, 1777*Henrico County*

Powhatan Parish, Diocese of Southern Virginia, was not established until 1853 when the parish of Southam, which had covered all of Powhatan County, was divided.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church 1844
Powhatan County, VA

At the Virginia State Library is a photostat of the register of this church, 1842-1919. Those records prior to 1858 were copied into the register by the rector who arrived in 1858. There are Vestry Books 1867-1904 and 1904-1932 and Treasurer's Records 1884-1888 and 1910-1921.

The mailing address for this church and the current records is Manakin Church, 1003 Huguenot Trail, Midlothian, VA 23113.

Many records have been lost, but those remaining date from

Registers showing baptisms, marriages and burials from 1963 to date are kept in the church office. These registers may be seen during normal office hours, 9 AM to noon, Monday through Friday, without appointment. An appointment would be required to view them at any other time.

Good Samaritan Episcopal Church 1974
848 Baker Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Records are available from 1974 to the present for this church. It is necessary to make an appointment to see the records as there is no secretary available.

The Episcopal Church of the Messiah 1983
3820 Virginia Beach Boulevard
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Records are available from 1983 to the present. In order to see the records it is best to contact the church office for an appointment.

Church of the Holy Apostles 1977
1598 Lynnhaven Parkway
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

All records from 1977 to the present are available, and these may be seen by appointment.

Pulaski County, 1839

York County

Pulaski Parish, Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, was formed from Montgomery Parish about 1878.

Christ Episcopal Church 1879
Box 975
Pulaski, VA 24301

There are records of baptisms 1880 to the present, marriages

1911 to the present and burials 1912 to the present available in the church office. These may be seen on any weekday morning.

Rappahannock County, 1833

York County

Bromfield Parish, Diocese of Virginia, was formed in 1752. In 1793 Culpeper County was divided to form Madison County and Bromfield became the parish for that county. When Rappahannock County was also formed from Culpeper, Bromfield became the parish for that county as well.

Trinity Episcopal Church 1858
P.O. Box
Washington, VA 22747

Records for baptisms, marriages and burials are available from 1870 to the present. All records may be seen by appointment. Letters of inquiry are answered as fully and as quickly as possible. In addition, questions will be taken over the phone on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Answers will be mailed to the inquirer. There are a few scattered records remaining from the other churches which were in this parish, namely St. Paul's at Woodville, Emmanuel at Sperryville and St. John's at Amissville. These are held by Trinity Church.

Richmond County, 1692

York County

North Farnham Parish, Diocese of Virginia, was formed in 1684 from Farnham Parish, and it became coterminous with Richmond County when that county was formed from Old Rappahannock County. Essex County was created at the same time and Old Rappahannock went out of existence.

There are two photostats and one microfilm of Parish Registers 1663-1814 of this parish at the Virginia State Library. The originals have been lost. The state library also holds a Vestry Book 1834-1931.

Farnham Episcopal Church
Farnham, VA 22460

Lunenburg Parish, Diocese of Virginia, was created from North Farnham Parish in 1732. At the Virginia State Library there is a photostat of a Register 1783-1800; the original document has been lost. The library also has a Register 1825-1870 for South Farnham Parish; this includes some records of Lunenburg Parish.

St. John's Episcopal Church
Warsaw, VA 22572

Roanoke County, 1838

York County

Salem Parish, Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, was established in 1852 from Botetourt Parish. It was coterminous with Roanoke County.

St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church 1852
42 East Main Street
Salem, VA 24157

There are vestry records from 1867 and records of baptisms, marriages and burials from 1880 to the present. These may be seen at the church by appointment.

Mt. Olivet Parish, Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, was formed from Salem Parish in 1883.

St. John's Episcopal Church 1831
Jefferson Street at Elm Avenue
Roanoke, VA 24016

There are records of baptisms, marriages and burials from 1880 to the present. The originals of the records from 1880 to 1882 are kept at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Salem, VA. There are copies of these held in a safe at St. John's which are available for examination.

The records from 1883 to 1899 are in an archives safe of the Virginia Room at the Roanoke, VA Public Library. It is necessary to arrange for the presence of a church representative to examine these records. The records from 1899 to 1987 are maintained in the office of the secretary of St. John's Church and these may be

examined there.

St. James' Episcopal Church 1950
4515 Delray Street, N.W.
Roanoke, VA 24012

There are records in the church office from the founding of the church to the present. Queries concerning these documents can be addressed to the parish secretary in care of the church.

Christ Episcopal Church 1892
1101 Franklin Road, S.W.
Roanoke, VA 24016

There are registers of baptisms, marriages and burials from 1892 to the present. A letter to the rector of the church would bring information from the records.

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church 1958
Grandin Rd. at Guildford Rd. S.W. (P.O. Box 4211)
Roanoke, VA 24015

There are records in the church office from the founding of the church to the present. An appointment is necessary to examine them.

Rockbridge County, 1778

York County

Latimer Parish, Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, was taken as the name for the parish within Rockbridge County about 1846. The fact that Rockbridge Parish had been established by the same enabling act which created Rockbridge County was apparently overlooked.

R.E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church
(Grace Episcopal Church 1870 to 1903)
123 W. Washington Street
Lexington, VA 24450

There are parish registers from 1842 to the present available at the church. Appointments to see the records may be made by