

REV. ROBERT GATEWOOD 1829-1909

Reverend St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Berkley, Virginia

He was a Chaplain in the Army of the Confederate States of America 1860-1865.

The Robert Gatewood School in Berkley was named after him.

Buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Norfolk, Virginia


Dr. Robert Gatewood's home was behind St. Paul's Episcopal Church built 1872 in Berkley. His school house was beside his home where he taught regular school to a small group of local children including Charles & Margaret Colonna's children. The Episcopalians of Berkley first attended old St. Paul's Church in downtown Norfolk but due to hazardous traveling conditions, especially in the winter, having to cross the river by boat became so inconvenient that a branch of St. Paul's was built in Berkley for it's local citizens in 1872 as per attached newspaper clipping.


In 1911 the Episcopalians built another church in Berkley at the southwest intersection of Dinwiddie Street and Poplar Avenue naming it St. Brides, vacating the old 1872 church. They remained at this location until 1960 when they left the Berkley area and built their St. Brides Church on Sparrow Road in the city of Chesapeake, Virginia where it remains active today in 1996.

CIRCA 1900



Left to Right: Rev. Robert E. Gatewood - Saint Paul's Episcopal Church - Berkley Extension
 Fanny Cornick Colonna - Wife of Charles J. Colonna
 Bruce Colonna (Baby) - Son of Charles J. & Fanny Colonna
 Mammy Dolly Jones - Maid
 Benjamin O. Colonna, Sr. - Son of Charles J. and Margaret Colonna
 Charles Jones Colonna - Founder Colonna's Shipyard 1875 Berkley - Norfolk, Va.
 Edward Holt Colonna - Son of Charles J. and Margaret Colonna


 B. O. Colonna, Jr.


 W. W. Colonna, Jr.

BERKLEY AND SOUTH NORFOLK NEWS A

CHURCH FINISHED EARLY IN 1872

Berkley St. Paul's Started as
Mission of Old St. Paul's
in Norfolk

DR. GATEWOOD SPENT LIFETIME IN WORK

After a half century of service to the community, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Berkley, next Sunday will commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the completion of the church building. Plans are being made now for the service. The bishops of the Diocese will take part. Dr. H. H. Covington, of Old St. Paul's, Norfolk, will preach. All the Episcopal ministers of Norfolk and Portsmouth will be invited to be in the procession and chancel.

For some years before the building of the present church, Rev. Robert Gatewood, D. D., conducted Episcopal services in the old courthouse at the corner of Walnut and Pine streets as a mission of Old St. Paul's, Norfolk, of which Mr. Gatewood was at that time assistant.

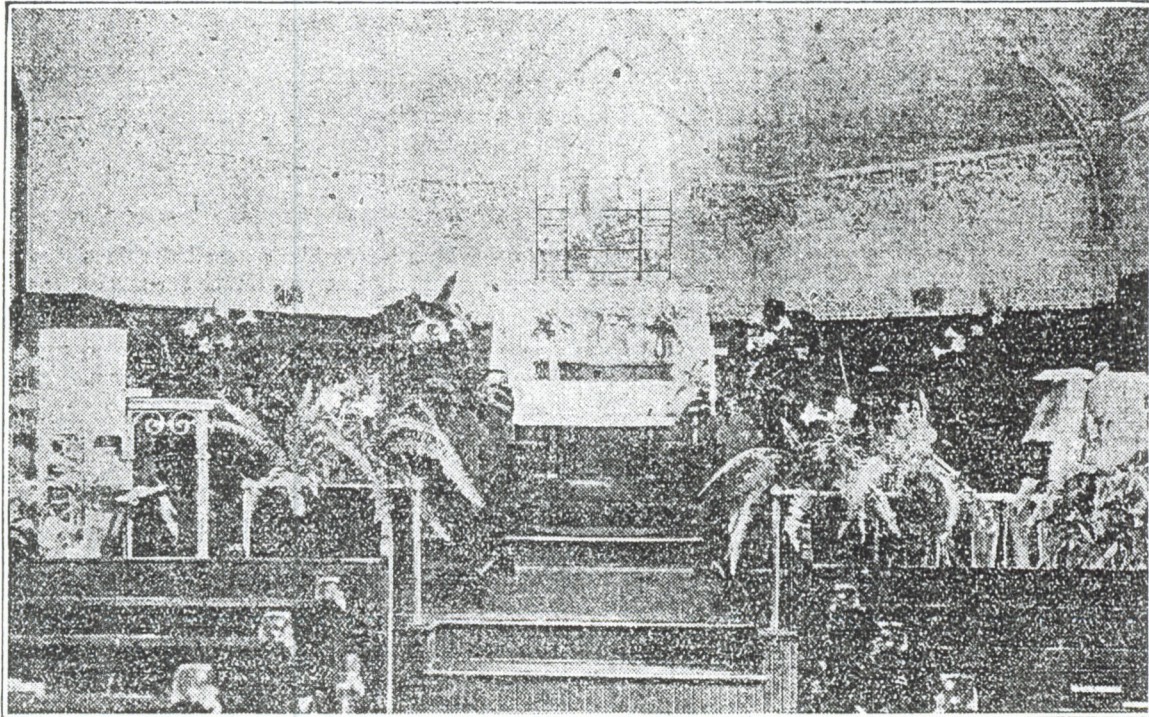
Held Combined Services

It was the custom prior to 1870 for Methodists and Episcopalians to hold services in the courthouse alternately twice a month. The combined membership of both denominations participated in the Episcopal service two Sundays in the month and likewise the Methodist service two Sundays in the month. This manner of holding service in Berkley obtained a great many years until the old courthouse proved inadequate to accommodate the worshippers of the two denominations and the membership of each was sufficiently large to warrant the construction of separate church buildings.

In 1872 Lycurgus Berkley, for whom the then town of Berkley was named, donated a site for the erection of an Episcopal Church. On this site was built the present church, which was completed in February, 1872, and consecrated by Bishop Whittle April 11, of the same year.

At that time the membership of St. Paul's numbered about fifty and with the construction of this new building this number was augmented by the addition of a few from the Episcopal churches in Norfolk. The mission was continued in the new building and its growth was such that a few years after the church building was finished, it was recognized by the Council of the Diocese of Virginia as a parish separate and apart from the mother church in Norfolk. After this, under the guidance of Dr. Gatewood, the church grew very rapidly.

CHURCH TO HAVE FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY



Interior of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Berkley, with decorations used last Easter.



Exterior of St. Paul's Church, Berkley