



By Pen & By Purse



Churchwomen Make Their Mark



ST. MARK'S CHURCH, WILSON

We the undersigned residents of the town of Wilson in the Diocese of North Carolina do hereby apply to the Right Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire, Bishop of said Diocese, and request him to organize us into a mission of said Diocese in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the same; and we do hereby engage to be governed by the Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of North Carolina and in the United States of America, and to submit in all things to the doctrine, discipline and worship of said Church. Witness our hands this 2nd day of March in the year of our Lord Nineteen Hundred.

This petition had 13 signatories, 8 of whom were women: PEARL PALMER, ELLA PALMER, IDA R. CLARK, HENRIETTA HILL, LUCY HARIS, MINNIE WILLIAMS, BERTHA WELLS, MAMMIE L. PEACOCK. (Cheshire Papers, Diocesan Archives)



ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH, LITTLETON

We the undersigned inhabitants of the town of Littleton in the State and diocese of North Carolina do hereby apply to the Rt. Rev. Joseph Blount Cheshire, bishop of said Diocese, and request him to organize us into a congregation and Church of said Diocese under the Constitution and Canons thereof by the name and title of Saint Alban's Church. And we do hereby engage that in all our actions as a congregation we will be governed by the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America and in the Diocese aforesaid. Witness our Hand this third day of November the year of our Lord Nineteen Hundred.

This petition was signed by 13 members, 7 of whom were women: MRS. L. VINSON, MRS. T. V. PICOT, ELLEN D. LEACH, BESSIE W. VINSON, KATHARINE H. LEACH, MRS. M. S. MOORE, LUCY GOODE CAPEHART. (Cheshire Papers, Diocesan Archives)



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, ROANOKE RAPIDS

To the Rt. Rev. Jos. Blount Cheshire, D.D., Bishop of North Carolina: We the undersigned members of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of North Carolina residing in the town of Roanoke Rapids, respectfully ask you to give us an organization as a mission under your jurisdiction and appoint the necessary officers as allowed in Canon VIII, Chapter III of the Constitution & Canons of said Diocese.

This undated petition had the following signatures: EFFIE WALDO, William Francis Joyner, William Mountford, Augustus C. Hoyt, John Legerwood Patterson. Before issuing the Certificate of Organization on April 20, 1905, Bishop Cheshire wrote down, then marked through, the names "Holy Innocents" and "Zion Church," before settling on "All Saints". (Cheshire Papers, Diocesan Archives)



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, SPEED

To Rt. Rev. Jos. B. Cheshire, Bishop of Diocese of N. Carolina. We the undersigned, members of St. Mary's Church, Speed, hereby make application to be organized into a mission to be known as St. Mary's Mission, Speed, N.C., with the rights and privileges of a regularly organized mission & respectfully await your authority in this matter.

On May 15, 1922, Bishop Cheshire approved this application, signed by 22 members, 12 of whom were women: MRS. D. H. PARKER, MISS MATTIE DAVENPORT, MRS. A. J. PARKER, MRS. J. H. EDWARDS, MRS. N. L. BURNETTE, MARY M. CHERRY, MRS. FANNIE LUCAS, EMILY DAY DAVENPORT, ANNIE MABLE EDWARDS, DOROTHY EDWARDS, VIVIAN LUCAS, ANNIE PARKER SHELTON. (Cheshire Papers, Diocesan Archives)



FOR AN EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN RALEIGH

MARY "JACKIE" SUMNER BLOUNT (1777-1822) was born in Warren County, the daughter and wife of revolutionary generals. From her husband, General Thomas Blount of Edgecombe County, came a substantial fortune, part of which she directed for the "Building of a Protestant Episcopal Church in the City of Raleigh." Her interest in building this church was inspired by her rector in Tarboro, the Rev. John Phillips. The executors secured the money for the stated purpose, and in 1826 the present church lot was purchased and a frame building erected, the predecessor to the present handsome building. (Sketch by Jaquelin Drane Nash in *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*)



FOR CALVARY CHURCH, TARBORO

MARY W. HARGRAVE, of the County of Davidson and State of North Carolina, doth give and grant to the Bishop and Trustees of the Diocese the sum of five hundred dollars to be paid from her distributive share of the Estate of her Father Theophilus Parker as a permanent fund to be invested as they may deem most advisable, and the annual proceeds of such investment to be applied to the keeping in good & sufficient repair of the enclosure around said Calvary Church, Tarborough. In witness whereof the said Mary W. Hargrave hath set her hand and affixed her seal this thirteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & forty nine. (Trust Records, Diocese of North Carolina)



FOR ST. LUKE'S, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

In the name of God and the Holy Catholic Church (not Roman Catholic but Protestant Episcopal) of which I am a member, I, LUCY GOODE CAPEHART OERTEL, daughter of Captain Thomas Capehart, CSA, and Amelia Epps Tucker Capehart, late of Vance county, North Carolina and Northampton County, North Carolina, and widow of the late J. F. Oertel of Vienna, Virginia, make this disposition of my worldly goods . . . From the other one-half of the proceeds of said sale [property], my Executor shall (1) Pay over and deliver to the Diocese of North Carolina of the Protestant Episcopal Church, the sum on One Thousand (\$1,000.00) Dollars, the income from said fund to be used by the Diocese of North Carolina for services for the Capehart and Tucker families in St. Luke's Church, Northampton County, North Carolina; (2) Add the rest and residue of said proceeds to the present Memorial Fund on deposit with Guaranty Bank and Trust Company of Washington, N.C. to be used in locating, improving and placing suitable markers for the Tucker and Capehart graves in the cemetery of St. Luke's Church, Northampton County, North Carolina. . . . In witness whereof, I, the said Lucy Capehart Oertel, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 19th day of December, 1952. (Diocesan Trust Records)



FOR ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, RALEIGH

In 1905 the will of St. Mary's School alumna MARY ELIZA BATTLE PITTMAN (MRS. NEWSOME JONES PITTMAN) of Tarboro provided for a memorial to her daughter, ELIZA BATTLE PITTMAN, who also attended St. Mary's. This unsolicited gift of \$13,000 was used to build "The Eliza Battle Pittman Auditorium" and to establish two scholarships to be awarded at the discretion of the Vestry of Calvary Church to residents of Edgecombe County. (*A Goodly Heritage* by Jaquelin Drane Nash, p. 52; *The Heritage: The Education of Women at St. Mary's College, Raleigh North Carolina, 1842-1982* by Martha Stoops, p. 165.)



FOR SPRING HOPE MISSION, NASH COUNTY

Have kept up regular services at Spring Hope, where also Rev. M. A Barber and myself held a very encouraging mission last July. The congregation there has secured a large and desirable lot, partly through the generosity of MRS. E. G. MUSE, and hope to build a chapel this summer. (The Rev. Robert B. Owens, Parochial Report for The Church of the Good Shepherd, Rocky Mount, *1912 Journal of Convention*, 101)

NOTE: Mrs. E. Muse served as both Vice President and Secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary Branch at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Rocky Mount after it was organized in 1897. (*Annual Reports of the Woman's Auxiliary, Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina*)



ST. IGNATIUS MISSION, OLD SPARTA

Rt. Rev. J. B. Cheshire, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of N.C., Rt. Rev. Father in God: We, the undersigned, being Confirmed persons living in and around the community of Old Sparta, and hitherto recorded as communicants of Calvary Parish, Tarboro, do respectfully apply to the Bishop and Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina, for admission into the Diocese as an organized Mission, to be known as St. Ignatius, with the rights and responsibilities of an organized Mission according to the Canons. We are in number more than twenty adult confirmed persons, and we have elected a Vestry, with the proper officers, and are worshipping in a building situated upon Church land, and desire to be served by the Rector of Calvary Parish, Tarboro, until other arrangements can be made, if so desired.

On May 13, 1924, this application was signed by 23 members, 13 of whom were women: MRS. THURSTON WEBB, VERA B. WARREN, MRS. C. K. EDWARDS, MRS. BASTER HARRELL, MISS LOSSIE JENKINS, MRS. (?) LAWRENCE, MISS MAHALEY HARRELL, MRS. SELMA PARISH, MRS. CHARLIE HOWARD, MRS. P. G. SHELTON, MRS. RALPH JOHNSON, MRS. E. C. CARR, MRS. G. C. MONKS. (Cheshire Papers, Diocesan Archives)



ORGANIZATION OF ST. ANNE'S, EDGECOMBE COUNTY

To the Rt. Rev. J. B. Cheshire, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina. Rev. Father in god: We, the undersigned, residents of the neighborhood west of Tarboro, in Edgecombe county, near the mission Church known as St. Anne's, do respectfully apply to you to organize us into a Mission to be known as St. Anne's. There are more than twenty Confirmed persons in this neighborhood.

This undated application was signed by 19 members, 11 of whom were women: MARY PENELOPE GRAY, ELIZA BOND GRAY, MRS. T. W. RIDDICK, MRS. H. L. SHIRLEY, MISS MARY SHIRLY, MRS. MINNIE JOHNSON, MISS JOSEPHINE JOHNSON, MRS. MATTIE DREW, MRS. A. G. DAVIS, MAY DEE HARRIS, MRS. QUEENIE WILLS. (Cheshire Papers, Diocesan Archives)



CONSECRATION OF ST. ANNE'S, EDGECOMBE COUNTY

Petition for the Consecration of "Saint Anne's Church" Edgecombe County, Diocese of North Carolina. The undersigned, desiring to promote the Glory of God, and the welfare of His Church, have erected upon a parcel of ground, which has theretofore been conveyed to the Trustees of the said Diocese of North Carolina, a Building for the public worship and service of Almighty God: And they do hereby apply to the Right Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire, doctor in Divinity by Divine Permission Bishop of North Carolina, and request him to take the said Building and premises under his spiritual and canonical jurisdiction and that of his successors and the same to set apart and consecrate under the name and style of

'SAINT ANNE'S CHURCH,'

thereby severing it from all profane, worldly and common uses, and forever dedicating it to the service of ALMIGHTY GOD, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, in accordance with the use and customs of that Branch of His Holy Catholic Church here on earth now commonly known and legally designated as the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and in the Diocese of North Carolina aforesaid.

This petition was signed on November 2, 1931 by ELIZA BOND GRAY AND MARY PENELOPE GRAY, and witnessed by MRS. ANNIE PENDER GORDON AND ANNIE PENDER GORDON MYERS. (Cheshire Papers, Diocesan Archives)



FOR GRACE CHURCH, WELDON

In May, 1866, the first effort towards the erection of a church at Weldon was made by the ladies of the vicinity, under the special direction of MRS. C. J. GEE and MISS MARY A. LONG, the result amounting to \$376.06, which was the nucleus of the church fund here. (The Rev. W. Lawton Mellinhampe, Grace Church, Weldon, N. C., *The Churchman*, February 28, 1891, p. 324)



FOR THE CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR, JACKSON

The congregation of The Church of the Saviour esteem it a privilege to place on record in the diocese their grateful appreciation of the generous kindness of MRS. H(ENRY) K(ING). BURGWYN, of Richmond, Va., for enhancing the comfort and convenience of worship by alterations and the extension of the church at her own expense, the benefit of whose generous liberality and fervent Christian spirit is felt and acknowledged by pastor and people. The extension of the church building is a memorial to the late H. K. Burgwyn, Esq. (The Rev. Gilbert Higgs, Parochial Report, Church of the Saviour, Jackson, *1886 Journal of Convention*, 72)



FOR EDUCATING YOUNG MEN FOR THE MINISTRY

MARTHA GOODWIN CLARK (1815-1897), formerly of Halifax County, N. C., died in Florida, having donated upon her death fifty shares of preferred stock in the Southern Railway Company of the par value of \$100 per share. The market value of said stock is now small, less than \$25 per share. This stock was delivered to the Trustees in lieu of certain railroad bonds, which she had given to the President of the Citizens National Bank, in trust for herself during her life and then for the Trustees of the Diocese, to assist in the education of young men for the Ministry in the Protestant Episcopal Church. It became necessary to surrender said bonds, in the reorganization of the railroads now composing the system of the Southern Railway Company, and to take preferred stock, or lose the investment altogether. There is good ground to hope that this security will increase in value; and in the meanwhile it is paying a small dividend. (Report of the Trustees of the Diocese, *1898 Journal of Convention*, p. 22-23)



FOR ST. MARK'S, HALIFAX

I, Emily Gilliam Gary [Mrs. Sterling M.], of the town of Halifax, County of Halifax, State of North Carolina, being of sound mind, do make and declare this my last Will and Testament . . . (6th) I give \$100 to be made a Trust Fund in the savings department of the Bank of Halifax in the name of the Colonial Cemetery, the interest to be collected by the President of St. Mark's Woman's Auxiliary, or her order, and used to keep up the square in which my husband, Sterling M. Gary, is buried. (7th) I give \$1,000 to the Diocese of North Carolina to be invested and held in trust for the benefit of St. Marks' Episcopal Church, Halifax, the income therefrom to be paid to the Treasurer of St. Mark's Church. I give to St. Mark's Church the Tiffany bowl for use in the Font and entrust the Women in the church to keep this bowl with the communion chalice. It would not do to leave it in the church. They might have the church name engraved on it and a cross. (Copy of handwritten will in Diocesan Trust Records)



FOR GRACE CHAPEL, LAWRENCE

KATHERINE (KATE) DRANE CHESHIRE used part of a bequest from near relatives to purchase land adjoining Grace Chapel in Lawrence. She built a small cottage to serve as a parochial school and a dwelling for herself. With herself as headmistress (and for a time the only teacher), she gathered the children of the village and nearby farms in "a school of Christian nurture," as her deed for the school property stated. . . . Her little "dame school" embodied in its curriculum her instinct for drama and the arts as teaching tools. Young students of Grace School, now grown very old, remember that there was a stage at the end of the schoolroom and a piano, and that pageants and plays written and produced by this indomitable little lady were frequent features of school life there. No written record remains of these, nor of the curriculum. (*In This Holy House: The Story of Grace Memorial Chapel, Lawrence, North Carolina*, by Jaquelin Drane Nash, 1994, p. 7)



FOR ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, TARBORO

This Deed made this 17th day of March 1892 between ARABELLA C. PARKER of the first part and Theodore B. Lyman, Richard H. Battle & Chas. E. Johnson, Trustees of the Diocese of North Carolina of the second part, Witnesseth: That for and in consideration of Twenty Five dollars in hand paid to the said A. C. PARKER, by MARY E. PERRY, MARY E. HARRIS, MARY J. RANDOLPH, PENELOPE L. NEWTON, ESTHER B. EATON AND THEIR ASSOCIATES, THE MISSION HELPERS OF ST. LUKE'S PARISH, TARBORO, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the said A. C. PARKER . . . does hereby bargain & sell, alien & convey unto the said [Trustees] the following described piece of Land, situate lying & being in the County of Edgecombe, about one mile west of the Town of Tarboro on the old Poor House Road, being part of the Dowd Farm recently conveyed to said A. C. PARKER by S. S. Nash & wife. . . . containing one acre - more or less. (Diocesan Property Records)

HELP US IDENTIFY & HIGHLIGHT MORE CHURCHWOMEN

These brief snippets about how churchwomen "made their mark" form part of the larger ECW Bicentennial grass roots project, "BY WORD & EXAMPLE: WOMEN WHO GRACED THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1817-2017." To review online guidelines and sample biographical sketches enter: www.ecw-nc.org for the website of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of North Carolina, then click "BY WORD & EXAMPLE" at the bottom of the left-hand column. You are also welcome to contact Lynn Hoke, ECW Archivist/Historian, directly at archives@ecw-nc.org or by phone at the Diocese of North Carolina: 919-834-7474.