

By Morris Radoff.

However that may be, it is certain that the part of the church to be used by the officers of the Province was far from finished. On September 27, 1704, the Council considered a message from the Lower House in which it was "Proposed whether it may not be necessary for the ornament of St Anne's Church in Annapolis that the Pews appointed for the Delegates of Assembly may be built at the publick Charge and that flag stone may be sent for out of England to lay the alleys."<sup>14</sup> The Council concurred and it may be presumed, therefore, that the proposal was put into effect. The records do not mention the Church again until the Council, on April 8, 1706, speaks of a very good Vestry House just built and "adjoined to the Church."<sup>15</sup> It seems reasonable to suppose that the Church was completed before the Vestry House was "adjoined" to it. Several years later bell and belfry were added, and a golden ball surmounting the spire. According to Riley, the church was built in the form of a T and the main entrance was toward the State House, that is, toward the East.<sup>16</sup> But Norris assures us that that Church was made T-shaped by the addition of a transept on the Eastern side in 1734.<sup>17</sup> Allen believes that this addition, twenty by eighteen feet, was finished by 1739.<sup>18</sup>

#### SECOND CHURCH

From time to time St. Anne's Church was enlarged by the addition of pews in open spaces on the ground floor or by extension of the galleries, but in the end, the increase in the size of the congregation and the ravages of time made a new and larger building necessary. In answer to an appeal of the Vestry, the Assembly at its last session as a Provincial body, passed an act providing for substantial help on the part of the State in return for the setting aside of a certain number of pews for the use of the public officials, and because "the Church in the City of Annapolis is too Small, inconvenient, and in a ruinous State . . ."<sup>19</sup>

At the vestry meeting of March 7, 1775, the organ was ordered taken down and removed and the old church was then razed. Services were to be held—for a very short time, it was expected—in the newly-built theatre. But it was seventeen years before the new church, so confidently begun, was to be completed and King William School by the end of this period had become the substitute church. Usable materials salvaged from the old church and new materials, gathered in advance so that no time would be lost, were taken for war use by the State and the County governments as well as by certain individuals. It was not until 1784 that the Vestry made a serious effort to recover these materials or the cost thereof, but with the exception of the money

<sup>14</sup> Archives of Maryland, XXVI, p. 72.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., p. 582.

<sup>16</sup> Elihu S. Riley, *The Ancient City, Annapolis*, 1887, p. 60.

paid by the State for what had been used in the common defense, little came back. Consequently, authorization had to be sought from the Assembly to open new subscription lists in order that the work might proceed.<sup>20</sup> In September 1788, a controversy arose as to whether the steeple should be built at that time or postponed until funds were more plentiful. The case for the steeple was made in a broadside dated September 5, 1788, prepared by the trustees from which, among other things, we learn that the builders were Messrs. "Hammond and King."<sup>21</sup> The architect, according to his daughter, was Joseph Clark, who was also at work at this time on Bladen's Folly and the State House.<sup>22</sup> However, Mrs. Key says that it was her husband, Robert Key, who was architect and builder.<sup>23</sup> It has been impossible to substantiate either statement.

The hope of the trustees, who predicted in 1788 that the church would shortly be finished, was disappointed by lack of funds. Again in 1790 an appeal was made to the General Assembly, and that body authorized Charles Wallace, James Brice and John Davidson to open a new subscription.<sup>24</sup> By March 29, 1792, work was so far along that the trustees were asking for bids from carpenters for the construction of "about one hundred and thirty PEWS, and two stories of STAIRS, each about twenty feet high, and an elegant ALTAR, in the new CHURCH in the city of Annapolis."<sup>25</sup> And, finally, on November 24 of that year, the church was opened. The occasion is noted in the journal of a contemporary:

"The Church in the City of Annapolis was Consecrated on the 25 [*sic*] day of November in the Year of our Lord 1792

"The text taken from the 28 Chapter of Genesis 17 Verse . . . And he was afraid, And Said: How dreadful is this place; this is none other but the house of God, and this is the Gate of heaven:

"Preached by mr higinbotom and Consecrated by Bishop Claget."<sup>26</sup>

Fortunately, many views of the exterior of the church have survived; but little is recorded about the interior. Riley's full description is given in a few lines:

"It cost £6,000, nearly \$30,000. The church was 110 feet long, and 90 broad, and was surmounted with a tower. On the outside were pilasters, which divided the wall into panels, and long windows gave it, with its time-colored bricks, a sombre and religious appearance. Inside, the church was frescoed. This church, with its modern panels and posts, in green and white, encircling the yard remained until the night of Sunday, February 14th, 1858, when it was destroyed by fire."<sup>27</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Ch. 44, Acts of 1785.

<sup>21</sup> St. Anne's Parish Papers, Accessions No. D15(9), Hall of Records.

<sup>22</sup> Petition of Mrs. Magee quoted *infra*, "The Third State House."

<sup>23</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 265.

<sup>24</sup> Ch. 47, Acts of 1790.