

Remembering Virginia Gros



Virginia Washington Gros, who died Feb. 23 at age 89, was honored at a memorial service in our church on Saturday. By request, here is a little St. Paul's history for those newer to this church than I am, with sincere apologies to Virginia's many friends and relatives who know more than I do.

Virginia was a direct descendant of the first recorded rectors of St. Paul's, the Stuarts. The marble plaque by the hymn board lists David Stuart as rector of this parish from 1722 to 1749 and his son as rector from 1749 to 1790. The last person added to the plaque list is Mary Grymes Washington (1889 to 1980). She was the person recommended to us in the 1960's as the best source for St. Paul's history, and Virginia was her daughter.



The fund mentioned regularly by our treasurer in connection with the church grounds and cemetery is named after Virginia's grandmother, Rosalie S. Grymes (1869-1962). This is probably why Virginia was so instrumental in landscaping the church grounds, selecting special dogwood trees, etc. As long as she was able, she was a hands-on, weed-pulling chairman of the landscaping committee, and she arranged to have her trees watered during dry weather by people like by father and my son.



The Opp Shop, then located on Mary Pryor's property, was also very dear to Virginia Gros. She was not only one of the founders and a regular worker-sorter-organizer but also quite successful at inspiring others to come work with her.

When it came time for a church bazaar, it was generally assumed that Virginia would be in charge of the desserts. She saw to it that the quality, variety, and quantity were outstanding, and she personally cut up and served every pie and cake.



While Virginia and her mother were regularly present on Sunday mornings, her husband, Dick Gros, would more likely be found at St. Paul's during the week, working on the organ. He personally carved the organ console, the framework of the choir organ, and the Bible stand. He spent years ordering and assembling the pipes and other components of the organ system.

For those of us who were fortunate enough to know these people, it is difficult to believe they are no longer with us. Their memories are vivid and their legacies great!

Pat Frazer

Additional pictures of Virginia and her family may be found at
<http://stpaulskgva.org/pdf/grosfamilyalbum.pdf>