

## Remembering 11 notable persons from the history of St. Margaret's



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Here they are, first pictured together by St. Margaret's History & Archives Project at the March 1, 2015 ministry fair . . . now briefly described in relationship to St. Margaret's. Each has a story long surpassing what appears below. [More information is available from Barbara Breedon [bkbreedon@comcast.net](mailto:bkbreedon@comcast.net) & Michael Winn [mwinn421@verizon.net](mailto:mwinn421@verizon.net).]

1. **John Ridout**, first Ridout in Maryland, ca. 1758, arriving to serve as secretary to Governor Horatio Sharpe. Reportedly was treasurer of St. Margaret's and arranged sale of two thousand acre White Hall (Whitehall) (owned by St. Margaret's from 1749-1764) to Governor Horatio Sharpe. Took possession and then ownership of Whitehall. Picture is of John Ridout's home in Annapolis, still standing on Duke of Gloucester. Died 1797.
2. **Hester Ann Chase Ridout** ca. 1820-1887, wife of the Rev. Samuel Ridout (see number 9), in 1884 secured eight acres of land adjacent to the single acre the parish has owned at its present location since 1824, selling these eight acres to St. Margaret's for the nominal price of five dollars.
3. Edwin Malburn (**Ed**) **Hall**, PhD (1909-1995) and his wife Zoe Brunson Hall (1903-1994), were members of St. Margaret's from April 1972 until Zoe's death in 1994 and Ed's death in 1995. They are buried in St. Margaret's cemetery. Upon Ed's death he left generous gifts to many friends, and the remainder of his estate, \$3.5 million, to St. Margaret's. Typical of Ed, he left this gift with no restrictions relying on his church to use it properly. The subsequently established endowment fund began with this bequest, has been nurtured since by rectors and vestries, and has been used to support ministries at home and around the world.

4. The Rt. Rev. **Mary Douglas Glasspool** served as rector of St. Margaret's from March 1, 1992-September 30, 2001, leaving to become Canon to the Bishops for the Diocese of Maryland. After nearly 10 years and numerous Maryland bishops +Mary was elected Bishop Suffragan for the Diocese of Los Angeles.
5. The Rev. **Harry Benter** today is likely best known as Jeanne Nardi's father. Arriving at St. Margaret's in the late 1970s while at the Naval Academy, Harry first accepted the challenge that successfully began moving St. Margaret's towards ministry in the world and then took on the responsibilities for the three-year long 1986 Enhanced Restoration. Harry left St. Margaret's for seminary and after ordination served parishes in New York and in Florida where he is now canonically resident and actively retired.
6. Folger McKinsey (**Mack**) **Ridout, Sr** (1925-2011) likely accomplished more than any other lay person in the nearly 325 year history of St. Margaret's — despite the fact that Mack left St. Margaret's in 1970 to worship at St. Anne's Annapolis and he and his wife Barbara did not return to his ancestral parish until 1994. While everyone who knew him has Mack tales, we need recall that after returning in 1994 he reorganized the cemetery and led construction of the columbarium, restarted the joust, launched the archives, wrote and published long stories about parish history then organized historical tours to bring this history to life, served as senior warden, managed a transition in rectors, served as a Eucharistic visitor, and completed EFM. In earlier times he was church school superintendent, guided efforts to build the present education building (necessarily taking on the rector who opposed any new construction) , drove the church school bus, and is pictured in liturgical garb because frequently — including two months every summer — he conducted St. Margaret's worship services and preached at these services.
7. **Virginia Pettebone**, a long time devoted member of the parish, with her 2003 bequest made possible construction of the columbarium that along with the cemetery makes up St. Margaret's churchyard. Her bequest also enabled St. Margaret's to make a gift of \$100,000 for new construction at the Bishop Claggett Center. 
8. **Horatio Sharpe** (1718 – 1790) was the 22nd Proprietary Governor of Maryland serving from 1753 to 1768. Governor Sharpe's history is a combination of folklore and facts. In 1758 he brought John Ridout to Maryland from England to serve as his Secretary. Ridout reportedly ran Maryland while the Governor participated in ongoing conflicts with American Indians in Western Maryland. Likely a member of St. Anne's, Governor Sharpe engaged John Ridout (perhaps St. Margaret's treasurer) to secure Whitehall(White Hall), a two thousand acre tidewater plantation, from St. Margaret's in 1764. This was a classic battle of wills, power, and the vestry — St. Margaret's had owned White Hall since 1749. When Governor Sharpe was forced to leave Maryland, John Ridout moved onto White Hall and married the woman (Mary Ogle) for whom Governor Sharpe may have been building his mansion at White Hall. In his will, Governor Sharpe forgave John Ridout back rent — which he had refused to pay, and bequeathed White Hall to John Ridout.
9. The Rev. Samuel (**Dr. Sam**) **Ridout, MD** (1816-1885) served nearly 30 years as rector of St. Margaret's in two terms separated by 10 years. Dr. Sam first became rector in 1844 at the age of 28 and remained as rector until December 1860. While serving this whites-only congregation in which he had grown up, he opened St. Margaret's doors and ministries (baptisms, marriages, burials — not at the church, however) to enslaved and free persons of African descent. Then, in 1860, he resigned to assume rectorship of a parish in Scottsville, Albemarle County, Virginia (likely St. Anne's Parish, not church) south of Charlottesville. And to serve as a surgeon to the CSA army(Confederate States of America) . Dr. Sam returned as St. Margaret's rector in 1870, continuing to serve the white congregation in the church and persons of color away from the church including his own home (Whitehall, not the rectory) remaining until his death until 1884. Dr. Sam is ranked at the top of the list of former rectors one wants to meet in heaven.

10. Mason Locke (**Parson**) **Weems**, served as rector of St. Margaret's for less than two years (1791-1792) and accomplished very little. He was born October 1, 1759 at Marshes Seat, St. James Parish in Anne Arundel County, one of 19 children of David and Hester Hill Weems. From those 19 children the Weems' name was spread into all parts of the local countryside. Weem's niece Ann Weems married Horatio Ridout and became the mother of the Rev. Samuel Ridout, MD (see 9 above). Weems was accustomed to writing books for boys and his *Life of Washington* was to that purpose. In 1800, when the book was written, the nation was new, George Washington had died and hero worship was running high. Weems made George Washington the hero of the cherry tree story he wrote for the youth of the land that they might have an example of perfection in conduct. However, in a later edition he declares it was his intention to humanize one who lived as a demigod. Parson Weems died May 23, 1825, Beaufort, SC and is buried near his Dumfries VA home *Belle Air*. We are told that his last words were *God is Love*. For more about Parson Weems, please go to [www.st-margarets.org/uploads/2/8/8/6/28869061/macks\\_memories.pdf](http://www.st-margarets.org/uploads/2/8/8/6/28869061/macks_memories.pdf)
  
11. The last will and testament of Nicholas Greenberry (1627-1697) read in part *I give and bequeath to my Son **Charles Greenberry** a[nd] to his Heires forever all that my Plantation Call[ed] White hall together wth: the Land thereunto belonging*. Charles Greenberry, upon his death in 1713 left the two thousand acre plantation called White Hall (today Whitehall) to his wife and upon her death to *Westminster Parish*. In the 1710 draft of his will (draft and final will are both at the Maryland Archives and NOT available to the public) Charles Greenberry uses *Westminster Parish* instead of *Broad Necke* (Broadneck) parish — the first surviving reference to the parish name change following its 1692 establishment. Upon the death of Charles' wife in 1749, St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Parish, assumed ownership of White Hall Plantation, intended by Charles to forever support a minister of the church. Fifteen years later in 1764, Whitehall was sold to Governor Horatio Sharpe by the vestry of St. Margaret's, receiving little in return.