



The First Episcopal Church in Each State of the Union

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THE FIRST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN EACH STATE OF THE UNION

*Compiled by George Woodward Lamb**

SOME time ago the Reverend Franklin J. Clark, Secretary of General Convention, received a request from the American Lutheran Statistical Association of Decorah, Iowa, for a record of the first Episcopal Church in each of the United States. He referred the request to the Church Historical Society. Such a list appears never to have been compiled, or if compiled, never published. Since the subject is of interest and of some importance to others, it should be so to members of the Episcopal Church. The cordial and helpful cooperation of those who supplied data, many of them members of the Society, is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

A remarkable thing is that all except one of these *first* churches are still active. The Church at Jamestown, Virginia, dating from 1607, and the first church of any communion in the United States of America, was dissolved in 1812, but the tower still standing is a shrine to countless Americans. In recent years a nave has been added to the tower and the church is used for an occasional service.

It will be noted that two churches are listed under Massachusetts. King's Chapel, Boston, the first Anglican church in Massachusetts, became a Unitarian organization following the Revolutionary War. On April 21, 1783, James Freeman, a lay reader, was chosen pastor of King's Chapel by the proprietors. In 1785, under Freeman's leadership, King's Chapel espoused Unitarianism. Freeman, refused ordination by the bishops of the Episcopal Church because of his Unitarian views, was "ordained" on November 18, 1787, by the senior warden of the congregation. He served as pastor until his retirement in 1826.**

Many of these "first" churches have kept pace with the growth of the Church and are the largest and most influential parishes in their respective dioceses. The most conspicuous is, of course, Trinity Church, New York City. Eight are now cathedrals—in Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and Utah—all in the Mississippi Valley or the Rocky Mountains.

**Librarian of the Church Historical Society, 4205 Spruce Street, Philadelphia—Ed. Note.*

***See, F. W. P. Greenwood, "History of King's Chapel," Boston. 1833. Pp. 135-145.*

THE FIRST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN EACH STATE 403

<i>State</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Church and Date</i>	<i>Status, 1939</i>
Alabama.....	Mobile.....	Christ Church, 1822..	Active
Arizona.....	Tombstone.....	St. Paul's, 1882.....	Active
Arkansas.....	Little Rock.....	Christ Church, 1823..	Active
California.....	San Francisco.....	Holy Trinity, 1849... Trinity Church	Now Trinity Church
Colorado.....	Denver.....	St. John's-in-the-Wil- derness, 1862.....	Cathedral
Connecticut.....	Stratford.....	Christ Church, 1707..	Active
Delaware.....	New Castle.....	Immanuel Church, 1703.....	Active
District of Columbia..	Rock Creek Parish...	St. Paul's, 1726.....	Active
Florida.....	St. Augustine.....	St. Peter's, 1764.....	Now Trinity Church
Georgia.....	Savannah.....	Christ Church, 1733..	Active
Idaho.....	Boise.....	St. Michael's, 1866... Cathedral (old church as a shrine)	Cathedral (old church as a shrine)
Illinois.....	Albion (now in Dio- cese of Springfield).	St. John's, 1825.....	Active
Indiana.....	New Albany (now in Diocese of Indian- apolis).....	St. Paul's, 1834.....	Active
Iowa.....	Muscatine.....	Trinity Church, 1839	Active
Kansas.....	Leavenworth.....	St. Paul's, 1856.....	Active
Kentucky.....	Lexington (now in Diocese of Lexing- ton).....	Christ Church, 1792..	Active
Louisiana.....	New Orleans.....	Christ Church, 1805..	Cathedral
Maine.....	Saco.....	Trinity Church, 1636..	Active
Maryland.....	St. Mary's, St. Mary's County (now in Diocese of Wash- ington).....	Trinity Church, 1642..	Active
Massachusetts.....	Boston.....	King's Chapel, 1686... Braintree (now Quincy).....	Became Uni- tarian in 1785
Michigan.....	Detroit.....	St. Paul's, 1824.....	Cathedral
Minnesota.....	Stillwater.....	Church of the Ascen- sion, 1828.....	Active
Mississippi.....	Church Hill.....	Christ Church, 1820..	Active
Missouri.....	St. Louis.....	Christ Church, 1819..	Cathedral
Montana.....	Virginia City.....	St. Paul's, 1867.....	Active

<i>State</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Church and Date</i>	<i>Status, 1939</i>
Nebraska	Omaha	Trinity Church, 1856	Cathedral
Nevada	Virginia City	St. Paul's, 1861	Active
New Hampshire	Portsmouth	St. John's, 1732	Active
New Jersey	Perth Amboy	St. Peter's, 1685	Active
New Mexico	Las Vegas	St. Paul's, 1879	Active
New York	New York City	Trinity Church, 1674	Trinity Parish (Mother Church with seven chapels)
North Carolina	Edenton (in Diocese of East Carolina)	St. Paul's, 1736	Active
North Dakota	Fargo	Christ Church, 1877	Gettysburg Cathedral
Ohio	Worthington	St. John's, 1804	Active
Oklahoma	Guthrie	Trinity Church, 1889	Active
Oregon	Portland	Trinity Church, 1851	Active
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Christ Church, 1695	Active
Rhode Island	Wickford	St. Paul's, 1707	Active
South Carolina	Charleston	St. Philip's, 1670	Active
South Dakota	Yankton	Christ Church, 1862	Active
Tennessee	Franklin	St. Paul's, 1827	Active
Texas	Matagorda	Christ Church, 1839	Active
Utah	Salt Lake City	St. Mark's, 1867	Cathedral
Vermont	Arlington	St. James', 1772	Active
Virginia	Jamestown (in Diocese of Southern Virginia)	Jamestown Church, 1607	Dissolved, 1812 Now a shrine
Washington	Vancouver (in the Diocese of Olympia)	St. Luke's, 1873	Active
West Virginia	Bunker Hill	Christ Church (Morgan's Chapel), 1740	Active
Wisconsin	Green Bay (in the Diocese of Fond du Lac)	Christ Church, 1826	Active
Wyoming	Cheyenne	St. Mark's, 1868	Active