



## Greenwich Presbyterian Church

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### TOMBSTONE TALES (cont.)

Buried nearby Charles Green are members of his family. (Catherine Jane Burroughs [1828-1867], Green's first wife, is probably buried in Savannah.) The second wife, Lucy Irland Hunton, may have grown up in nearby Buckland, Va.<sup>9</sup> She was the granddaughter of Aminta Moxley who started Greenwich Church. According to Anne Green, her grandmother Lucy succumbed to consumption, "frequent childbearing, fatigue and privations." When "sentenced to what was then called 'speedy dissolution,'" she went to her great carved bed. There she informed her children that she was leaving them. She continued to love her children to the end, daily hiding them under her bed. When the nurse left the room for a bit she leaned over and waved them out so they could gather around her for mutual comfort.<sup>10</sup>

Also buried in the cemetery is Ann Hunton (1803-1886), Lucy Green's mother. Anne Green says her father, Edward, remembers Ann Hunton, his grandmother, as spare and stiff with big black eyes. She was a firm character that put mints into the church collection bag instead of coins. She also smoked a pipe.<sup>11</sup>

Charles Green married again to Aminta Elizabeth Fisher from Baltimore (1835-1908). She also was a granddaughter of Aminta Moxley! She, like Lucy, took interest in the church. After Charles' death, and after she moved to Baltimore, she both raised and donated money for the erection of the old manse (1906) standing at 15012 Vint Hill Road (215). A photograph of her as well as Aminta Moxley is in an old scrapbook in the church office.<sup>12</sup>

Charles Green had children by all three of his wives. One or more children of each wife is buried in the Greenwich cemetery. They and their descendants include such names as Veeder and Mackall as well as Green.

Rev. Thomas B. Balch

Also buried in the cemetery, but on the other side beneath a holly tree, is The Rev. Thomas B. Balch. Daniel Webster is reputed to have called Thomas Balch "the most learned man" he had ever known. He was brilliant but eccentric. Balch once served as the residential pastor in several of the Bakemie churches on the eastern Shore. He preached at Greenwich between 1833-1835 and occasionally thereafter, but he married well and basically enjoyed life as a gentleman-farmer in Prince William County. (1793-1878)

Thomas Balch seems to have had two residences in the area. One still stands at 10214 Lonesome Road (708). Another is located on Auburn Road (602) near its intersection with Carrico Road (669). It has brick pillars indicating its entrance. This structure has been changed considerably. It was used as a part of Ringwood Female Seminary after Balch's time. (There is a plaque in the church sanctuary in memory of Jane Alexander Milligan [1827-1882] as the founder of Ringwood.)

Balch had a wry sense of humor. Sometime during the war a party of Union cavalry carried off two of his horses. He sent their commanding officer a letter. Eventually printed in the Presbyterian newspaper in Philadelphia during the war, it found its way in the pages of Richmond's Central Presbyterian some months after the surrender:

Colonel: Yesterday a squad of your men took off a couple of my horses. One of them is cream-couloured, like the steed that Washington rode at Yorktown in 1781, and the other a bright sorrel, like one mentioned in the "Arabian Nights." Please consult Blackstone on the mighty difference between meum and tuum. Possession is nine out of the twelve points of the law, and therefore you have no moral or military right to Fan and Reuben. It is not my purpose to use either of them in making a raid on your camp. --A Presbyterian minister must not turn soldier,

as if he were a Romish Pontiff. One of the animals is a pony, that carries my corn and wheat to Langley's Mill, and you must not forget that Henry Clay was a mill-boy. With the going down of the sun, let me see both my steeds in their own fragrant clover-fields, and the vesper beams of the day will reflect renewed lustre on your deeds. Permit me to subscribe my middle name, in the hope that your sense of justice will be in full flower.

R. Bloomer Balch<sup>13</sup>

Charlotte Marsteller

(wrong Charlotte, see revision, April 1990)

Back on the other side under a cedar lies Charlotte Marsteller. She was the granddaughter of Colonel Philip Marsteller, Aid-de-Camp to General Washington. Around 1800 when Charlotte was three an itinerant portraitist stopped at her manor house gate and offered his talent to the head of the household. He agreed and the unknown artist painted Charlotte's picture. She holds her pet dog on a leash. The plantation is in view with two busy servants in the garden. This estate was close to what is now 10704 Reid Lane (657). Charlotte's head is too large in the picture, but this may be due to the fact that itinerant artists often carried stock body likenesses with them and then added upper portions. Sometimes they painted only heads at the sittings and then later filled in the rest.

Charlotte lived on to see the excitement and experience the hardships of the Civil War. She died in 1871. Charlotte does have some claim to fame on her own. Her portrait hangs in the collection of Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C. A copy may be viewed on the church library wall.

Rev. Alexander Broadnax Carrington

Another minister buried in the grave yard lies near the east front door of the Sanctuary. Rev. Alexander Broadnax Carrington (1833-1910) was born in Charlotte County, Virginia and practiced law before becoming a minister. He entered the Confederate Army, 37th Virginia Regt. as a private, but was soon made a chaplain. He took his last pastorate at Greenwich in 1884 and finished his ministry in 1896. He purchased a house and land at 9513 Auburn Road (602).

Carrington was a frugal man. He fussed about his cook never preparing enough food when at the same time he told her not to fix too much. A neighbor, Tom Kent, let his hogs run out in the commons. An old sow of his got in the Reverend's garden one night and practically ruined it. Carrington penned her up and told Tom that unless he paid him for the garden he would keep the sow. After a while the sow had a litter of pigs. Tom bided his time. One night when there was no moon he loaded the old sow and pigs in his light spring-wagon. By break of day he was in Stafford County where he sold the lot. Carrington was outdone.<sup>14</sup>

White Hall Cemetery

Greenwich Church owns another cemetery! White Hall Presbyterian Church was organized around 1900 near the intersection of Aden Road (646) and Brookfield (854) close to Nokesville. Some of the members from Greenwich Church helped start it and moved their membership there. It never did too well and the church was closed and the building was demolished in 1940, perhaps by fire. Some of the members joined Greenwich. The cemetery was in use before the church was organized. At least one victim of the Civil War is buried there. A grave stone indicates that one young soldier from Alabama died of typhoid fever in 1861. There are a number of unlettered stone markers.

The cemetery was turned over to Greenwich Church and is recorded as Greenwich property in the County Court. The cemetery which is in poor condition came to attention recently when Michael Johnson sought permission to clean off the overgrown lot for a Boy Scout project. National Capital Presbytery has granted him permission to do this work.

FOOTNOTES AND OTHER MATERIAL WILL APPEAR LATER.

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