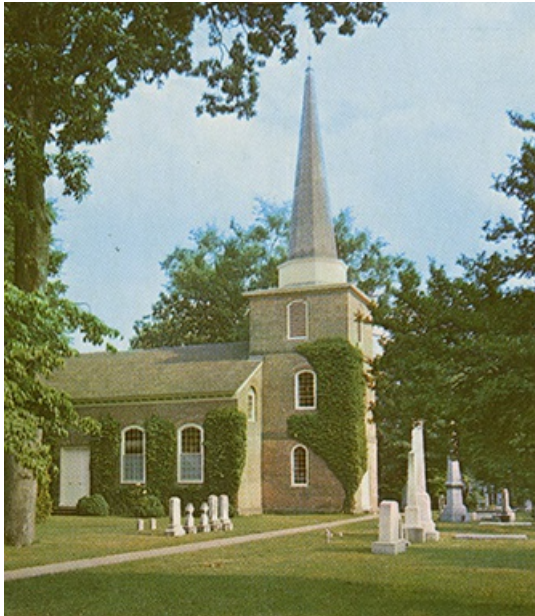


Earl, Daniel ^[1]

Earl, Daniel

by George Troxler, 1986

d. 1790



Postcard of St. Paul's Parish in Edenton. Image from the North Carolina Postcard Collection, North Carolina Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill.

^[2]Daniel Earl, [Anglican](#) ^[3]clergyman, school teacher, and missionary of the [Society for the Propagation of the Gospel](#) ^[4], was born in Bandon, County Cork, Ireland, the youngest son of an Irish nobleman. Commissioned in the British army, Earl resigned in order to take holy orders on 13 Sept. 1746 after marrying the daughter of a church official. He was licensed to serve in North Carolina by the Bishop of London on 19 Sept. 1756, and arrived in the [Albemarle region](#) ^[5] in 1757. There he was curate for the aging Anglican minister [Clement Hall](#) ^[6]. Upon Hall's death in 1759 he became rector of St. Paul's Parish in [Edenton](#) ^[7], where he served until his resignation in 1778.

Earl's first wife died before his departure for North Carolina; their two daughters joined him after he settled there. Soon after his arrival he married a widow, Charity Jones, of Smithfield, Va.

Earl built a plantation, Bandon, fifteen miles above Edenton on the Chowan River. A knowledgeable farmer, he showed local residents improved methods of [weaving](#) ^[8] and preparing flax for the loom. He was a pioneer in the [shad](#) ^[9] and herring [fishing industry](#) ^[10] and was accused of devoting too much time to his herring fisheries. About the time of the [Revolution](#) ^[11], a placard appeared on his church door:

A tumble-down church
And a broken-down steeple
A herring-catching parson
And a damn set of people.

From 1759 to 1783 Earl received partial support from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. His annual reports to the society recount the difficulties experienced by a missionary in a large colonial parish. Earl preached at Edenton and at four chapels in [Chowan County](#) ^[12]. To the society he reported his large number of baptisms, described the poor physical condition of the parish church, and pleaded for funds to establish a school. In May 1775 he reported that he had not received a shilling from his parish for nearly three years. Earl regularly complained of poor health, and in 1775 the society granted his request to move to one of the northern colonies. In a letter dated 30 Aug. 1775, he thanked the society for permission to move but said he was too weak to travel at a time when political conditions were so unsettled and when many men were under arms.

In that letter Earl indicated that he had avoided censure by never introducing "any Topic into the Pulpit except exhortations and prayers for peace, good order and a speedy reconciliation with Great Britain." Although he refused to sever his connection with the [Church of England](#) ^[3], which he believed to be of divine origin, Earl actively supported the Revolution. He presided at a revolutionary meeting in Edenton on 23 Aug. 1774, and was appointed the following year to a committee to raise funds to promote local industry.

In 1778 Earl resigned as rector of St. Paul's, and his former assistant [Charles Pettigrew](#) ^[13] was elected to succeed him. He spent the remainder of his life at his country home, Bandon, where he taught classical school for boys. He was buried at Bandon.

References:

Corporation of St. Paul's Parish, The Reverend Robert B. Drane, et al., comps. *The Religious and Historic Commemoration of the Two Hundred Years of St. Paul's Parish, Edenton, N.C.* (1901).

John W. Graham, "History of St. Paul's Episcopal Church," *200th Anniversary of the Building of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Edenton, North Carolina* (1936).

Marshall D. Haywood, "Daniel Earl," *The Carolina Churchman* 4 (October 1913).

Lawrence F. London, "Clergy of the Episcopal Church in 1785: N.C.," *Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church* 20 (1951).

Charles F. Pascoe, comp., *Classified Digest of the Records of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, 1701–1892* (1893).

William L. Saunders, ed., *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, vols. 6–10 (1888–90).

Additional Resources:

"CSR Documents by Earl, Daniel, d. 1790." *Colonial and State Records of North Carolina*. Documenting the American South, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/creators/csr10415> ^[14] (accessed June 7, 2013).

"The Gregory Family, &c (Continued)" *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 17, no. 4 (October 1909). 426-428. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4243024> ^[15] (accessed June 7, 2013).

Image Credits:

"Edenton, N.C." Postcard. North Carolina Postcard Collection (P052), North Carolina Collection Photographic Archives, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill. http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/nc_post/id/9371 ^[16] (accessed June 7, 2013).

Subjects:

[American Revolution \(1763-1789\)](#) ^[17]

[Biographies](#) ^[18]

[Religious Leaders and Clergy](#) ^[19]

[Educators](#) ^[20]

Authors:

[Troxler, George W.](#) ^[21]

Origin - location:

[Chowan County](#) ^[22]

[Edenton](#) ^[23]

From:

[Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[24]

1 January 1986 | Troxler, George W.

Source URL: <https://ncpedia.org/biography/earl-daniel>

Links

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/earl-daniel> [2] http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/nc_post/id/9371/rec/1 [3] <https://ncpedia.org/church-england> [4] <https://ncpedia.org/society-propagation-gospel-foreign-> [5] <https://ncpedia.org/albemarle-county> [6] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/hall-clement> [7] <https://ncpedia.org/edenton> [8] <https://ncpedia.org/#> [9] <https://ncpedia.org/american-shad-nc-wins> [10] <https://ncpedia.org/fishing-commercial> [11] <https://ncpedia.org/american-revolution> [12] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/chowan> [13] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/pettigrew-charles> [14] <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/creators/csr10415> [15] <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4243024> [16] http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/nc_post/id/9371 [17] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/us-revolution> [18] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/biography-term> [19] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/clergy> [20] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/educators> [21] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/troxler-george-w> [22] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/coastal-38> [23] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/coastal-56> [24] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/dictionary-no>