

Thomas Godfrey Memorial ^[1]

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Thomas Godfrey Memorial, Wilmington.
Photograph courtesy of Natasha Smith.

^[2]

Thomas Godfrey Memorial

Wilmington

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<https://docsouth.unc.edu/commland/monument/330> ^[3]

Description: The grave marker, approximately three feet tall, is a rough cut block of granite with a partially polished face. The face bears an inscription to the memory of Godfrey.

Inscription:

NEAR THIS SPOT LIES / THOMAS GODFREY / BORN IN PHILADELPHIA PA. 1736 / DIED IN WILMINGTON N.C. 1763 / AUTHOR OF / THE PRINCE OF PARTHIA / THE FIRST DRAMA WRITTEN / BY AN AMERICAN AND / PRODUCED UPON THE / PROFESSIONAL STAGE IN / THE COLONIES / ERECTED BY / THE N.C. SOCIETY COLONIAL / DAMES OF AMERICA / 1929

Dedication date: 4/4/1930

Materials & Techniques: Granite

Sponsor: The N.C. Society of Colonial Dames of America

Subject notes: Thomas Godfrey was born in Philadelphia, the son of Thomas Godfrey the inventor. The elder Godfrey was the inventor of the navigation instrument, the octant. The younger Godfrey had a very short life, living to the age of twenty-seven. He served in the Seven Years' War after being apprenticed to a watch maker, and subsequently located to Wilmington where he worked as a merchant's factor and where he reportedly wrote "The Prince of Parthia." The play has been regarded as the first to be written and performed in the American Colonies. Godfrey also penned a number of poems.

Location: The marker is located in the graveyard of St. James Church, on the corner of 4th and Market Streets.

Landscape: The marker sits in the grass in the graveyard next to the church buildings. The graveyard is separated from the street and sidewalk by a low gridiron fence and is graced by shrubs, plantings, and mature shade trees.

City: Wilmington

County: New Hanover

Subjects: Historic Cultural Figures

Latitude: 34.23552

Longitude: -77.94469

Subjects:

Monuments ^[4]

Places ^[5]

Authors:

Commemorative Landscapes of North Carolina ^[6]

Origin - location:

Wilmington ^[7]

New Hanover County ^[8]

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