

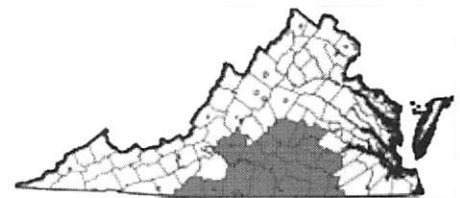
# Southside (Virginia)

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Traditionally, the term **Southside** refers to the portion of Virginia east of the Blue Ridge Mountains and south of the James River, the geographic feature from which the term derives its name.<sup>[1]</sup>

During the colonial era, Southside was considered the area where entrepreneurs settled, as opposed to some of the more established families in the Tidewater counties, although many early Southside settlers were younger sons of established Tidewater families.

Today, however, some people use a more limited definition of the region: those counties lying east of the Blue Ridge, west of the fall line, and south of the Appomattox River. That is to say, the southern end of Virginia's Piedmont region. While this definition describes an area long considered to be the heart of Southside, it also accounts for changes that have occurred in recent decades as the Richmond suburbs have eaten up large portions of Chesterfield and even Powhatan Counties.



Southside of Virginia

While Southside has long been reputed for its isolated, rural, and culturally conservative character, in recent years the aforementioned counties have become increasingly linked to the Richmond metro area. Counties often considered part of this region include Patrick, Henry, Bedford, Pittsylvania, Halifax, Charlotte, Mecklenburg, Campbell, Lunenburg, Brunswick, Nottoway, Amelia, Prince Edward, Appomattox, Buckingham, Cumberland, Powhatan, Dinwiddie, and Greensville counties. The cities of Danville, Emporia, Lynchburg, and Martinsville, which under Virginia law are not located within any counties, are also considered to be in this region.

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## Climate

Southside's climate is unique from much of Virginia's. Summers are typically hot, with highs generally in the upper 80s to low 90s; quite often 5-7 degrees hotter than in Richmond. Winters are generally mild, and nighttime lows often drop below freezing; frequently 5-7 degrees cooler than Richmond or Norfolk. Much of this has to do with the lack of the temperature-moderating effect of the Atlantic Ocean.

Snow and frozen precipitation usually falls every year in Southside (usually less than a foot), with the western and northern fringes of the area getting several inches more snow than the rest.

## Industries

Southside, along with much of Upper South, was long well known for its tobacco crop. The nutrient-rich soil, along with frequent spring rains, provided ideal growing conditions for tobacco as well as soybeans and some cold-hardy cotton plants.

Beginning in the 1940s, various textile mills opened up in the Southside area, most notably the enormous Dan River Mills in Danville. The textile industry found it an ideal place due to inexpensive labor (costs of living in much of Southside is low), while the Southside workforce found textile work to be much more lucrative than the low incomes that frequently come with farming. Along with tobacco manufacturing, textile mills aided the economy of the Southside region to become more prosperous. Beginning in the 1970s, however, many of the textile mills closed up and outsourced work to countries such as Mexico, China and India, where the labor costs were significantly lower. Furthermore, the waning demand for tobacco products hurt Southside somewhat.

The Bassett Furniture company is in the town of Bassett. The Army bases Fort Lee and Fort Pickett employ many people, although fewer than during World War II. Some residents commute to the Philip Morris factory in south Richmond, Virginia|Richmond.

The 1990s brought some new manufacturing jobs to the area, often for industrial-grade metals and ceramics. Numerous prisons were established in the area, and employed local people in relatively high-paying security jobs.

## Media

Television stations are receivable from all parts of Southside, with the eastern parts receiving Richmond TV stations and the western parts receiving Roanoke/Lynchburg TV stations. In addition, some viewers on the northern or southern edges of the region receive Charlottesville and Raleigh/Durham TV stations, respectively.

While most people receive large-market radio stations from the same places as their TV stations, Southside has a large variety of local radio. Country stations tend to dominate Southside radio, though local classic rock, adult contemporary, Top 40, and public radio formats exist.

All of Southside can receive Virginia's largest newspaper, the Richmond Times-Dispatch. In addition, all the towns listed below (and others) have local newspapers, and they are generally weekly publications. The Prizery is a new fine arts cultural center located in a former tobacco warehouse in South Boston.

## Higher education

Colleges in the Southside region include:

- Sweet Briar College
- Liberty University
- Randolph College
- Lynchburg College
- Longwood University
- Hampden-Sydney College
- Averett University
- St. Paul's College
- Southside Virginia Community College

## Cities and Towns associated with Southside

- Altavista
- Amelia
- Appomattox
- Blackstone
- Boydton
- Burkeville
- Chase City
- Chatham

- Clarksville
- Crewe
- Danville
- Dillwyn
- Emporia
- Farmville
- Gretna
- Halifax
- Hurt
- Kenbridge
- Keysville
- Lawrenceville
- Lynchburg
- Martinsville
- South Boston
- South Hill
- Victoria

## References

- <sup>^</sup> Melton, Herman (2006). *Southside Virginia: Echoing Through History* (<http://books.google.com/books?id=IpgItNnYDSoC&printsec=frontcover&vq=%22Seven+Virginia+counties%22&dq=southside+virginia#PPA11,M1>) . The History Press. pp. 11–12. ISBN 1-59629-137-0. <http://books.google.com/books?id=IpgItNnYDSoC&printsec=frontcover&vq=%22Seven+Virginia+counties%22&dq=southside+virginia#PPA11,M1>.

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Categories: Regions of Virginia

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**Subject:** Nice bit of history about St. Peter's Parish Church

**From:** "Tom Upchurch" <tupchurch41@charter.net>

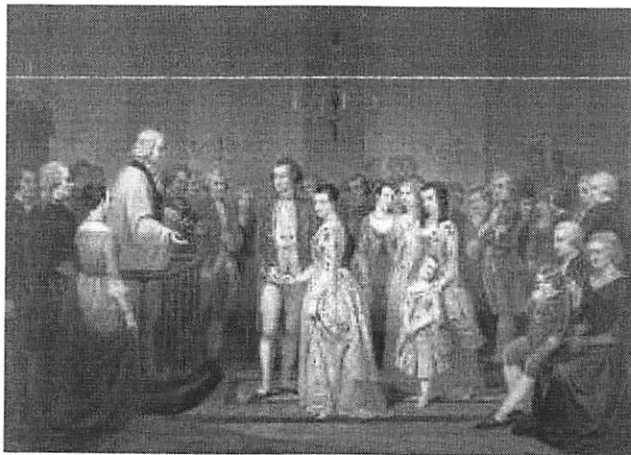
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**Attach:** image001.jpg

## History of Saint Peter's Parish Church

[http://stpetersnewkent.thediocese.net/About\\_Us\\_Mission\\_and\\_Ministries/History/](http://stpetersnewkent.thediocese.net/About_Us_Mission_and_Ministries/History/)



### *The First Church of the First First-Lady*

Author: Steve Avent

Virginia's General Court confirmed the establishment of St Peter's Parish on April 29, 1679. In the summer of 1700 the vestry ordered that a second Lower Church replace an earlier, structurally weak building known as the Broken Back'd Church. The new church, begun in 1701, was in use by July 1703. To-day it is the oldest parish church in the Diocese of Virginia and the third oldest in the Commonwealth.

Martha Dandridge, who would later become the wife of Col. George Washington, was born at Chestnut Grove on June 2, 1731. She married Col. Daniel Parke Custis, a member of the vestry and former churchwarden in June 1749. Her father, Major John Dandridge, had also served as churchwarden and vestryman, and her great-grandfather had been the first rector of nearby Bruton Parish. After eight years of marriage she was widowed with two surviving children.

On the sixth of January 1759 the Rector of St Peter's Parish, the Rev'd Mr. David Mossom, solemnized the marriage of Col. George Washington and the Widow Custis. It has always been assumed that another future First-Lady, Letitia Christian, later the wife of President John Tyler, was baptized in the parish church in 1790.

The original portion of St Peter's Parish Church is one of the few Jacobean structures in America and its 1740 stump tower is also rare. The body of the church is laid in English bond as are only three other colonial Virginia churches. In the church-yard are a number of colonial tombs, and the parish still its Vestry Book (1684-1758) and Register (1685-1786).

The parish was represented by Col. William H. Macon at the first Convention of the Diocese of Virginia in 1785. From 1843 when the vestry reorganized and called the Rev'd Edwin A. Dalrymple as rector, Episcopalians and Presbyterians somewhat as one congregation until 1856 by alternating the Liturgy from Sunday to Sunday.

During the War Between the States the church was desecrated by Federal troops. General Robert E. Lee, whose wife was Mary Ann Randolph Custis -- Martha Washington's great-granddaughter -- wrote on October 23, 1869 that \*St Peter's is the church where General Washington was married and attended in early life. It would be a shame to America if allowed to go to destruction.\*His son, General William Henry Fitzhugh Lee, superintended the work of restoring the old church, contributed needed lumber, and furnished teams and hands for the hauling.

Money for the renovation was raised by the Rev'd Henry S. Kepler, Evangelist of the Diocese, who had become rector when the war broke out. The church was reopened for Divine Service on Sunday, November 10, 1872 and the Rev'd Mr. Dalrymple, who gave a stone font that the parish still possesses, preached the sermon.

St Peter's Church Restoration Association was organized on July 20, 1922 and the Virginia General Assembly designated St Peter Parish Church as \*The First Church of the First First-Lady\* on March 11, 1960. With the assistance of architectural and ecclesiological experts on both sides of the Atlantic, the interior of the building was elegantly restored to a colonial appearance in 1964.

The marble monument on the north wall of the chancel honors Parson Mossom (1690-1767), rector for forty years, who probably lies buried beneath the chancel. The three-decker pulpit, the Holy Table, the octagonal font and cover, the psalm-board, the Royal Arms, and many other furnishings in late 17th-c. style as well as service-books of the period are all reminders of the more than three centuries of witness that this parish and church have borne to the honor and glory of Christ the Lord. God preserve thy going out and thy coming in.

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