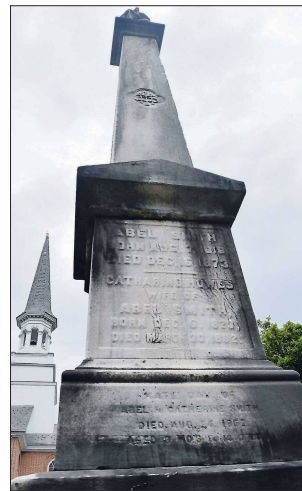


The Duane family, made up of William North Duane, wife Eliza Prince Duane, and son Walton Duane, rest at the front of a long line of graves at St. George's Episcopal Church Cemetery in Schenectady.

GAZETTE PHOTOS BY RYAN ZIDEK



The towering memorial of Abel and Catherine Smith looks down at the rest of the cemetery.

IMAGES

JEWEL of the STOCKADE

St. George's churchyard offers tranquility and history

BY BILL BUELL
Gazette Reporter

A jewel within a jewel, the grounds at St. George's Episcopal Church in the Stockade section of Schenectady are a must-see for any spiritual soul who enjoys basking in history and architecture.

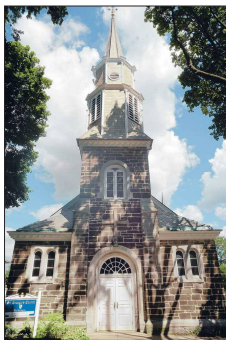
The building is the oldest church structure in Schenectady, put up by the emotional and financial support of prominent Mohawk Valley men such as William Johnson and Christopher Yates.

'When I open my door or look out my window and see that setting, well, it's almost too nice to be real.'

JOE FAVA
North Ferry Street resident

has plenty of gravestones and historical markers on the grounds. One large monument in the back yard — where visitors can get a good view of the nearby First Presbyterian Church — will tell you about the Watkins, Wallons and Delanceys, and another substantial marker, that of Alonzo Clinton Jackson (1823-1853), leaves you wondering what it was that cut his life short at the age of 30.

In 1911, church officials added a brick office building just south of the church, nearly violating the final resting place of William McCamus and his wife Susan



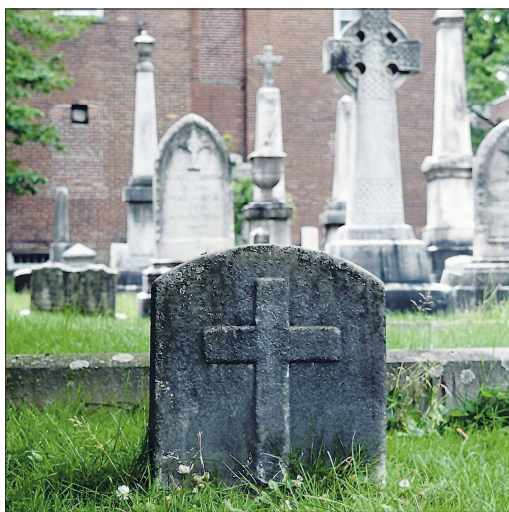
St. George's Episcopal Church

Gardner, who died less than 20 years earlier. Parishioners assume that McCamus, a well-known 19th century Schenectadian involved in both the banking and insurance business and a long-time supporter of the church, probably doesn't mind the cozy quarters.

A large building erected in 1958 with a reception hall and more offices is on the north side of the church and rounds out the picture. North Ferry Street resident Joe Fava enjoys that image every day.

"When I open my door or look out my window and see that setting, well, it's almost too nice to be real," said Fava. "It almost looks like a movie set. I've often told people, 'I probably have one of the nicest locations in the Stockade.' It really is quite peaceful and lovely."

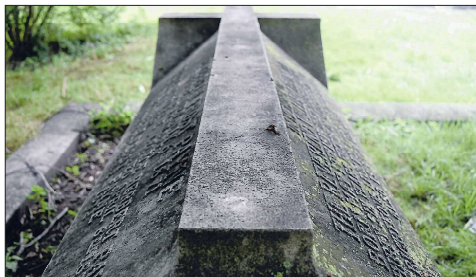
Reach Gazette reporter Bill Buell at 395-3190 or bbuell@dailygazette.com.



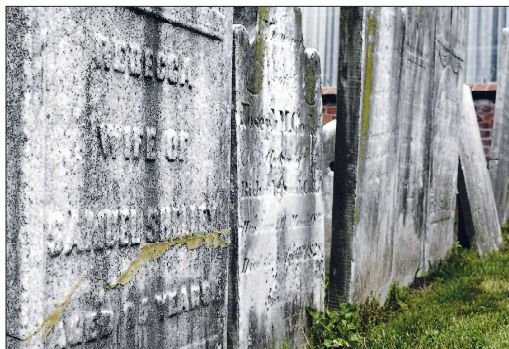
A small headstone bearing a simple cross sits at the back of the cemetery.



The headstone of Joseph Dason, the oldest at St. George's Episcopal Church Cemetery (1788), stands out among the rest. It is one of the few at the cemetery that are not white.



The memorial of the Rev. William Payne sits sectioned off from the rest of the cemetery.



A tightly bunched row of headstones from the 1800s, fronted by that of Rebecca Shelley, still stands.