

## **St - Paul's - Church of the Loyalists in Halifax**

By Brian McConnell UE \*



**Inside St. Paul's, Halifax**

St. Paul's was founded by Proclamation of King George II in 1749 and church for the people and British garrison of Halifax until 1844 when a separate military chapel was constructed. It was ministered to by the first Bishop of Nova Scotia, Loyalist Charles Inglis. (1) In its early years it was the Church of the Loyalists of Halifax.

The building of St. Paul's was erected in the summer of 1750. Wooden timbers were cut in Boston and shipped to Halifax with most of the rest of the materials, including bricks to line the walls. It first opened its doors on September 2, 1750. The original wooden structure remains to this day.

With the creation of the Diocese of Nova Scotia in 1787, St. Paul's was given the Bishop's seat, making it the first Anglican cathedral outside of Britain. Charles Inglis, born in County Donegal, Ireland, who moved to the colonies as a young man and became a religious leader in New York shortly before the American Revolution, was St. Paul's first Bishop. While in New York, he wrote and spoke out on the side of the Loyalists. (2)

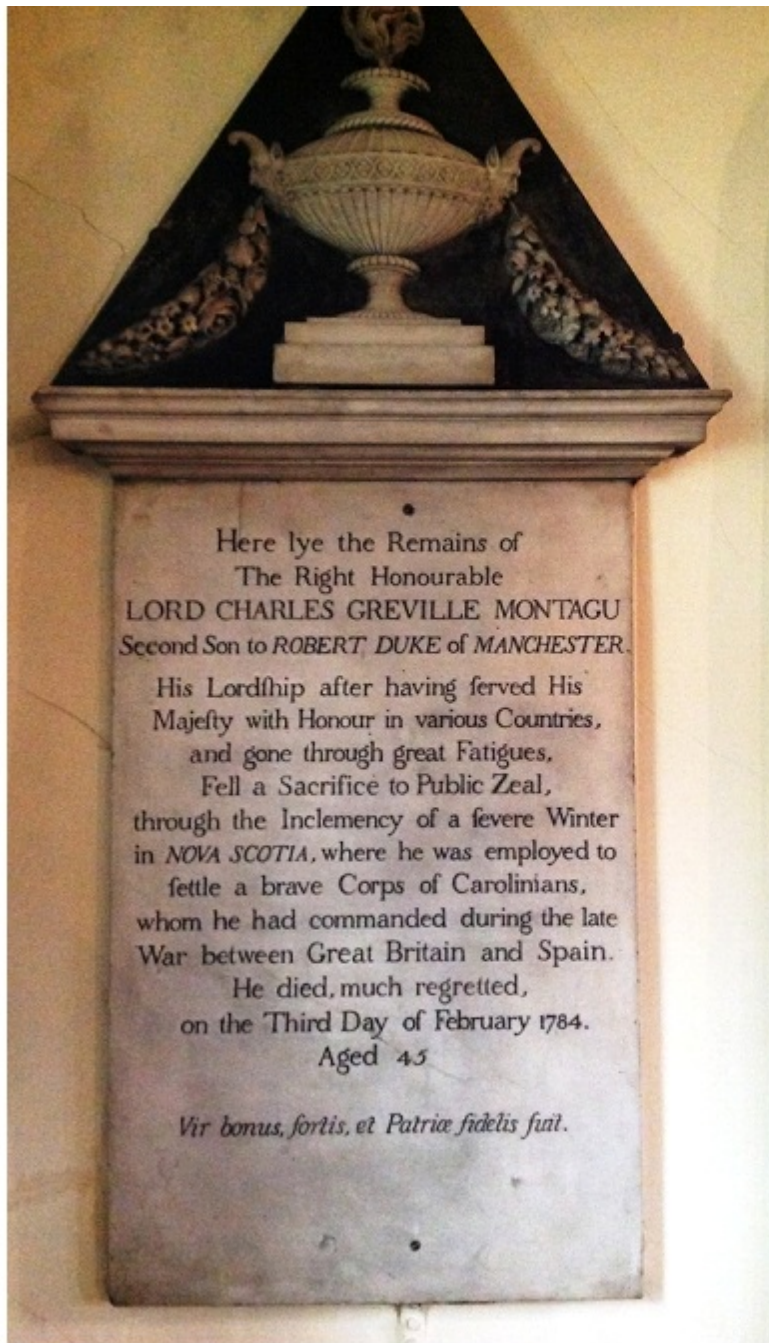


St. Paul's is located at the south end of the Grand Parade, an open square in downtown Halifax with Halifax City Hall at the northern end. It is the oldest existing Protestant place of worship in Canada.





Underneath the floor of the church are the graves of the early worshipers at St. Paul's, including Bishop Charles Inglis and several other leading Loyalists. Among them are Sir John Wentworth, who was Governor of New Hampshire in the years leading up to the American Revolution and became Governor of Nova Scotia from 1792 to 1808.(3) Also buried there was Lord Charles Greville Montague who had been Governor of South Carolina from 1766 to 1773, then during the American Revolution raised troops for the Duke of Cumberland's Regiment and was evacuated from Charleston to Halifax.



**Memorial to Lord Charles Montagu, Gov. of S. Carolina &  
Leader of Loyalist Corps in American Revolution**



A plate on the floor near the south end of St. Paul's marks the burial place of the Right Rev. Charles Inglis, D.D., First Bishop of Nova Scotia. There is also a wall memorial which proclaims how his virtues enabled him to carry out his duties and that his establishment of a chartered college and more than twenty churches during his time as Bishop are his best monument. He was responsible for the founding of the first university in English Canada, King's College in 1789. As well new churches were built throughout the Maritimes under his leadership.





Memorials are located on most inside walls of St. Paul's. Past members of the church with memorials include John William Ritchie, born in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia who is considered one of the fathers of Canadian Confederation, was appointed to the Canadian Senate in 1867 and became a Justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia from 1873 to 1882. An impressive memorial can also be seen for Alfred Gilpin Jones, from Weymouth, Nova Scotia, who initially opposed Confederation but was elected to the Parliament of Canada representing Halifax in 1867 and served as the first President of the Loyalist Association in Nova Scotia. He was also Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia from 1900 to 1906.

Inside the church, at the front of the northeast end of St. Paul's, is a Royal Pew, reserved for the Queen, members of her family and appointed representatives. It serves as a final reminder of the church's loyalist heritage.

\* This article was prepared and the photographs taken by Brian McConnell, UE. To contact him please email [brianm564@gmail.com](mailto:brianm564@gmail.com)

(1) “Welcome To St. Paul’s - A Walking Tour of Halifax’s Oldest Church”, produced by St. Paul’s Church

Also see St. Paul’s Anglican Church in Historic Places Canada at <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=3065>

(2) “The First Bishop - A Biography of Charles Inglis”, by Brian Cuthbertson, Halifax: Waegwoltic Press, 1987

Also see Charles Inglis in “Dictionary of Canadian Biography” at [http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/inglis\\_charles\\_5E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/inglis_charles_5E.html)

(3) “The Loyalist Governor - A Biography of Sir John Wentworth”, by Brian Cuthbertson, Halifax, Waegwoltic Press, 1983

Also see Sir John Wentworth in “Dictionary of Canadian Biography” at [http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/wentworth\\_john\\_1737\\_1820\\_5E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/wentworth_john_1737_1820_5E.html)