

Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery Inventory

State and Water Streets, Dover DE 19903

Lot Number: 300 Space: G 66

Find A Grave # 11922322

Name: **Ridgely, Mary Middleton Vining**

Birth date: May 17, 1705 Death date: December 11, 1761 Burial Date: Age: 56

b. Barrenton Fields plantation near Salem, New Jersey

Spouse: First spouse: Benjamin Vining (1685-1735); Col. Nicholas Ridgely (1693-1755) m. December 23, 1736

Children: With Benjamin Vining: John Vining (1724-1770); Benjamin Vining (1731-1739); Mary Vining Inglis (1733-1764); With Nicholas Ridgely: Charles Greenberry Ridgely (1738-1785); Nicholas Ridgely (1740 – 1742); Sarah Ridgely (1743-1773); Elizabeth Ridgely Dorsey (1745-1815)

Parents: Judge Hugh Middleton (1685-1713) and Mary Bradway Middleton (1662-)

Siblings:

Residence: Eden Hill outside of Dover, DE

Cause of death/Burial/Obituary: Died at "Eden Hill" near Dover of "apoplexy"

Service/occupation information:

Officiate:

Lot Owner: Ridgely

Marker: next to husband

Inscription:

Mary Middleton Vining
Wife of
Nicholas Ridgely
Born near Salem, New Jersey
1705
Died at "Eden Hill" near Dover
1761

DIMENSIONS: H 70" x W 35" x 17"

STYLE: ledger

Repairs needed: cleaning

Inventory date: April 23, 2019 Recorder: Ellen Richardson



TRANSCRIPT FROM THE FAMILY RECORD
OF THE VININGS OF DELAWARE.

With Annotations by Mrs. Ann Ridgely du Pont.

MARY, the wife of BENJAMIN VINING,¹ the daughter of HUGH and MARY MIDDLETON, was born the 17th day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and five, at Barrenton Fields, her father's plantation, near Salem, New Jersey, America. BENJAMIN VINING departed this life at "Barrenton Fields," September, 1735, after two nights' and one day's sickness, and buried the second day of said month by Rev. Mr. Tranbury, Minister at said place. He left by his above-mentioned wife, three children, viz.: John Vining, born 1725; Benjamin Vining, born 13th August, 1731, (died aged 7 years,) and Mary Vining; said children all born at the Mansion House, "Barrenton Fields," near Salem, New Jersey. The first mentioned, Benjamin Vining, was buried in Salem Church, where his monument, with inscription, is now standing.

¹ Benjamin Vining came from New England to the City of Philadelphia, early in the last century. He resided there until about 1722, when he removed to the town of Salem, New Jersey; here he was a highly respected and influential citizen and Warden of the Episcopal Church, in one of the aisles of which he is interred, his grave being covered with a marble slab bearing the following inscription:

"In Memory of *Benjamin Vining, Esq.*, late Collector of Salem and Marblehead, in New England, and son of *William Vining*, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, who died September 5th, 1735, aged 52 years, 1 month and 22 days."

Benjamin Vining married Mary, daughter of Hugh Middleton, a Judge of Salem County, New Jersey, an early settler there and a large land-holder. "There is a tradition in the family, that Captain Vining, upon his deathbed, said to his young and beautiful wife: 'I know that you will marry again, but will you solemnly promise me, on this my dying bed, to convey to our three children, all the large property you have received from your father?' This she promised to do, and some years after, when about to marry Nicholas Ridgely, she conveyed to her three sons by her first husband, all the landed estate she possessed." She had one son, Dr. Charles Ridgely, and two daughters by her second husband.

(20) N. American Family Histories 1500-2000

His widow, Mary, the daughter of Hugh Middleton and Mary his wife, was married in Salem, New Jersey, by the Rev. Peter Tranbury, of the Swedes Ministry, to Nicholas Ridgely, on Thursday evening at eight of the clock, December 23d, 1736, and they had a son born on Thursday night about 10 of the clock, January 26th, 1737, (old style, new style 1738,) which son was baptized on the 6th of April, 1738, in Salem, New Jersey, and named Charles Greenberry; God fathers Mr. William Frazer, Collector of his Majesty's Customs at the Port of Salem, and Dr. Philip Chetwood; God mother Rachel Ridgely, daughter of the aforesaid Nicholas Ridgely by his first wife. Their children were Charles Greenberry-Ridgely, Sarah Ridgely and Elizabeth Ridgely.

On Tuesday, the 11th day of December, (N. S.) 1761, departed this life, of apoplexy, Mary Ridgely, widow of Nicholas Ridgely, who, when he married her, (she) was the widow of Benjamin Vining, of Salem County, New Jersey. She died at the mansion house and plantation of Nicholas Ridgely, (deceased,) near Dover, Delaware, known by the name of "Eden Hill." She was aged fifty-six years, six months and fourteen days, (O. S., twenty-five days by N. S.) This said Mary Ridgely left behind her John Vining, Mary Vining, children by the first marriage, and Charles Greenberry Ridgely, Sarah Ridgely, and Elizabeth Ridgely,¹ the children by the second marriage who survived her. The aforesaid Mary, widow of Nicholas Ridgely, was buried in Christ Church grave yard, Dover, Del., beside her husband Nicholas Ridgely, and her daughter Mary,—the latter the wife of Charles Inglis, Missionary at Dover, afterwards Rector of Trinity Church, New York, and Bishop of Nova Scotia.

¹ Elizabeth Ridgely married Colonel Dorsey, of Elk Ridge, Anne Arundel Co., Ind., and left many children. N. American Family Histories 1500-2000 p. 2