

Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery Inventory

State and Water Streets, Dover DE 19903

Walking Tour # 12

Lot Number: 300 Space: 93 B1

Find A Grave # 7367716

Name: **Vining, John Middleton**

Birth date: December 23, 1758 Death date: February, 1802 Burial Date: Age: 43

Spouse: Anna Maria *Seaton* Vining (died in 1800 - medicine accidentally taken)

Children: Seaton Vining; William Henry (or W. Henry) Vining (1795-1822); Benjamin Vining (1751-1785); Charles Vining

Parents: Col. John Vining Esq. (1724-1770) and Phoebe *Wynkoop* Vining (1729 - 1800)

Siblings: Mary Vining (1756-1821); Abraham Vining (1762-1764) (died aged 2);

½ siblings: Benjamin Vining (1751-1785); Nicholas Ridgely Vining (their mother, Rachel Ridgely Vining, died in 1753)

Residence: Wilmington, DE

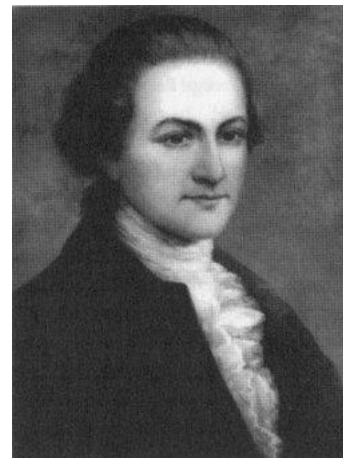
Cause of death/Burial/Obituary: left his children destitute in the care of his sister Mary, who was known as "The Belle of Delaware" and is rumored to once have been engaged to General "Mad" Anthony Wayne.

Service/occupation information: see next page and "The Vining's of Delaware", N. American Family Histories 1500-2000, pgs. 20-25, volume unknown

No Marker:

Father, Col. John Vining , Esq. and several children are listed as buried in Christ Church Cemetery, without markers. Col. John Vining is buried in Salem NJ at St. John's Episcopal Church. He died there while visiting relatives and was buried in the floor of the church with a horizontal marker. When the church was rebuilt, the graves were moved and his marker and his father Benjamin Vining's marker were set up vertically on either side of the church door.

He, his wife Anna Maria *Seaton* Vining and his sister Miss Mary Vining have been assigned to spaces in Lot 300 93, where John Middleton Vining's son Benjamin Vining (1751-1785) is buried.



Inventory date: January 6, 2022 Recorder: Nancy Quinn

US Congressman, US Senator. Elected to represent Delaware as At-Large in the US House of Representatives, serving from 1789 to 1793. Also served as a member of the Delaware State Legislature, Delegate to the Continental Congress from Delaware, and United States Senator from Delaware from 1793 – 1798

Excerpt from "The Vining's of Delaware":

* John Vining, the son of John Vining and Thøbe, his second wife, was born at Dover, Delaware, 23d of December, A. D. 1758, where he was educated. He studied law with George Read, of New Castle, Delaware, was admitted to the bar, practiced in Dover, his residence, and soon distinguished himself, as may be inferred from the fact of his election to the United States House of Representatives in 1783, having only

just attained the age constitutionally required to qualify for membership to that body, and at that time it was not usual to advance young men to high offices. So strongly was the partiality of his fellow-citizens manifested for him, that he was called "the pet of Delaware." Poverty, because it would have compelled to industry and self-denial, would have been to him a boon, but an ample fortune was his by inheritance. In 1793, he was elected to the Senate of the United States. How faithfully and with what distinction he served in Congress, the reader can judge from the following notices of John Vining, which I have collected from a recent historian:

"In a Department of Foreign Affairs,—a mere continuation of the old department of that name—after an ineffectual attempt of Vining, of Delaware, (20th May, 1798), to establish a separate one for home business, these two departments were combined. The debt of Delaware was trifling, but Vining, the able Representative of that State, supported the assumption (of Revolutionary State debts) as a Federal measure. Tucker (March 16th, 1789) moved to strike out the whole report of a House Committee, on a memorial of a Pennsylvania society, praying for the abolition of slavery, substituting a resolution to refuse to consider it unconstitutional. Jackson seconded the motion, in a speech warm as Tucker's, to which Vining replied. The arguments in favor of assumption were recapitulated by Lawrence Goodhue and others, and by Vining. Vining, January 28th, 1789, spoke in favor of chartering a National Bank. Among the new members of the Senate, Livermore, of New Hampshire, Jackson, of Georgia, and Vining, of Delaware, who had already distinguished themselves as former members of the House. Nature was liberal to him, for, besides a good face and person, he was one of the wittiest men of his day; his powers of conversation great, and these set off by very fascinating manners. He married Miss Seaton, daughter of James Seaton, Collector of New York, who came to her death by taking medicine by mistake. When Mr. Vining married Miss Seaton, he took a house in Wilmington, at the northwest corner of French and Fourth streets, and took his bride there; the west end of Wilmington was then below Fifth, and clustered principally around Third, Second, and Front streets. Miss Vining's brother, Hon. John Vining,

was Senator in 1793, from Delaware, in the United States Congress. Miss Seaton was a lovely, gentle, refined being, with intellectual tastes and accomplishments, a fine musician ; she accompanied herself with great taste on the piano."

"Hon. John Vining, though a man of great abilities and undoubted genius, which, if he had been born in poverty, would have been the means of exalting him to the highest positions of his country, was ruined by the wealth he inherited. He was very extravagant; this and his dissipated habits soon caused him to go through his large fortune, and unfortunately, his sister's also, leaving nothing, and his orphan children, at his death, thrown upon his sister, Miss Vining. Seaton, his eldest son, entered the Navy, and came home to his aunt's only to die while young. The second was William Henry, but only used the second name, signing himself W. Henry Vining; he gave early promise of great talent; his piece on the commencement of these fragments (I, A. R. du Pont, have not transcribed,) gave promise to great abilities, as it was a remarkable production for a boy of 14. Its title, 'Those who hung their harps on the willows,' a poetical production. Had he lived, he would have made his mark in the world's history. He died in 1822, aged 27. Benjamin Vining, third son, Charles Vining, fourth son. They all died before their Aunt, Miss Vining, but W. Henry, who survived her a few months. He studied law with Mr. Ogden, who married his mother's sister. They lived in Ogdensburg, New York, said town on the St. Laurence river, where W. Henry Vining practiced law with his uncle." (See Life of George Read.)