

# COPY of the MARRIAGE RECORD of CHRIST CHURCH in PHILADELPHIA for the year 1774

**showing the marriage of WILLIAM LEA to DOROTHY NELSON**

marriage record copy and photo of painting of Christ Church in Philadelphia courtesy  
Historic Christ Church and Burial Ground, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

4389

From: COPY of the MARRIAGE RECORD of CHRIST CHURCH in PHILADELPHIA  
with index 1709 - 1800

DATE OF MARRIAGE.	MARRIAGES.		BY WHOM MARRIED.
25.	Johnson Hugh	Delaney & Hannah Kelly	Coombe L. the Rector
30.	Pompey Negroes	& Peggy,	the same
February 20.	William Lea	& Dorothy Nelson	the same

### On the occasion of the 230th Anniversary of the Marriage of William Lea and Dorothy Nelson, 1774 - 2004

In 1770 William Lea received a parcel of land for his services in the



French and Indian War. In 1774 Lea married Dorothy Nelson in Philadelphia's Christ Church, the church being part of the Church of England at that time. The record above shows an entry for the 2nd of February, 1774. Note that the "y" in the word February loops down next to the "2" of the date, which at first blush looks like the 20th.

An interesting item of note is the one above the Lea - Nelson entry. On the 30th of January "Pompey & Peggy, Negroes," were married.



Christ Church in Philadelphia - painted in 1811 by William Strickland

Whether Pompey and Peggy were slaves is not known, although it should be noted that slavery was still legal in Pennsylvania at the time.

In 1790 Lea sequestered "10 rods square" of his land for the erection of a church - St. Luke's. Upon his death in 1802 a provision in Lea's will gave the use of his land to the church, a legal provision known as [Fee Tail](#). Technically the land is still that of the Lea descendants.

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