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THE SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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RECORDS OF THE WILLTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
1747-1841

Edited by SLANN LEGARE CLEMENT SIMMONS *

With Introduction by Edward Guerrant Lilly †

The historical marker placed at the intersection of the Willtown and Parker's Ferry Roads reads:

Willtown Bluff

Willtown Bluff on the Edisto River, site of an old town called Willtown of New London, established about 1685. There was an early Presbyterian Church here.

The historical marker, one lonely pillar,¹ and about a dozen tombstones are all that now remain at Willtown Bluff to mark the site of the churches which once stood there. The records of the Willtown Presbyterian Church show the effects of time, for many have disappeared and those remaining are scanty and age-worn. The major part of these, dealing with the affairs of the Trustees, were known to Rev. George Howe and quoted by him in his *History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina*.² The manuscripts were given by Mr. A. S. Salley³ to the Historic Activities Committee of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of South Carolina for preservation and publication.⁴

* Secretary of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina.

† Former pastor of the First (Scots) Presbyterian Church, Charleston, and now of the First Presbyterian Church, Hartsville.

¹ The pillar remains of Christ Episcopal Church, Wilton, built 1836. It stood on the site of the Presbyterian Church, the property having been purchased in 1835. Bishop Bowen described it as "a beautiful specimen of chaste and simple Grecian Architecture." Albert Sydney Thomas, *A History of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina 1820-1957* (Columbia, 1957), pp. 166-167. For tombstone inscriptions see this *Magazine*, XXVII (1926), 104.

² (2 vols., Columbia, 1870-1883).

³ The manuscripts had formerly been in the possession of Francis Yonge Legare of Adams Run, grandson of the Francis Y. Legare whose name is on the subscription list of 1813-1819 and son of James Legare and Claudia Giradeau.

⁴ Mrs. George C. Logan, Chairman of the Committee, assisted by members of the Society, accomplished the arduous task of transcribing the records and completing certain preliminary work connected with their editing. She also arranged for the lamination of the manuscripts through the courtesy of Dr. Harold Easterby, Director of the S. C. Archives Department.

Dr. Lilly's careful study and detailed summaries of this manuscript material have been placed on file with the Historic Activities Committee. *Editor.*]

land, plunged into expensive feasts for celebrating the anniversary of their Independence, I might be brought to agree with him—but I believe he cannot produce any such Instances from their histories—their prudence, their economy assured their Independence and their present happy establishment.

The Olympic Games of Greece and other fooleries brought on the dissolution of Greece—my Colleague may think this a day for joy and mirth, I am of a different opinion. I rather think it a time for fasting and mourning, I speak seriously and I hope I speak properly—I move, the Letter may lie on the Table and no further notice be taken of it.—This was loudly seconded.

Mr. Drayton, replied, I would have Gentlemen when they talk of history discover that they knew something about it—the Olympic Games were not instituted for the celebration of anniversaries nor did they bring on the ruin of Greece. They were calculated for improving bodily strength—to make Man athletic and robust.* Here he was called to order by several Members and to sit him down the Order of the day was called for and the Paper ordered to lie on the Table and generally exploded.

I might have added to my questions—ought that Gentleman to consent to any unnecessary expence which may add weight to the already intolerable burden of Taxes laid on his Constituents? but in my zeal it excaped me.

* [*Lauren's footnote*] Is drinking Madeira Wine from 5 to 9 oClock then sallying out to gaze at fire works, and afterwards returning to Wine again, calculated to make Men Athletic and robust? Why then introduce the Olympic Games as an example for fire works.

The first known minister was Rev. Archibald Stobo,⁵ formerly (1700-1704) pastor of the Independent Meeting House Congregation, now the Circular Congregational Church of Charleston, S. C. Rev. Alexander Hewatt said of him, "He possessed those talents which render a minister conspicuous and respected. To his treasure of knowledge and excellent capacity for instruction, he added uncommon activity and diligence to the discharge of the various duties of his sacred function. No minister of the colony ever engrossed so universally the public favor and esteem."

In 1784 the church was incorporated as "The Presbyterian Church of Wilton in St. Paul's Parish" (I, 472).⁶

In the Presbyterian Church, the Session (which is composed of the minister and the Ruling Elders) receives the members into the church, keeps the records, and has charge of the spiritual affairs of the congregation. The Deacons supervise the property and the material possessions of the congregation, and the Trustees act as the legal agents of the Church. In the era before the Revolutionary War, congregations of churches other than the Church of England, could not be incorporated, so individuals had to act legally for them, holding all property in their behalf. In some congregations, the work of the Deacons was largely done by the Trustees, and this seems to have been the case at certain times here. We have no original records of work of the Session or the Deacons of this congregation.

E. G. L.

Willtown, on the east bank of the South Edisto River, in St. Paul's Parish, was, for more than two centuries, within the bounds of old Colleton County. Since about 1910 it has been in Charleston County. From the high bluff may still be seen "one of the loveliest prospects in the low country of the State" (I, 186).

The date of settlement is not known. An early plat existed, and only two lots, numbers 3 and 13, are recorded, January 8, 1697, as being granted according to this plat. The original grant to lot 13 describes it as being in "ye towne of Wilton in Colleton County one Corner Lott commonly known by ye name of number 13 as in ye Grand Platt of ye sd Towne . . . certified and returned this tenth day of Novembr Ano: Dom: 1697 By Mee Ste. Bull Surveyor."⁷

The plat for New London, made c. 1714, shows 3 and 13 out of order in the numbering of the lots. The boundaries of lot 13 are no longer the same,

⁵ The pocket Bible of Rev. Archibald Stobo was presented to the South Carolina Historical Society by Mrs. H. Marvin Franks.

⁶ Howe, *History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina*. References in the text so cited are to this authority.

⁷ Original grant in possession of Mrs. Ashley Butler of Greenville, S. C.

except that the bluff or "front street" bounds it on the west.⁸ The earliest date of other lots granted in the town of "New London" is January 1715.

The name New London is found first in the Journal of Elder Pratt of New England (1696).⁹ It is again mentioned in 1714 and for a few years thereafter, but soon disappeared, and the old name, Willtown, persists today in Willtown Bluff.

Although the earliest of the records published here is of a later date, the records of the Willtown Presbyterian Church can be said to begin in 1728, as Rev. George Howe has described many not now extant.

Early in 1728, articles of agreement were drawn up by "the Presbyterian worshippers at Wilton Bluff." The document was signed: Archibald Stobo, *Minister*; X[pher (Christopher)] Wilkinson, Joseph Rusel, Samuel Lowle, Z. M. Edings, *Elders*; Paul Hamilton, Timothy Hendricks, Richard Ash, Wm. O'Neill, Wm. McMechen, *Deacons* (I, 187).

There was in existence a subscription list for the building of a Presbyterian Meeting House at "Wilton" bearing date 1731 (I, 202). Whether this was the first or second building erected for the express purpose is not known.

Elders and Deacons, serving at some time prior to 1738, are named in the undated will of Paul Hamilton (I, 202). Of these, all are stated to be deceased by 1753, and of their survivors only Richard Ash and Ezekiel Brantford were living. The death of Mr. Stobo was mentioned in a paper, now missing, dated October 15, 1741 (I, 229).¹⁰

The wills of Royal Spry and William Ferguson show the church to be vacant in 1745 and 1747, and Ferguson's bequest was for the support of the Presbyterian Minister "to the Congregation or Meeting of this place that is usually heretofore held at Will Town." The Rev. Archibald Simpson, whose journal in Carolina began in May, 1754 (I, 274), tells us that a "chapel of ease had been built in the upper part of the congregation." The date of building, not mentioned and apparently unknown, was, obviously, some time earlier. He mentions dissension among the members, those in the "south district" [attending the chapel in the "upper part of the congregation"] refusing to give up their chapel and one-half of the Minister's time, as long as the "Parish Church" remained at Wilton. The "north district" would not agree to a change of location and "the meeting broke up in confusion" (I, 276).

The Rev. Mr. Ross seems to have followed Mr. Stobo and died while serving the church (I, 252). The Rev. Hugh Stewart died before July 1748 (I, 257).

⁸ H. A. M. Smith, "Willtown or New London," this Magazine, X (1909), 20-32.

⁹ A. S. Salley, ed., *Narratives of Early Carolina* (N. Y., 1911), p. 196.

¹⁰ Archibald Stobo's will was dated 25 Feb., 1735/6, recorded 28 Nov., 1741. Records of the Probate Court, W.P.A. Copy, v.5,p.64, Charleston County Courthouse, hereafter cited as P.C.

Of the meeting of the Presbytery, June 2, 1752, Howe says, "From the record containing a notice of this meeting, it appears that there was no pastor in connection with the church." Also, "This record and the wills [of the legators], expressed in similar terms, establish the full Presbyterian character of this church" (I, 272-273). However, following the Revolutionary War, and until 1850, when Dr. John L. Girardeau was called, it is shown to have functioned entirely independent of the Presbytery, therefore, as an "Independent Church" (II, 625).

A paper existed showing that a call had been sent to Scotland about 1752 (I, 272).

Rev. Archibald Simpson preached his first sermon at Willtown, May 15, 1754. He says, "I was appointed to preach at Willtown, till we see what comes of their call from Scotland." He served until July, 1756, when he went to the Stoney Creek Church (Indian Land) to replace Mr. Hutson, who had removed to Charleston. He seems to have desired to return to Willtown in 1759, but there was much dissension still, and some opposition to him. He states, on May 16, 1759, "a call was presented from Wilton, or rather, a corner of it, to Rev. Mr. Al[iso]n . . . the call was by Mr. Stobo [James Stobo, son of Rev. Archibald], and a few in that corner." Mr. John Alison was installed at Willtown, May 1, 1759, and served until 1761. Between May 1765 and May 1766, both he and Simpson supplied the church during a vacancy (I, 275-277, 319-320).

The church "now aBuilding" on July 31, 1767, was completed in August when Mr. Simpson preached a sermon there. He mentions the new Meeting-house, "about four miles from the old one [at Willtown Bluff], and about three miles from the public path [Willtown Road], so that it is very convenient and central; it is a large handsome and very well built house—the pulpit and pews the same which used to be in the old brick meeting house."¹¹ He also says Mr. Stobo had moved out of the parish, and all differences were made up. Mr. Simpson was asked to accept their call but refused (I, 319-320).

The Rev. Mr. John Maltby was installed in December, 1769. He had served in Bermuda, replacing the Rev. Josiah Smith, and there had married Susannah, daughter of Captain John Darrel (I, 398-400). She and her little daughter died in 1770, and are buried in the churchyard of the "Burnt Church," built on the parsonage lands in 1767. The MS of J. L. Girardeau, D. D., states that the spot, "a few hundred yards from the road," is marked by "the remains of the ruins and a few grave stones which still stand in tolerable preservation. On one of these is the name of John Berkley, of honored memory, who was one of the Deacons of the Church, and on another that of

¹¹ The church was located on the Parker's Ferry or Edisto River Road, which ran from Willtown to the old Parker's Ferry Landing on the Charleston-Dorchester County line. It crossed the present U. S. Highway 17 at Parker's Ferry Crossroads, now called Parker's Ferry.

Mrs. Maltby, the widow [*sic*] of Rev. John Maltby, who was pastor of the Church from 1769 to 1771," and nearby, "signs of the place where the Parsonage stood" ¹² (II, 62-63). Mr. Maltby died one year after his wife, and is buried in Dartmouth, N. H. (I, 399). He was succeeded by the Rev. John Martin, who became pastor early in 1772, as a missing paper showed. He died in June 1774, and left a son, Hawkins Martin.

The Rev. Oliver Reese supplied the church in 1775. He died that year or the next, and the Rev. Thomas Henderson was minister to the church in 1776 (I, 399). In June 1786, Mr. Henderson died. The Rev. James Wilson, Sr., served 1787-1788, and the Rev. Mr. Taylor, 1789-1790 (I, 473). For a period thereafter nothing is known concerning the history of the church, but in 1799, the Rev. Andrew Steele was employed, and apparently served to 1802 (I, 576; II, 62-63).

On May 1, 1807, the congregation was asked to assemble at the ruins of the church lately burnt (II, 62). The minutes of the meeting were dated May 21.

The names appearing on an undated paper, now missing (I, 576-577), establish it as of 1807: "We the subscribers do promise to pay the sums respectively opposite our names, for the purpose of rebuilding the Wilton Church, situate at Wilton Bluff: James McElhenny,¹³ \$80; Charles Freer, \$100; John Ashe, \$100; Paul Hamilton, \$100; William Hayne, \$100" (I, 577). The word "rebuilding" of a church "situate" at the Bluff, and the fact that the last subscription list was open for five years or more, as shown by the names signed, lead to the conclusion that "the old brick meeting house", deserted in 1767 for a more "central" location, was repaired for temporary use. Twelve years later, a new church was being built at another more convenient location.

The Rev. Loami Floyd, a Congregational minister, pastor of the Pon Pon church from 1802, served, also, in the Willtown church. In 1819, he preached on alternate Sundays (II, 231). "On 30th April, 1820, a meeting of the Board of Trustees was held at the church and the minutes state that their house of worship had been newly erected. It is situated about a mile from the village of Adam's Run and at the intersection of the Willtown (or Charleston roads)¹⁴ . . . It was dedicated April 30, 1820. Mr. Floyd preached a sermon

¹² The three remaining stones were copied by Mrs. W. H. Grimball about 1948. The inscriptions from the stones of John Berkley (d. 1806) and Henry Veitch (d. 1811), were published in this *Magazine*, XL (1939), 39.

¹³ Rev. James McElhenny came to the Low-country in 1801, marrying that year, as his second wife, Susannah Wilkinson. He served the churches on John's and Wadmalaw Islands for about a year and by 1810, was pastor of the church at Hopewell, Keowee. He died in Oct., 1812, at Pendleton District (*Howe*, II, pp. 61, 299, 302).

¹⁴ About 4 miles from Willtown Bluff, on the south side of the Willtown Road where it forks as it joins the road from Adam's Run to Edisto Island. Here are a number of tombstones and several enclosed lots.

. . . Dr. Palmer followed with an address" (II, 335). Dr. B. M. Palmer was, also, a Congregational minister.

Rev. Henry T. Jones, editor of *The Southern Intelligencer*, a religious paper published in Charleston, served in 1823; Rev. Moses Chase in 1824, according to a now missing record. He did not continue long, as in November, 1824, Rev. Zabdiel Rogers was invited to preach (II, 335-336). This beloved pastor, a Presbyterian, served the church for more than twenty-three years. He had a paralytic stroke in December 1847, while delivering a sermon. At his death a resolution was adopted, signed, "J. Berkley Grimbball, *Chairman*, D. J. Wilkinson, *Secretary*" (II, 622-623).

In the spring of 1849 the church extended an invitation to Mr. John L. Girardeau. When his call was submitted to the Presbytery, approval was delayed, as the church had had no connection with the Presbytery since the time of the Revolutionary War. The records were unearthed, and it was discovered that by its charter, the wills of its legators, etc., it had been founded as a strictly Presbyterian Church. Mr. Girardeau was ordained. As the Elders who had been serving had not been "set apart" to the office, formalities were attended to, and James King, Hawkins King, and Alfred P. Walter were "ordained to the eldership" (II, 624-625).

Mr. Girardeau preached his farewell sermon in December 1853, and the Rev. William B. Corbett, M. D., replaced him. He is the last recorded minister to the church, some time before 1866 becoming minister to the Great Peedee church in Cheraw (II, 626, 640).

The church built 1819-1820 was also known, to a later generation, as the "Burnt Church." In 1869, the Presbyterian Church "in Adam's Run" was loaned to the Episcopalians for service.¹⁵ It is remembered as being in very bad condition when it was torn down and the present schoolhouse built on the site. Across the road, in the center of the village, stands the fine old house still remembered as "being built for the Presbyterian Parsonage."

The records which follow have been arranged in chronological order.

Dr: John Bee his Acct: of Moneys in his hands belonging to the Congregation of Will Town Meeting, with his Acct: of Disbursements.

1747. To Twenty Pounds Sterg: to Defray the
 Minister's Passage at 7% pct: £155-0-
 To £25 Sterling to be given the Widow of the
 Revd: Mr: Ross 193-15-

¹⁵ Thomas *History*, p. 168.

¹⁶ Rev. John McLeod, minister to the church on Edisto Island. He married Martha, daughter of Paul Hamilton (d. 1738) and Martha Bower.

1748. August 15 To cash paid Mr: McCleod ¹⁶ for Supplying the Vacancy of Will Town to the 15th of June last	200—
July 15. To cash paid the Revd: Mr: Raye ¹⁷ for his trouble in Coming and Preaching two Sermons at Will Town	25—
Novr: 1. To cash paid the Widdow of the revd: Mr: Stewart for his Supplyg: the Will Town Con- gregation during its vacancy	200—
1748. June 1 to 1 years Int: due on the Two Ster- ling debts in the year 1747	34-17-6
	<hr/>
	£ 808:12:6
the whole due to the Church	1374:13:1
	<hr/>
	£2183: 5:7
Col. Bee's Subscription	50:—
	<hr/>
	£2233: 5:7
To Isaac Hayne & William Simmons ¹⁸	
Bond in full of the Ball[ance] Dated Feby 1, 1749	£1662: 2:-

Cr:

1748 June 1 By cash lent to John Bagen on Bond. £145—	
d[itt]o to Paul Hamilton	95—
do: to Ann Crall [Croll]	81—
do: to Jas Gray	85—
do: to Jacob Donnom	70—
do: to Henry Livingston	37—
do: to George Ferguson	16-10-
By a Legacy left by Paul Hamilton	344—
d[itt]o left by Mr. Hendrick	30—
	<hr/>

330[?]

¹⁷ John Rae, pastor of the Williamsburg church.

¹⁸ They were, necessarily, treasurers of the church funds, replacing John Bee. Isaac Hayne (d. Dec. 1751) was son of John Hayne and Mary Deane, and father of Col. Isaac Hayne, the martyr. His 4th wife, Mary, daughter of John Bee, Jr., survived him and married 2nd James Donnom. John Bee, Jr., married Susannah Simmons, sister of William. Bee's will was dated 25 Feb., 1748/9, proved 12 May, 1749. Wills, v. 6 p. 160, P. C.

By compound Int: on the above sums from the first day of June 1741 to the 1st of June 1748. Seven years £ 857: 3:1

£1760:13:1

NB the Int. on the above Sums was paid Mr. Stobo till the first of June 1741

By cash of Sundry Persons to purchase a Bill of Exchange for a Minister's Passage 89—

By Robt: Oswell for Labour of Slaves Royal Spry's Legacy 101:12:6

By do: of Robt: Oswell do: 100—

By cash received of Sundry Persons to Purchase a Bill to be presented the Widow Ross 36—

By cash of Sundry Persons for the Revd: Mr: Stewart & Mr: MClod 39—

£ 365:12:6

By Coll: Bee's 2 Subscriptions for raising a sum of money to be paid Mr. Ross & Discharge a Minister's Passage 45

By cash recvd of Mr Lowle do 12

£ 57:0—

£2183: 5:7

By Col. Bee's Subscription for the paying Mr. Stewart & Mr. McLoad's Supplying Wiltown in its vacancy 50—

£ 2233: 5:7

By One year & Eight months Int: £1424:13:1— Being the Ballance due to the Church from June 1st 1748 to February 1st 1749. £ 237: 8:11

By Ball: due to Church as pr the above Settlement £1424:13:1

£1662: 2—

[Endorsed] Coll. Bee's acct: Settled. Ball: due to Ch'ch £1662:2— Feb. 1, 1749/50

Monday, April 1st 1750

At a meeting of several [of] the Congregation of Willtown—the following proposals were made and agreed to

Thos. Sacheverell proposes and agrees to give unto the Congregation Twenty Acres of Land being the Westernmost End of Arnolds Old field (And known by that name)

Saml Lowle proposes and agrees to give unto the Congrega. likewise Twenty Acres of Land more—Adjoining the above Land Given by Mr. Sacheverell, being the East End of Land he purchased of Wallcutt.

Agreed as soon as the above Forty Acres is properly run out Then the writings relating to the said Land Shall be delivered to Mr. William Hayne¹⁹ who promises to deliver the said Writings unto Mr. Lamboll Who is to draw the Conveyances to Confirm the same to the Congregation.

John Splatt agrees to take the Six Negroes belonging to Willtown Congrega. And is to have them till the first day of February next And to find them in every individual thing for which he agrees to give Ten Barrells Rice and to deliver the said Rice at Peniss [Penny's] Creek Landing.²⁰

South Carolina,

WHEREAS William Stobo,²¹ Late of James Island In Barkley County Deceasd, In his Last Will . . . did give and bequeath unto John Bee and John Splatt Their Successors, [etc.] . . . the sum of One hundred and Fifty Pounds, Current Money of this Province, . . . for the only use and Maintainance of a Presbyterian Minister for the time being of the Presbyterian Congregation on the East side of Ponpon River, Known by the name of Will Town Congregation and in case of the Death of any of the above named Trustee or Trustees their Execers: Or administrators Shall . . . appoint . . . other person or persons in his or their room . . . AND WHEREAS the said John Bee and John Splatt (Members of the

¹⁹ Died Nov. 26, 1764, son of John and Mary (Edings) Hayne.

²⁰ A creek on the east side of the South Edisto River, about halfway between Willtown and Pon Pon. Early grants of lands located there were to John Penny or Pinney, of Pon Pon, who died c. 1724.

²¹ Capt. William Stobo, son of Rev. Archibald, served in the Oglethorpe Expedition. He was living in April, 1743. J. H. Easterby, ed., *Journal of the Commons House of Assembly, 1742-44*, (Columbia, 1954), pp. 363, 398. His will can not now be found, and only a part of the copied paragraph appears in the manuscripts.

said Congregation) are now Lately dead²² . . . the power becomes wholly Invested in me John Splatt Junr, Execr: to John Splatt, Senr, Surviving Trustee, and as I am inpowered by the testator . . . Do therefore . . . appoint my very good friends Mr. Ezekiel Branford, Mr. Jas: Stobo, and Mr. Richard Ash Junr, Members of the sd: Congregation to act conjunctly with me . . . IN WITNESS Whereof I have hereunto Sett my hand Seal this Twenty first day of June In the year of Our Lord One thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty One.

JOHN SPLATT

Signed & Seal'd in Presince of [torn] Splatt
 [Endorsed] Will Stobo's Legacy £150/0/0
 Trustees: Messrs Ezkl Branford, James Stobo, John Splatt and
 Richard Ash, Junr.²³
 Interest [illegible] to June 25th, 1751 £147/3/7

 £297/3/7

AT WILTOWN MEETING HOUSE JUNE 2: 1752

The Committee appointed by the Last Presbytery at Charles Town mett and—Post preces Sederunt.²⁴ The Reverend The Moderr. Mr. Thomas Murray & Messrs John McLeod, Thomas Bell, Charles Lorimer, Ministers and Samuel Davidson Ruling Elder. The Committee then considered proper methods, for settling the affairs of the Congregation of Wiltown, that the Particular Trustees, Should Resign up the particular Trusts into the Hands of General Trustees then Nominated and Elected by them Vizt:

Ezekiel Branford, John Splatt, Thomas Sacheverell, Samuel Lowle, Edward Ferguson, James Stobo, Joseph Ash, Samuel Davidson, Richard Cochran Ash.²⁵

And it is appointed that Five of the Trustees Shall be a Quorum to Transact all affairs committed to their Trust, And the Particular Trustees agree as soon as they can to Resign their Particular Trusts into the Hands

²² Col. John Bee, Jr., was promoted to Brigadier July 17, 1742. Inventories, v. 67-A, p. 36, P.C. The will of John Splatt, Sr., is dated 16 Oct., 1749, proved 10 Nov., 1749. Wills, v. 6, p. 218, P.C.

²³ Richard Cochran Ash, son of Capt. Richard Ash, "Sr."

²⁴ After prayers they sat down.

²⁵ Of those named, John Splatt, Jr., was deceased. His will, dated 23 Sept., 1752, was proved Nov. 1752. Wills, v. 7, p. 29, P.C. Thomas Sacheverell, alone, was not named as a General Trustee in the Indenture. Joseph Ash was son of Capt. Richard Ash.

of the General Trustees above named, by Proper Instruments of writing. The Congregation are well Satisfied that the Said General Trustees, have Power, upon the Death of any of the Number upon their Leaving the Congregation or refusing the Congregation to act to Nominate other Trustees in their place, and to keep up the Number of Nine as above—

As the Piece of Land granted by Mr Pickum [Paycom?]²⁶ to the Congregation, for the Use of the Minister, for the time being, is Judg'd by the Congregation, not to answer the end fully, but to be inconvenient for Building the Mansion House & etc.

It is agreed that Mr James Stobo should without Loss of time, deal with Mr Pickum to alter the Writings, that the Conveyances may be Transferred as the Trustees Shall See most to the Advantage of the Congregation And further the Congregation impower the above named Trustees to make all Necessary Repairs in the Meeting House and Likewise the Building a Convenient Mansion House, for the Minister, and for the Last Purpose, to Look out a Convenient Tract of Land, and Purchase it upon the Cheapest Terms They can.

The Congregation agree that the Box Money be Managed, by the said General Trustees, untill such time, as there Shall be a Minister and Regular Church Session—

Thos: Murray: Modr: Thos: Bell: Cl: p: t:

[Endorsed] Duplicate of the Committies Trans. upon their meeting at Wiltown. June the 2d 1752

The Meeting of the trustees of the Parsonage This first of January 1753
Then Present: Richd Ash Senr, Ezekiel Branford, Samuel Davison, Samuel Lowle, Richd Cochm: Ash, Edwd Ferguson, James Stobo.

Agreed on that a Subscription shall be Presented to the Congregation to Raise money for the Parsonage One half of the money to be Paid the first day of March next and the other half Payable the First Day of January next 1754.

²⁶ John Paycom owned several hundred acres at the Horse Shoe, just west of the Edisto River. He died before Jan. 1753, when Elizabeth, his niece and heir (daughter of Joseph Paycom), with her husband, Daniel Legare, Jr., sold lands there. Renunciations of Dower 1757-1761, Chas. County, in S. C. Archives Dept., Columbia. At the time of the meeting, the conveyance had obviously not been recorded or "Mr. Pickum" could not have "altered the writings." No record has been found, so perhaps, as it was not to be used for the purpose intended, the gift or "grant", was rescinded.

Sir

Inclosed is the Copy's of the Several Paragraphs of Wills you desired, as to Mrs Stoboes²⁷ I dont meet with in the office therefore it must not be returned into the Office

I am Your Humble Servant

Wm. Pinckney

The Charges are for searing [swearing?] & writing—£ 6.10—
Mr. Sacheverell

[Endorsed] Copy of paragraphs of Wills Bequeathing Legacys to Willtown Church & Congregation for the support of their Minister.

A Copy of a Paragraph of William Mcechern's Will Proved and Recorded the 13th September 1733.²⁸

Item. I give and bequeath unto John Atcheson, James Stobo and . . . John Bee Junr all of Colleton County . . . the sum of one hundred pounds Current money of South Carolina . . . [to be put out] to Interest and all the clear gains thereof pay yearly and every year . . . unto [the] Minister or Pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Will Town in Colleton County [for the time being] . . . of which . . . The Reverend Mr. Archibald Stobo is present Minister . . . to proper use and behoof of such Minister . . . and profits . . . which shall accrue during the Vacancy of a Minister shall go to the next Succeeding Minister and so from time to time for ever [provision for appointing other Trustees in case of death, etc.]

A Copy of a Paragraph of Paul Hamilton's Will²⁹ Proved and Recorded the 7th of March 1738.

²⁷ As Mrs. Stobo's donation was assumed to be a legacy, it appears that she died prior to the copying of the paragraphs.

²⁸ The will of William McMechen was dated 28 July, 1733, Wills, v. 3, p. 70, P.C. He signed "Mechen" with a superior "c" above the first "e". Executors named are "wife Ruth Mcmechen, George Ducat of Charles Town, and John Bee, Jr., of Pon Pon."

²⁹ The will of Paul Hamilton is undated. Of the officers of the church who do not appear elsewhere, *George Farley* died shortly before August, 1740. *Howe History*, I, 203. On Oct. 10, 1733, the cattle mark "GF" was registered for George-Fairly of St. Bartholomew. Misc. Records, p. 1006, P.C. *John Hayne* (m. Mary Edings), son of John Hayne and Mary Deane, left a will dated 24 March, 1737, recorded 10 Dec., 1739. Wills v. 4, p. 259 P. C. No will is recorded for *John Atchison*. *John Andrews* or *Andrew*, [Sr.], of St. Bartholomew's Parish, left a will dated 9 Jan., 1745/6, proved 22 Jan., 1745 [6]. Wills, v. 5, p. 477, P.C. *Thomas Buer* died intestate; inventory of "Thomas Bure" of St. Bartholomew, planter, as shown by Mary "Bure", widow, administratrix, was made 19 Mar., 1740. The

Item. I give and bequeath Forty three pounds Sterling to be paid a year after my decease into the hands of the Revd. Mr. Archibald Stobo Minister, Timothy Hendrick, John Bee Junr. George Farley, John Hayn, John Splatt, John Atchison, John Andrus [Andrews], Thomas Burr [Buer], John Mitchell, Jacob Denham [Donnom], Elders & Deacons of the Presbyterian Church at Will Town to them or the [illegible] Succeedors of them as they shall be Chosen and [illegible]ing to the Rules of the aforesaid Church to be disposed of [torn] and improved for the support of the aforesaid Presbyterian Congregation always preserving the principal intire.

A Copy of a Paragraph of Purchase Hendrick's Will ³⁰ Proved & Recorded the 12th of March 1739.

Imprimis. I give and bequeath the Sum of Thirty Pounds Current money to the Presbyterian Church at Will Town and likewise Twenty pounds Current money to the Presbyterian Church on the West Side of Pon Pon River to be improved at the discretion of the Officers of the said Churches.

A Copy of a Paragraph of Timothy Hendrick's Will Proved and Recorded the 22d November 1739.

Item. I give and Bequesth two Choice negroes to the Presbyterian Interest at Will Town for Ever, and it is my Will that my Executors shall keep them in their Possession their Life times and Pay the Incomes that they make yearly year by year for the use of the aforementioned Interest at Will Town.

[A Copy of a Paragraph of Will of William Stobo, deceased before July 25, 1743.]

[*First part missing*] such minister shall be qualified and admitted according to the Rules of the Presbyterian Church Government and discipline of the Kirk of Scotland, . . . the said principal Sum of One hundred and fifty Pounds shall be always kept or put to Interest yearly and continue as a Fund . . . and in case of the death of any of the above named Trustees . . . to appoint [others] . . . and so *toties quoties* ³¹ . . . only with this Limitation

appraisal, made by John Andrews, John Mitchell, Moses Martin, and Lawrence Sanders, gives the name "Buer". Inventories, v. 73, p. 21, P.C. No will is found for *John Mitchell*, son of George Mitchell [Sr.] of Pon Pon and Hannah, his wife, and brother of Joseph (d. 1745). Wills, v. 4, p. 12; Misc. Records, v. 69-A p. 217, P.C. Inventory of "John Mitchell, deceased" was made Mar. 13, 1751. Book 77-B, p. 657, P. C. *Jacob Donom [sic.]* left a will dated 25 Jan., 1745/6, proved 11 Feb., 1745 [6], which mentions "eldest sons James, William and John", Jacob, Daniel and Jonathan, and a daughter, Sarah. Wills, v. 5, p. 493, P. C.

³⁰ The wills of Purchase and Timothy Hendrick cannot now be found. She was widow of Henry Spry, who died before Dec. 1699, and mother of Royal. Her son-in-law, James Berry, claimed the legacy left in her will, "dated 24 Dec., 1737", to his wife, Purchase. Misc. Records v. 69-A, p. 107, P.C.

³¹ As often as. This phrase appears in the Indenture.

that all Trustees shall be Chosen out of and from the Members of the said Congregation.

A Copy of a Paragraph of William Ferguson's Will Proved & Recorded the 14th of March 1745.³²

I give and bequeath to Brigadier John Bee and my beloved son Edward Ferguson their Successors [etc.] the Sum of Fifty Pounds Current Money of this Province to be paid them as soon as possible after the ordination of the next Presbyterian Minister to the Congregation or Meeting of this place that is usually heretofore held at Will Town but is now Vacant . . . for the only use and purpose after mentioned that is to say that [they] shall place out the fifty pounds at Interest and pay over such Interest Money yearly for the support of a Presbyterian Minister for the time in this Congregation that is usually assembled at Will Town . . . and so all future Interest Money to the respective future Ministers for ever and the principal Sum of Fifty Pounds to be kept intire and remain as a fund for the said purpose for ever . . . said Ministers shall be such as are admitted and qualified according to the Rules and Articles of Presbyterian Church Government and Discipline . . . [provision as to replacement of Trustees].

A Copy of a Paragraph of Royal Spry's Will Proved & Recorded 16th January 1746.³³

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Trusty friends John Bee and Thomas Sacheverell their Successors [etc.] four slaves (vizt) one negroe Man named little London one negroe woman named Seallie one negroe boy named Jacob and his Sister Hannah and their issue only for & upon the Special Trust . . . (that is to say) [they] shall hire out or employ the said Slaves & their issue & the profit arising from the Labour . . . shall pay over yearly . . . unto the Presbyterian Minister for the time being of the Presbyterian Congregation on the East Side of Pon Pon River and untill a Minister shall be settled in said Congregation or at any time hereafter when destitute of a Minister the profits shall be added to the funds that is now belonging to said Congregation (for the support of a Minister) and be improved with it . . . and the Said Slaves and their issue shall be kept and remain always as long as any of them shall be in being for said purpose . . . [provision for replacement of Trustees].

³² The will of William Ferguson of St. Paul's Parish, planter, was dated 1 Dec. 1745, Wills, v. 5, p. 516, P. C. The date of probation is "old style," actually 1746. The probation dates of Royal Spry's and George Mitchell's wills are also old style.

³³ The will of Royal Spry was dated 17 Dec. 1746.

A Copy of a Paragraph of George Mitchel's Will Proved & Recorded 5th January 1749.³⁴

Item. I give and bequeath to Ezekiel Brandford & Samuel Lowele their Successors [etc] the Sum of five hundred pounds Current money of this Province . . . to place out at Interest and pay over such Interest money yearly unto the Presbyterian Minister for the time being of the Congregation for the time being in Will Town . . . and so all future Interest money to the respective future Ministers for ever and the principal sum to be kept intire and remain as a fund for the said purpose for ever . . . each of the said Miniteres shall be such as are qualified and admitted according to the Rules and Articles of Presbyterian Church Government and Discipline . . . [provision for replacement of Trustees].

Secretarys Office. All the foregoing Copys of Several Paragraphs of the Wills of Sundry Persons mentioned therein is Exact Copys from the Originals taken & Examined

Pr Wm Pinckney Depty Secty

³⁴The will of George Mitchell of St. Bartholomew, Physician, was dated 3 Dec. 1749. He mentions relatives in North Britain only. Wills v. 6, p. 245, P.C. The connection, if any, with George Mitchell, Sr., of Pon Pon, is unknown.

(To be continued)