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RECORDS OF THE WILTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
1738-1841

EDITED BY SLANN. L. C. SIMMONS

(Continued from April)

At a Meeting of the Trustees at Wiltown Meeting this 13th Day of May 1775. Present, Abraham Hayne, John Mitchell John Berkley William Swinton Joseph Bee.

Mr. John Mitchell Laid a State of the Wiltown Fund before them which was Examined and approved of, and it was then agreed by all Present that the said Funds should be put into the hands of Joseph Bee who is appointed Treasurer for Twelve Months from the Date above. It was also agreed that a Call should be Drawn up and Signed and Offered to The Revd Mr. Reese.

Joseph Bee. Clerk

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Funds belonging to the Wiltown Congregation held this 13th November 1777. Present, Messrs: Abraham Hayne John Mitchell John Berkley William Swinton Joseph Bee.

The above Trustees Unanimously made Choice of Mr Wm Branford ⁶⁴ as a member of Wiltown Congregation for a Trustee with them in the Room of Mr. John Peter Deceased ⁶⁵ to Act Jointly with them in the said Trust agreeable to the Conditions of the Trust Deed.

Attested, Joseph Bee, Clerk.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Funds belonging to the Wiltown Congregation held this 9th December 1777. Present: Messrs. Abraham Hayne, John Mitchell, William Swinton, John Berkley, Joseph Bee. Then appeared Mr. William Branford and accepted of the Choice which was made of him for a Trustee of ye Funds belonging to said Wiltown Congregation in the Room of Mr. John Peter aforesaid Deceased and took his Place accordingly.

Attested Joseph Bee Clerk

⁶⁴ Son of Ezekiel Branford and Alice Bulline.

⁶⁵ Son of William Peter and Tabitha Bower. He seems to have married Rebecca (née Branford, daughter of Ezekiel), widow of Thomas Slann, and had a son, William Branford Peter. Her first husband was Archibald Hamilton.

The storm aroused by the circuit court decision should not obscure the fact that the central legal issue of the case is similar to the problem dealt with in the *Steamboat* case. Nor did Johnson modify his stand when opportunity arose in 1827 in the case of *Brown v. Maryland*, the only other decision on the commerce power during his service on the Court. The South Carolinian silently accepted Marshall's verdict, even though the unanimity of the Court was not complete.⁴²

What, then does the recent rediscovery of William Johnson add to our understanding of the Marshall Court? Surely Johnson emerges as a distinct figure, demonstrating that Marshall did not completely eliminate independence and dissent. But Johnson's very independence tends also to emphasize the seemingly irresistible appeal of some of the elements of the great Chief Justice's faith. For Johnson, like Marshall, was a judicial nationalist. In espousing nationalism on the Court, Johnson did no more than John C. Calhoun, for example, did in his early years in Congress. Calhoun changed; Johnson did not.

William Johnson merits resurrection from historical neglect. He also deserves to be spared the enthusiasm of those who would endow him with some kind of undefined "liberalism." Viewed in this way, Johnson appears neither as the Republican antithesis of a Federalist Marshall, nor as a puppet governed by the Virginian, but rather (and this is surely more important) as a conscientious and capable judge.

⁴² *Brown v. Maryland*, 12 Wheat 419 (1827). Apparently the Marshall Court was preparing to make another strong statement of federal jurisdiction over commerce in *New York v. Miln*. Changes in the personnel on the bench, however, resulted in a ruling for New York. Johnson died before the case was completed. Swisher, *American Constitutional Development*, 195-196.

Whereas I William Branford have been duly chosen a Trustee by the Trustees of the Funds belonging to the Wiltown Congregation to associate with them in the Room of John Peter Deceased, I do hereby Acknowledge my acceptance of the Choice they have made of me for that Purpose in Witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand this 9th December 1777

W. Branford.

Received Novr 30th 1779 of John Mitchell Esqr the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds Currency as a present to the Wiltown Funds, the Interest arising from which to be Paid towards the Support of such a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, As the Congregation shall approve of, and in Case of the Death or Removal of such minister then the said Interest to be added to the Principal untill another Shall be Chosen, and so on.

Received by me Joseph Bee, Treasurer

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Funds of the Wiltown Congregation held this 15th May 1786 Present, Messrs Joseph Bee, William Branford

The above Trustees unanimously made choice of Messrs Joseph Slann Joseph Wilkinson & Paul Hamilton⁶⁶ for Trustees with them in the Room of Messrs John Mitchell⁶⁷ Abraham Hayne & William Swinton the two last deceas'd & the first resign'd to act Jointly with them in the said Trust agreeable to the Conditions of the Trust Deed.

At a Meeting of the Trustees of the Funds belonging to the Wiltown Congregation held this 15th May 1786 Present, Messrs Joseph Bee, William Branford.

Then appear'd Messrs Joseph Slann Joseph Wilkinson & Paul Hamilton and accepted of the Choice which was made of them for Trustees of the Funds belonging to the Wiltown Congregation in the Room of

⁶⁶ Joseph Slann was son of Andrew Slann and Ann Waring. He married Jean or Jane, daughter of Rev. Robert Baron. Joseph Wilkinson was son of Edward Wilkinson and Ann Ninian, and married Ann Simons Swinton, daughter of William and Sarah (widow Baron) Swinton. Paul Hamilton, son of Archibald Hamilton and Rebecca Branford, married Mary, daughter of Edward Wilkinson. He was Governor of S. C., 1804-1806.

⁶⁷ Mitchell had removed his residence to Charleston, and is referred to in records as John Mitchell, Sr., Esq., of Charleston.

Messrs John Mitchell Abraham Hayne & William Swinton as above and took their places accordingly

Attested Joseph Bee, Clerk

Whereas we Joseph Slann Joseph Wilkinson & Paul Hamilton have been duly Chosen Trustees by the Trustees of the Funds belonging to the Wiltown Congregation to associate with them in the Room of Messrs John Mitchell Abraham Hayne & William Swinton We do hereby acknowledge our Acceptance of the Choice they have made of us for that Purpose in Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands this 15th May 1786.

Joseph Slann, Joseph Wilkinson, Paul Hamilton.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the funds of the Wiltown Congregation held this 10th April 1787. Present Messrs Joseph Bee, John Berkley, William Branford, Joseph Slann, Joseph Wilkinson, Paul Hamilton.

The above Trustees unanimously made Choice of Mr William Hayne⁶⁸ to associate and act jointly with them in the said trust agree- He was the father of Hon. Robert Young Hayne. able to the Conditions of the Trust Deed

Then appeared Mr William Hayne and accepted the appointment of a Trustee

I accept as above mentioned

Wm Hayne

At a Meeting of the Trustees of the Wiltown Presbyterian Church this 8th May 1789—Present Joseph Bee, John Berkley, William Branford, Joseph Slann, Joseph Wilkinson, Paul Hamilton, Trustees.

Mr. Joseph Bee laid a State of the funds before them which was examin'd and approv'd of. It was agreed that the funds should be put into the hands of Mr. William Branford who is appointed Treasurer and Secretary for twelve months from the Date.

I Joseph Bee finding it utterly inconvenient to continue longer as a Trustee of the funds of the Wiltown Presbyterian Church do hereby resign my Trust & Office as such this 8th May 1789.

Joseph Bee

At a Meeting of the Pew Holders and Members of the Wiltown Presbyterian Church a Majority present—May 31st 1789.

⁶⁸ William Hayne, 1766-1817, son of Abraham Hayne and Susannah Branford.

Resolved—That whereas the funds of the said Church are inadequate to the support of a Minister, the Revd Mr James Wilson be dismiss'd, and is hereby declare'd to be no longer Minister of the sd Church.

Resolved—That the Gentlemen heretofore known and appointed Trustees of the sd Church be continu'd and acknowledg'd as such by the Congregation, that they are invested with full power to do all such acts as shall appear to them, or a Majority of them in office, most conducive to the Interest of the sd Church subject however to the future Censure or Approbation of the Congregation.

Resolved—That the Trustees be directed to Settle with Mr Wilson aforesaid for his Services as Minister of the said Church to the 26th of January last, and that his preaching since be consider'd only as compensation for his absent time the last year.

Resolved—That the Trustees do officially inform Mr Wilson aforesaid without delay of his Dismission, and that these Resolutions be enter'd in the Church Books.

Sign'd by Order of the Congregation

William Branford, Secretary of the Trustees

[*Endorsed*] Resolution of the Wiltown Presbyterian Church, May 31st, 1789 [*In another hand*] Pewholders Meetg Dismissing Rev. Wilson.

May 18th 1807. At a meeting of the surviving Trustees held this day—Present, Paul Hamilton, William Hayne
The Trustees made choice of Charles Freer, John Ashe, William Simmons & William Clement Esquires to fill vacancies occasioned by deaths amongst the Trustees.

At a Meeting held by the surviving Trustees May 25th 1807—Present, Paul Hamilton, William Hayne.

Then appeared John Ashe & Charles Freer & William Simmons Esquires who accepted their appointments as Trustees

We accept as above—Charles Freer, John Ashe.⁶⁹

I accept as above—Wm. Simmons.⁷⁰

⁶⁹ 1760-1828, son of Richard Cochran Ash. He always used the final "e" in spelling his name. He married Catherine, *née* Deveaux, widow of Nicholas Lechmere.

⁷⁰ Married Sarah, daughter of Francis Yonge, Jr., and his wife Sarah, daughter of Christopher Wilkinson and Elizabeth Slann.

May 21st 1807. The surviving Trustees Paul Hamilton & William Hayne having by notification called a meeting of the Congregation there appeared—

Present—Paul Hamilton, Charles Freer, John Ashe, John Champneys, Nath. H. Rhodes,⁷¹ John Mitchell, John Smith, John Connolly, William Hayne, William Simmons, Revd Jas McElhenney, St. Low Mellichamp, W. B. Mitchell, Joseph Fickling, R. H. Peyton,⁷² Charles Boyle.

Mr Hamilton took the chair and laid before the Congregation a statement of his Accounts as a Trustee as also an estimate of the Funds remaining on hand with other papers to which the meeting had reference.

On Motion Resolved that John Champneys, John Ashe & Paul Hamilton be appointed a Committee to examine into the State of the Funds *generally*, to collect information as to the cost of rebuilding a Church and the means wherewith it may be done—to prepare a Code of Bye Laws for the government of the Church; and that the Committee be required to report on these points at the next meeting to be held on the first Monday in November next.

On motion resolved that a subscription be opened for the purpose of aiding in the rebuilding of the Church at Wiltown Bluff instead of the scite on which the Church lately burnt stood—

reference to Wiltown Bluff

The Meeting then adjourned to 10 o'Clock A.M. on the first Monday in November next if a fair day and if not to the first fair day thereafter.

William Clement⁷³ Esquire accepted his appointment as Trustee by letter dated this day May 24th 1807.

⁷¹ Married Mary, daughter of Gov. Paul Hamilton.

⁷² Richard Henry Peyton, atty-at-law, married Ann, widow of James Stobo (d. 1798, son of Archibald Stobo and Elizabeth Skirving), daughter of Morton Wilkinson.

⁷³ 1777-1820, atty-at-law and planter, married (1799) Sarah, youngest daughter of Morton Wilkinson. It is extremely doubtful that he was ever a member of the Willtown church. He was son of John and Sarah (Smith) Clement, members of St. Philip's in Charleston, where they and most of their family are buried. He held the office of State Treasurer, was elected Senator from St. Paul's Parish, and served several terms as Representative from Charleston. See *Charleston Directory*, 1813, *Charleston Courier*, Oct. 17, 18, Nov. 30, Dec. 3, 14, 1816. His wife was a member of the Circular Church and undoubtedly attended the Willtown Church when in that vicinity, probably accounting for the choice of her husband as trustee. Perhaps there were others who were non-members during the church's "Independent" years.

Monday [blank] of November 1807 according to adjournment this day a meeting of the Trustees & Congregation was expected but there appeared only Paul Hamilton, Richd H Peyton and John Girardeau ⁷⁴—consequently no business was transacted.

February 9th 1808. At a meeting of the Trustees—Present, Paul Hamilton, William Simmons, John Ashe, William Clement.

Mr. Hamilton stated to the board that John Girardeau who had possession of the Parsonage and Negroes had in a cruel manner shot the Fellow Lymus to the great danger of his life, Whereupon it was resolved that John Girardeau be dispos[ess]ed of the Land & Negroes and that the same be set up on hire and rent to the highest bidder on Tuesday the 23d inst. and that notice be given of the same.

February 9th 1808 in pursuance of the foregoing Resolve John Girardeau was warned to quit the premises immediately required and to settle for his arrears of Rent & Hire before he shall leave the District whereupon he promised to do so on the 11th 1808 and Mr. Hamilton one of the Board was authorized to meet him for the purpose and to take his bond with a Mortgage of Negroes as security.

February 23d 1808 This being the day appointed to let on rent & hire the Parsonage & Negroes, the Conditions declared were, that the property should be let for one year from the date, the Negroes to be clothed & fed by the Lessee and treated with humanity, the Trustees reserving to themselves the right of withdrawing them should they be treated otherwise, and to be paid for the time they had served such Lessee rateably with what should prove the amount of hire for the year to be settled either by Law or Arbitration. The Property was then publicly offered by Outcry and Mr. Clement bid it off for Mrs. Mary Edings ⁷⁵ at the Sum of \$495 free of deduction, this for the Land & Negroes for the ensuing year computed as above mentioned.

N.B. Were present of the Trustees Paul Hamilton, Charles Freer, & William Clement, and sundry other persons.

Independent Church

Wm. Simmons One hundred Dollars.

⁷⁴ Grandfather of the Rev. Mr. J. L. Girardeau.

⁷⁵ Daughter of Thomas Smith (son of William of St. Paul's) and his first wife Hannah Cochran. She married 1st Charles Ferguson.

Thos. Mellichamp One prime Carpenter or thirty Dollars.
 St. Lo Mellichamp Junr. Ten Dollars.
 John Ramsay⁷⁶ one hundred Dollars or that am't in Negro Labour⁷⁷
 Thos. Smith Junr. one hundred dollars
 1808 Lewis Morris Junr.⁷⁸ Fifty Dollars or that amt. in Negro La[torn].
 St. Lo Mellichamp Senr. one Pr. Sawyer⁷⁹ Thirty Dollars.
 James H. Hext one Prime Carpenter.
 George Rivers Senr. One Hundred Dollars paid 50 Dollars.
 Pd. Jno. H Alston⁸⁰ five Dollars (paid T.Cochran.)
 W. Clement One prime Carpenter.
 Eliza Fickling forty Dollars or that amount in the labour of a carpenter.
 James Swinton Twenty Dollars.
 paid. William Seabrook [blot] Dollars pd One Hundred.
 paid. The Reverend Doctr. Flinn⁸¹ one hundred Dollars.
 Francis Y. Legare⁸² fifty dollars.
 Susanna McElhenney sixty dollars paid T. Cochran.
 Susanna Wilkinson⁸³ fifty dollars paid T.Cochran.
 Tho. Cochran Twenty Dollars or the equivalent in the labour of a
 Carpenter.⁸⁴
 John Ash fifty Dollars.

⁷⁶ "Bred to physic but turned cotton planter," in the words of his uncle, Dr. David Ramsay, whom he and his two brothers, Joseph Hall and Ephraim, followed to S. C. He married Maria, widow of John Deas, Jr., daughter of Thomas Loughton Smith. He was Representative from St. Paul's in 1810, Senator from Barnwell District in 1822, and Senator from St. Paul's in 1824.

⁷⁷ The last six words are lined through.

⁷⁸ Son of Lewis Morris of Morrisania, N. Y. He married Ann Elliott. The one house which now stands at Willtown Bluff was built by him.

⁷⁹ The words "one Pr. Sawyer" are lined through.

⁸⁰ John Hayes Allston, son of Peter Allston and Mary Bacot. He married Harriet Middleton Wilkinson, daughter of Joseph and Ann Simons Swinton Wilkinson. Peter Allston (d. 1748), grandfather of John H., in his will mentions, among others, his wife Sarah and "brother" Joseph Warnock. Warnock's wife was Mary. Several records indicate that they married sisters, daughters of Charles and Sarah Hayes of St. Thomas and St. Denis Parish.

⁸¹ Andrew Flynn, installed as Pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Charleston, April 1811. Howe, *History*, II, 224.

⁸² Francis Yonge Legare, son of James Legare and Mary, daughter of Christopher and Elizabeth (Slann) Wilkinson. He married *1st* Martha Ward Motte and *2nd* her sister, Eliza Maria, daughters of Francis Motte and Mary Ward.

⁸³ Died 1819, widow of Morton Wilkinson. The name of her daughter, who married *1st* her cousin Francis Wilkinson, *2nd* McElhenney, appears in the list above her name.

⁸⁴ The last nine words are lined through.

James E. B. Finley ten Dollars.
 The Revd Dr Hollingshead ⁸⁵ Fifty Dollars.
 Mrs M. M. Payne. A Bible for the Church.
 Mrs. E. C. Cochran. The Pulpit Cloth.
 Rosa A. Cochran an elegant edition of Psalms.
 John Champneys paid One hundred dollars to Wm Simmons wch
 has been deposited or left with Wm A. Hayne.
 Mrs Barnard Elliott (twenty dollars paid Mr. T. Cochran).
 James D. Mitchell one hundred dollars.
 Fr. [?] Walpole ⁸⁶ Twenty five Dollars.
 W.S. Smith Ten dollars

[*Endorsed*] Subscription List to rebuilding Church edifice. The name
 [torn] "Independent" within [*scratched out*] wrong as *the Church organiza-*
tion was funded and chartered as distinctly a Presbyterian Church.
 For proof—see Legacies & the Charter preserved among the Records of
 the Church.⁸⁷

Dr. Messrs Freeman & Bassett in Account Current with the Trustees
 of the Willtown Church.

1819

Dec	13	To Cash paid their order in favour of Alexander Johnson	\$ 55.
"	24	" do their 2 orders in favour of Thomas Bennett	426.21
"	"	" do Freeman & Bassett	220.00

1820

Jan	29	" do their order in favour of I. Leland and Brothers	43.79
"	31	" do their order in favour of C. Dupré	202.73
March	23	" do their order in favour of William Tim- mons [<i>sic</i>]	44.54

⁸⁵ William Hollingshead, Pastor of the Circular Church. He suffered loss of memory in March 1815, after which he received for a time a portion of his salary and then was provided for by the Society for the Relief of Disabled Ministers. He died Oct. 1817. Howe, *History*, II, 197-199. His donation must have been prior to his illness, and the subscription list open for a number of years.

⁸⁶ Horace Walpole? He married Martha, daughter of James Legare.

⁸⁷ Endorsement undoubtedly made at the time of the call to Mr. Girardeau, 1850.

May	3	"	do	Pd Freeman & Bassett this day	500.
"	5	"	do	" Ditto Ditto " "	1416.25
"	25	"	do	" Ditto Ditto Per John Ashe	18.
June	16	"	do	" Ditto Ditto " N. Foster	500.
				Balance due Freeman & Bassett	1708.48
					<hr/> \$ 5135.

Charleston April 27, 1821 Received from James D. Mitchell Treasurer Willtown Church seven hundred & fifty Dollars on acct. of this Contract.

Thomas H. Freeman for Freeman & Bassett \$750.

Cr.

By Contract for Building the Willtown Church	\$ 5000.
" Carting the lumber etc from the Landing	100.
" Painting the Roof Slate Colour	35.
	<hr/> \$ 5135.

[*Endorsed*] Freeman & Bassett \$780. No. 24

Novr. [*sic*] 12th 1828. Jas. D. Mitchell, Esqr. Pon Pon.

Dr Sir,

I received your communication of my appointment as a Trustee to the funds of the Willtown Church. On the consideration that my want of information on the subject being so fully supplied by the Gentlemen with whom I shall be connected in the Charge I without hesitation comply with the appointment, and remain

with great regard

Jas. King Senr⁸⁸

Jas. D. Mitchel Esqr.

Octr. 12th 1828

[*Endorsed*] James King Senr. accepting his appointment as Trustee to the Willtown Church, October 12, 1828.

⁸⁸ See this *Magazine*, LIX (1958), 78. He married a granddaughter of Richard Ash; married 2nd a widow Walter, née McLeod. He and some of his descendants are buried in the cemetery at Rose Hill Plantation (Toogoodoo), where there are a number of McLeod stones.

Trustees of Prespt. Church, To William Wilkinson	Dr.
For rent of Lot in Adams Ville ⁸⁹ for 1841	\$ 15.
Bricklayr's work & Plastering to the Parsonage	44.13

59.13

Rec'd on above a/c forty three Dolls 21/100

William Wilkinson⁹⁰

[*Endorsed*] Wm. Wilkinson with Prespt Church 1841.

⁸⁹ Now Adam's Run.

⁹⁰ Son of Joseph Wilkinson and Ann Simons Swinton. He married Amarinthea Jenkins.

EXTRACTS FROM THE SCHIRMER DIARY, 1861

(Continued from April)

July 4. *The day.* The Bells rang as usual, no military Parade, the Streets made very little appearance of busy trade in consequence of few buyers. . . .

A Comet made its appearance last Evening.

7. *Monetary Affairs* . . . at present there is a perfect stagnation, small change is almost entirely disappeared the various dealers are compelled to give due bills. It is said the Bank of the State is preparing to issue Small Bills.

25. *News.* The city alive today with excitement at the news of a very bloody battle fought yesterday at Manassas Gap it is said that the Hampton Legion was very much cut up. Col. Johnson was killed, Capt. Conner of the Washington L. Infantry was wounded.

31. *Remarks* . . . every article of consumption particularly in the way of Groceries are getting very high. Rice has declined very much, flour is reasonable, and fresh meat is not high the City free from Epidemics, altho there is at present a good deal of Typhus fever. . . . old men are joining Reserve Companies and mustering for duty.

August 3. *Southern Lutheran.* The 1st number of this made its appearance today printed by Mr. Finney. Thos O'Sullivan is to attend to the mechanical department and at present Messr Bachman, Bowman, and Aldrich are to attend to the Editorial department.

24. "*Jeff Davis.*" News today that the Privateer who has been doing so much mischief has been wrecked on the Florida Bar. Most of her guns and all her crew were saved. . . .

"*Ship Alliance.*" Rumor to day says that this vessel has got into No Ca with a valuable cargo for this port from Liverpool, no notice made of it in the papers.

26. *News* . . . The Treasury notes issued by our Government is so badly executed, that all the banks have agreed to take them . . . and in lieu of them, give out their own notes, for it is feared they will be so easily counterfeited. . . .

31. . . . Our City is now comparatively like a Camp, all business is suspended after 2 O'Clock and the Wharves and Citadel Green are all filled with Citizens drilling, not knowing what troubles yet await.

Sept. 13. *Prisoners* about 150 arrived from Richmond this morning under a Guard, they were taken to the Jail, there to remain until Castle Pinckney is fitted up to receive them.

17. *Arrival.* The Secession Gun was fired this morning as a Salute from the news of the arrival of a large English Steamer Ship owned by John Fraser & Co. into Savannah from Liverpool with a large Cargo for our City.

24. *Printers.* The Journeymen have had a Strike and have clubed together to start a paper and this morning it made its appearance under the title of "Charleston Daily Confederate."