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THE SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CHARLESTON, S. C.

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THE SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CHARLESTON, S. C.

RECORDS OF THE WILLTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
1738-1841 *

Edited by SLANN L. C. SIMMONS

(Continued from January)

This Eleventh day of May, 1769 Being appointed for a Meeting of the Trustees to the Severall funds of the Will Town Congregation the number of Trustees being Diminished by the death's of Archibald Hamilton and James Fabian, it becomes necessary without delay to supply the deficiency by Appointing of Others and whereas the Trust deed Reference being thereunto had it will appear that the number Five makes a Quorum to Transact Business we Whose names are hereunder written being a Quorum, the Present Surviving Trustees Considering the Absolute Necessity of Proceeding to Appoint other fitt Persons to Join them in the management and direction of the said Funds hath this day, named approven constituted and appointed Mr. Jose[ph] Bee,⁵⁹ in the Room of Archibald Hamilton, and Joseph Fabian in [the] Room of James Fabian being and living within the Limits of the said congregation to Associate with us as above and that they and each of them from henceforth Stand clothed with the [torn] powers and authority as we the Said Subscribers are or ought to have in Testimony Thereof we have hereunto sett our hands, this day and year above Written

Richd Cochn A[sh], Abrm Hayne, Edward Splatt, John Peter, J. Mitchell.

Whereas we have been nominated by the Trustees of Will Town Congregation to Associate with them as Trusties we do by [torn] Acknowledge our Assenting thereto and Taking on us the tru[st] Jointly with them. Witness our hand this 11th of May 1769.

Joseph Bee, Joseph Fabian

Reverend & Honoured in our Lord Jesus

Inclos'd you have a call directed to the Revd Mr. John Maltby to undertake the Ministerial Function in the Congregation at Willtown.

* *Correction:* In "Records of the Willtown Presbyterian Church," this *Magazine* LXI (1960), 148, for "Willtown of New London" read "Willtown or New London."

⁵⁹ Son of John Bee, Jr. He married 1st Esther Ferguson, 2nd Susannah (Moncrief), widow of Capt. David DuBose.

We the Subscribers, being trustees of that congregation, and Appointed to wait on this Presbytery in this affair, do, in our own name, in the name of our Fellow Trustees, and of all those who have sign'd this Call, Earnestly intreat you to Present this our Call to the Revd Mr John Maltby and Recommend it to him for his Acceptance. This Call is intirely Unanimous, our people are Really Solicitous that he should Settle Among us, and the more so, as we are all agreed in him, and humbly hope, that if he should Settle with us, he may be an Instrument in the hand of God to unite our people Intirely and bring the Congregation into Flourishing Condition. It may have been Usual to insert the propos'd Stipend in the Call, or give a Bond for the Same, but as it is a little ill convenient for us, at Present, to Assertain the Exact sum, we will give we have Omitted it; but we can, & do with great Truth, assure you, that we have a Sufficiency to Support a Minister, and that in case Mr. Maltby should Settle Among us, we shall not Neglect any thing in our Power to Render him as Easy and as Comfortable, in all Respects, as our Circumstances will Permitt. Heartily wishing you Success in your Labours & In your Care of the Churches, under your Direction in the Lord, and particularly that we may Succeed in our Present Attempt for a Minister, we are with great Respect, Reverend & Honour'd Sirs,

Your Most Obedient & Very Hble Servts

Jno. Peter

Charles Town

May the 17 1769

To the Revd the Presbytery of Charles Town in South Carolina

[*Endorsed*] To the Revd. the Moderator of Charles Town Presbytery In South Carolina. Dated 1769.

Rec'd this 24 May 1769 of John Mitchell the Just Sum of Two hundred pounds Curry as ordered by the Trustees above.

£200 pounds

Pr me John Maltby

At A meeting of the Trustees this 17th July 1769 it was agreed among them that Mr. John Mitchell should bring up and land at Mr. Christopher Wilkinsons Landing three hundred & fifty Bushels of Oister Shells for the Plaistering of the Parsonage House.

Abrm. Hayne, J. Mitchell, Edward Splatt, Joseph Fabian, Joseph Bee.

At a Meeting of the Trustees this 29 January 1770 it was agreed that Mr. Joseph Bee shall call on Mr. Swinton and know when he will meet the Trustees to point out to the sd Swinton what work is to be done to finish the Meeting house.

Likewise agreed that Mr. John Mitchell Treasurer do pay to Mr. Paul Hamilton ⁶⁰ Exor to the Revd John McCleod deceas'd the Just Sum of One hundred & Sixty pounds Curr'y. Also to lett the Three first Rows next Pulpitt @ £25 pr pew, the fourth Row next the Pulpitt @ £20 per pew, the fifth Row next the Pulpitt @ £15 pr pew and the last row @ £10 pr pew.

Joseph Bee, Joseph Fabian, Richd Cochn Ash, Abrm Hayne, Jno. Mitchell, Edward Splatt, John Peter.

At a Meeting of the Trustees of the Funds belonging to the Will Town Congregation held this 23 day of April 1770. Present Messrs. Abraham Hayne, John Mitchell, Edward Splatt, John Peter, Joseph Fabian, Joseph Bee.

The above Trustees Unanimously made Choice of Mr John Berkly ⁶¹ a member of Will Town Congregation for a Trustee with them in the Room of Richd Cochn Ash deceas'd to act Jointly with them in the sd Trust agreeable to the Conditions of the Trust Deed.

Test John Peter Clk.

At a Meeting of the Trustees of the funds Belonging to the Will Town Congregation held this 30 day of April [1770]. Present Messrs. Abraham Hayne, John Mitchell, Edward Splatt, John Peter, Joseph Fabian.

Then appeared Mr. John Berkly and Accepted the Choice which was made of him for a Trustee of the funds Belonging to the Will Town Congregation in the Room of Richd Cochn Ash deceas'd and took his place Accordingly.

Test John Peter Clk.

⁶⁰ Son of Paul Hamilton and Martha Bower. He was a Tory during the Revolution and died in England, leaving no descendants.

⁶¹ John Berkley received a grant of 250 acres in Granville County on "Salt Catchers Swamp," and Michael Berkley 100 acres in Colleton on 4 September, 1753. These were recorded 24 August, 1765. John Berkley died February 8, 1806, in his 76th year. Memorials, v. 8, p. 18, S. C. Archives Dept.; this *Magazine*, XL (1939), 39.

Whereas I John Berkly have been duly Chosen a Trustee by the Trustees of the funds belonging to the Will Town Congregation to Associate with them in the Room of Richd Cochn Ash decease'd, I do hereby Acknowledge my Acceptance of the Choice they have made of me for that Purpose in Witness whereof I have hereunto Sett my hand this 30 day of April 1770.

Jno. Berkley

At a meeting of the Trustees this 28th Day of June 1770. Present Messrs. Abraham Hayne, Joseph Fabian, John Berkley, Edward Splatt, Joseph Bee.

It was Agreed that Mr. Joseph Fabian should call upon Mrs. Mitchell in Charles Town for the Bonds, Notes and other Papers belonging to the Wiltown Congregation for which upon Delivery of them he shall give her his Receipt and the same Deliver to Joseph Bee upon his Return from Town.

At a Meeting of the Trustees this 17th Day of May 1773. Present Messrs. Abraham Hayne, John Mitchell, John Berkley, John Peter, Joseph Bee.

The Trustees having this Day Viewed the Work lately done by Mr. Templeton to the Meeting House were Satisfied with it, and Agreed that he should be paid the Sum of £200. And it was also agreed that they should Settle with Mr Gideon Dupont and pay him the Ballance.

Abrm Hayne, Jno. Mitchell, John Peter, John Berkley, Joseph Bee.

It was also agreed that the Meeting House should be Painted and that Mr Mitchell should Provide Paint and Oyl and have it Done.

Abrm Hayne, Jno. Mitchell, John Peter, John Berkley, Joseph Bee.

This twenty sixth day of January 1775 being appointed for a Meeting of the Trustees to the several funds of the Wiltown Congregation, the number of Trustees being diminished by the death Joseph Fabian, it became necessary without delay to supply the deficiency by appointing another, and Whereas by the Trust Deed (Reference being thereunto had) it will appear that the Number five makes a Quorum to transact business; We whose names are hereunder written being a Quorum; the Present surviving trustees considering the absolute Necessity of Proceeding to appoint another fit Person to join them in the Management

and direction of said Funds HAVE this day Named, approved, constituted and appointed Mr William Swinton⁶² in the Room of the said Joseph Fabian, being and living within the limits of the said Congregation, to associate with us as above, and that he the said William Swinton stand clothed from henceforth with the same powers and authority as we the said Subscribers are, or ought to have, In Testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands this day and year above Written—

Abrm Hayne, John Berkley, John Peter, Joseph Bee, Jno. Mitchell.

Whereas I have been Nominated and appointed by the Trustees of the Wiltown congregation to associate with them as a Trustee, I do by this acknowledge my assent thereto and taking on me the Trust jointly with them Witness my hand this 26th January 1775.

William Swinton

At a Meeting of the Trustees this 26 January 1775—Present Messrs Abraham Hayne, John Berkley, John Peter, Joseph Bee, William Swinton. When Messrs John Peter and William Swinton were appointed to wait upon Mr Whippy of Edisto Island and in the Name of the trustees demand of him the two negroes bequeathed by Timothy Hendrick to the Wiltown Congregation and now in the possession and keeping of the said [blank] Whippy.

At the same time the Negroes belonging to the Wiltown Congregation, Seven in Number, were publicly set up for hire until 26 January 1776 When Hawkins Martin in behalf of himself and his mother bid them off at One hundred & Ninety five pounds clear of every expence. At same time Rented the Parsonage Land & Buildings to Mr Hawkins Martin in behalf of his Mother & self at the Rate of Sixty pounds per Annum, they to have the place this time twelve months, and not to clear any of the new lands.

Abrm Hayne, John Peter, W. Swinton, John Berkley, Joseph Bee.

PON PON 27th March 1775

Met at the house of Mr Abram Hayne, at the request of Mr Oliver Reese and by the desire of the Trustees of the Congregation of Wiltown in

⁶² Son of Alexander Swinton and Judith Simons. According to family records, he was killed on the Willtown Road in 1780, in the service of his country. His second wife was Sarah, widow of Rev. Robert Baron.

the name and in behalf of sd Congregation the following Gentlemen: Revd Doctr J. J. Zubly, Revd James Edmonds, Revd Wm Tennent.

Mr Edmonds being chosen Moderator, the Business was opened by Prayer. Mr Reese then formally desired to be ordained to the gospel Ministry. A Letter was read signed by sundry of the Trustees of the presbytereian Congregation at Wiltown in the name and by the disire of sd Congregation and addressed to the Revd Josiah Smith⁶³ John J. Zubly James Edmonds & William Tennent signifying that whereas Mr Oliver Reese had for some time preached among them to the great satisfaction of the Congregation and it being his Desire they heartily concurred with him in requesting their assistance for the Ordination of Mr Reese to the gospel Ministry.

The above request being taken into Consideration it was resolved to proceed to the Examination of Mr. Reese & if found competent to ordain him at large to the gospel ministry, without interfering with his Connection with any Congregation or with the Constitution of the Church at Wiltown.

Mr Reese then produced ample Certificates from the Presby of Brunswick in New Jersey of his having been examined and approved by them & of his having formally accepted the Westminster Confession of Faith and directory and being again duly examined as to his qualifications gave full Satisfaction & it was resolved to proceed to the ordination accordingly.

Ordered that Mr Reese do preach a Sermon tomorrow in publick

[*Endorsed*] Minutes of a Presbyterial Meeting for the Ordination of Mr Oliver Reese. "Pon Pon, 27th March 1775."

⁶³ Pastor of the Independent (Circular) Church in Charleston for many years, as were, also, Edmonds and Tennent. John Joachim Zubly was born in St. Gall, Switzerland, and came to S. C. some time before 1748. He preached at the Wappetaw Independent Church and later served in Georgia. This *Magazine*, LVIII (1957), 43.

(To be Continued)