

David Dunham 1674-1753 of Woodbridge

Source: DALLY, Joseph Woodbridge and Vicinity: the story of a New Jersey Township. A. E. Gordon, New Brunswick, NY, 1873.

Here we close the first Town Book and open the second—dividing our attention, however, between the latter and the Freeholders' Book, because in some particulars they are cotemporary. The Freeholders' Book has the minutes of several meetings which should have been in the first Town Book. One of these, dated May 3d, 1714, was in regard to a plot of ground of one acre and a half granted to Robert Grove. The land was on Reed Brook, "a little below David Donham's barn." A committee was also appointed, at this

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"January 29th, 1707-8, Was gathered the Church of Christ in Woodbridge by Nath. Wade, Pastor. Present there were as Messengers, two from ye Church of Newark, and one from the Church of Elizabethtown; Theophilus Pierson, Jonahs Wood, Benjamin Price. The foundation of ye Church was laid first upon three persons who had been Communicants in other churches, viz: Sam'l Hail, John Pike, and Noah Bishop."

Here follows a list of the members of the church during Mr. Wade's pastorate. We give their names below with the dates of their admission to the communion:

1707-8,			Jan. 20th—Stephen Tuttle.
Jan. 29th—Samuel Hail, Assistant.			“ John Ford, Deacon.
“ John Pike, “		Feb. 28th—Robert Groves.	
“ Noah Bishop, “		“ Thomas Pike, Deacon.	

Aug. 15th—Joseph Thorp.	Jan. 1st, 1710.
“ Daniel Britton.	“ Peter Pain.
“ Richard Cutter.	“ Joanna Ayers.
“ Sarah Pike.	“ Hannah Right.
“ Elizabeth Britton.	June 25th—Benjamin Thorp.
“ Sarah Fors.	“ John Scudder.
“ Elizabeth Gray.	Sept. 10th—Hannah Colliar.
“ Lydia Pangborn.	“ Rebecca Mills.
“ 20th—Sarah Holland.	Oct. 3d—Joanna Jones.
“ John Ilsley.	“ John Ayers, Jun.
“ John Jaques.	“ Wife of Daniel Thorp.
“ John Skinner.	“ Wife of Benj. Fors.
“ Nathaniel Pike.	“ Wife of Elip't Phillips.
“ Mary Groves.	“ Charles Fold.
“ Ann Skinner.	“ Jonathan Dennis & Wife.
“ Elizabeth Ilsly.	“ Samuel Rolph.
“ Mary Cutter.	“ Esther Borroughs.
“ Mercy Pike.	“ Ezekiel Thorp.
“ Mary Stillwell.	“ Wife of Benj. Thorp.
“ Susannah Jaques.	“ Thomas Edgar.
“ Desire Walker.	“ Obadiah Ayers.
“ Mehitable Butler.	“ Joseph Bonny & Wife.
“ Hannah Freeman.	“ David Dunham & Wife.
“ Mary Wade.	“ Joseph Bloomfield & Wf.
“ Joannah Dunham.	“ Samuel Jaques & Wife.

Town Meetings

They assembled next on the 20th of April, 1744, when a standing committee, for hearing complaints and correcting mistakes growing out of the division of the commons, was appointed. This committee consisted of Robert Hude, James Smith, Richard Carman, and David Donham. The quit-rents due to the Freeholders were ordered to be collected, by virtue of the proprietary rights obtained of young Sonmans and the Nevills.

“Woodbridge June 11th 1757.

Proposals being made for building a good stone bridge across the great brook adjoining to Thomas Lewis', [now Jacques Venet's property] in order to encourage it, the following persons agree to give the several helps toward it as is annexed to their names, on condition that said bridge is actually built directly. Viz:

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John Freeman.]

Esseck Fitz Randolph, 5 Shillings.

John Barron, 10 bushels of Shells and 4 days work.

Isaac Fitz Randolph.

Reuben Fitz Randolph.

Thomas Thorp.

Henry Martin.

James Smith.

David Dunham.

James Brown.

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APPENDIX B.

CHARTER OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

On the back of the Charter are these words:

"Let the Great Seal of the Province be hereunto affixed.

To the Secretary of }
New Jersey, } J. Belcher."

The full text of this document is as follows:

GEORGE THE SECOND BY THE GRACE OF GOD OF GREAT BRITAIN FRANCE AND IRELAND KING, DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING. *Whereas* the advancement of true Religion and virtue is absolutely necessary for the promotion of peace order and prosperity of the State, and *Whereas* it is the Duty of all Christiana Princes & Governors by the Love of God to do all they can for the Encouragement thereof. And *Whereas* Sundry of our Loving Subjects of the Presbyterian Persuasion Inhabitants of and about the Township of Woodbridge, withiu our Colony of New Jersey by their Humble Petition Presented to our trusty and well

subjects however differing in opinion about lessor matters has hither to been so sensibly felt and enjoye^d. the said Petitioners therefore most humbly prayed our Grant of an incorporation to the Petitioners by the Name of the Trustees of the first Presbyterian Church in the township of Woodbridge with all such powers Capacities and Priviliges as might be affectual in Law for the purposes aforesaid and that *Richard Cutter, Edward Crowel, William Heard, David Donham, George Brown, John Moores and Moses Bloomfield* might be the first Trustees which Petition signed with the Names of a Great Number of our faithful and Loving Subjects Inhabitants in and about the said town, we being willing to grant, Know Ye that we of our Special Grace certain knowledge and meer motion have willed and ordained constituted given and Granted, and for us our Heirs and successors by these Presents Do will ordain Constitute give and Grant that Richard Catter, Edward Crowel, William Heard, David Donham, George Brown, John Moores and Moses Bloomfield from hence forth and their successors forever hereafter shall be and remain one Body Poletick and Corporate in Deed fact and Name, by the Name of the Trustees of the first Presbyterian Church in the township of Woodbridge and them and their successors by the Name of the Trustees of the first Presbyterian Church in the Township of Woodbridge, one Body Corporate and Politick in Deed Fact and Name, realy and

David K. Faux, 20 July 2020.