

Joseph Dunham family association with St.Johns Episcopalian Church in
Elizabethtown and that in Woodbridge

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

The minister from Elizabethtown would visit Woodbridge

Rev. Thomas B. Chandler, of Elizabethtown, began his missionary labors here in 1752—six years before Mr. Skinner died. The latter, however, had grown too old to supply Woodbridge—which, indeed, neither he nor any other Episcopal clergyman had done for twenty years previous to Mr. Chandler's arrival.

Mr. Vaughan, rector of St. John's Church at Elizabethtown, having died in October, 1747, left that Church without a pastor until 1751, when Mr. Chandler arrived from England with the necessary credentials. From 1747 until 1751 Chandler had held the position of catechist, or lay-reader, in St. John's Church, being called to it from Woodstock, Conn., where he had been teaching school. In 1766 Oxford conferred the dignity of D. D. upon him. He is represented as "a large, portly man, of fine personal appearance," and as possessing "an uncommonly blue eye." He had a "strong commanding voice" and "fine powers of conversation."^{*}

He ministered monthly at Woodbridge. He wrote to the Society in 1752 that the place "has not been visited by any of our clergy for upwards of twenty years." During this time some of the congregation had attended Mr. Skinner's Church at Amboy, and others had joined dissenting bodies. He speaks encouragingly of the future and says that he has seldom less than two hundred hearers at Woodbridge, and that the number of Episcopalian families there is fifteen.

His time being more occupied in a few years, Mr. Chandler's

He fled to England. After the war was over he returned to his parish; but, being feeble, he did not long minister to his people. He died June 17th, 1790, aged sixty-four.*

Mr. McKean wrote to the Society April 16th, 1764, that he devoted one-third of his ministerial services to Woodbridge. He reports twelve families, comprising fifty persons, as his congregation, and fourteen communicants.

He died October 17th, 1767, having officiated at Amboy for four years and at Woodbridge for three. He was highly esteemed. His brother, Gov. McKean, of Pennsylvania, raised a monument over his grave.

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withstanding, our children, we hope, are growing up in the same path."

What a delightful Christian spirit breathes through these lines!

Rev. John Preston succeeded Mr. McKean at Amboy and Woodbridge—Mr. Bingley serving as lay-reader at the latter place, in the absence of the minister. On the 6th of December, 1769, the Church Charter was granted, in which are named as Wardens, Samuel Jaques and Samuel Tingley; as Vestrymen, David Alston, Thomas Hadden, Joseph Douham, and Ebenezer Forster.

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In 1754 a new Church was built, supposed to be on the site of the first, which stood for over a hundred years, an honored temple. It was destroyed by fire in 1858. Fortunately, Mr. Whitehead made a sketch of it several years before the building was burned, which, through his kindness, we present to our readers.



Woodbridge Episcopalian Church built 1754. P.130

It is likely here that the Minister from Elizabethtown baptized John and Lewis Dunham, sons of Daniel Dunham in 1759.

APPENDIX C.

CHARTER OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH. A VERBATIM ET LITERATIM COPY.

George The Third, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King Defender of the Faith &c: To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting Whereas, Sundry of our loving Subjects Inhabitants of the Town of Woodbridge in the County of Middlesex in behalf of themselves and others have by their humble petition to our trusty and well beloved William Franklin Esquire our Captain General Governor and Commander-in-chief of our Province of New Jersey set forth that they have erected a church in our town of Woodbridge aforesaid for preaching the Word of God, and administering the holy sacraments according to the doctrine and liturgy of the Church of England and have therefore prayed to be incorporated by the name of the Minister, Church Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church in Woodbridge with full power to receive gifts and donations to purchase land and houses and to make leases and such rules and orders for the disposal of their church affairs as shall be agreeable to the laws and customs of our Kingdom of Great Britain. Know ye, therefore, that we, willing to give all due encouragement to the professors of the church as by law established in that part of Great Britain, called England: of our especial grace certain knowledge and mere motion have willed, ordained, constituted, given and granted and for us, our heirs, and successors do will, ordain, constitute, give and grant that the Rev. Mr. John Preston, the present incumbent, Samuel Jaques and Samuel Tingley the present Church Wardens, David Alston Esq, Thomas Hadden, Joseph Donham and Ebenezer Forster the present vestrymen of said church and their successors forever hereafter shall be one body politic and corporate in deed and in name by the name of the Minister, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of Trinity Church in the Town of Woodbridge and they and their suc-

authorities herein before mentioned or intended to be granted shall and may have, hold and use without the impeachment of us, our heirs and successors or of any of our officers or ministers whatsoever of us, our heirs and successors. And that these our letters patent or the enrollment thereof from time to time and at all times hereafter be and shall be firm, valid and effectual in the law toward and against us, our heirs and successors according to the true intent and meaning hereof and shall at all times be construed and taken in favor and for the advantage profit and benefit of the minister, church wardens and vestry-men of Trinity Church in the town of Woodbridge and their successors forever as well in all courts as elsewhere notwithstanding any defect, default or imperfection may be found herein or any other cause or thing whatsoever *in testimony* whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent and the great Seal of our said province of New Jersey to be hereunto affixed and the same to be entered of record in our Secretary's office in our said province. *Witness* our trusty and well beloved *William Franklin* esquire, our Captain General, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over our said province of New Jersey and territories thereon depending in America Chancellor and Vice Admiral in the same &c: at Burlington the sixth day of December in the tenth year of our reign. Anna Domini
One thousand seven hundred and sixty nine. *Pettit.*

[*Seal.*]

I have perused the within Charter and find nothing therein contained inconsistent with his Majesty's Honor or Interest.

5 Decr : 1769

Cort' Skinner
Att'y General.

**BAPTISMAL REGISTER OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH,
ELIZABETH**

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NOTE: These records are arranged as follows: date of baptism; surname; father's name; mother's name (when given);—child or children. Exceptions are clearly indicated. Baptisms of slaves, servants and others without surnames are omitted from this record. Unless otherwise noted, all baptisms are by the Rev. Dr. Thomas Bradbury Chandler.

A REGISTER FOR THE USE OF THE MISSIONARY AT ST. JOHN'S
. . . AT ELIZABETH TOWN, NEW JERSEY

This Register contains an Account of the Christenings in the Beginning of the Book, except of such . . . & others as were baptized by the Rev^d Mengies Rayner which were entered by him in the eight . . . immediately following the . . . of marriages by the Rev^d Dr. Chandler, Sam^l Spraggs and Frederic Beasley, and which occurred in the years 1795-1796-1797-1798-1799-1800 & 1801.

The Registries of Marriage are . . . about the Middle of the Book, except such persons as were married by Mr. Rayner, which will be found near the end of the Book.

No Registries of Funerals (except a few persons buried by Mr. Spraggs . . . Mr. Rayner & entered by . . . on three of the last eight leaves) . . . in this book previous to 1803.

Sam^l Lilly.

1759:

June	4.	<u>Van Horne</u> , Philip—John.
July	17.	Lockart, Jn ^o .—Anne; John Yates.
Aug.	26.	Kirk, John—Margret.
Sept.	2.	<u>Dunham</u> , Dan ^l .—Lewis; John.
Sept.	30.	Shackerly, Peter—William Hunt.
Oct.	28.	Richardson, W.—Sarah. Hendricks, Baker—Margret.
Nov.	4.	<u>Price</u> , Benjamin—John.
Nov.	11.	<u>Man</u> , David—Elias.
Dec.	19.	Whitehead, Marcy, adult.
Dec.	25.	Lilly, W., of ye 15th Regt.—William.
1760.		
March	10.	<u>Mitchel</u> , James—Elizabeth Dagworthy.
March	23.	Jouet, Cavalier—Xenophon.

It is interesting that in Fredericton New Brunswick before 1816, Joseph's grandson Lewis Dunham was also a "vestryman" in the Church of England (Episcopalian).

David K. Faux, 20 July 2020.