

in writing it "*James's*." That the local congregation has been referred to as "*St. James's*" church for generations, is clearly proven by written records, legal documents, and published papers.

We trust that these proofs, which cannot be successfully controverted, will serve to dispose of the claim of those who insist that the present generation would not like to have its parish referred to as "*St. James's*" church, when, as has been clearly shown, it has been so-called and described by devout and intelligent members of the parish for more than a century and a half.

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## ARCHITECT'S DRAWING OF THE ORIGINAL BUILDING OF ST. JAMES'S CHURCH

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**T**HE Rev. Richard Locke, a missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, with headquarters in London, England, came to Lancaster early in October, 1744. Episcopalians living in this vicinity, held a meeting on Wednesday, October 3rd, of that year, organized a congregation, and agreed to give Mr. Locke all the encouragement they could, provided he would reside in Lancaster and minister to them. Two wardens and six vestrymen were chosen at this time.

At a meeting of the vestry held on Easter Monday, April 15th, 1745, Thomas Cookson, Esq., one of the most prominent men in the community, was appointed to receive subscriptions for the erection of a stone church for the use of members of the Church of England, residing in the vicinity. James Hamilton, Esq., granted lots No. 35 and 36 on the plan of the town, subject to a yearly quit rent, for the use of the congregation. Thirty-one persons contributed £105, 4s. With this encouragement, the congregation began the erection of a building, forty-four feet long by thirty-four wide. Thomas Cookson was appointed to superintend its construction.

Work on the building progressed slowly. In a letter, dated October 16th, 1746, to the Rev. Dr. Philip Bearcroft, secretary of

the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, the Rev. Mr. Locke, in charge of the new enterprise, wrote:

"I have constantly read prayers and preached once a fortnight in the court house. They have begun a church; but by mismanage-



*St. James's Church - a Borough of Clergymen in New York*

ARCHITECT'S DRAWING OF ST. JAMES'S CHURCH.

ment, the leading men (being too much inclined to the New Lights) have run the parish in debt."

The congregation, being small and in narrow circumstances, the funds collected were not sufficient to continue the work. The walls were up and the rafters in place, but there was no money to defray the cost of the roof. Thomas Cookson was requested

to seek help from friends in Philadelphia. By "industrious application and unwearied diligence," he succeeded in obtaining subscriptions, amounting to £61, 5s., from sixteen of the most prominent men in that city, including the governor of the Province, George Thomas, who contributed £10.

In a letter, dated April 11th, 1747, to the Rev. Dr. Bearcroft, the Rev. Mr. Locke thus described conditions in Lancaster:

"Here was a church begun above two years ago; but the [governor's] clerk, would not suffer any clergyman to be present at the laying of the foundation, and [it] is still unfinished. It is [on] about half an acre of ground, given for that use. Here was near £100 subscribed, and large collections [have been] made since, but no one knows what is become of the money. We cannot right ourselves, for we have not the least protection of law to favor us."

With the subscriptions obtained in Philadelphia, the officers were enabled to place a roof on the building.

Under date of September 29th, 1748, the Rev. Mr. Locke wrote to the secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts:

"I still continue in Lancaster county, in Pennsylvania, as there is no clergyman near that place, tho' I meet with a great deal of opposition; neither can I yet have any church."

Before June, 1749, the Rev. Mr. Locke, doubtless growing discouraged, returned to England. His successor, the Rev. George Craig, was in Lancaster on Wednesday, June 19th, 1751. In a letter, dated July 6th, 1751, to the Rev. Dr. Bearcroft, he wrote, among other things, as follows:

"Next Sunday I went to Lancaster, where there was a pretty congregation and a good church, built of stone, tho' unfinished. But upon a prospect of my making the town the chief place of my residence, they have opened a subscription for finishing it against winter."

On Tuesday, June 25th, 1751, a meeting was held in the court house, and twenty-seven persons subscribed £102, 5s. for finishing the church.

A year later, June 16th, 1752, the Rev. Mr. Craig wrote to the Rev. Dr. Bearcroft that in Lancaster "there is a very good stone church, which will be completely finished this summer, I hope. It would have been so before now, but the want of a minister discouraged the people, which is a common case in this Province."

A meeting of the vestry was held on Saturday, August 1st, 1752, at which time the wardens were authorized, upon the strength of the money pledged on June 25th, 1751, though all of it had not been collected, as yet, to procure materials for plastering, ceiling and glazing the church, and to employ proper workmen for the purpose.

On Sunday, January 7th, 1753, at a meeting of the vestry, Thomas Cookson and William Jevon, wardens, reported that the church was finished. Shortly afterwards, a platform was erected upon which the parishioners, at their own expense, erected pews.

At a meeting of the vestry on Monday, March 3rd, 1755, it was agreed that the wardens and Dr. Samuel Boude (a member of the vestry) should employ workmen to finish the pulpit, communion table, font, and seats for servants. The furnishings were to be made of pine. Another subscription was attempted, and twenty-three persons contributed the sum of £28, 2s., 6d., to complete the work.

In April, 1759, the Rev. Thomas Barton succeeded the Rev. Mr. Craig as rector of St. James's church.

At a meeting of the vestry on Thursday, June 4th, 1761, the managers of a lottery for the benefit of the church, stated that the drawing was completed on Friday, May 22nd. The list of numbers that drew prizes was published in the Pennsylvania Gazette of Thursday, June 11th, 1761. Eight years after the completion of the original building, the vestry instructed George Ross and Samuel Boude, wardens, and John Postlethwait, vestryman, to use the proceeds of the lottery "for erecting, building and finishing a steeple at the west end of St. James's church." These men were instructed to "contract with masons, carpenters and other workmen." They accepted the service gratuitously, and "only with the design to serve the church and contribute all in their power

to make the house of God not only useful and convenient in its structure but also to add such decent ornaments to the same as becometh pious Christians."

Apparently, the money received from the lottery in June, 1761, was not sufficient to complete the steeple. Shortly after, the congregation entered into another lottery for securing \$2,135.00 for erecting a new school house for the High Dutch Reformed congregation at Lancaster; and \$565.00 to enable the wardens and vestry to complete the work of St. James's church, begun by them. The Pennsylvania Gazette of Thursday, May 20th, 1762, published the numbers that were good for prizes.

The erection of the steeple was completed in the spring of 1762. From March 22nd to the 27th of that year James Bickham, liquor dealer and member of the parish, furnished 13½ gallons of spirits and quantities of loaf sugar. After the steeple had been "raised," three gallons of the spirits were "taken to the creek," where, presumably, a celebration was held in honor of the successful completion of the undertaking.

In a letter, dated June 22nd, 1762, to the Rev. Dr. Daniel Burton, who had succeeded the Rev. Dr. Bearcroft as secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, the Rev. Mr. Barton wrote:

"The congregation of Lancaster have erected a very handsome steeple, which is almost finished, and are about enlarging their church, and building galleries."

At a meeting of the rector, wardens, vestrymen and members of the congregation on Monday, October 18th, 1762, it was agreed to send a letter to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, asking for financial assistance with which to carry on the work begun by them.

The Rev. Mr. Barton sent the following communication:

"Reverend Sir:

"The following lines, we hope the Venerable Society will believe are addressed to them by men whose regard for religion and virtue, and attachment to the happy constitution of

the Church of England, incline them to promote, as far as they are able, for credit and best interests.

“Actuated by such principles as these, the congregation in whose name and behalf we now write, [have] by a generous private subscription among themselves (tho’ few in number) erected a handsome stone church in this town, which they have dedicated to St. James, the Apostle; and that they might leave it to posterity in as complete and decent order as possible, have lately, with the assistance of a small lottery, built a steeple to it, which is a regular, good piece of architecture, *as will appear by the plan we have taken the liberty to inclose you.* [Italics ours.]

“But we are concerned to acquaint the Venerable Society that the expenses incurred by this undertaking, together with inclosing the church yard with a neat stone wall, fall so heavy upon a few individuals, and have so drained our funds, that two things are yet wanting to the full completion of our scheme, viz: A gallery, (which as we have the pleasure of seeing our congregation increase, we presume will be soon wanted); and a bell, which we alone of the many societies in this populous place are destitute of. For these a new subscription has been opened, into which the congregation have entered with a cheerfulness and zeal becoming good men and Christians, notwithstanding their late generous contributions. And about one hundred pounds, Pennsylvania currency, have been already raised, which is the most their exhausted liberality can produce.

“Seeing themselves, therefore, reduced to the disagreeable alternative, either of leaving the work unfinished, or of soliciting some assistance from abroad, we the church wardens and vestry of the said church humbly beg leave to recommend this cause to the Venerable Society, whose heart and hands we have always found ready to promote our welfare. We well know that the state of the Society’s funds is inadequate to the great design it is engaged in, and we, therefore, make this application, we own, with reluctance; but we do assure the Venerable Body that the smallest bounty it shall be pleased to contribute towards this undertaking shall be most gratefully acknowledged and faithfully applied.

“That Almighty God may prosper your pious endeavours to advance the Kingdom of His blessed Son upon earth; that you may

long continue to deserve the prayers and praises of all good men, and receive at last a reward from Heaven which this world cannot give, are the most hearty and sincere prayers of

“Reverend Sir,

“Your most obedient Humble Serv’ts.

“Lancaster in Pennsylvania.

October 16th, 1762.”

“Geo. Ross,  
“Willm. T. Atlee, } Wardens  
“William Jevon,  
“Saml. Bayden,  
“Geo. Sanderson,  
“James Bickham,  
“Saml. Boude,  
“Stephen Atkinson,  
“John Postlethwait,  
“John Clark,  
“Benjn. Price,  
“John Stone.”

“To the Rev. Dr. Daniel Burton, Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.”

I do not find in subsequent minutes of the vestry any reference to this appeal for aid. In the letters which I have examined from the secretary of the Society, to the Rev. Thomas Barton, rector of the parish, there is no intimation of any financial assistance having been extended.

It will be noted that in this communication, mention is made of a plan or drawing of the church. About five years ago I wrote to the headquarters of the Society, in London, asking for a photograph of the plan. I received a reply from the secretary stating that the original letter was on file in the Society’s archives but that the plan or drawing had become lost or destroyed.

In the summer of 1930, Prof. A. H. Young, of Trinity College, Toronto, Canada, while engaged in research work in the Society’s headquarters in London, found the plan, which evidently was drawn by the architect of the church. Mr. Young had it photo-

graphed and sent me a copy. By this kindly act, for which we are grateful, he has rendered most valuable service, for he has rescued the drawing from its obscurity, and has given to us the only outline, so far as known, of the original building of St. James's church.

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## LETTERS OF JAMES BUCHANAN

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**I**N 1908, the J. B. Lippincott Company, of Philadelphia and London, published, in twelve volumes, "The Works of James Buchanan," the fifteenth President of the United States. The work was edited by John Bassett Moore, counsel of the Spanish American Peace Commission in 1898; and comprises Mr. Buchanan's speeches, state papers, private correspondence and a biography.

Since this excellent publication was issued, I have discovered letters from Mr. Buchanan in the files of local newspapers which do not appear in this work. As these letters throw additional light on the noble character of Pennsylvania's only President, and as they correct some false impressions about him, it seems but just that they should be given wider publicity.

The Lancaster Intelligencer of Tuesday, March 6th, 1838, contained the following editorial:

"The spirit of mendacity which is the peculiar province of the Whig press to indulge, was displayed in the publication of two letters in the Philadelphia Inquirer of the 26th ult., in its most rancorous light. They are from citizens of Lancaster: One, Mr. Anthony M'Glinn, a 'gentleman of high respectability,' as Mr. Cox has it;—the other, Mr. George Ford, now an Antimasonic representative in the State Legislature. The letters refer to one of those foul slanders which a prostitute press delights in affixing to the character of public men, a slander which we heard Mr. Cox, the members above referred to, insultingly and cowardly repeat before Mr. Buchanan, last May, during the sitting of the Reform Convention.

"That dastardly attack—that deliberately shameless conduct