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Second Church Cranbury.

Semi-Centenary History of the Second
Presbyterian Church, Cranbury, New Jersey.

(Cranbury, N.J., 1888. 8 pages)

—
by John S. Davison

ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH.

At a meeting of the inhabitants of the village of Cranbury and vicinity, friendly to the erection of a second Presbyterian Church in said village, which meeting was held in the Lecture room of The First Church on Wednesday 22nd of February 1837, Joseph McChesney Esq., was appointed chairman, Benjamin M. Clarke and Dr. Garret P. Voorhees, secretaries. At this meeting a building committee was appointed, consisting of the following five persons, viz: Isaac G. Snedeker, Elias Dey, Ralph C. Stults, Jacob Snedeker, and Benjamin M. Clarke; who were also authorized to view the various sites proposed for the location of the Church, and to make all necessary inquiry as to style, material &c, for building. Of this committee, Benjamin M. Clarke was appointed treasurer.

A resolution to build was passed March 6th. 1837. The size of the original building was forty-five feet by sixty-five. The land on which the Church buildings stand, as also that comprising the the Cemetery (excepting the part purchased of J. S. Davison in 1855) was deeded to the trustees by the following persons, viz: Benjamin M. Clarke, Joseph McChesney, Jacob Snedeker, Thomas Page, George Davison, and William Hutchison, for various sums, amounting to \$1,440.

The erection of the Church-edifice was commenced in the Autumn of 1837, and finished in the following June. It was dedicated to the Service of God on the 26th day of June 1838.

Presbytery, at its session held on the 19th day of June, appointed Rev. Dr. Samuel Miller, Professor in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, and Rev. David Comfort, of Kingston, as soon as convenient, to organize a Second Presbyterian Church in Cranbury; which was accordingly done on June 28th, 1838, Dr. Miller preaching from Acts 14: 23; "And when they had ordained them Elders in every Church and had prayed with fasting they commended them to the Lord on whom they believed."

After sermon, testimonials of membership and dismissal from the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury were produced in favor of the following persons, viz: Dominicus Mershon and Gertrude Mershon, his wife; Isaac G. Snedeker, Aaron Lane, Jacob Snedeker and Catharine Snedeker, his wife; Elias Dey and Eliza Dey, his wife; Leah Stults, daughter of Frederick Stults; Dr. Garret P. Voorhees and Camelia Voorhees, his wife; George Barclay and Margaret Barclay, his wife; Henry Lane, William Hutchison, James Clarke and Sarah Clarke, his wife; Benjamin M. Clarke and Violetta Clarke, his wife; John Covert and Elizabeth Covert, his wife; Ellen Dey, wife of Reune Dey; Garret S. Davison and Ann Davison, his wife; Ruben Morris and Catharine Morris, his wife; George Davison and Mary Davison, his wife, and Sarah Schenck—twenty-nine members.

Of the above-named members, their testimonials set forth that Aaron Lane, Jacob Snedeker and Elias Dey were Ruling Elders in good standing in the church from which they were dismissed.

Margaret Snedeker, late the widow Everett, wife of Isaac G. Snedeker, Mahala Everett and Keturah E. Everett, her daughter, also produced certificates of membership from the church in New Brunswick, and of regular dismissal therefrom in good standing.

These thirty-two members solemnly agreed to walk together as a church of Christ and to be called and known by the name of the Second Presbyterian Church of Cranbury.

Mr. Aaron Lane, Mr. Jacob Snedeker and Mr. Elias Dey were then asked if they were willing to serve this church as Ruling Elders and the members of the church were asked if they were willing to acknowledge and receive these brethren as their Spiritual Rulers, and both parties having answered these questions respectively in the affirmative these three were solemnly installed as Ruling Elders.

At the close of the installation service, Mr. Isaac G. Snedeker, Dominicus Mershon and John Covert, were nominated as candidates for the office of Ruling Elders. This nomination was reported from the pulpit on three successive Sabbaths, and no objections being made, they were regularly ordained and installed on the 23d of July 1838.

Sabbath, September 30th, 1838. The Session met: present, all the Elders, viz; Messrs. Aaron Lane, Jacob Snedeker, Elias Dey, Isaac G. Snedeker, Dominicus Mershon, and John Covert. Rev. Dr. Samuel Miller being present, presided; meeting of Session opened with prayer.

The following persons applied to be received to the church on certificate and were unanimously admitted, viz; Peter W. Dey and Ann E. Dey, his wife; William N. Conover, Miss Mary Ann Conover, Mrs. Margaret Applegate, wife of Thomas Page; Mrs. Sarah Gulick, wife of Aaron L. Gulick; Mrs. Mary Lewis, Miss Ann Davis, Mrs. Jane Page, wife of Thomas Page; Mrs. Ely Stults, wife of Peter F. Stults; Elijah Lane and Elizabeth Lane, his wife—all on certificate from the First Church of Cranbury; also, Mrs. Martha Anderson and Mrs. Mary Cox, wife of John S. Cox, on certificate from the Church at Kingston. Mrs. Sarah Esther Wickoff, wife of John Wickoff, on certificate from the Reformed (Dutch) Church, of New Brunswick; and Mrs. Lucy Conover, wife of William N. Conover, on certificate from the Presbyterian Church of Dutch Neck.

John S. Davison applied to be admitted on examination, and after free conversation with him on the subject of his hope towards God, he was unanimously admitted.

After service, the Session met: all the members present: Rev. Dr. Miller presiding. Mr. Isaac G. Snedeker was nominated to attend Presbytery appointed to convene at Freehold, Monmouth County, on Tuesday, the second day of October next.

The following-named persons also united with the church prior to July 14th, 1839, the date of the communion succeeding the first anniversary, Miss Naomi Sylvester, Mrs. Cornelia Stults, Mrs. Camilla Lane, Henry De Hart, Mrs. Cordelia De Hart, Joseph McChesney, and Sarah, his wife; Miss Sarah Nowell, Mrs. Emily Dey, Margaret A. Conover, Ezekiel Silvers, Lydia Silvers, his wife; Peter F. Stults, Mrs. Sarah McChesney, Mrs. Sarah Applegate, Mrs. Sarah Van Derhoof, James Stults, Mrs. Elizabeth Stonaker, Mrs. Sarah Mount, Miss Elizabeth McChesney, Mrs. Ellen Blythe, Mrs. Sarah Mount, Garret G. Voorhees and wife, John A. Davidson, and Catharine, his wife; Miss Angelina Diabrow, Daniel I. Schenck, Mrs. Eleanor Schenck, Mrs. Abby Mack, Miss Ann Sutphen, Mrs. Alice Dey, Mahlon Henry, and Mary, his wife.

Sabbath, December 10th, 1838, session met on notice from the pulpit: present Elias Dey, Jacob Snedeker, Aaron Lane, John Covert and Dominicus Mershon. Rev. Joseph W. Blythe, Moderator. Meeting opened with prayer. On motion, it was resolved that hereafter the sacrament of the Lord's supper be administered quarterly, viz; on the first Sabbath of January, April, July, and October.

It was also, on motion, resolved that the Sacrament of Baptism be administered quarterly, on the Sabbath immediately preceding the administration of the Lord's Supper; and that the exercises of the day have special reference to the sacrament to be administered.

The election of a delegate to attend Presbytery was considered: whereupon Aaron Lane was chosen. Session adjourned to meet on Saturday 29th inst.

On May 30th, 1838, a call was made by the congregation to Rev. Daniel Deruelle of Washington, Pennsylvania, which was declined.

On December 5th, 1838, a call was made to Rev. Joseph W. Blythe. Mr. Blythe was licensed by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, February 2d, 1831, was installed pastor of the Second Church, February 15th, 1839, and was dismissed April 22nd, 1856.

June 23rd, 1856, a call was made to Rev. Joseph G. Symmes, of Madison, Indiana; which was declined.

At a meeting of Presbytery held in Newark, October 21st, 1856, Rev. Thomas D. Hoover, on presenting his certificate of dismission from the Presbytery of Winchester, Virginia, was received as a member after the usual examination. A call was presented to him from the Second Presbyterian Church of Cranbury, and he accepted the same. February 3d, 1857, was set for his Installation. On that day Rev. Dr. Atwater preached the sermon. Dr. Symmes C. Henry presided. Dr. John Hall, of Trenton, delivered the charge to the people, and the Rev. Dr. Macdonald the charge to the Pastor.

Having been elected delegate by the Presbytery to attend the General Assembly held at Cincinnati, Ohio, in the Spring of 1867, while in attendance on that body, he was taken sick and died, May 22nd. His remains were brought here and interred in our Cemetery, where a monument, as a testimonial of our regard for

his exemplary life and faithful, successful labors during ten years and three months, now marks his resting-place.

January 5th, 1868, a call was made to Rev. J. B. H. Janeway. His first meeting as Moderator of the Session, recorded in the church minutes, was February 8th, 1868. He was installed January 28, 1868. Dr. Macdonald, of Princeton, presided. Dr. Thomas L. Janeway preached the sermon. Rev. Joseph G. Symmes gave the charge to the Pastor; and Dr. J. T. Duffield gave the charge to the people. The pastoral relation was dissolved April 11, 1869.

April 5th, 1869, a call was presented to our present pastor, Rev. Joseph S. Van Dyke, D. D., who was installed May, 13, 1869.

The Rev. Joseph G. Symmes presided. The Rev. James B. Kennedy preached the sermon. The Rev. Dr. R. K. Rodgers, of Bound Brook, gave the charge to the pastor. The Rev. Dr. John Maclean, President of Princeton College, gave the charge to the people.

Additions to the church, and monies raised prior to Mr. Blythe's pastorate:

Received by certificate	56
Received on examination	13
Monies raised	\$6,673
During the ministry of Rev. J. W. Blythe,	
Received by certificate	70
Received on examination	142
Members deceased	22
Members dismissed	70
Contributions to congregational purposes	\$19,980
Contributions to missions	1,817
Contributions to other benevolent objects	1,637
Miscellaneous	363
During the ministry of Rev. T. D. Hoover:	
Received by certificate	76
Received on examination	240
Members deceased	40
Members dismissed	66
Contributions to congregational purposes	\$24,050
Contributions to missions	1,799
Contributions to other benevolent objects	2,981
Miscellaneous	535

During the ministry of Rev. J. B. Janeway;	
Received by certificate.....	26
Received on examination.....	28
Contributions to congregational purposes.....	\$4,600
Contributions to missions.....	130
Contributions to other benevolent objects.....	161
Miscellaneous.....	270
During the ministry of Rev. J. S. Van Dyke;	
Received on certificate.....	102
Received on examination.....	258
Members deceased.....	115
Members dismissed.....	231
Contributions to congregational purposes.....	\$14,584
Contributions to missions.....	6,846
Contributions to other benevolent objects.....	2,970
Miscellaneous.....	3,546
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Total number of members received on examination.....	681
Total number of members received on certificate.....	333
Total amount of monies raised.....	\$121,712

RECORD OF ELDERS.

The following-named persons were Ruling Elders in the First Church and were so declared and received by the Second Church Congregation at its organization, viz; Aaron Lane, Elias Dey and Jacob Snedeker.

At the close of the installation of the above-named officers the three following persons, Isaac G. Snedeker, Dominicus Mershon, and John Covert, were nominated as Ruling Elders and were subsequently elected and ordained and installed July 22nd, 1838.

On February 10th, 1850, Mr. John C. VanDerveer was added to the number.

On March 29th, 1857, the following persons were elected and installed, viz; Peter W. Dey, Ralph C. Stults, Ezekiel Silvers, George Barclay and James Wyckoff.

On August 14th, 1870, the following persons were duly elected; and installed in office September 5th, 1870; William Hughes, John S. Davison, Isaac Covert, William S. Dey, William E. Bergen, and Isaac S. Mershon.

On February 11th, 1881, the following persons were elected; and were installed in office March 16th, 1881, viz: David C. Lewis, John S. Silvers, John H. Stults, and Isaiah D. Barclay.

RECORD OF DEACONS.

On December 29th, 1840, the following persons were installed deacons; Ezekiel Silvers, Ralph C. Stults, and Peter W. Dey.

On March 3rd, 1857, the following persons were elected, John S. Davison, William S. Dey, Isaac Brokaw, and Henry Van Denter.

On August 14th, 1870, Peter R. Stults, Benjamin Bayles, and Alfred M. Perrine, were duly elected as deacons; and were installed September 4th, 1870.

On February 11th, 1881, Peter Barclay, John S. Dey, John G. Grover, John H. Dey, Frank Brown, James Farr, William P. Stults, and John T. Mershon, were duly elected to office; and installed March 16th, 1881.

NAMES OF TRUSTEES. Time of Service.

Joseph McChesney.....	2 years.
Aaron I. Gulick.....	5 years.
Cornelius G. Snedeker.....	9 years.
Ralph C. Stults.....	32 years.
Benjamin M. Clarke.....	5 years.
George Davison.....	4 years.
George W. Schenck.....	8 years.
John I. Applegate.....	2 years.
G. P. Voorhees, M. D.....	6 years.
Thomas W. Schenck.....	4 years.
George Barclay.....	35 years.
D. B. Applegate.....	1 year.
George Bogart.....	3 years.
John S. Davison.....	31 years.
Garret G. Voorhees.....	5 years.
John R. Holmes.....	6 years.
John A. Davison.....	2 years.
Charles Rowland.....	1 year.

John V. N. Wykoff.....	3 years.
Joseph Mather.....	3 years.
Peter W. Dey.....	2 years.
Isaac Van Norstrand.....	7 years.
James Higgins.....	2 years.
Robert Henry.....	2 years.
Henry Van Deventer.....	2 years.
Levi Mather.....	2 years.
David K. Perrine.....	1 year.
Alexander Stoddart.....	4 years.
Elias Dey.....	5 years.
Jacob Snedeker.....	6 years.
William Hutchison.....	3 years.
George Farr.....	8 years.
Garret A. Snedeker.....	17 years.
Ezekiel Silvers.....	25 years.
William Hughes.....	24 years.
Elston Hunt.....	2 years.
D. G. Davison.....	2 years.
R. C. Dey.....	5 years.
John G. Stults.....	3 years.
D. C. Lewis.....	5 years.
John S. Silvers.....	3 years.
William D. Perrine.....	2 years.
John Embley.....	6 years.
Samuel L. Grove.....	5 years.
James H. Goodwin.....	2 years.
Abel Edsall.....	2 years.
Abram G. Van Deventer.....	5 years.
John C. Holmes, M. D.....	4 years.
Peter B. Stults.....	1 year.
Charles Applegate.....	1 year.
Frank S. Davis.....	1 year.

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