

"General Bridger was the son and heir of the Joseph Bridger who superintended the building of St. Luke's, (the Brick Church,) in Newport parish, Isle of Wight county."

My friend adds these words:--

"The above is taken from a copy made by the late Mrs. Anne P. P. Cowper, of Macclesfield, from the tombstone, which is erected on a farm about three miles below the Old Brick Church, and is still in a perfect state. This farm was a part of an immense landed estate which descended to Mrs. Cowper from her mother, who was a widow Bridger, and married Colonel Josiah Parker, of Revolutionary celebrity."

I have also referred to a small parish, called Chuckatuck, in Nansemond county, of which I could say nothing for want of any documents. A friend has sent me the copy of a portion of an old vestry-book of this parish, which contains the proceedings of the vestry from December of the year 1702 to 1709. I will first give the names of the gentlemen composing the vestry during that period:--

"Captain Edmund Godwin, Major Thomas Swann, Captain L. Haviield, Mr. James Davis, Mr. Oliver Slaughter, Mr. James Cewling, Mr. Thomas Drury, Colonel Thomas Godwin, Captain John Pitt, Mr. Thomas Corbell, Colonel George Norsworthy, Captain Charles Drury, Mr. John Brasseur, Major Thomas Jordan, Captain B. Kearne, Mr. John Lear, Peter Best, Thomas Cutchins, John Isles."

The vestry seems to have been an energetic and decided one. In April, 1703, is their first action:--

"The vestry, being willing to embrace the first opportunity for the service of God, have therefore entertained and agreed with Mr. William Rudd, minister, to preach a sermon every intervening Thursday until the 1st of October next, at the rate of three hundred and eight pounds of tobacco per sermon, and also to pay twelve shillings for his ferrying over the river: which Mr. William Rudd accepts, and promises, with God's assistance, to perform his duty. During the summer they invite him to become their minister and preach every other Sunday, for eight thousand pounds of tobacco."

Mr. Rudd was then the minister of Norfolk, in Elizabeth River parish, and it was customary to ask the consent of the Governor to a separation; wherefore the vestry addressed a letter to Governor Nicholson. Mr. Rudd became their minister, and remained such for some years. After this they had the services of the Rev. Thomas Hassell, but how long is not known. It was during the infancy of this vestry that Governor Nicholson was endeavouring to establish his authority over the vestries in relation to induction of ministers and the supply of vacancies. The opinion of Sir Edward Northy, the King's Attorney, was sent to all the vestries and ordered to be recorded on the vestry-books. The vestry of the little Chuckatuck parish obeyed the Governor's order and placed the document on record, but added this spirited resolution to it:--

"But as to presenting our present or any other minister for induction, are not of opinion, [here is something not very intelligible by itself, but rendered perfectly so by what follows,] but are willing to entertain our present minister upon the usual terms, as formerly hath been used in this Colony."

I do not know that there was ever more than one church in this parish. That is still standing, and has been occasionally supplied by ministers from Suffolk and Smithfield. I have often been in it, and enjoyed the services held therein.