

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 successors by the name of the Minister, Church Wardens and Vestrymen in the town of Woodbridge one body politic and corporate in deed and in name really and fully we do by these presents for us our heirs and successors elect, ordain constitute declare and create; and also that they and their successors elected and chosen as hereinafter directed by the name aforesaid be and forever hereafter shall be capable and able in the law to hold, possess, sue for, recover and enjoy any lands hereditaments or real estate, already granted or set apart for a glebe to the said church in the said town of Woodbridge upon the first settlement thereof or at any time since and to have, take, receive and enjoy to them and their successors other messages,

lands, tenements, rents, possessions and other hereditaments in fee simple or for life or lives or years or in any other manner to the value of five hundred pounds sterling by the year and also goods, chattels, and all other things of what kind or nature soever in fee and perpetuity so as the same exceed not at any time the sum of ten thousand pounds sterling, money of Great Britain in the gross, and that they and their successors by the name aforesaid be and forever hereafter shall be persons able and capable in the law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded answer and be answered unto defend and be defended in all courts and places before us our heirs and successors and before all and any the judges and justices, officers and ministers of us our heirs and successors in all and all manner of actions, suits, complaints, pleas, causes, matters and demands of what nature or kind soever in as full and ample manner as any other our subjects can or may do : and also that the said minister, church wardens, and vestry-men of Trinity Church in the town of Woodbridge for the time being and their successors shall and may forever hereafter have and use a Common seal with such device or devices as they shall think proper for sealing all and singular deeds, leases, grants, Conveyances, Contracts and all and singular other instruments, affairs and business anyway touching concerning and relating to the said Corporation and the same to alter, change and new make when and as often as to them shall seem meet and convenient. And we do further of our especial grace Certain knowledge and mere motion for us our heirs and successors will, ordain, give and grant to the minister or incumbent of the said Church for the time being or in Case of his absence or death that the eldest church warden for the time being, shall and may from time to time Call a meeting of the vestry when as often as it shall be necessary and they and their successors forever hereafter being so met and assembled shall and may constitute ordain and make constitutions laws and ordinances for the good of governing and ordering of the affairs of the said Church, and the same from time to time repeal as to them or the majority of them, shall seem convenient, *provided* always, that the said laws and ordmanees so made be not repugnant to the Constitutions of our said Church of England as by law established ; and for the better and more regular election of the church-wardens and vestry-men of the said church forever hereafter, We do hereby further Will, ordain, give and grant that the minister or incumbent of the said church for the time being together with the church-wardens and vestry-men of said church for the time being shall assemble and meet at the said church yearly and every year on Tuesday in Easter week and then and there by plurality of votes elect and choose two church-wardens and so many vestry-men as shall to them seem convenient not exceeding ten in the whole out of the most discreet persons of the congregation of the said church. And we do further of our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion for us, our heirs and successors, by these presents give and grant unto the said Minister church-wardens and vestry-men of Trinity Church in the town of Woodbridge that they and their successors forever hereafter, all and singular the rights, privileges, powers, capacities and

authorities herein before mentioned or intended to be granted shall and may have, hold and use without the impediment 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.