

THE STORY
OF
ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL
BY
RT. REV. PHILIP COOK, D. D.

THE STORY OF THE BEGINNINGS OF

ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL

IN NOXONTOWN, DELAWARE

BY THE

REVEREND FATHER

JOHN A. KELLY, S. J.

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of St. Andrew's School, in Dover, Delaware
were formally dedicated and the school officially
opened as its work commencing here. This service
was very largely attended. Nearly two thousand
visitors were present and careful arrangements
had been made which were carried through in an
immaculate way.

This account has been written by the
Right Reverend Philip Cook, D. D.
Bishop of Delaware at the suggestion
of the Founder, Mr. A. Felix du Pont.

available and while the history of these buildings is
still fresh in the minds of those who have shared
in this work. This is done in the hope that some
of the many who have a special interest in the
history of the school programme and information
may be desired about the beginning.

The Founder of the school - Mr. Alexis Felix
du Pont - had long contemplated such a plan and
had dreamed with the view of this type of school
as the result of his own experiences and his study of
the educational system in Europe in his country.

On Tuesday, October 14, 1930 the buildings of St. Andrew's School, at Nexontown, Delaware were formally dedicated and the School officially started in its work educating boys. This service was very largely attended. Nearly two thousand visitors were present and careful arrangements had been made which were carried through in an imposing way.

It has seemed wise to make a definite and permanent record of the steps which have led up to this accomplishment while the material, which must be gathered from various sources, is still available and while the memory of these things is still fresh in the minds of those who have shared in this work. This is done in the hope and expectation that such a record may be of value in the future as the School progresses and information may be desired about its beginnings.

The founder of the School - Mr. Alexis Felix du Pont - had long contemplated such a plan and was impressed with the need of this type of school as the result of his own experience and his study of the educational systems in vogue in this country.

The first intimation of what he proposed to do was made to the Bishop of the Diocese of Delaware as they lunched together on Thursday, August 11, 1927. He made no definite proposal at this time but confined himself to an inquiry as to whether a school connected with the Diocese and situated somewhere within the limits of the Diocese would be of helpfulness to the cause of Christianity and the work of the Church. It was agreed between them that each should separately continue investigations along this line and get such advice on the matter as might be helpful in reaching a conclusion. Nothing was said about the amount that might be made available for such a school, nor the matter discussed in any further detail than to continue inquiries and gather information. For nearly a year this continued to be the situation while each made inquiries of those who were in a position to advise and counsel on a step of such importance.

On November 4, 5 and 6 the Bishop made a visit to St. James' School of which Mr. Adrian Holmes Onderdonk is headmaster and had the opportunity to discuss the plan that had been suggested with

him. The following Sunday he was spending at Mercersburg Academy and so was able to see both these schools in operation and get information as to their methods of work and to investigate more particularly the religious influence exerted in connection with the life of these schools.

About the middle of July 1928 the Bishop received a letter from Mr. Adrian Holmes Onderdonk, headmaster of St. James' School, in which he called attention to the fact that Mr. Theodore N. Denslow, headmaster of the Donaldson School, near Baltimore, was severing his connection with that school and was, therefore, open for engagement if the project for a school in Delaware had developed to the point where the services of such a schoolmaster were required. The Bishop conferred with Mr. du Pont upon this situation with the result that it was decided to enter into communication with him.

It had been Mr. du Pont's desire that previous to taking any definite step and as a preliminary thereto a two-fold survey should be made. First, to investigate and if possible find a suitable location for such a school within the confines of the State of Delaware and at the same time have an in-

investigator approach certain prominent citizens of the Church and State to get their judgment on the advisability of such a project. The second survey was to have an investigator visit the prominent church schools of the east and make a report on their methods of giving definite instruction as to the Christian religion and church life in these schools and how the schools as organizations were related to the church through diocesan or other organizations.

The project had reached such a point that Mr. du Pont was looking forward to definite steps and considering the names of men who might be depended upon to sympathize with this plan of founding a school and valuable as members of a board of trustees. In all these plans and preliminary investigations Mr. du Pont had been sharing his views with his friend, Mr. Allan J. Henry, his own classmate at the University of Pennsylvania and intimate friend. Mr. Walter J. Laird, another friend with whom he had discussed the matter, had expressed his keen interest and enthusiasm so that arrangements were made to bring these four men to-

gether to take the first definite steps. In a series of informal discussions it was decided to confer with Mr. Denslow and the Bishop was commissioned to confer with him upon the subject. after an exchange of letters the Bishop met Mr. Denslow in Washington on Sunday, July 29, 1928, and upon the recommendation of the Bishop, Mr. Denslow came to Wilmington and consulted with Mr. du Pont the first week in August of that year and after the Bishop had left with his family for a vacation in Nova Scotia. Mr. du Pont and Mr. Denslow entered into an agreement on the terms of which he was to enter into employment and give his time to the necessary investigations and make the surveys outlined above. Into this work Mr. Denslow entered with energy and enthusiasm.

On the evening of September 24, 1928 in a conference with Mr. du Pont, Mr. Henry and the Bishop he outlined his plans for making his surveys and on Saturday, September 29th Mr. Denslow and the Bishop made a motor trip through the State to investigate possible sites for the school

visiting places in the neighborhood of New Castle, Middletown, Dover, Milford and Rehoboth - but with no satisfactory results. Mr. Denslow established headquarters in Dover and from that point continued his studies of the situation, and his interviews with persons whose names had been furnished him to secure from them an expression of judgment.

At the time of the General Convention in Washington, in October 1928, the Bishop had a series of interviews with several of the prominent schoolmasters of the country including the Rev. Dr. Thayer, headmaster of St. Mark's School; the Rev. Father Sill, headmaster of Kent School; Mr. A. R. Hoxton of the Episcopal High School; Mr. Adrian Holmes Onderdonk of St. James School in Maryland; Mr. William H. Church of St. Alban's School, Washington, and Rev. D. Page Dame of Christ-church School. Though consulted separately, these men gave opinions that were very much alike. All of them seemed to agree that there would be little value in the establishment of another high-priced church school, the tuition charge of which would be beyond the reach of boys belonging to families of

moderate means, but that there was almost unlimited opportunity for a thoroughly high-class school where the tuition charge could be kept at a moderate price and that price was set at one thousand dollars a year or less. When the Bishop returned and made this report to Mr. du Pont, he was pleased to find that the judgment of these men, prominent in the work of educating boys, coincided with his own views on the matter and he gave his first definite expression of what he was willing to do, saying that such a plan would call for a very considerable endowment and that he was quite willing to provide it.

The plan had now begun to take such definite shape that the question of proper incorporation was discussed and the names of men who would be in sympathy with such a large enterprise and might be depended upon to be useful as members of the board were decided upon.

At a meeting held at the home of Mr. du Pont on November 8th, at which Mr. du Pont, Mr. Allan Henry and the Bishop were present, Mr. Denslow presented in written form his first survey, dated

November 5th. In this he summarized the opinions he had gathered from Dr. Walter Mullihen, President of the University of Delaware; Mr. J. Wiley Trought, Senior Warden of St. Philip's Church, Laurel; Dr. William P. Orr, Senior Warden of St. Peter's Church, Lewes; Henry Ridgely, Esq. and Judge William H. Boyce of Dover; the Rev. William H. Darbie of Seaford and Dr. Frank Grier of Milford. All expressed their interest in such a project and made many helpful suggestions as to location.

In connection with this report Mr. Denslow made a detailed statement as to weather conditions in various parts of the State as based on weather reports over a considerable period of time.

He further reported on six possible sites and gave information as to the advantages and disadvantages connected with each one. Of them all he indicated most decided preference for the last mentioned on Noxontown Lake about two miles below Middletown. He suggested that this place be visited by those present at the meeting.

On Wednesday, November 14, this plan was carried out to the extent, at least, that Mr. du Pont, the Bishop and Mr. Denslow drove down to Noxontown Lake, secured a boat at the dam at the foot of the lake, rowed to the other side and walked along the high ground for more than half the length of the lake to study the location. There was a lone fisherman on the lake who proudly displayed to them his catch of the afternoon - a six pound bass and two pickerel of a couple of pounds a piece. The more the visitors saw of this location the more enthusiastic they became - and from that time there was never any question in their minds that this was the one place in Delaware suitable above all others for a school site if it could be secured.

There were three farms on the west side of the lake any one of which would be quite suitable - the one at the northern end bordering on the road which crossed the dam belonged to the Comegys family; the next was the Naudain Farm: the most southerly belonged to Mr. Staats, a Vice President of the Victor Talking Machine Co. - whose business head-

quarters were in Camden, New Jersey.

Mr. du Pont undertook to interview this gentleman, and Mr. Allan Henry was commissioned to make inquiries through real estate agents about the other property, which he undertook to do without delay.

Within a short time Mr. du Pont reported he had had a satisfactory interview with Mr. Staats who expressed himself as quite willing to sell his farm for what it had cost him together with the investment he had made in improvements in house and barn. This proved to be something more than \$100,000.

It was reported to Mr. Henry that the Naudain Farm had been in this family since first patent had been issued in Colonial Days and was not on the market.

It was further reported through real estate agents that the Comegys Farm was for sale and through Mr. Henry this property was bought for Mr. du Pont at a price of \$150 an acre for the 350 acres in the property - which price also included the house, barn and other buildings.

The legal work of examining the deed, making

the contract and of completing the sale in all its details was done under the charge of Caleb S. Layton, Esq., Attorney at Law, with offices in the du Pont Building. All this was done with the least amount of publicity - though there was not a little gossip and speculation occasioned by the sale.

Directly the property was definitely secured plans were discussed at meetings of the men interested to complete the formation of a corporation to take over the property and forward the project. At a meeting held at the home of Mr. du Pont on Monday, November 26, attended by Mr. Walter Laird and Mr. Allan Henry, these matters were discussed in detail - and at a later meeting held at Bishopstead, December 13th at which Mr. Denslow and Mr. Caleb Layton, the legal advisor, were present a proposed form of charter for such a corporation was presented by Mr. Layton. At this meeting photographs of the property made by plane from the air were shown and excited great interest. At this meeting the name of the School was under discussion. It had long been a matter of thought on the part

of the men interested but in view of the need of a name in the Charter and Articles of Incorporation it seemed necessary to reach a decision at this time. After much discussion the name "Lake School" was passed on regular motion duly seconded but without much enthusiasm.

It was further decided to give publicity to the matter and this left largely in the hands of the Bishop who prepared a statement which was released on December 22d and all papers carried full and conspicuous accounts which are incorporated in this statement.

From the Morning News of December 22d:

"Delaware is to have a new educational institution which will cost more than \$1,050,000. It is the gift of Mr. A. Felix du Pont.

While the name of the institution has not yet been chosen it will be a church boarding school for boys, formed primarily for the purpose of training boys for greater efficiency in Christian service. The school will be under the direction of a corporation now applying for a charter and to be known as the Delaware Church School Associa-

tion which will also have title to the property which has been donated by Mr. du Pont. It is understood that several other persons will also be interested in the founding of the school later.

As a first step toward realization of the plan Mr. du Pont has purchased the Comegys Farm about two miles from Middletown, comprising a tract of 350 acres. The property was bought for \$50,000 and lies between Noxontown Lake and Silver Lake. The place is easily accessible from this city and is a half mile from the du Pont Highway.

The charter is being applied for by a directing committee chosen by Mr. du Pont and comprises Allan Henry, Walter J. Laird and the Rt. Rev. Philip Cook, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware.

The Corporation will constitute the trustees of the school and they will select the headmaster and the faculty and also direct the building program.

While the cost of the school has not yet been determined, it is expected it will approximate at least \$500,000 with a similar sum as to endowment.

The plans as so far worked out do not contemplate a large school at first but to get it in operation as soon as possible with a carefully selected group of students and an efficient teaching staff and then to add to the buildings as the requirements arise.

Committee Makes Statement

The following statement was issued by the Committee yesterday:

'More than a year ago Mr. A. Felix du Pont made known to a few friends his desire to build and endow a church boarding school for boys in the Diocese of Delaware. This matter was informally discussed among them for some time and impetus given to the plan by discussion of it with the headmasters of Church Schools at the time of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church meeting in Washington. All of those consulted expressed the conviction that there was the greatest demand for a moderate priced church boarding school for boys in this section of the East. There are very few, if any, such schools between New England and Maryland, and Delaware appeared to them as a very suitable and central

point for such a school.

Site is Deemed Excellent

'Mr. Theodore N. Denslow, formerly headmaster of Donaldson School, near Baltimore, had been secured to make a careful survey of possible sites and a study of methods prevailing in Church Schools in the East. He visited practically every part of the State for a situation and the Comegys Farm on Noxontown Lake seemed to offer just the location desired. It is within easy riding distance of Wilmington, but has all the advantages of the country. It borders Noxontown Lake and includes a point of land extending out into the lake with high banks and commanding view, sufficiently large for the location of the different buildings. There are many trees along the lake and the landscape altogether pleasing.

Fine Athletic Prospects

'The lake offers opportunity for water sports for fall, winter and spring. The open portion of the farm offers abundant space for an athletic field. It lies within easy distance of two highways, about a mile from the du Pont Highway. The

farm is large enough to provide all the land necessary for future developments. Having reached this decision, Mr. du Pont took steps to purchase the property at once. Very few schools the country over have a location with as many apparent advantages as this seems to offer.

'The committee feels certain it can secure the services of a headmaster and faculty which will make this one of the outstanding schools of the country and attract students from every section. While there is no intent to restrict the membership to boys of the Episcopal Church, nor from families of the Episcopal Church the purpose of the school is frankly that of maintaining one in which the religious element in education will be emphasized and the teaching so directed as to train and influence the student body to become efficient in Christian service.

'The headmasters of many of the church boarding schools for boys have been invited to come to Wilmington during the holidays on Friday, January 4, to visit the site of the school and later to have dinner together and make such suggestions and

give such advice as their own experience in this work may lead them to offer. Eight headmasters have already accepted, including Dr. Thayer of St. Mark's school; Mr. Haslem, of the Episcopal High School in Virginia; Mr. Onderdonk, of St. James' school, Maryland; the Rev. Page Dame, of Christchurch school, Virginia; Mr. Church of St. Alban's school, in Washington and the Rev. Mr. Monks, of Lenox school, of Lenox, Mass.

'Dr. Walter HULLIHEN, president of the University of Delaware, and Burton P. Fowler, headmaster of the Tower Hill school, this city, will also attend the conference, the committee announces.

'A. Felix du Pont is a vice-president of the du Pont Company. He makes his home with his family at "Elton" on the Kennett Pike. He attends St. John's Episcopal Church, this city, where he is a vestryman."

On December 26th in the law office of Caleb S. Layton, Esq. the Chapter was read and the application of Incorporation presented at a meeting attended by Mr. A. Felix du Pont, Mr. Allan J. Henry and Mr. Walter J. Laird and Bishop Philip Cook.

Because of dissatisfaction felt over the name Bishop Cook proposed that application to the Legislature be made in the name of the Episcopal School Foundation, Incorporated. There were many advantages to this. It put off the decision as to the name of the school until the members could reach a common mind; it further created a corporation which might, if it proved desirable become responsible for some other school project. This met with general approval and with this change the application was signed by the original incorporators - Mr. Alexis Felix du Pont, Allan J. Henry, Walter J. Laird, Philip Cook.

At a meeting held in the office of Caleb S. Layton, Esq. at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of December 28th, the incorporators were informed through Mr. Layton, legal advisor, that the certificate of incorporation of the corporation had been filed on December 27th, 1928 at one o'clock in the office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for New Castle County on December 28. By vote of the meeting it directed that the charter be entered in full in

the minute book of the Secretary of the Corporation.

Immediately following the meeting of the Incorporators, at 3:30 there was held a meeting of the Trustees of the School and officers were elected. Mr. du Pont declined to be considered for the office of President and asked that the Bishop act in this capacity, which resulted in the election of the Bishop as President; Mr. du Pont was elected as Vice President; Mr. Allan Henry was elected as Secretary and Treasurer.

Along with these plans of incorporation the Board has been considering and arranging for a gathering of Headmasters of Church Schools at Wilmington in order that they might be shown the site of the new school and from them the Board might get such help and advice as would assist them in developing their plans. Many invitations had been sent out to Headmasters of Church Schools and at a meeting of the Board, and especially that of December 31st, careful arrangements had been made for this conference which was planned for Friday, January 4th.

Several of the Headmasters arrived the evening of January 3d and were entertained at the Hotel du Pont, Mr. Denslow being in charge of their entertainment. The Board was much gratified by the interest displayed at the very considerable number of prominent Headmasters who accepted the invitation and arrived for the meeting on January 4th.

It proved a bright and beautiful day and the Trustees furnished cars to transport these men to Middletown in time for lunch which was served at the Middletown Hotel. Following the lunch the entire group went to the property which had been purchased by Mr. du Pont and went over the ground. They all were enthusiastic over the favorable site which had been purchased and informal discussions were entered into as to the best position for the school buildings on the site.

At the meeting previous to the gathering of the headmasters, the question of the selection of the architect had been discussed and Mr. Arthur H. Brockie of Philadelphia had been selected to advise with the Board about the type of building best suited to the purpose of the school and to submit

preliminary drawings, though he was not at this time definitely engaged as the architect to do the work. At the previous meeting he had presented some drawings so that when the Headmasters gathered for their conference and were inspecting the site, Mr. Brockie was present and able to describe to the visitors the general plan which the Board had in mind with regard to the location of the building.

Following this visit to the site, the Headmasters returned to Wilmington and gathered at Bishopstead. By request of the Trustees, the Bishop had drawn up a series of practical questions about the organization and management of the school which were placed before the headmasters for their judgment and a very interesting discussion followed as the headmasters presented somewhat divergent views in answer to these questions. The debate was at times very spirited and the meeting lasted until time had arrived to respond to the invitation of Mr. du Pont for all to go to his home for dinner. Quite a number of the men found it necessary to leave in the early evening but with

those who were able to remain the discussion on these topics continued until a late hour.

The trustees felt very much gratified with the results of this conference, the report of which as it appeared in the papers of that day is here given.

"Much valuable information concerning the founding and establishment of a permanent basis of the new church boarding school to be erected at a cost of more than \$1,000,000 by A. Felix du Pont, south of Middletown, near Townsend, was given yesterday and last evening by the headmasters and others who were conducted to the 350 acre site yesterday afternoon to inspect it.

"The concluding conference of the day was held at "Elton" the home of Mr. du Pont on the Kennett Pike, where the headmasters and other guests were entertained at dinner. The dinner followed tea which was served at Bishopstead the Residence of Bishop Philip Cook.

"The headmasters, architects and others interested in the establishment of the school thoroughly inspected the site, which is located two miles south

of Middletown between Noxontown Lake and Silver Lake. The headmasters represented many of the most famous church schools in the country.

"Approval to the tentative plans of the committee for the construction of the school and its foundation was given by Dr. W. G. Thayer, of St. Mark's School, Father Frederick Sill, of Kent School; Arthur H. Hoxton, of the Episcopal High School at Alexandria, Va., and others. The Committee outlined in a statement issued to each of the visitors its plans regarding the personnel, the headmaster, students, scholastic aim, religious influence, religious connections, discipline, and buildings.

"The question of permitting students of limited means to assist themselves in obtaining tuition by performing various tasks at the school was considered, but no decision was reached.

"It is stated: 'A policy of selection will be applied in the manner of choosing the student body and that high standards of scholastic attainment will be maintained from the first. This policy of selection we hope to put in operation from

the very frist. Our hope is to draw boys both from families of large means and from these of moderate circumstances. From families of means because the school is high grade, and from families of moderate means, both because of its character and because the rates make it available for their boys. In the duties and services of work which may be assigned to the student body all will be expected to share without distinction.'

"Mrs. Irene du Pont, sister of Mr. du Pont, will assist in the foundation of the school. She has been very much interested in the plans as they have been developed and her assistance will be accepted as the project develops. Father Sill, in a brief address, characterized Mr. du Pont's gift as one of the most conspicuous contributions to Christian education of recent years.

"Dr. Thayer said that the site is 'remarkably well suited for such a school as proposed, having all the advantages of modern sites combined with a great natural beauty.' He pointed out the site possesses the needed remoteness and is yet in close contact with the railroad and good roads.

He said that there is ample space for an excellent athletic field. He said that the site could easily accommodate an enrollment of from 300 to 1000 students.

"The committee aiding Mr. du Pont is comprised of Bishop Cook, Allan J. Henry and Walter Laird, all of this city. The committee reported that they wished to thank the headmasters for suggestions and Theodore Denslow for making extensive surveys. The committee reported that the plan for founding such a school in the diocese of Delaware originated with Mr. du Pont, and 'it springs from a desire to render a definite and permanent service to the Kingdom of Christ.' No name has been selected for the school.

"A corporation has been formed, the committee reported, the terms of the charter being very liberal and easily changeable if desired.

"The remainder of the report follows in part:

'The purpose of the school training will be to give to the students such ground work in education as belongs to secondary schools on broad cultural lines and prepare them for college entrance.

'Because this is to be a Church School in the Diocese of Delaware and because we look forward to a long life for it, the incorporators desired that it should be linked with the church, which has existed in this country from the time of its settlement and will continue to exist. This contact and connection with the diocese is made through the Bishop, who is by reason of his office, a trustee of the institution. This does not mean that he is to have undue influence nor power beyond that of any other member of the Board of Trustees, but simply that his office carries with it a responsibility for a share in the welfare of this school.

'By the terms of the charter of incorporation the Board of Trustees is made a self-perpetuating body and the Convention of the Diocese has no power over it beyond the selection of a Bishop, who is ex-officio a member of the board.

'The discipline of the school will belong to the headmaster and his faculty and to him and to them it is our desire to give a free hand and corresponding responsibility in its management. The site was selected at a considerable distance from

a city of any size with the idea that the discipline should allow as much freedom among the students as is consistent with good order and good work. The site further offers large opportunity to keep the student body busy during the hours of recreation on out-of-door occupations, farm work, tramping, scouting, fishing, and athletics of many kinds.

'No architect has been chosen as yet but the advice of one has been sought in connection with the choosing of the site and he is at present preparing a general plan of building. We are in no way committed to any architect or any set of plans.'

"The headmasters who attended the conference were: Dr. Thayer of St. Mark's School; Mr. Haslem of the Episcopal Academy of Philadelphia; Father Sill of the Kent School; Mr. Hoxton of the Episcopal High School, at Alexandria, Va; Mr. Onderdonk; the Rev. Page Bame, of Christchurch School, Virginia; Mr. Church, the Rev. Mr. Monks, of the Lenox School, Lenox Mass.; Dr. Charles W. Shreiner, of the Church Farm School, Pennsylvania; Captain A. M. Langford, of Peddie Institute, New Jersey, and the Rev. Alban Richey, Jr., newly appointed headmaster of the Holderness School, New Hampshire,

and son of the Rev. Alban Richey of this city.

"Dr. Walter HULLIHEN, president of the University of Delaware, BURTON P. FOWLER, headmaster of the Tower Hill School, also attended."

At meetings held on January 7th and January 9th discussion had turned on the expediency of adding other members to the Board of Trustees and different members had been instructed to approach men whose names had been suggested to find whether they would be willing to serve in such a capacity.

At the meeting on January 23d held at Bishopstead, in the evening, these members reported the result of these interviews and as a result the following were formally elected as members: Mr. J. Thompson Brown, Mr. Caleb S. Layton, Judge Richard S. Rodney, all citizens of Delaware, and Mr. JOHN O. PLATT of Philadelphia. The Secretary was instructed to notify these gentlemen of their election and subsequently received their consent to serve. From this time the Board, therefore, consisted of eight members. At this same meeting the Secretary was instructed to secure the services of an engineer to

check the acreage and make a plot of the property, and it was also decided to close the deal and secure the deed to the property by final payment for it as soon as possible.

Mr. du Pont was planning to leave very soon for an extended trip to the Near East and, therefore, it was felt necessary to push the plans as rapidly as possible both with regard to building and the selection of a headmaster in order, if possible, to reach definite decisions on these matters before his departure.

On February 5th there was held an extended meeting of the Trustees at which the newly elected members were present with the exception of Mr. John O. Platt who was unable to attend. The selection of a headmaster was regarded as the most important matter to decide and various names were discussed informally. In all these plans Mr. Haslem the headmaster of the Episcopal Academy in Philadelphia had been of very great helpfulness. He had written at considerable length his suggestions with regard to the type of building and give his advice on request as to a possible headmaster.

In this connection Mr. du Pont and Mr. Henry had met the Rev. Albert Lucas, who was in charge of the little boys department of the Episcopal Academy and his name was already under consideration for this position.

At the Bishop's suggestion Mr. du Pont and Mr. Allan Henry had entered with him into the project of arranging for a lunch and conference with the younger clergy to get their point of view and their suggestions with regard to men available for this important position.

On February 6th Mr. du Pont and Mr. Allan J. Henry went to Washington for this lunch and conference to which many of the younger clergy had been invited and met at the Washington Hotel. Among those present were: Rev. Edward W. Eames, Rev. Henry B. Ely, Mr. Charles H. Cardigan, Rev. Alexander C. Zabriskie, Rev. John Harris, Mr. Donald Stevenson and Mr. Martin Firth and the Rev. Nobel Powell.

This proved to be a very satisfactory meeting and those present discussed the situation and possible candidates for the position of headmaster with great frankness. After this conference was con-

cluded Mr. du Pont and Mr. Henry stopped at Baltimore on the return trip and made an inspection of the buildings of the Gilman School in Baltimore to get information that might be useful in plans for the new school.

At the meeting on February 5th the Standing Committees were appointed as follows: Financial Committee; Mr. Allan J. Henry, Chairman, Mr. Walter J. Laird and Mr. A. Felix du Pont: Building Committee; Mr. A. Felix du Pont, Chairman, Mr. Allan J. Henry, Mr. Walter J. Laird and Mr. Caleb S. Layton; Education Committee; Hon. Richard S. Rodney, Chairman, Mr. John O. Platt, Mr. J. Thompson Brown: Real Estate and Legal Committee; Mr. Caleb S. Layton, Chairman and Hon. Richard S. Rodney.

At this meeting the Treasurer reported the receipt from Mr. du Pont of the first large donation toward the building fund, which consisted of 6,000 shares of General Motors Corporation New Stock.

Mr. du Pont left in February for his trip with his family to the Near East but before going had written a letter to the Trustees asking that during his absence, if possible the headmaster be secured

and plans for the building decided upon. It was evident from the tone of his letter that in his judgment, as indeed in the judgment of the other members of the Board of Trustees, the Rev. Albert Lucas seemed to be the man of largest experience and ability on our list of prospective headmasters and, therefore, it was agreed that Mr. Henry should approach him not with a definite offer but to find out if he were available. Subsequently Mr. Henry learned and reported that the Rev. Mr. Lucas had already bound himself by accepting the position of headmaster of St. Alban's School for Boys in connection with the Cathedral in Washington.

On Friday, March 22 a long meeting was held at Bishopstead at which time Mr. Brockie presented a contour map of the portion of the property on which it was proposed to build and some models of the building which could be placed on this contour map. After long discussion it was decided to ask Mr. Brockie to present a new outlay of buildings.

At this meeting Mr. Brockie was definitely appointed the architect for the building. And the Building Committee was also authorized to engage

the services of an experienced headmaster, preferably Mr. Greville Haslam, to advise and assist the architect in preparing the plans by offering practical suggestions.

The Trustees decided to offer the headmastership to the Rev. Alexander C. Zabriskie of the staff of the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. The Bishop saw Mr. Zabriskie in Washington on April 2d and on his invitation the Rev. Mr. Zabriskie and Mrs. Zabriskie came to Wilmington on April 9th. Here at a dinner at Bishopstead he met the Committee of Trustees and reserved decision on the matter. He visited the school site and gave very serious consideration to the offer but ultimately decided to continue his work at the Theological Seminary.

Mr. du Pont returned in time for the meeting of the Trustees which was held at Bishopstead on the evening of Tuesday, April 30th, 1929 at which Mr. Brockie presented a general plan which was accepted in principle and with the understanding that Mr. Brockie assisted by Mr. Haslam should have power to arrange all minor details, matters of major importance were to be referred in every instance to the

Board of Trustees.

The question of headmaster was discussed at length and the names of several men suggested.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held on Monday, May 20th at the residence of Mr. du Pont it was decided to secure the services of a building inspector to act for the Board of Trustees during the building operation and for this position Mr. James S. Stirling was chosen and continued in this position during the entire period of building operation and until after the formal opening of the school. His services in this capacity were of very great value to the Trustees who depended upon him for careful oversight of all matters in connection with construction.

Again the question of a headmaster was discussed and Mr. du Pont described how he and Mr. Henry had made several trips to New England and consulted on these visits with such men as the head of Promfret School, the President of Trinity College and Father Sill of Kent School.

At a meeting held on Monday, July 22, 1929 at the residence of Mr. du Pont, he reported for the

committee appointed to select a headmaster that the position had been offered to the Rev. Walden Pell, II.

In response to this offer Mr. Pell had written a letter in which he put forward clearly his ideas with regard to the principles which should guide him and the Board of Trustees in case he accepted the position. This letter was discussed and the Trustees found themselves quite in accord with the ideas suggested in this letter and it was therefore decided to ask the Rev. Mr. Pell to come to Wilmington to go over the situation with the Board of Trustees and definitely accept the position.

Further at this meeting it was decided to ask the Turner Construction Company to submit a contract based on the plans of Mr. Brockie and in order to facilitate the work and save time that the Building Committee be empowered to proceed with the work of the foundations on a contract with the Turner Construction Company, it being clearly understood that in the meantime the Company should submit an estimate for the entire building after they had had an opportunity to study the plans and that the contract for the construction of the foundations should not bind us beyond that part of the work.

At this meeting Mr. Grancell of Mr. Brockie's office was present and also Mr. Turner of the Turner Construction Company.

So the excavation for the foundations was started and the work on the building begun.

At a special meeting held at Mr. du Pont's office on May 21, 1929, all arrangements having been clearly understood, the Rev. Walden Pell, II was definitely called as headmaster of the school and Mr. du Pont asked to notify him of this fact.

On October 8, 1929 the regular semi-annual meeting of the Board of Trustees was held at the residence of Mr. A. Felix du Pont with the entire membership of the Board present. At this meeting announcement was made that Mr. Pell had accepted the position of headmaster and a letter from him was read dealing with several matters, one of which was the question of then name. Mr. Pell strongly favored that of St. Andrew. In his letter he states his reasons for preferring this to other names that had been suggested - most of which were connected with schools already well established and well known. He suggested that the fact that the school was on a lake made the name of

St. Andrew, a fisherman, appropriate, that it was associated with the Brotherhood by that name in the Church and it being the title of the hymn "Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult". Upon motion which was carried unanimously this name was adopted.

At various meetings of the Building Committee held on Monday, September 16, Friday, October 11 and Monday, November 3, Wednesday, November 20 various contracts were executed in connection with the Turner Construction Company for sub-contracts.

On St. Andrew's Day, November 30, 1929 the cornerstone of St. Andrew's School was laid. This day was chosen for the laying of the cornerstone because of its being St. Andrew's Day and the school being called St. Andrew's. About seventy-five people gathered for the ceremony but the weather was so extremely cold with such a blast of winter blowing that the stone itself was set as quickly as possible in the hope the mortar would not freeze. The first trowel of mortar was placed by Mr. du Pont followed by the Bishop and the other members of the Board of Trustees. Everyone then drove in to Middletown to

St. Anne's Church where the remainder of the service was held. Mr. Greville Haslam, of the Episcopal Academy of Philadelphia, made the principle address. Rev. Mr. Pell, the headmaster, read the list of articles contained in the box in the cornerstone as follows: A Bible, a copy of the new Prayer Book, the completion of which is to be commemorated in churches today; a copy of the Journal of the Diocese of Delaware for 1929, in which appears the bishop's address with an account of the Founding of the School by a Felix du Pont; a copy of the incorporation with names of incorporators, and also the by-laws of the Episcopal Church School Foundation of Delaware; names of the Trustees at present date, officers and committees; a copy of the Morning News, December 22, 1928; the Every Evening, January 5, 1929, with account of conference of headmasters; the Evening Journal of January 5, 1929; photograph of those attending; a brief statement of the founder, A. Felix du Pont; a brief outline of plans of procedure for school by A. Felix du Pont; statement of the Bishop of Delaware as to the founder of the school; drawings of the architect,

Arthur H. Brockie; one dollar bill and coins.

The following statement prepared by Bishop Cook was read by Mr. Pell:

"The plan to establish such a school in this diocese and state originated with Mr. A. Felix du Pont. He is to be regarded, therefore, as the founder in the fullest sense of that word, both because he is the sole originator of the project and also because of a very generous gift for buildings, equipment and endowment."

"This is not another's hope and vision brought to him with the thought he might be willing to carry it through and support it, but is a plan he himself conceived and proposes to realize as the result of his study of the educational needs in state, country and church. It springs, I should say, from a desire to render a definite and permanent service to the Kingdom of Christ through the Church under whose tutelage his own faith has been fostered and his spiritual life nurtured. This part of this statement has not been seen by him previous to this reading, but as head of the Diocese of Delaware, I make it as my interpretation of his action."

"I think you must agree with me that is a very notable example of personal service in the work of the Church and that fact takes rank over the munificence of the gift. Indeed, the gift derived its chief significance from the spirit and purpose in which it is being made."

The following statement, written by Mr. du Pont, was then read by Mr. Pell:

" THE TEACHING AND CONDUCT OF THIS SCHOOL IS BASED ON THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION.

THE TRUSTEES AND TEACHERS BELIEVE THAT MAN'S KNOWLEDGE OF RIGHT AND WRONG HAS BEEN REVEALED BY ALMIGHTY GOD; DEMONSTRATED BY THE LIFE AND TEACHING OF JESUS CHRIST, AND THAT MAN IS GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO LIVE ACCORDING TO GOD'S REVELATION."

This statement of Mr. du Pont is made a permanent record in order to guide the future conduct of the School as the expression of the wish of its Founder.

During the winter of 1929-30 the work of construction continued without halt or hinderance so that it became evident that the desire of the Founder and Trustees would be fulfilled in that the

school might be opened and begin operation the following fall. The work of construction was under the direct supervision of the Building Committee composed of Mr. du Pont, Mr. Allan J. Henry, Mr. Walter J. Laird and Mr. Caleb S. Layton who kept in constant touch with its progress and held many special meetings to reach decisions on points of construction in advising with the architect and contractors.

As soon as he was released from his year's contract with the Lenox School, of whose faculty he was a member, Mr. Pell gave personal supervision to details of furnishing and equipment of the building. He made suggestions which were carried out for the rearrangement of the kitchen and pantry in order to provide the best convenience in carrying out the plan that the boys should wait on table and have an entrance to the pantry without interfering with the work of the kitchen. Slowly the building took form and became more imposing every day and when completed stood as an example of the best type of stone construction with stone in the halls and stairs and hard wood in the rooms,

a beautiful piece of work which at the same time was calculated to stand the wear and tear to which it would be submitted as a school for boys.

Under the direction of Mr. Pell a catalogue had been issued and on September the school began its work with an enrollment of 30 boys. The intent of the Headmaster and Board of Trustees was to begin with a very few in two forms only in order to have a limited number under the direct supervision of the principal and his fellow masters to build up a tradition of sound religious training from the start. The Headmaster, Mr. Pell, had secured the following masters to give instruction in the school: Rev. James C. King, Jr., Granville Sherwood, Martin Gurtler and John McInnes.

Carrying out the plan which had long been in the mind of the Trustees and Headmaster, the formal opening of the school was set for October 14, which also coincided with the tenth anniversary of the Bishop of Delaware in his office. For this celebration preparations were made and more than one thousand invitations were issued. An elaborate program was prepared for the occasion which provided for

the dedication of the service portions of the building as the procession which began its services in the Chapel went from floor to floor and room to room. The day began with the celebration of Holy Communion in the Chapel of the School at which the Bishop of the Diocese was celebrant assisted by the Headmaster, Rev. Walden Pell, II. At this Celebration the Clergy of the Diocese were present to join in the corporate Communion.

Something like two thousand people had assembled for the dedication of the building, which began at 12 o'clock with service of dedication of the Chapel from which the line of procession formed in the following order to complete the proceedings: Crucifer, choir, students of the school, staff of instructors, Trustees of the Episcopal Church School Foundation, Members of the Executive Council, Trustees of the Diocese, Members of the Standing Committee, Clergy of the Diocese, visiting Clergy, visiting Bishops, the Bishop's Chaplain and the Bishop of the Diocese and went through the corridors, the school rooms, the commons room, the refectory, the kitchen, the dormitories and the infirmary. The final prayers of

dedication were said in the open air in front of the school.

After the service of dedication, lunch was served to all who gathered for the occasion.

At 2:15 part of the procession reformed and marched to the temporary platform erected for that purpose, at which time the President of the Standing Committee, Rev. Charles W. Clash, introduced the architect, Mr. Arthur H. Brockie, who gave the keys of the school to the Donor, Mr. A. Felix du Pont and his sister Mrs. Irene du Pont. In turn Mr. du Pont put them into the hands of the headmaster as responsible for the conduct of the school. As the keys passed from one to the other each made a short statement.

Mr. du Pont presided at the meeting which followed and introduced Judge Joseph Buffington, Judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, who made the dedicatory address. Following this Bishop Helfenstein of Maryland made a brief address commemorating the tenth anniversary of Bishop Cook. As President of the Standing Committee, the Rev. Charles W. Clash made a brief congratulatory

address on the completion of the Bishop's ten years of service in the Diocese. At the conclusion of the service the Bishop of the Diocese pronounced benediction.

At this service the music was in charge of Mr. Paul H. Terry, Organist and choir master of St. John's Church in Wilmington, and the choir of that church, of which Mr. du Pont is Senior Warden, led in the singing.

Among those present for the day's celebration were: The Governor, Hon. C. Douglas Buck, the Rt. Rev. George W. Davenport of the Diocese of Easton, the Rt. Rev. Paul Matthews of the Diocese of New Jersey and the Rt. Rev. Francis M. Taitt of the Diocese of Pennsylvania; Mr. T. N. Denslow, who made the survey for the school, Rev. Alban Richey, Jr. of Holderness School, Rev. Dr. Page Dame of Christ Church School, Rev. Dr. Charles W. Shreiner of the Church Farm School, Father R. B. T. Anderson of St. Andrew's School, Tennessee, Dr. Charles W. Bush of Friends School, Dr. Burton P. Fowler of Tower Hill School, Rev. Dr. Remsen B. Ogilby, President of Trinity College, Rev. James L. Whitcomb of H_oosac School,

Dr. Walter Hulihan, President of the University
of Delaware, Capt. A. M. Langford of Peddie School,
Mr. A. H. Onderdonk of St. James School, Dr. Greville
Haslam of the Episcopal Academy, Mr. Arthur H. Hoxton
of the Episcopal High School, Dr. William Thayer of
St. Mark's School, Rev. Arthur W. Lucas of St. Alban's
School and Mr. S. W. Stauffer, Superintendent of
the Wilmington Schools.