

Presbyterian Church Relics Attract Great Interest Here

Two priceless relics of East Hampton's early history were examined with great interest by churchgoers at the First Presbyterian Church last Sunday, and will shortly be placed in the care of the East Hampton Historical Society at Clinton Academy. They are the pulpit which was used in East Hampton's second church (built 1717), by Rev. Nathaniel Huntting, Rev. Dr. Samuel Buell, and Rev. Lyman Beecher; and the town clock, from the steeple of that church. The pulpit was replaced, in 1832, by a pulpit which has been in the collection at Clinton Academy for some time, and which has never left East Hampton, having been taken from the old church when it was demolished, and replaced by the present structure in the 1860's. Rev. E. E. Eells, who was instrumental in bringing these relics back to East Hampton from the Plymouth Congregational Church in Brooklyn, believes that no other church in this country has such authentic relics. Mr. Eells wishes to correct a statement which he made for last week's Star, saying that the cherry leaf communion table from the old church could not be found; it is in Clinton Academy. But the bell, given to this church by Queen Anne, is still missing, although the Long Island Historical Society has a receipt for it from the Plymouth Church (Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's church).

Mr. Eells and Ross Fanning went to Brooklyn to bring back the clock and belfry. The clockworks and dial are dated 1735. The dial has but one hand, just as it always had. The 1717 church stood opposite Clinton Academy; young "clock-watchers" could sit at their desks and look across Main street and see whether time for the day's recess from studies was approaching.

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