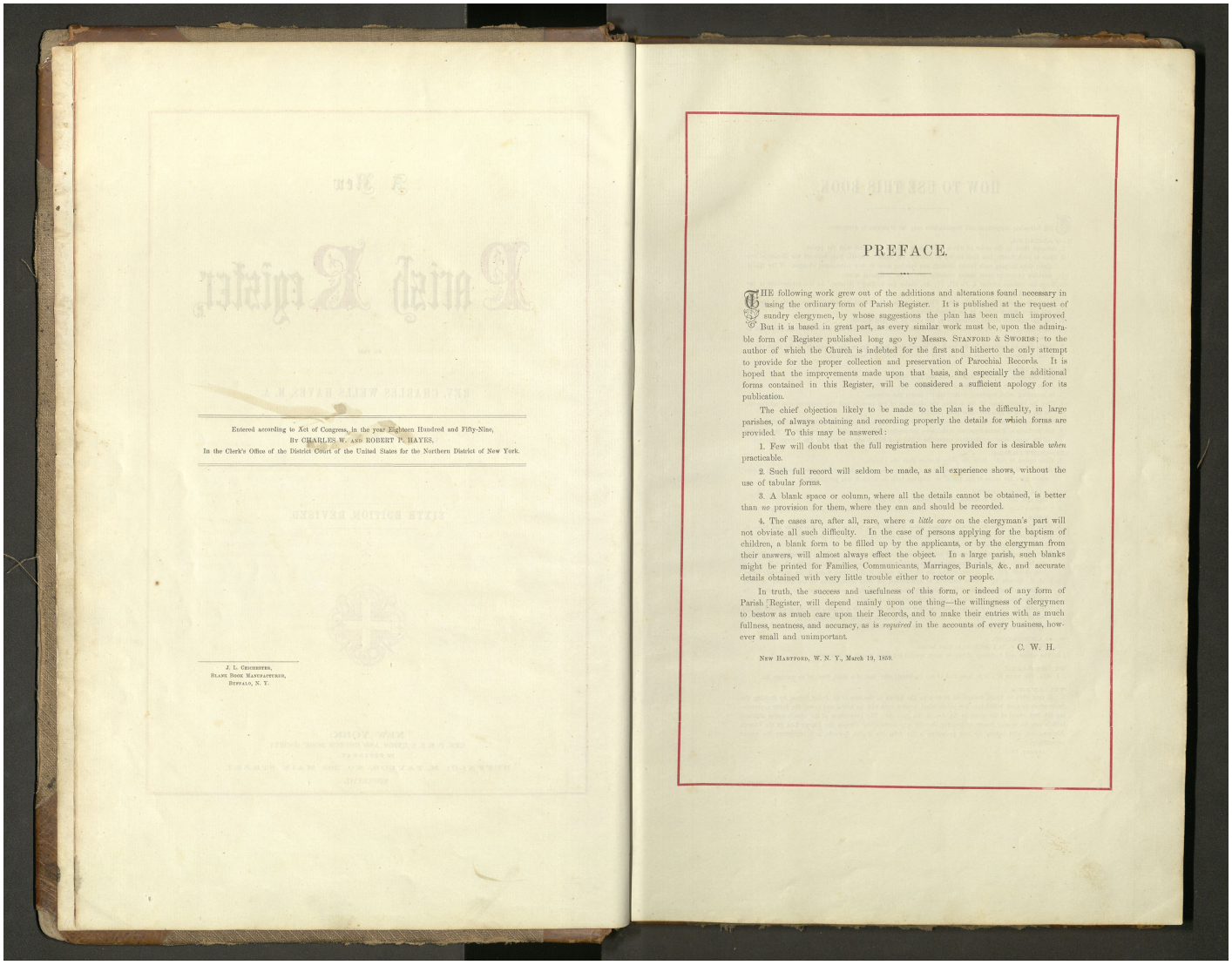
Bruton Parish Church Register 1868-1908 - Preface

Bruton Parish Church Register 1868-1908
Page Number: 5



Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year Eighteen Hundred and Fifty-Nine,
By CHARLES W. AND ROBERT P. HAYES,
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the Northern District of New York.

J. L. Crichester,
Blank Book Manufacturer,
Buffalo, N. Y.

PREFACE.

THE following work grew out of the additions and alterations found necessary in using the ordinary form of Parish Register. It is published at the request of sundry clergymen, by whose suggestions the plan has been much improved. But it is based in great part, as every similar work must be, upon the admirable form of Register published long ago by Messrs. Stanford & Swords; to the author of which the Church is indebted for the first and hitherto the only attempt to provide for the proper collection and preservation of Parochial Records. It is hoped that the improvements made upon that basis, and especially the additional forms contained in this Register, will be considered a sufficient apology for its publication.

The chief objection likely to be made to the plan is the difficulty, in large parishes, of always obtaining and recording properly the details for which forms are provided. To this may be answered:

1. Few will doubt that the full registration here provided for is desirable *when* practicable.

2. Such full record will seldom be made, as all experience shows, without the use of tabular forms.

3. A blank space or column, where all the details cannot be obtained, is better than *no* provision for them, where they can and should be recorded.

4. The cases are, after all, rare, where *a little care* on the clergyman's part will not obviate all such difficulty. In the case of persons applying for the baptism of children, a blank form to be filled up by the applicants, or by the clergyman from their answers, will almost always effect the object. In a large parish, such blanks might be printed for Families, Communicants, Marriages, Burials, &c., and accurate details obtained with very little trouble either to rector or people.

In truth, the success and usefulness of this form, or indeed of any form of Parish Register, will depend mainly upon one thing—the willingness of clergymen to bestow as much care upon their Records, and to make their entries with as much fullness, neatness, and accuracy, as is *required* in the accounts of every business, however small and unimportant.

C. W. H.

New Hartford, W. N. Y., March 19, 1859.

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Subject Headings: Church records and registers --Virginia-- Williamsburg.

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