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*The*  
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

A. G. YOUNT  
*Minister*



*Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will show thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.—Deuteronomy, 32:7.*



If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him.  
----Matthew 6:11

"O God our Father, who dost exhort us to pray, and who dost grant what we ask, if only, when we ask, we live a better life. Hear me, who am trembling in this darkness, and stretch forth thy hand unto me; hold forth thy light before me; recall me from my wanderings; and, thou being my guide, may I be restored to myself and to thee, through Jesus Christ, Amen."

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There will be several important events in our Church in the next two months. The calendar is thus:-  
Sunday March 22nd Annual Canvass.  
Annual Business Meeting  
April 12th, Easter Sunday  
April 14th, Newton Presbytery.  
May 17th, Annual Reunion

The young people are preparing a play, the date to be announced soon.

The date of the Business meeting to be announced next issue.

It has been eleven years since the Presbytery last met in our Church. We were requested to take this meeting and as our ladies approved of it, we are glad to have it again. Luncheon will need to provide for about 75 persons, according to the Stated Clerk, the Rev. Robert Robinson.

The church heating plant will be put in shape in two or three weeks, so that all services may be held there.

We are now meeting in the chapel and the house will be kept comfortable, so that we urge all our people begin attending Sunday school and church regularly.

The Honorable Louis Sherwood  
one of the State Commissioners on  
Historic Sites writes this encour-  
aging letter--

"I have just received  
three copies of your church Bulletin  
and wish to thank you for sending  
them. The letters from various sour-  
ces concerning the history of the  
Furnace are very interesting and I  
am glad of the opportunity to keep  
informed on the subject.

We are hopeful the the proposed  
restoration of the property may be  
accomplished this coming Spring.

You are to be congratulated for  
your persistency in the effort to  
give the historic place the public-  
ity it deserves and for your able  
presentation to the Commission of  
the merits of the project. I am  
gratified to know that title to the  
property now rests in the State of  
New Jersey. Development at some  
time cannot be avoided. Without  
doubt the time will come when many  
visitors will be drawn to the town  
to inspect the interesting bit of  
local history that was inseparable  
with the early development of this  
country."

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The people and friends of Oxford  
and the Furnace plans are under  
special obligations to Mr. Sherwood  
because he has been a true friend  
and helper. Last Spring he made two  
special trips from his home in Mont-  
clair to examine into the merits  
of the Furnace cause, and became  
a champion for claims among his  
committee friends. The letter shows  
that his interest in the promotion  
of the restoration and preservation  
of the Furnace is still strong and  
active. We are all grateful to  
him for his kind words and help.

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Old Pig Iron

Mr. Frank Vosseller informs us  
that Judge Roseberry of Belvidere  
who owns the old Foul Rift land  
where in colonial times Oxford Pig  
iron etc, was loaded for shipment,  
has found an old pig iron which he  
will present to the Furnace when  
the Museum is ready for it.

Nancy Shippen  
Her Journal Book

Such is the title of a new  
book which is attracting wide at-  
tention in the literary world.

We refer to it here because it  
bears indirectly upon Oxford hist-  
ory, in that it deals with the fam-  
ily that owned the Furnace and  
5000 acres of surrounding land in  
the period covered by the book, be-  
fore, during and after the Revolu-  
tionary War.

Dr. Wm. Shippen the Elder, the  
sole owner of the Furnace in that  
time, from 1765 to 1801 when he  
died, was the grandfather of Nancy  
Shippen, daughter of Dr. Wm. Shippen  
Jr., and lived with them, being a  
widower, and is often mentioned in  
the book. Also Dr. Wm. Jr., after his  
father's death inherited, with his  
sister Mrs. Samuel Blair, the Oxford  
properties. During this period  
Joseph W. Shippen lived with his  
large and happy family in the Man-  
sion House. He is mentioned in the  
book in the letters of Nancy and  
her mother as "Uncle Joe".

But the great value of the book  
for Oxford is the light it re-  
flects upon the patriotism of this  
family which owned the furnace in  
the Revolutionary period. Nancy's  
father, mother and grandfather were  
in the very front of the noted patri-  
ots in Philadelphia. And when the  
British army entered Phila. in 1777  
they had to close their house and  
leave the city for safety, and only  
returned after the enemy left the  
place in June of 1778.

Dr. Wm. Sr. was a member of the  
Continental Congress and his son  
Dr. Wm. Jr. was at the head of the  
Army's hospitals.

All the great personalities of  
that period were frequent guests  
in the Shippen home, Washington and  
his Nephew Bushrod Washington, Laf-  
ayette, Jefferson. Richard Henry  
Lee, was the brother-in-law, of Dr.  
Wm. Jr., and went from the Shippen  
home to the session of the Congress  
to propose the famous motion of  
the declaration of Independence.

(over)

The book itself is of great value and interest. It is history and not fiction, yet more fascinating than either alone. For the historical background is that of the most heroic in our national life.

But it is a remarkable human document, containing the most touching love story, and the saddest, in our history.

Nancy had many suitors but never loved but one, the noble young secretary in the French Embassy; but her father, moved by family pride and ambition, forced her to marry a heartless rake, of one of the richest and most aristocratic families of New York. She deserted him in fear and horror in two years, and the rest is a tale of sorrow in the midst of a notable circle of people and events in Philadelphia.

It all resulted in broken hearts for Nancy, and her daughter, Peggy, for her mother and even for her father and grandfather. Their home was broken up, the mother and Nancy with her child going into retirement for the rest of their lives, and Dr. Wm. Jr. going to Germantown with relatives, and the old Doctor William taking refuge in the humble but happy home in Oxford. For this last statement, we have the authority of this citation from the book on page 296, in a letter written by Tommy Shippen, the beloved brother of Nancy, from Williamsburg, Va., dated April 20, 1797:--

"My dear Sister:...You astonish me by saying that my grandfather has not yet made his intended visit. Shall I then never see him again? If he has no objection to it, I really think we will make a large party this Summer to visit him in Sussex. What say you to it? You and Peggy? Shall we fill the Coaches and all go up together? Who knows but we may make such a trip? "

This clearly indicates that Dr. Shippen, Sr. at the age of 85 was then and had been for some time living with his son Joseph and his family her in Oxford. But more on this late

The local Library has purchased a copy of the book and will be available for all to read.



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