

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.

And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines and earthquakes in divers places.

Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away.

---- Matthew 24:6,7,35.

"Almighty God, who art a very present help in the time of trouble Let not the heart of thy people fail when fear cometh, but do thou sustain and comfort them until these calamities be over past: and since thou knowest the cause and reason why grievous disasters have fallen upon the world, so do thou heal the hurt and wounded, console the bereaved and afflicted, protect the innocent and helpless, and deliver any who are still in peril, for thy great mercy's sake. Amen."

The Church Calendar

Next Sunday afternoon, Mch.29,
Annual Canvass for pledges
for church expenses and Boards

Tuesday evening, 8.P.M. annual
business meeting . Reports
and election of officers.

Easter Sunday, April 12,
Holy Communion, and Baptism.
Special Easter Music by Choir.
New Members received.

Tuesday April 14th, 10 A.M.
Newton Presbytery.

The Ladies of the Congregation will serve luncheon in the Chapel. All who will help in this work are requested to volunteer in good time for the proper planning of the food and service.

Unsolicited contributions have been sent to defray the expenses by Miss Rosalie Sarson (\$1.00) and Mr. Humphrey (\$5.00). This is very fine and generous of them.

The Reunion

The Reunion will be held on the 17th, of May. It has been found by experience that the third Sunday of May is the best time for for this event. The first Sunday is usually bad weather, and the second is mother's day when Churches general have special services which our old Oxford members and friends want to attend, because they are all good Church people. The last Sunday of May is just before Memorial Day which would not be a favorable time.

So the third Sunday, which falls this year on the 17th, seems the best fitted to our purpose. It may of course sometimes be the wrong date but generally it has been and we think will be on the whole the safest and wisest time for it.

Our Church was first organized on May 8th, 1863--73 years ago in May. But the small Presbyterian Congregation began to worship here about 20 years before that time, and in 1848 they were able to erect a substantial stone building, in which to hold Sunday School and Worship.

This was the first church house ever built in Oxford. It was torn down in 1884 when the new Chapel was being erected, and the stone was used for the basement and the foundation walls of the new chapel.

The original Corner Stone of the old Stone Chapel is still in the basement wall, and should be placed in a conspicuous place on the outside wall.

The present Brick Church was erected in 1865 and remains as it was originally outside and inside even the old pews are the same.

Fifty years ago the church had a membership of over 300, and a Sunday School of 400, and all the services were well attended, the large building crowded usually.

It was a great time for all who lived here then and attended the Church. No wonder the survivors scattered over many States love to return for the annual reunions.

The first reports already show inusual interest in the next reunion.

Captain Joseph James Henry Oxford Civil War Hero

Capt. Henry had the distinction of being the first New Jersey volunteer, and the first New Jersey officer to be killed in the War.

He was born in the old mansion, on December 15th, 1834. His father was William Henry, head of the firm then operating the furnace. His father moved to Stroudsburg about four years later where his mother died in 1840.

He was then brought back to Oxford and became the ward of his sister Mrs. Charles Scranton, which was henceforth his home. He was employed in the Company Store for four years in his early youth, but being ambitious of a professional career, he was sent to schools to prepare him properly for it.

He graduated from Williston Seminary, East Hampton, Mass., Polytechnic Institute at Troy, N.Y., and Poughkeepsie Law School. He was then licensed and admitted to the bar, and entered a law firm in N.Y. City.

But when Col. G.W. Scranton was elected to Congress in 1858, Capt. Henry was persuaded to become his private secretary, and this took him to Washington. He was there at Lincoln's first Inauguration when the war was looming and enlisted as a volunteer to defend the Capitol.

He was offered a post as U.S. Consul in Southern Europe, but after the battle of Bull Run, he felt it his patriotic duty to stay and fight for his country. He formed a company of N.J. volunteers, and was elected Captain. This became Company H. 9th, N.J. Volunteers, and was a part of the military expedition sent to eastern North Carolina, to capture Fort Roanoke.

The attack was made Feb. 8th, 1862 and while leading his company in a charge was hit by a shot from which he died. His body was shipped to Bordentown, and from there brought to Oxford, and buried at Belvidere.

The above sketch is condensed from along and beautiful tribute to the Captain, printed in the Belvidere Intelligencer, March 7, 1862. This clipping was made from the copy mailed to Col. Charles Scranton, (over

and has been preserved all these years, and sent to the Bulletin by Mr. Humphrey, who explains in a note, that "Capt. Joseph James Henry... was a brother of Mrs. S. T. Scranton (Ellen Clarissa) and Mrs. Charles Scranton (Jane Ann), also of Eugene, who was for a long time General Manager of the Oxford Iron Works.... His other brother Col. William Henry served through the war, and although in many engagements, he was never wounded. After the war he was for a while in business in Cairo, Ill. and later in Fort Worth, Texas, where he died, more than twenty-five years ago. He occasionally visited in Oxford and was a most interesting and delightful gentleman."

The personal character of Capt. J. J. Henry as depicted in the Memoir was most remarkable in the qualities that compel admiration and win confidence and friendship. He was always well liked every where, and had he lived would have achieved prominence and success.

Of his deep religious nature the best evidence is found in the last letter he wrote to his sister, Mrs. Charles Scranton, in which he says:- "The sun is coming out beautifully;--we shall weigh anchor immediately and join the fleet, and then, I suppose we'll soon land and attack the rebels. Do not cease to pray for me, for mercy--for forgiveness--and should it be ordered that I shall perish on the field, and that through the merits of the blessed Saviour, I may obtain an entrance to the abode of the Redeemed on High.

I can write no farther: with my best love to my brothers and sisters, father, and all the family, I am your affectionate brother, Joseph."

Captain Joseph James Henry was a worthy member of a remarkable family, and we are very glad to be able to claim him for the fine gallery of distinguished men associated with the history of Oxford--judges, builders of great businesses, cities, Statesmen and Warriors.



CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

Elders

ABRAM PITTENGER	ELISHA B. FOSS
EDWARD T. GREEN	LEWIS BERGENBACK



Board of Trustees

JAMES RADEL	HARRY MILLER
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Church Treasurer

LEWIS E. GREEN



Sunday School

Superintendent E. B. FOSS
Assistant Superintendent and Treasurer
 MRS. EDWARD T. GREEN
Secretary ALVIN RENNER



Choir

Leader MRS. E. T. GREEN
Organist MRS. BENJAMIN ZAPP

