

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.*

Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.  
-----Luke 17:15

"Almighty God, grant us grace that we may duly examine the inmost of our hearts, and our most secret thoughts, how we stand before thee; and that we may henceforth never be drawn to do anything that may dishonor thy name; and that we may now this present day perfectly begin to walk before thee as becometh those that are called to an inheritance of light in Christ. Amen

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Today is the time for the annual canvass for pledges to support the Church in current expense and the general boards. Please if possible be ready when the canvassers call, and make your pledges with faith in God's blessing to those who give freely.

The Annual Business meeting of the congregation has been called for next Tuesday evening, 8 P.M.

Reports and election of Elders and trustees with other matters relating to the welfare of the church will be brought up for action of the meeting.

Next Sabbath is Palm Sunday and there will be special music by the Choir. The church should be made attractive with green plants if possible.

Sunday April 12th, is Easter and is always the most important Sabbath of the year. The Choir has been preparing a program of new Easter music.

The Lord's Supper will be administered, and new members received

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The Newton Presbytery will meet in our Church, Tuesday, April 14th, and we look forward to this event with great pleasure.

Mr. George Weber sends this genial story of his Oxford life:--

"I was amused at Clin. Weston's graphic story about calling the Puddlers. It also included the Puddlers' Helpers, also known as Puddlers' Pups.

About sixty years ago I was one of the Puddlers' Pups, and when on the day shift we had to begin the day's work at four o'clock or earlier, I was living in Jonestown then and of course beyond the jurisdiction 'Ike' Jones, and had to depend on other sources for waking on time.

I depended on Mrs. Weber who never failed to rouse me at the proper time. One night I retired early. After a good sleep I woke up and looked at the clock and said to myself, 'ten minutes to four!'

Mrs. Weber was sleeping peacefully I was going to have a joke on her for failing to call me on time. I wasn't more than ten minutes making my toilet, omitting all unnecessary beautifying. I went down stairs with the least possible noise, had a cup of tea which was always kept in winter on the hot stove.

'Believe it or not,' all this took me not more than ten minutes.

As I was ready to leave, I glanced at the clock, and, to my surprise, saw it was 10:30! Well, to make a long story short, I had gotten the big and little hands of the clock mixed up, so, instead of its being 3:50 A.M., it was 10:20 P.M.

I went up stairs and undressed as gently as I had dressed, and retired a second time. When at 3:00 A.M. Mrs. Weber awakened me, I dressed, even to hat, coat and hobnails, she asked how I came to have all my clothes up stairs? So I had to confess. She had many a good laugh on the joke I played--on whom? "

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Annual Reunion May 17th.

Mr. Weston writes of some of his plans for the afternoon meeting of the reunion, and expects to have some new features that will surely be pleasing to all. He will be glad to receive suggestions from those interested.

## Ownership of Furnace in Colonial Times.

The ownership of the furnace from 1809 to the present times is correctly given in all histories, but from 1749 to 1809 there is no accurate account in any of them. Some skip that important period of sixty years altogether, and those that refer to it all make statements that are often mistaken and contradictory.

We are now able, by the discovery of more documents, to give a true account of this colonial period, so far as the ownership is concerned.

Here are the facts in brief:-- Jonathan Robeson began the erection of the furnace in 1741 and on March 9th, 1743 made the first cast. He was sole owner until 1749 when he sold a part interest to Dr. William Shippen and we believe to his older brother Joseph Shuppen. The purpose doubtless was to obtain funds to build the Changewater Forge. Before 1756 the Shippen brothers owned three fourths interest. We can not say whether they bought that much in 1749 or later. In 1757, about, they bought the remaining fourth, for which they were to pay Mr. Robeson 100 tons of pig iron annually, if so much was made. This was during the French and Indian War. The Quaker Robeson would oppose making war munitions, and the Shippens would want to for reasons of loyalty and gain.

In 1765 Dr. William Shippen bought out his brother's interest, and until his death was the sole owner; he died in 1801, leaving the property to his children Dr. William Jr. and Mrs. Susan Blair. His son Joseph died in Oxford, 1795. But the property was heavily entailed to provide for the seven children of Joseph.

Dr. Wm. Jr. died in 1808 and the next year the property was bought from the heirs by Morris Robeson, grand son of Jonathan Robeson.

These statements are based on contemporary documents, letters, papers etc.

Much of the confusion among historians of this period is due to the fact that there were two Joseph Shippens, the brother and the son of Dr. William Sr. His brother Joseph, was his elder by six years, and made his  
(over)

home in Germantown, Pa. He was something of an aristocrat and dandy, and went by the sobriquet of "Gentleman Joe."

That this Joseph was a part owner of the furnace for ten or more years is abundantly proved by many documents, of which two have recently been discovered.

The most definite is found in the last Will of Dr. William Shippen Senior made in 1783. He states: "I give...to my son Joseph all my lands in Sussex County, New Jersey, which I purchased of Jonathan Robeson and my brother Joseph Shippen, called Oxford furnace lands. etc."

The next in importance is a suit for trespass (damages) brought by Joseph Shippen and Company in 1755.

In the body of the complaint the members of the firm are repeatedly given in the order, Joseph Shippen, Jonathan Robeson, and William Shippen.

At that time Dr. William's son Joseph was a lad in school - born in 1737.

Then we have the newly found Indenture, between John Hughes and Jacob Starn, of 1765, which refers to "the agreement between Jonathan Robeson and Messers Joseph and William Shippen."

Again in an advertisement in the Penna. Gazette of Nov. 22, 1764, "To be sold, Oxford Furnace Iron Works, in N.J. with 4000 acres land, enquire of Joseph Shippen in Germantown or Dr. Shippen in Philadelphia. Quality of iron is well known."

It will be noticed that in the above Joseph Shippen's name always precedes that of his brother William, probably because he was older.

Joseph Shippen died not long after this time. We may well infer that he had spent much time in Oxford in the summer and Fall entertaining his aristocratic friends from Philadelphia and New York City.

Joseph W. Shippen son of Dr. William, Sr. did not begin his residence in Oxford till shortly before 1770. His letters show that he was in business in Philadelphia.

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We acknowledge \$1.00 each from Mrs. Emma F. Meyers and Mrs. Dr. Tunison. For which we thank them.



CHURCH OFFICERS

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