



307

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.



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And the Lord turned and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

And Peter went out, and wept bitterly. . . . Luke 22:61,62.

"Lord Jesus Christ who didst take upon thyself our sins, and bear them in thy body on the cross:

We bless thee for all the burdens thou hast borne, for all the tears thou hast wept, for the pains thou hast suffered, for all the words of comfort thou hast spoken from the cross, for all thy conflicts with the powers of darkness, and for thine eternal victory over death and hell. With the host of the redeemed, we ascribe to thee power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing, for ever and ever. Amen."

Next Sabbath will be Easter, the holiest of all the year, when all true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ will want to meet together in their Churches to worship him in wonder, love and praise.

We shall observe the Holy Communion to which all believers are invited to partake with us.

The Rite of Baptism will be administered to such as apply for it, and new members will be welcomed.

The Session will meet after the Sunday School to examine and rethem on confession of faith or by letter.

The Choir will render a service of new Easter anthems on which they have been diligently preparing for weeks.

Our offerings to the benevolent Boards of the Church have been better than for several years, for which we are grateful.

The Newton Presbytery will meet in our Church on Tuesday, April 14.

The ladies are making due preparations for their luncheon.

Two weeks ago the reasons were given for holding the Reunion on the third Sunday of May, and among them was the probability of good weather. Mr. Weston gives a curious confirmation of this statement.

He writes, "I think the date selected a good one. A record was kept at the Montclair Normal of weather conditions in order to select their annual fete and it was found that around the 17-19th, of the month was invariably clear, so let's hope for it this year."

He also adds, "The idea of the memorial service for the departed seemed to be effective last year, and I think would be well to follow this year. Can you let me know the names of those who have died the past year besides Theo. Little?"

Miss Ida Smith and Dr. Louis B. Hoagland are the only ones that we can recall just now. But some of our readers may help in the matter.

There is also Elmer Frome, that now occurs. Doubtless there others.

We are glad to add to our list of subscribers the name of Mr. Enoch Hoagland. He belongs to one of our pioneer families, and likes to read the Bulletin articles of that type. He and his sister live in the historic house of Abraham Axford near Pequest.

We are thankful for these latest donations to the Bulletin:-

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Vorbach; \$2.00
 Mr. Enoch Hoagland, \$3.00;
 Mrs. Robert Bush, \$.50.

The Sunday School Board elected the following officers for the ensuing year.

Superintendent, Elder E. B. Foss
 Secretary Alvin Renner
 Assistant Supt. Chris Seiple
 Treasurer Merrill Foss
 Organist Miss Ruth Snyder
 Asst. Organist, Miss Alice Bell

These are devoted workers and we look for a good year in this department of the Church.

When Mr. Benjamin R. Pittenger last visited his father, Abram Pittenger, in Oxford, he had a long talk with his aunt, Mrs. Robert Bush, who told him some interesting Indian stories, which he repeats in a letter to the Editor. He writes:--

"You should see Mrs. Robert Bush about a wonderful incident which her grand-mother, Sarah Crutz, told her when she was a little girl. Her grand-mother lived on the Delaware River, near Belvidere, and the Indians used to come and ask for food, etc.

Once when the Indians were on the warpath, coming down the river, the settlers fled to the Pennsylvania side to take refuge in a stockade.

But they had abandoned a boy who they thought was dying from small pox, and expected the Indians to kill him. But at night they looked across the river and saw a great fire, and watched the Indians take the boy and grease his body with lard or something, and then they held the boy up to the fire, and kept turning him around so that all parts of his body were baked by the heat. After a while the Indians left, and in the morning when the white people returned to the Jersey side, they found the boy much better, and he soon became well

"She also told how when a chief died the Indians all left the region. But the Chief's son, called Peter, had become very friendly with her grand-mother's folks, and spent much of his time with them. A delegation of Indians came to get Peter to head their tribe, and go with them, but he refused and remained with the white settlers."

"Her grand-mother also related how the settlers went to Church. Their nearest Church was the Old Oxford First Church, near Belvidere. People

would come as far away as 17 miles. They would start on horse back and stop at everybody's cabin on the way and get together a large group to attend."

These are refreshing stories of the 'good old days' and we like to hear them. The pioneers were fine and noble people.

Capt. John Pittenger

Mr. B.R.Pittenger's letter also tells about some of his ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War.

"I found," he says, "in the adjutant General's office at Trenton a short account of A'bra Pittenger in that war. It says that he served in the State militia, stationed in Bergen County, in Capt. John Outwater's Company; he enlisted Feb. 12, 1780." He was buried in the old Oxford First Church grave yard.

"I believe that Capt. John Pittenger in the Revolutionary War was a grandson of the first William Pittenger who came from England to West Jersey before 1700 and leased 125 acres of land from the 'West Jersey Society great Tract of Hunterdon County.' This William Pittenger had a son Henry and I found in an old land record at Newton, N.J. that Capt. John's father was Henry Pittenger. Capt. John had a large farm at Mansfield Woodhouse (now Wash. N.J.), and was a member of the Mansfield Woodhouse Presbyterian Church in 1791.

"The Adjutant General's record at Trenton says, 'Capt. John Pittenger served as Captain in 2nd Co. militia, was commissioned Capt. June 6, 1777; active service, at battle of Van Nest Mills, Jan. 20, 1777, Commanded Company acting as guard over prisoners at Sussex Court House, Summer of 1777, commanded company 27 men at Minisink under Major Sam. Westbrook Nov. 2 to Dec. 1 1778 during Revolutionary War.'

"There was also a younger John Pittenger, born 1787 in Sussex Co., who enlisted Dec. 2, 1811 for five years in Capt. Halls' detachment and transferred to Leut. Gambles Company on the Frigate Essex, under Capt. David Porter; engaged in capture of the British ship 'Greenwich' in the Pacific ocean, May 28, 1813, and detailed to prize ship Greenwich, which captured British ship Seringapatam off Tumbez, Peru, Pacific ocean, July 13, 1813, wounded Nov. 10, 1813, served to end of war.'



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