

**THE BULLETIN**  
**OF THE**  
**OXFORD SECOND**  
**PRESBYTERIAN**  
**CHURCH**

**OXFORD, NEW JERSEY**



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Rev. Andrew Gilbert Yount, Ph.D.  
*Pastor*

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*Come unto me, all ye that labour and  
are heavy laden, and I will  
give you rest.*

*Take my yoke upon you, and learn of  
me; for I am meek and lowly in  
heart: and ye shall find rest  
for your souls.*

*For my yoke is easy, and my burden  
is light.*

Matthew 11:28-30

STATED MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH  
SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday School, 9:30 a. m.  
Church Worship, 10:30 a. m.  
Young People's Meeting, 7 p. m.  
The Trustees meet on the first Tuesday of the month.  
The Ladies Aid Society meets on the first Wednesday of the month, at 2:30 p. m.  
The Lord's Supper is observed at Easter, and on the second Sundays of July, October and January.  
The Annual Business Meeting comes in last week of March.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Elders—Abram Pittenger, Elisha B. Foss, Edward T. Green, Lewis Bergenback.  
Trustees—Harry Miller, James Radel, George Docker, Jr., Charles Renner, Fred K. Sarson, Lewis E. Green, Edward Sharps, Charles Dux, Benjamin Green.  
Treasurer—Lewis E. Green.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent—E. B. Foss.  
Asst. Superintendent—Mrs. Edward T. Green.  
Treasurer—Miss Ida Smith.  
Secretary—Alvin Renner.  
Organist—Elizabeth Zapp.

LADIES AID SOCIETY

Honorary President—Mrs. Charles Renner.  
President—Mrs. Benjamin Green.  
Secretary—Mrs. Clark Wilkinson.  
Treasurer—Mrs. Lewis E. Green.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

President—Emily Austie.  
Treasurer—Chris Seiple.  
Secretary—Helen Snyder.

CHOIR

Leader—Mrs. Edward T. Green.  
Organist—Mrs. Benjamin Zapp.

Printed by J. C. Follayttar, Belvidere, N. J.

Bulletin No. 234, October 28, 1934.

Prayer

" Almighty God, and most merciful Father, give us, we beseech thee, that grace by which we may duly examine the inmost of our hearts, and our most secret thoughts how we stand before thee, and that we may not again be drawn away to do any thing contrary to thy good will. But that we may persevere in all good works and purposes to our life's end. Amen."

Some of our readers may have been in Easton, Pa. the past few days, and doubtlessly saw the great display of old Bibles in Bush and Bull's show windows. Over two dozen of different editions and types of old Bibles are shown, most of them being more than 300 years old. A crowd of people stand looking at them continually. It is a great sight to behold, and when we take into consideration what they mean in human life and history, we wonder all the more. When they were made Bibles were scarce in the world, now the Bible is the world's best seller; over thirty million copies printed and sold in the world every year.

Mrs. Ella Pittenger of Wash. N. J. has been very ill for the past month, and we are very glad to know that she is gaining strength and health. We all will join her when she says in a note to us, "I am so glad that my heavenly Father has spared my life a little longer to my family."

She encloses a liberal offering to the church for the new boiler and the salary, for which we thank her.

We are also thankful to report that Mr. Wilmont Petty, one of our young men of the church, is now in much better health. For many months he has been poorly and unable to work. May God speed his cure.

Donations to church Boiler since last report

Mrs. Elmer Pittenger	..\$5.00
Irvin Petty	.....5.00
Herbert Tims	1.00
Gordon Richard	1.00

It is interesting to compare the labor problem of today with that of the early years of New Jersey history, when the residents were mostly pioneers, who cleared the forests to make a place for their homes and farms. There was no question of unemployment then; on the other hand the difficulty was to obtain workmen.

In the first fifty years and more of the history of Oxford Furnace the work was done largely by Negro slaves, as is shown by the advertisement of Robeson on opposite column, and what was true of Oxford prevailed generally in all the region. A recent history of N.J. furnaces speaks of this matter in these words:--

"In the early days, many of the furnaces and forges were operated largely by negro slave labor, especially in the northern parts of New Jersey, where slavery was more general than in the lower end of the state. Another class of labor used was the indentured servant from Germany, England, and Ireland. These servants, called 'redemptioners' came to America under a contract whereby the ship's captain might sell their services for a term of years, usually seven, in payment of the passage money. They proved, however, in many instances to be a troublesome class, owing to their inclination for running away from their masters. The losses which the purchasers suffered from this defect-ion amounted to a considerable sum annually!"

The Oxford furnace labor problem thus began with slavery and semi-slavery, and in after times took on various shades of color in the character of the workmen employed. This was determined by the prevailing types of immigrants, The Welsh, The Germans, The Irishmen, English, Danes, Yankees, Hungarians etc. Not many years ago the big industries paid the ship passage of European laborers, in order to get them sufficient to run their mines and factories. A large part of the present problem of unemployment is the result of that kind of unpatriotic greed.

Remembering this fact our sympathy for the industrial difficulties growing out of labor is greatly lessened. They built a tower of babel and now it has tumbled down on their own heads.

Possibly if there had never been so much of this unnatural stimulation of immigration we should be in a better condition in business and society.

A standard history of colonial iron blast furnaces states that the Oxford furnace, along with one other old furnace in the state, is notable on account of its historical records. We purpose to print some of these old records that are available. It is said that Jonathen Robeson started the erection of the old furnace in 1741, and that the first cast was made on March the 9th, 1743; that he sold  $\frac{3}{4}$  part of the furnace and lands to Dr. Wm. Shippen in 1749.

We suppose there are records for these statements, but we have not seen them.

In Jan. 1756, Mr. Robeson advertised in the Pennsylvania Gazette, a sale of several tracts of land in New Jersey, and among them the furnace properties in the following words: "Also the undivided fourth part of the Oxford furnace, with all the lands, plantations and improvements thereunto belonging, containing upwards of 4000 acres, together with several Negroes, horses, oxen, cattle, teams, stock and utensils whatsoever thereunto belonging; the furnace and ore are known to be very good."

Then or soon after Dr. Shippen bought all this property, giving him entire ownership which his family held until 1809.

In the same year, 1756, the furnace management wrote the following letter or order, which was in existence 50 years ago and doubtless is somewhere preserved to this day. We copy it from Snell's "Sussex and Warren County, (1882)"

"Oxford Furnace, Oct. 14, 1756.

"Mr. Shackelton desires you'd let the bearer John Jarrat have the two pair leather breeches he left to be made, and charge the same to the Company's acct.

Yours &c. "Thos. Craine.

"To Mr. Bamber or Wm. Edmunds, at Bethlehem.  
(Endorsed on the back of this order is the receipt)

"Received the 1st of March, 1757, The Sum of Seven Shillings, Two Pence, by making Two pair of New Breeches, on acct. of Mr. Robinson & Company's Iron Works, at Oxford. Being the contents of the within order. I say received by me.

his

"Thos. X Jarrat"  
mark

From this it appears that Mr. Robeson was still operating the furnace in 1757, perhaps by special arrangement with Dr. S.

## Company Employees in 1893

By George R. Searing

As several interesting articles by Mr. Kempsey pertaining to the Oxford mine shafts have appeared in the Bulletin, I thought it might be pleasing to many to see the names in print of the workmen employed at the mines and furnace.

Michael Quinn, foreman of the slope left in July 1893, and was succeeded by W.W. Pope, who remained foreman until 1898.

Slope 3-- Workmen in September 1893.

W.W. Pope, John Christianson, W.S. Hummer, J.W. Clawson, P. Morgen, J. Raddatz, A. Seiple, John Hardiman, Lewis Norgaard, Hans Billows, Fred Renner, W.S. Rapp, Matt. Money, H. Hogan, Lewis Frick, John Rasmusson, John Johnson, Charles Shenrock, Pat. McConnell, Henry Amendt, John Kirkpatrick, Jacob Freese, Richard Story, Richard O'Brien, Gustave Raddatz, Robt. Wiggans.

Washington Mines--

George Linnemann, Michael Ott, A. Snyder, Albert Stetler, John Stetler, Joe Strable, Wm. Smith, R. Lockhouse, Lewis Lauber, Hy Huffman, Fred Zulauf, Hans Miller, Wm. Brenning, Frank Bergenback, Otto Miller, Clark Shafer, John McNear, Chriss Lanning, John Breining, Fred Fox.

At the Furnace-- Henry Harling, Supt. Samuel Bullock, George Hartman, James Childs, G.B. Lanning, Hy Wolfinger, John Sweigert, Charley Shafer, Fred Peterson, John Nash, Mike Nash, R. Sorenson, Otto Newstack, George Bullock, George Zulauf, Joe Exler, Jr., Ben Harling, Thomas Harling, George Lacey, J.C. Lacey, Fred Cooper, Peter Johnson, Charles Johanson, John Hartman, Elmer Lacey, Richard Newstack, Carl Jensen, Hy Kraft, Frank Hoehn, Fred Baumgartner, E.L. Hill, William Green, Charles Lungren, Jared James, Edward Bergenback, Jacob Bergenback, A. Faulkner, Julius Amendt, Joe Johnson, Gus. Johnson, Joe Hartman, Chriss Knapp, John Shafer, Samuel Myers, Thomas Banahan, Elmer Pittenger, Fred Anderson, William Harling, Martin Banahan.

Theodore Stout, Peter Swanson, Julius Swanson, Otto Thuessen, Geo. Bosmons, Charles Rankendorf.

(The list contains many more names, but we have given those which seem to be most generally known to our readers.)

**EDWARD T. GREEN**

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