



The
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH


OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

A. G. YOUNT
Minister



Therefore every scribe who is instructed in the kingdom of heaven, is like an householder who bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old. Matthew 13:52.



Motto Text

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. I Timothy, 3:16

" Almighty God, who hast built thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the head corner-stone; Grant us to be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made an holy temple acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A large skating party of over 30 persons of our young people and their friends went to Mountain Lake last Thursday night, and report having a most happy evening of sport. The ice was in perfect condition for skating and Mr. Scranton had placed a powerful light above the ice in front of his cottage, and later the moon arose to make it a beautiful scene for both skaters and onlookers. Refreshments had been taken and hot coffee and chocolate were served in the cottage. The party made the trip in Charley Skov's truck, which added to the social pleasure of the party. They all thank him for his generous contribution to the evening's pleasant experiences.

Some of the ladies of our church conducted a social last Tuesday evening at the newly purchased and improved home of Mr. Harry Miller, who had of his own suggestion offered it to them for that purpose. About 70 persons were present, and all speak highly of the pleasant social time. The net proceeds amount to \$38.00

Mr. Hugh A. Cryan died on February 16th. He had been in poor health for several years. He was born in Oxford and spent his entire life here. Thus one more of the old citizens has passed on, and the company of them grows smaller. They lived through the most flourishing and happy period of Oxford's history.

The old Mansion House has had many distinguished mistresses, but none more forceful and interesting than Tacy Paul Robeson, the wife of Morris Robeson (grandson of Jonathan Robeson, builder of the Oxford furnace). Morris was in business with her brothers in Phila. Pa. and was married to Tacy in 1789.

In 1809 Morris bought back the Oxford furnace property and they at first used it for their summer home, but later lived here permanently. Morris died in 1823 leaving all the property to his family with his widow as executrix, and she lived here until 1833 after renting the furnace to the Henry and Jordan co.

Tacy Robeson was a very strict Quaker being an Elder among the Friends, and always wore the bonnet and dress in the Quaker style. Her religion forbade the use of titles, and so she would not permit the use of Mrs. with her name.

The Robeson Book of Genealogy thus describes her character:--

"Tacy Paul, wife of Morris Robeson, was a small woman, with dark hair and eyes and always extremely delicate, though she lived till her eightieth year... the first years of her married life was evidently spent on the homestead at Green Pond...

"She was a woman of strong character, and very active, in spite of her physical disabilities, and hers was a well ordered house. The daily waste in the homes of some of her descendants would not have been tolerated by this foremother; her easy-going, genial husband had a good balance wheel in the prudent wife, who looked after the management of the household, though by no means in a stingy fashion, for she was as hospitable and generous as her husband could desire; but by her good management and oversight no undue expense was incurred.

When in 1825 the location of the County seat was being considered, she did all she could to have it placed in Oxford, as the advertisement in the papers show.

It runs as follows:--

"I Tacy Robeson, Executor of the last Will and Testament of Morris Robeson, Esq., am authorized, and do hereby offer, 2 acres of land on the north side of the road leading to Bethlehem from Oxford Furnace, N. J. between the Mansion House and Searl house, for location of Public Buildings, for use of the new County of Warren forever, together with five thousand (5000) dollars in cash, payable thirty days after

Inasmuch as I have received no objections in regard to giving out further information about the Young Men's Improvement Society, a few items are given herewith, which I trust will be of sufficient interest to the readers of the Bulletin to compensate "Ye Editor" for his trouble and expense.

First let me say that taken all in all, I am most favorably impressed by the general conduct and business-like methods as expressed throughout the entire minute book; as it indicates earnest effort on the part of the members and even more so on the patient oversight of the superintendent, Rey. Maxwell. As I now look back to those meetings, my memory being refreshed by the reading over of the minutes, I can more fully appreciate many of the things that Mr. Maxwell was endeavoring to implant in our then young minds; and even at this late date (after 40 years) I am thankful for the pleasant privilege of expressing to him through these columns my grateful appreciation.

In the minutes of January 24th, 1895, (the earliest in the book) is recorded "The treasurer was authorized to pay the sexton fifty cents for one month's services and a few lines further on discloses discloses either "depression times" or a willingness to hoe their own row, for, on motion duly made, seconded and carried they decided to dismiss the sexton and elect a "sergeant-at-arms" to do the work in connection with their meetings--light the lamp, tend the furnace, etc. Charlie Weber was the first one elected to that honorable (?) position. And, by-the-way, I notice too that the roll-call record shows that Charlie was the only one of the members with a 100% attendance during the entire existence of the Society. In the same minutes, it is recorded that William Snyder was one of the debaters, although no such name appears on the roll, and I am unable to recall him. Can any of the readers identify him as to family, place of residence, etc.?

Evidently the sexton did not consider himself "paid in full" by fifty cents that had been voted him. At the meeting of Feb. 14th "The treasurer was authorized to pay the sexton 15 cents for an additional week's services."

It was customary to hold "a public meeting" once a month, and at times some of the visitors would take "impromptu" part in the literary program, especially in the debates both as debaters and as judges. (over)

The first debate recorded was
"Resolved that the use of Tobacco
does lead to the use of intoxicating
Liquors", which was probably suggested
by the superintendent with the idea
of presenting more forcibly the harmful
effects of the use of tobacco. The judges
decided in favor of the affirmative side.

The debate at the next meeting was "Resolved
that Steam is more useful to man than
Electricity," That too was decided by the
judges in favor of the affirmative side.
(Please bear in mind this was forty years
ago). However this was one of the public
meetings and the visitors were given a vote.

They reversed the decisions of the judges
by voting in favor of the negative side.

The meeting was brought to a close by
singing of America. Miss Amanda Perkins,
Now Mrs. Nelson, Roxbury, Mass.) volunteered
to play the organ as our regular organist,
William Repp was too bashful (?) to play
in public. The last two lines of the minute
of this meeting read as follows,—"An address
of welcome was then given. The roll was
called and we adjourned for one week."

The order of exercises included a recital
at the opening and at the closing of the
meeting, but why was the address of welcome
delayed until the last thing? Your guess
is as good as mine.

The first item of business at the next
meeting was to authorize the treasurer to pay
the trustees \$1.00 for the use of the Chapel.

It is also recorded that the "critic"
reported that "William Hilbert did not speak
distinctly while reading his essay, and
Charlie Weber stood with one hand in his
pocket and held fast to a chair with the
other while debating."

(To be continued).

(from and p.) completion of Buildings,
also with privilege of all stone and loam
that may be needed, without charge, and
guarantee free, a supply of water for use
of same without expense forever, except of
logs or other means of conveying the water.
Dec. 28, 1824.

"Thinking that Oxford Furnace is a good
situation for the County Seat, the Town
being Central, healthful, of fine situation
with immense advantages of water & water
power, for milling, distilling & factory
operations, being also near the route of the
Grand Canal, deem it a duty to themselves
and to the good people of the new County
of Warren, respectfully propose their site
and solicits preference at the approaching
election, 3rd Tuesday in April next."

Oxford should hold in honor the name of
Thomas Deane for this great effort.



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
GEORGE DOCKER, JR.	CHARLES RENNER
FRED K. SARSON	LEWIS E. GREEN
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Church Treasurer

LEWIS E. GREEN



Sunday School

<i>Superintendent</i>	E. B. FOSS
<i>Assistant Superintendent</i> ...	MRS. EDWARD T. GREEN
<i>Treasurer</i>	MISS IDA SMITH
<i>Secretary</i>	ALVIN RENNER
<i>Organist</i>	MISS ELIZABETH ZAPP



Ladies' Aid Society

<i>President</i>	MRS. BENJAMIN GREEN
<i>Secretary</i>	MRS. EDMUND ORAM
<i>Treasurer</i>	MRS. LEWIS E. GREEN



Choir

<i>Leader</i>	MRS. E. T. GREEN
<i>Organist</i>	MRS. BENJAMIN ZAPP

