



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
For What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Mark 10:36

"Almighty God, we pray thee, exhalt and purify thy Church, filling all who call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ with his Spirit, and enabling them for mightier works of mercy in his name; that the power of faith and love may be manifested in the Christian life, and the hearts of all men everywhere may be drawn to the Light of the world.

"Be thou the strength of the weary, the comfort of the sorrowful, the friend of the desolate, the light of the wandering, the hope of the dying and the saviour of the lost, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Next Sabbath is Palm Sunday and should be observed with appropriate services. Special Music and flowers, palms in particular would be fitting.

Easter Sunday comes in two weeks, and all should now plan to attend, Holy Communion should draw all Christian people and help them to better and happier lives. New Members will be welcomed, baptism administered. There will be good music by the choir.

The evening of Easter day will be marked with a public service conducted by the young people, with a good program of music and a playlet.

The young people gave their play on which they have been practicing for some weeks in the Community Hall near Martin's Creek last Wednesday evening.

They acquitted themselves in the same excellent manner as in former years.

Mr's. Margaret Hunt, Emily Austie, Irene Nudge, Francis Meyers, Christ Seiple, Alvin Renner, Kenneth Bell, Bertie Austie were in the cast. Mr. Russel Trexler was the capable director, and Miss Helen Hood entertained the audience between acts with graceful tap-dancing.

Special thanks are due to Charles Skov for transporting the necessary "props".

The young folks plan to present the play in Oxford some time this month.

Reunion On May 19th.

The Session has decided that the third Sabbath of May is the most available day for our annual reunion. The second Sunday is mother's day, and many who would like to come do not want to leave the special services in their own churches. The first Sunday is more likely to be cold or stormy weather, and the last sabbath is devoted to Decoration day plans.

The reunion day plans will follow the lines of former ones, with a morning hour of worship beginning at 11 A.M. and an afternoon platform meeting with talks by old Oxford citizens.

The Ladies will serve a good warm luncheon, and there will be a long noon recess for dinner and friendly greetings.

The editor had a pleasant visit last week with Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Rush in their home in Cornish.

Mr. Rush had many interesting stories to tell of his experiences in and around Oxford in his young days.

In 1867 when he was a boy of seven, he was up in the boiler house of the old furnace talking with the engineer, Bill Pyles, who with Tommy Williams a Keeper in the cast house loved a practical joke.

Pyles gave the boy Rush an oil can and told him to go down to the cast house and say to Williams "I want some Belt-oil". This he promptly did and in reply Williams began to unloose the leather belt about his waist, and smiling, suddenly gave the boy three hard lashes before he could run away.

When twelve years old he got a job as a cart driver at the time they were building the new furnace. John Pittenger was his boss, and Capt. Schoonover was the manager of the works. His pay was fifty cents a day. He walked each way daily from his home near Hazen.

Last Sabbath the petition against the Town's permitting liquor dealers to sell on the sabbath was presented to the congregations of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches, and the response of the voters was remarkably eager and spontaneous. Practically every one signed it, and during the week many more put down their names to express their will against such a desecration of the day.

Old Oxford Notes---1886

Items of an Oxford Correspondent of the Washington, N.J. Star, fifty years ago.

March 18, 1886

"We now have a hack running to the depot.

"The working men are feeling happy again over the prospect of better times. The blast furnace was lit again on Thursday and it is hoped that better results may this time be obtained. (two weeks later)

"The blast furnace is working splendidly and it is a source of gratification to our citizens and also to the employees who desire nothing but success for the Company and fair remuneration for their services.

"The Belvidere Iron Company, whose mines are advertised for sale on the 19th instant have a gang of men overhauling the machinery at the mines. It is thought that operations will be resumed. (two weeks later) "The Belvidere Iron Company's mines were sold at Master's sale, last Friday, for about \$35,000 and were purchased by Mr Reider, a New York City capitalist. It is the intention of the new Company to take out ore as soon as possible and active preparations for this purpose are already begun. Superintendent Moyle is having everything put in proper trim for the work and has promoted Mr. John Little to the position of foreman.

April 1, 1886

"The organization of Knights of Labor is adding to its numbers gradually and only awaits the receipt of its charter to take more active steps in building up its members, and the number is expected to be largely increased. The number is 250 now.

"A young man from your town (meaning Washington) recently came over here and, desiring to form the acquaintance of some of our young ladies had himself introduced under the assumed name of Ira Poole. The young lady's mother happened to be present during the introduction and recognising the impostor, who is a married man, fired him out the front door in double quick time, enforcing her command with a broomstick.

(For the above notes we are indebted to the kindness of Mr. Richard Gruendyke of The Star. For comments see next page)

The Belvidere Iron Company's Mines,
On the first reading of the notes on
proceeding page about the Belvidere Iron
Company the Editor was puzzled at the
connection with Oxford news interests,
and also by the fact that he had not
before heard of that Company.

Inquiries made among old citizens
lead to different opinions, some saying
it referred to the old mine above Hazen
on the J.J. Campbell farm. Others think
it means the old Mud Mine near Rattle
Snake hill. Mr. Calvin Rush of Cornish
in an interview told us that he was
an employee at the mud mine for fourteen
years, from the middle nineties to about
1911, when it was closed, and that it was
known as the Belvidere Iron Company's
mine, then worked by the Cooper-Hewitt Co.
who had a furnace at Pequest.

There were three other mines between
these mines, located on the Little, Riddle
and Quinn farms. Whether or not these
belonged to the Belvidere Company we
cannot decide. One or two facts may be
noted that the Company had more than one
mine, and the mention of work on a mine
at Hazen would hardly be made in an
Oxford news item. But the other mines
would be of local interest. But was the
mud mine in operation as early as 1886?
Mr. Rush states that the mud mine was
first discovered by a Mr. Hartpence
and that much money was lost by inves-
tors; a Mr. Ward of N.Y. City lost
\$100,000, and Robert Arles of Oxford a
large sum also. John Eckmeter was
the last Supt. of the Mud mine.

The other three farms were owned, one
or more of them, by Geogre E. Nichols
and R.C. Fellows.

One of our present citizens of Oxford
told that he invested \$2000 his first
savings in the Belvidere Co. and never
got a cent from it.

These scraps of information it is
true; give but a hazy knowledge about
them, and more definite facts would
be welcomed by this paper.

We are pleased to add to our mailing list
names of Mrs. Hannah Miller, and Mrs.
Julius Gleichmann (nee McNear) and Mrs.
H.B. Heller (Virginia Cobb).

Edward Scharrer has contributed one
dollar to the Bulletin fund.



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