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The
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

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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.

New mercies each returning day
Hover around us while we pray
New perils past, new sins forgiven,
New thoughts of God new hopes of heaven
-----Keble

"O God, the Protector of all who trust
in thee, without whom nothing is strong,
nothing is holy; Increase and multiply
upon us thy mercy that with thee to guide
us we may so pass through things temporal
that we may finally lose not the things
eternal. This we ask for Jesus's Sake.

Miss Wanda Mabel Rush, daughter of
Mrs and Mrs. S. Raymond Rush, came before
the Session last Sabbath morning and was
received into our Church on examination,
and publicly welcomed by the congregation
before the administration of the Lord's
Supper.

The Holy Communion last Sabbath was
well attended by our people and also by
a number of visitors.

For the first time in this church the
elements of bread and wine ^{were} each partaken
of simultaneously, and the method seemed
to add to the impressiveness and good
of the service.

Miss Ida Smith, owing to the state of
her health, has resigned the office of
Treasurer of the Sunday School.

She has served continuously as the
treasurer for 28 years, by far the longest
in the history of the school.
Mr. Foss the Supt. has appointed Mrs. Ed.
T. Green to serve out the term of the
office.

Christian--- Wilson

Mr. Kenneth A. Christian and Miss
Helen Wilson were united in marriage
last Wednesday evening in the Church,
in the presence of the family and friends.
The wishes for their mutual welfare
and happiness will be hearty and general
by all who know them.

Public Meeting Friday Night

The citizens of Oxford who are interested in the plan to preserve the old Furnace as a historic site, are asked to meet in the Central School next Friday evening, July 26th, at 8 P.M.

The main purpose of the meeting will be to prepare an overture or petition to the State Commission on Historic Sites to take over the Furnace and preserve it for the future as a historic object of the State.

A full report of progress to date will be made; the present situation will be explained, and questions answered so far as possible.

This is Oxford's opportunity to get a place in the sun. We have rare historic buildings which have never received proper attention, but if our present plans are completed, Oxford will be given wide publicity in the near future.

Our citizens can greatly help just now by convincing the Commission of their united and deep concern to have it take the Furnace and keep it a State institution.

The Commission has been studying the matter for many months, and we think it will act before long, and favorably to us unless some unforeseen obstacle arises.

Last week Mr. Louis Sherwood, one of the three members of the Commission, and the Director of the Com. Mr. Thomas Marple, came to Oxford to look over the Furnace and consult about plans. We believe we can state that they both are favorably disposed and will do what they can to push it to a successful conclusion.

We have been saying for years that no one can study the claims of Oxford for historical distinction without being deeply impressed. In this respect it has no rival in this county, and scarcely any in North-western Jersey.

Let us give the Commission full and hearty cooperation, as opportunities to do so arise from time to time now and in the future, and we may be assured of the success of the enterprise.

Just now for these and other reasons the meeting next Friday evening is of prime importance in the promotion of our object.

Aaron's Dupui's Store--A correction.

In the Bulletin for Dec. 18th, 1932, we printed an excerpt relating to Oxford's early history, from Honeyman's "North-western New Jersey," which stated that "Aaron Dupui came down (from Shawnee, above the Gap) as far as Oxford and started the first store in Warren County in 1741...."

"The old Ledger of this store, beginning with 1743, is still in existence, being in the possession of one of the descendants of Dupui, Mrs. H.A. Croasdale, of River Farm, at Delaware Gap."

At the time of printing this statement we did not think of questioning the accuracy of it, and naturally, that Oxford should have had such a distinction attributed to her, we were much elated.

But now after long and full investigation, we must give it all up as wholly incorrect so far as Oxford is concerned.

The only facts in the statement that are true are that Aaron Dupui did have a store as early as 1743, that his ledger is still in existence, and that Mrs. Croasdale did have possession of it at the time the writer of the History examined it.

But Mrs. Croasdale is not a lineal descendant of the Dupuis, but of the Brodheads as she so informed us. And the ledger is now in the possession of the Historical Society of Monroe County, Pa., and is in their building in Stroudsburg, where we had the privilege of examining carefully.

We are prepared to prove that Aaron Dupui was never a citizen of Oxford, and never had a store here; that he lived in Smithfield Township, Monroe County, and had his store at Shawnee, above the Gap.

The ledger itself contains absolute proof of the fact. We copied over 100 names of persons who had accounts with Dupui, and by comparing them with the names of the early settlers on both sides of the Delaware River, we found that all of the them were names of citizens of what is known as the Minnisink region--the river valley on both sides, between the Gap and Milford, Pa. But most of them were citizens of Smithfield Township and near to Shawnee.

We found no names of early Oxford citizens--no Axforths, no Robesons, no Shippens nor others.

Most of the accounts were dated from 1743 to 1753, but some were at different times on up to 1790. (over)

The external proof is equally conclusive. In Mathews "History of Wayne, Pike and Monroe Counties," the standard work published 50 years ago, the part dealing with the history of Smithfield Township was written by Luke W. Brodhead, a descendant of Daniel Brodhead, a neighbor and contemporary of Aaron Dupui, we find this clear statement:-

"Aaron Dupui purchased the 'River Farm' then known as the John Smith Farm of his father (Nicolas Dupui) in 1745.

"He kept a store at Shawnee in the years 1745 to 1747. The writer is in possession of a portion of his ledger, commencing 1745. His customers were scattered throughout the Minisink from Dingman's Ferry to McDowell in Cherry Valley." (page 1071)

He gives the documentary proof that Dupui was an inhabitant of Smithfield Township by citing old documents.

In one case Dupui's name is among the petitioners to the State authorities in Pennsylvania in the year 1746, seeking the location of the township. And in 1748 his name leads the list in a second petition. In 1753 Dupui's name is among the petitioners of the inhabitants of Smithfield seeking a "road from Dupui's Mill, at Shawnee, thence by the residence of Aaron Dupui who lived at that time at what is now known as the 'River Farm.'

These facts leave us no choice about discarding the statement in recent histories that Dupui had a store in Oxford or in Warren county.

How the statement originated we can not imagine, but it is manifestly incorrect and should be corrected by the authors.

The Bulletin may be irregular in not appearing each week for the next six weeks. It is our vacation time, but will be printed as circumstances justify. So our readers need not be surprised when they fail to get it, and they may be sure they miss none by noting the serial numbers.

We are running low in contributed articles and letters, which is another reason for letting up a little in the publication.



CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

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