



275

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.*



Church Notes

Next Sabbath, August 18th, the morning worship will be conducted by the Rev. Paul J. Strohauer, Pastor of the Hamilton Square Presbyterian Church, of Hamilton Square N.J.

The exchange of pulpits is for the mutual accomodation of both ministers.

We hope our people will attend the service in goodly numbers which will be helpful to the visiting minister and profitable to the Congregation.

The Annual S.S. Picnic which was postponed on account of rain will be held on Saturday, August 24th, at the Central Park, Allentown, Pa.

The Bulletin may not be published again for two or three weeks if the circumstances do not require it.

The Editor has no thought of taking a vacation from the regular Church services, but desires a little relief from the considerable task of getting out the paper weekly.

The readers at a distance will overlook the prominent space devoted to the Furnace matters which pertain to the public interests of Oxford. We hope they will soon be settled satisfactorily and will not claim so much of our attention.

Mr. Seymour Williams' Letter
(Concluded from Opposite page.)

Having seen the furnace I can appreciate your keen interest in its preservation and restoration, for in my travels I have seen nothing like it, and the few structures that are left are in such a ruinous condition that little can be determined about them.

I am sure you must be happy to find your efforts to preserve this unusual structure are bearing fruit.

Very sincerely Yours

(signed, Seymour Williams)

District Officer & State
Supervisor Historic American Buildings
Survey.

Bulletin No. 275. August 11th, 1935

After the other letters in this issue were printed, the following communication came from Mr. Seymour Williams, A.I.A. District Officer & State Supervisor Historic American Buildings Survey, and is of such interest that we make a place for it.

Newark, N.J.
August 8, 1935

Dear Mr. Yount:-

Mr. Baum, County Works Manager, wrote to E.R.A. Headquarters under date of October 5, 1934, referring to your interest in the preservation of the old blast furnace at Oxford and enclosing a brief history, which you had compiled under date of September 22, of the old Blast Furnace the Mansion House, and the Old Mill, which we have kept in our files until we were able to extend into outlying counties the work of the "Historic American Buildings Survey," being carried on in New Jersey by the E.R.A.

We have contacts with the Historic Sites Commission and have learned of the proposal to restore the blast furnace, and it is possible that we may be one of the agencies employed in this restoration. Because of the possibility and the increased interest I decided to place this structure further up on my list of buildings approved for inclusion in our survey, and visited the site for personal inspection last week. I was sorry that my trip included the inspection of too many buildings to permit me to spend sufficient time in Oxford to have the pleasure of discussing this structure and inspecting it with you. However, I expect to make a return trip shortly and when I do will write you to find out if you will be at Oxford during the time of my visit. It may be that I shall send someone up to see you regarding taking measurements of the furnace preliminary to making our record drawings for the Historic American Buildings Survey-- prior to my visit. If so I shall take the opportunity of sending them to you for permission to make the Survey. They will come properly identified.

(concludes on opposite page)

Furnace Correspondence

To keep the public informed on the progress of the furnace matter, and to preserve the correspondence for the future, we give below the copies of the letters received leading up to the present favorable state of affairs.

From the Hon. Louis Sherwood, member
State Historic Commission;--

Montclair, N.J.

My Dear Mr. Yount. July 15th, 1935.

I discussed the matter of Oxford Furnace yesterday with the President of the Commission and he was favorably impressed by the overtures made indirectly through me.

The matter has advanced to that point that the formal proposition should be made.

As stated previously the overtures should be in writing with details as far as possible. For this purpose and looking toward action of some kind, the Director Mr. Thomas Marple will meet me at the Furnace next Thursday at two o'clock and I am very anxious to have you join us.

After the conference Mr. Marple will continue the negotiations with the owners, yourself and other interested persons.

At the moment the important thing to do is the preparation of formal offers on the part of the owners of the Furnace and of the citizens or Boards interested.

Please advise by return mail whether you can meet us. Mr. Marple must motor up from Burlington County and I am anxious for you to meet him at this time. I leave the city on August first for a month and would like to have the facts assembled before I go. (Signed Louis Sherwood)

This plan was carried out. A public meeting was held, the overture adopted (printed in last Bulletin) and it was sent to Mr. Sherwood, who wrote in reply;--

Montclair, N.J.

July 29th,

Dear Mr. Yount:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 27th with the signed resolutions adopted at a meeting of the citizens of Oxford.

I sent them at once to Mr. Marple, our Director with remarks of commendation and a suggestion of prompt action on the part of the Commission.

From statements you made to me I had no doubt as to the interest of the citizens of Oxford, but the resolutions more than confirm your opinion of their interest.

The Resolutions are to the point and provide sufficient material to enable the Commission to act. If all the negotiations proceed as smoothly as those already begun, there will be no doubt as to the ultimate result of your overtures.

Mr. Marple will follow up the detailed work and you will find him very alert, pains taking and competent.

May I congratulate you for your approach through a well founded knowledge of the historic background.

I leave on Thursday for a month at Newagen Maine, and before my return shall hope to hear of real progress.

(Signed, Louis Sherwood)

From Mr. Thomas Marple, Director of
the State Commission on Historic Sites;

July 26th, 1935

My Dear Mr. Yount:

I have your letter of recent date, and am today writing Mr. Peckitt with reference to the acquisition by the State of New Jersey of the Old Oxford Furnace. As soon as I have a favorable reply from Mr. Peckitt, I will communicate with the proper parties to have an architect make a survey of the property.

I will keep you advised of developments. (Signed, Thomas Marple)

From Mr. Leonard Peckitt, N.Y. City.

July 31st, 1935.

Dear Mr. Yount:

Your letter of the 20th inst. did not reach me in time to be with you the following Friday, as suggested, but I was interested in reading all you have to say about the old furnace and the copy of the Bulletin you mailed me is appreciated. Since then,

I have received a letter from Mr. Marple, to which I have replied as per carbon copy herewith and with personal regards, I am
Yours Truly. (Signed, Leonard Peckitt
President.

Mr. Peckitt's letter to Mr. Marple:--

July 31st, 1935

Dear Mr. Marple:

Your letter of the 26th inst., written me at the suggestion of our mutual friend Rev. Yount of Oxford, N.J., was duly received.

Mr. Yount's efforts in bringing the Oxford Charcoal Furnace matter to your attention is appreciated. Our Company, as you state has title to the property that would be needed, which would, of course, include the old Furnace and sufficient ground around it.

(over)

At a meeting of our Warren Board of Directors held May 23rd, 1934, at which a quorum was present, a motion was made, duly seconded and unanimously carried that the President (Leonard Peckitt) is hereby empowered to dispose of the old Charcoal Furnace now standing at Oxford, N.J. and the land on which it is situated as in his judgment may seem best.

I am, therefore, now writing to say that the property can be deeded without charge including the necessary ground to the State of New Jersey, as you suggest, with the understanding that the Commission on Historic Sites undertakes the restoration of the ground and furnace and maintains it in the future as an historical shrine and further with the understanding that if at any time the Commission failed to carry out its part, the property in question would revert to the present owners, viz; the Warren Foundry & Pipe Corporation.

In a letter to Mr. George Humphrey sometime ago on this subject, I said that the ground might cover approximately 40 ft. fronting on the roadway with a depth of not over 300 ft.

The property you will find adjoins a Church property and there is perhaps an alley in the rear of the Church property, so it might be in order to make the depth down to said alley.

If all this meets with your approval and you will let me hear from you again, we will have the deed made out accordingly.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. George S. Humphrey and also to Mr. Yount and awaiting your further pleasure, I am
Yours very truly,

President.

From The Hon. Charles L. Pack, Lakewood,
a member of the State Commission:---

August 3, 1935

Dear Mr. Yount:

I received your bulletin, and found the article requesting the New Jersey State Commission on Historic Sites to take over the interesting historic furnace. That matter is already before the Board. We are getting together information, and I expect that the Board will act favorably at their next meeting. Anyway, I hope so.

I am sending you our forestry literature.
(signed, Charles Lathrop Pack)

Mr. Pack is the President of the American Tree Association, Washington, D.C. and has a national reputation.

Last Friday evening August 9th, there was a meeting of citizens of Oxford in the interests of the furnace movement. The principal business was the reading and explanation of the foregoing letters, with a general discussion of related matters.

The effect of all was a deep conviction of the value of our historic treasures and that the long hoped for plan was reaching toward a happy consummation.

A resolution was passed, to be sent to the Board of Commissioners, expressing the satisfaction and appreciation of their interest in the matter and the effective steps being taken to expedite a final decision.

We have received from the Hon. Charles Lathrop Pack a copy of the "The Forestry News Digest," published by "The American Tree Association," of which he is the President, and his booklet, "The Forestry Primer."

The latter has reached an amazing popular circulation, 42nd edition, that is 4,200,000. Schools over the Nation have made use of it, and it portrays graphically and simply the vast work being achieved by that association.

Last year 191,000,000 trees were planted in the country and other related activities on a similar large scale.

We have been edified by reading this literature, and grateful to Mr. Pack for sending it.

We thankfully acknowledge receipt of the following donations to the Bulletin fund:---

Mrs. Clark Wilkinson	\$1.00
Mrs. Hannah Miller	1.00
Mrs. Ella Kellogg	1.00
Mrs. G. L. Haufler	2.00
Mr. A. T. Keller	3.00

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