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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.



St. Paul on Self-support

Brothers, we charge you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to shun any brother who is loafing... We did not loaf in your midst we did not take free meals from anyone; no, toiling hard at our trade, we worked day and night, so as not to be a burden to any of you.... We used to charge you even when we were with you, 'If a man will not work, he shall not eat.' But we are informed that some of your number are loafing, busybodies instead of busy.

Now in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we charge and exhort such persons to keep quiet, to do their work and earn their own living. II Thes. 3. (Moffat)

"Grant, O Lord, that this day which thou hast given unto us in mercy, may be returned in service. Guide us during the appointed hours of labor, that all our tasks may be gladly and faithfully performed, as in thy sight; that our burdens may not be too heavy for us, because thine aid and comfort are with us continually; and that in nothing may we displease thee or injure one another, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."

The ladies of our Congregation are requested to meet at the Chapel next Wed. afternoon at 2:30. to plan for the Annual Chicken-Waffle Supper. A large attendance will encourage the work.

The Annual Sunday School Picnic was held last Saturday a week, Aug. 24th, at Central Park, Allentown. About 150 persons attended. Transportation was by a large school bus, and private cars. It was a very happy occasion for all.

The Sunday school during August kept up a large attendance each Sunday, much above what is usual, though many pupils and teachers were absent on vacations.

But all will be on hand from now on and the prospect is good for increased numbers and better work in the coming months.

The Church Service has been sustained through the summer with good interest. Visitors were present at each morning service, and we trust all were better for their presence at the hour of worship.

A letter from the Director of the Board of Commissioners on Historic Sites indicates that plans for the restoration of the Furnace are being made as fast as possible, and that we may hope to see work begun in a short time.

A copy of a letter of instructions to Mr. Williams, Architect, of Newark, is inclosed. In part it is given here:--

"I have today received a letter from Mr. J. W. Hammer, Acting Manager of the Works division, stating that you may be able to give us some assistance in connection with the restoration of the Old Oxford Furnace.

"The State of New Jersey is taking over title to the ground on which the Old Furnace is located, and hopes to complete its restoration through the N. P. A., or I. R. A.

"My purpose in soliciting architectural aid was that a preliminary survey could be made, and plans drawn, so that our application could be properly filed. I hope that you can assign some one to this work who has a deep interest in history, as I am sure that he will find the assignment most interesting."

Mr. Marple is planning to be in Oxford during the architect's stay.

Old Fire-Backs

In pioneer days there were no stoves in the houses, and large fire-places were universal. But iron plates were often set in the back of them to protect the back wall from crumbling due to the heat.

For more than twenty years after the Old Furnace was built, in 1741-2, these fire-backs were cast in large numbers and sold throughout this region, extending into New York and Penna. These fire-backs are now treasured antiques. They were ornamented with the armorial bearings of the English kings then reigning, mostly George II., with the date and name of the Furnace at the bottom. All of these which were in local houses have long been taking out and sold or sent away.

One from the Mansion house, dated, 1754, is in the Historical Society building in Phila., Pa. which we had the pleasure of seeing recently, and another in the National Museum in Morristown, taken from the Chas. Scranton house, dated, 1758. We hope to get the one from Phila. Pa. for our museum which completed.

There have been several tributes paid to the first installed pastor of this Church, Rev. E. Clarke Cline, especially the beautiful one by Mr. Mount in the Bulletin of June 9, 1935. Mr. Cline's long and faithful service of twenty one and one half years in which he was pastor and ministered to the citizens of the place irrespective of creed or condition, won him a place in the hearts of the community that was real as it was secure.

So far as I know no biographical sketch of Mr. Cline's life has appeared in any Bulletin, and having recently come into possession of one through the courtesy of Herbert Cline Weston--named for Mr. Cline--I append it herewith, believing it will be received with interest by Bulletin readers.

Enoch Clarke Cline was born at Uniontown, Warren County, N. J. on January 3rd, 1835; his father and mother being Jacob and Anna Traill Cline. His boyhood days were spent on a farm and at the store of his brother at the foot of No. 9 Plane.

He attended the district school at Uniontown and the public school in Easton for his early education, after which he prepared for Lafayette College from which he graduated with the class of 1857.

Mr. Cline's early ambition was to become a lawyer, and with this in view, he began the study of law with John F. Dumont, one of the best known lawyers of his time in that section. After studying law for some time he decided to enter the ministry and took a course at Princeton Theological Seminary from which he graduated in the class of 1862. After graduation he applied for a Chaplaincy in the Union Army, but all the places were filled at that time, so he supplied the church at Doe Run, Penna. from 1862 to 1863. Late in 1863 he was appointed Chaplain of the 11th N. J. Volunteers and spent his first night in the tent of Major Halsey, father of the founder of Halsey & Company, the firm Herbert Cline Weston is connected with, and served until the close of the war.

Marbaker's History of the 11th N. J. Volunteers pays a remarkable tribute to Mr. Cline for his services as Chaplain, as well as other heroic services performed; often on the field of battle where he attended the wounded and dying, with little thought for his own safety.

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Returning from the army he married, on October 24th, 1865, Miss Mary Hutchinson of Hutchinson's Station, N.J., who belonged to one of the best known families in the county.

Mr. Cline was installed as pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of Oxford in 1865. Those of us who remember him, do so with an affection akin to that of a family member. Unassuming and with a keen knowledge of human nature, gained from his experiences in the war, he very soon gained the respect and esteem the town inhabitants in spite of the fact that disturbing elements crept in as would be natural in a mining town.

He resigned the pastorate in Oxford in December 1886 to go to the Westminster Church in Phillipsburg, which was then a poor and struggling congregation which met on Chambers street in what was known as Dull's Hall. From this poor struggling congregation he built up one of the largest and most influential in the Presbytery of Newton, and erected a fine edifice.

A handsome memorial window was placed in the church by the survivors of the 11th N.J. Regiment and friends; and this was dedicated June 6th, 1891. One of the guests on that memorable occasion was General Daniel L. Sickles who had lost a leg at Gettysburg. He and Mr. Cline were close friends.

On account of advancing years Mr. Cline retired from Westminster Church in 1903. He was Clerk of the Presbytery for 45 years, the longest record for continuous service, which he resigned in 1914. He was a life member of the American Tract Society, Military Order of the Loyal Legion, and a member of the James McDavitt Post, G.A.R. of Dover.

Mrs. Cline died in August 7, 1917 and Mr. Cline died shortly after at the age of 82.

What could be more fitting and appropriate than to have indelibly written over his last resting place the inscription, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

This article on Mr. Cline will be much appreciated. Mr. Weston is preparing other historical papers relating to Oxford people and events. We urge that others contribute articles and letters and other matters of interest to our readers.



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