



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.



"We love, because He loved us first. If anyone declares, 'I love God,' and yet hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who will not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot possibly love God whom he has never seen." I John IV, 19-20

"O God, our refuge and strength, who art the author of all godliness. Be ready, we beseech thee, to hear the devout prayers of thy Church; and grant that those things which we ask faithfully we may obtain effectually; and, filled with thy Spirit, enable us to think and do always such things are right; that we may live ever according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

The Fall Communion Service will be on October 6th, two weeks from to-day. New members will be welcomed should any appl.

Annual Chicken and Waffle Supper October 2nd. This will be Wednesday, and supper will be served from 5 P.M. This has for many years been a successful event for the church, and will doubtless be well patronized this year. Visitors from neighboring towns and regions may be expected as usual. The Church is far behind in financial obligations, and the full cooperation of all will help much to reduce this burden. Tickets are now for sale.

Our people are glad to hear that a former Pastor, Rev. W.A. Vagar was made Moderator of the Newton Presbytery at the meeting in Alpha last Tuesday.

It is a pleasure to the Bulletin to greet the new church paper of the local Methodist Church, edited by the Pastor, Rev. L.E. Wright. We are sure it will be useful to both the church and community.

Mr. Wright is whole heartedly supporting the movements for bettering the local interests, and is helping much in promoting the cause of the Old furnace restoration and preservation.

Miss Phebe L. Lanterman, of Washington D.C. has sent one dollar for postage to have the bulletin continued. Many thanks.

Highway Marker for Furnace

At last Oxford is to have a road marker, calling attention of passersby to its historic importance. It is a case of belated justice, but we will all be glad to see it finally placed here.

The Director of the State Commission, Mr. Marple, writes that "The Commission on Historic Sites is going to place a marker on the main highway, referring to the Old Oxford Furnace. The enclosed has been suggested as a wording for this marker." The marker legend is thus:

Old Oxford Furnace

The Colonial charcoal furnace nearby was built in 1741-1742 by Jonathan Robeson. Cannon Balls made here during French and Indian, Revolutionary, and Civil Wars. Protected by American troops against several British attacks. Blown out in 1884.

The Commission will consider other words, if any one can suggest something more fitting. We will forward any change in wording sent to us.

Many persons have wondered lately why nothing apparently was being done about the furnace restoration. We have been told that the delay was caused by the inability of the Owning Company to prepare a deed sooner. When this will be accomplished we cannot say, but we hope it will be soon. Mr. Marple says in his letter; "We have had a letter from Mr. Peckitt that a deed to the ground is being prepared. However, we have not received the actual deed. We, of course, must have this before we can proceed with our WPA applications."

So we must have patience, which is not a hardship, when we understand that unforeseen difficulties have arisen to hinder the plans; and that all are doing their best to expedite the matter.

We have not learned why the special architects promised us a month ago have not been on the ground, but they doubtless have been busy with other works on which they were engaged, and will come when they find the way clear to do so.

We are confident that the work will go forward in time, if not so quickly as we might desire.

Four years ago, we received an interesting letter from Mr. George S. Humphrey, which will bear repeating, as it is valuable for historical purposes, and at that time there were very few readers of this paper.

The letter is herewith given.

"I have been interested in the reference in recent Bulletins to the old stone building, part of which was for many years occupied by the Post Office.

Some time in the early 1870s, Miss Ellen H. Scranton (Mrs. Belden) conducted a school for small children in the room on the upper floor; she was succeeded by Miss Person who continued the school for some time.

"When I came to Oxford in 1875, the upper room was vacant, being used for storage occasional meetings, etc., For a while the Oxford Literary Association held its meetings there.

About 1879, and for some years thereafter, the Company produced spiegeleisen in the old blast furnace, from manganese ores brought from Georgia.

It was necessary to make chemical analysis of every cast, and a laboratory was operated for that purpose in the upper room referred to. It is interesting to remember that the first chemist in charge of the laboratory was Charles Freeman, who was afterwards mayor of Metuchen, New Jersey, and married the novelist, Mary Wilkins.

"He was succeeded in the laboratory by Robert A. Cook of New Brunswick, who was later a successful engineer and metallurgist; both Freeman and Cook attended our Church. Their death occurred some years ago.

"When the Oxford debating Club was organized in 1880 it met in the same room and I think continued to do so until the building was destroyed by fire.

"I wonder how many persons now living in Oxford remember Dexter Campbell, who was the Post Master for many years. He came from Serepta and was a great character.

"He not only attended to the affairs of the office but also personally carried the mail bags between the Post Office and Railroad Station.

Some one, writing from Oxford to the *Owego N.Y. Times*, among other things said something like this--"The U.S. Mail is transported from the Post Office to the Railroad Station on the back of a camel, imported from the hills of Serepta, expressly for that purpose and whose speed rivals that of the famous race horse Dexter." (over)

"When I came to Oxford, and for some years thereafter the second floor of the office building adjoining the Store, was used as a tailor shop in charge of Joseph Walton who was later succeeded by his brother Ben. Both of the Waltons were Episcopalians (Church of England) but attended our Church.

The first meetings of 'The Oxford Literary Association' were held in the tailor shop, and when that branch of the business was given up, Mrs. E. T. Lukens conducted or sponsored a kindergarten in the old shop which was fitted up for that purpose. A smaller connecting room, over the private office, was known as the 'Music Room', having been used as a place for practice by the Oxford Orchestra and the Oxford Band.

"These were famous organizations in their day; sometime I'll try to tell you more about them."

For the benefit of some of our readers who may not understand, we may state that the Post Office mentioned, fifty and more years ago, was in the old stone building, which stood at the foot of the hill below the mansion house, just north across the road from Dr. Reuther's drug store. It was destroyed by fire about 1880. It was probably one of the very old buildings of Oxford, and may have been erected originally for an office and store house.

The people of Oxford are to be congratulated by the interest they manifested in the nominating election last Tuesday. About 500 hundred votes were cast—about two thirds of the total in the town. It looked more like a regular election. Usually only a small portion of the voters come out at such times. It means that the people are awakening to their own interests, and that if they will, they can have men chosen for offices who will carry out their wishes for good government. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, now as ever in human history. The true source of good laws and good enforcement lies in the hands of the people, and if they are faithful to their duties by voting for the right persons they can enforce their will upon office-holders. This is their regal right and duty as American citizens.



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