

281

History of Curb rails &
Introductions of Mine rails

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.

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Seek ye the Lord while he may
be found, call ye upon him while he is
near: Let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
and let him return unto the Lord, and he
will have mercy upon him; and to our God
for he will abundantly pardon. Isa. 55.6

"Forgive, O Lord, we beseech thee, all
that we have done amiss, all that we have
spoken falsely or in anger, and all that
we have thought or purposed against thy
will. Forgive our ignorant and hasty
faults, our willful and deliberate
offenses, and all our sins of slothful-
ness and neglect. Forgive us freely;
forgive us graciously; forgive us en-
tirely; in the name of Jesus Christ."

Communion Next Sabbath

The Lord's Supper will be administere
at the morning worship next Sunday and
we trust all our congregation will plan
to attend, and all visiting Christians
are invited to Commune with us.

Such as may desire to be received
into the Church will be welcomed. They
should notify the Pastor before time.

Halloween Social, October 25th.

The Lady's Sunday School Class have
arranged to give a social in the Chapel
Friday evening, October 25th, to which
all are invited. A number of proper
amusements will be enjoyed and the
people are expected to come masqued
for which there will be prizes.

Tickets will be on sale this week.

The Chicken and Waffle social was
postponed on account of a prevalent
disease among the chickens. It will
be given in connection with the annual
Fair December first.

(concluded from last page)

ordistant the living may be, the
name of Oxford quickens the pulse
with cheery thoughts as the days of
yore are recalled.

Mr. Marple, Director of the State Commission on Historic sites is pushing the the plans of the Commission as well as possible. He has sent us a type form of the marker for the roadside.

It is 30 inches high and 40 inches long, and will attract attention as few such markers can. It will not be many weeks until it is set up in Oxford in a conspicuous place by the highway.

The plans have been longed delayed by the difficulty of the owning Company to prepare a deed. But it now seems that will soon be accomplished.

Mr. Dohm, Secretary of the Company, was in Oxford last week, and arranged with Mr. Loux to have their mine engineer, Mr. K.K. Hood, to make a survey immediately so that the deed to the land can be drawn correctly. We hope to be able to report in a short time the legal transfer of the old furnace land title to the State Commission.

Mr. Clinton E. Weston, whose historical articles are attracting much attention, is making an effort to interest the National Geographic Magazine in this section of New Jersey, with emphasis on the historic remains in Oxford. This is the way for friends of Oxford to help give publicity to the place and surroundings. We have no doubt that sooner or later the Geographic will cover this territory with pictures and narration that will be gratifying to all of us.

But in the meantime we hope Mr. Weston success in his present efforts.

Mr. George S. Humphrey writes us one of his delightful letters, the first since his illness of last Summer. He is now back at his post of duty, and quite well, except that his strength has not fully returned. His interest in Oxford and the furnace plans are as keen as ever, and will give his full help to promoting its interests.

Mrs. Theodore Stout writes from her home in N.Y. City to Mrs. George Linnemann that her health is poorly and not strong enough to walk. But her constant thought is with Oxford with its blessed memories for her. We send our sympathy and love.

Oxford enjoyed a unique distinction in the nail business. It was one of the largest manufacturers of nails in the business.

Its product was carried over the seven seas into many ports of the world. It secured foreign trade to such an extent that the output in England, the largest producer in the early years, was reduced to a minimum, which is a remarkable achievement when it is considered that the first nail machine was made and operated in England.

To show the extent of her trade she at one time had more than fifty thousand workers in Birmingham alone. She sent to Australia annually four thousand tons of nails to British India 1800 tons, and large amounts to other countries. Oxford secured most of this business in a comparatively short time, and it was this that gave Oxford a prominence in the industry which it held for a decade.

It brought skilled workmen from various sections, many coming from the nail manufacturing towns of Massachusetts where nail making was one of the leading industries.

This was also true of skilled workmen in all other departments accessory to nail production, and in 1866, when the factory started operations, a bright and happy day dawned upon the old town, and then ensued a period of prosperity that brought together a society of home-loving and religiously minded people whose ties of friendship were cemented through the years and remained unbroken.

This is evidenced by the large number of former residents who return each year to the church reunion; and those who do return receive the same hearty and cordial welcome which was one of the characteristics of the old residents. As the reports of these successful reunions are widely advertised, and the pleasure derived is indescribable in words it is to be hoped that the next reunion the attendance will far surpass all others.

I have transgressed, now on with the story. As to the history of nails, hardly any description of hardware can boast of a more respectable antiquity than nails. They are mentioned in the Bible (Judges 4:21) in conjunction with the killing of Sisera by Jael, reading as follows: "Then Jael, Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took a hammer in her hand and went softly unto him and smote the nail into his temples, etc."

Nails of olden times were nothing but clumsily shaped pieces of iron and were made of course by hand. (over)

In the 17th century it dawned upon one mind that it was possible to produce them by machinery. The first evidence of this interesting fact we find in a state paper which records that in the year 1606 letters patent were granted by King James to Sir Bulmer for the latter's invention of the nail machine. Sir Bulmer, however, does not appear to have been successful with his nail machine, and while others tried to improve on it, it was not until the last century that nail machines began to be utilized in a practical way.

In 1811 a Birmingham, England, firm made the experiment by an ingeniously contrived machine, and by the year 1820 improvements had been made to place them within the circle of trade routine.

About the same time some American manufacturers adopted similar processes and numerous patents were afterwards taken out in the manufacture, but in all the leading principle has been the same so that the inventions of today are simply variations that are more or less connected with the original idea. The first invention of an American made machine appears to belong to Ezekiel Reed of Bridgewater, Mass., who received a patent in 1786, and in a few years Taunton, Mass. became the leading manufacturer, as it was also the greatest tack-making center of the world.

In the early 1860s nail making in England began to decline, as is shown by a report which was sent from Canada Birmingham, England, reading, "So inferior are the English made nails that no carpenter will undertake any contract without being provided with American nails." Which explains why the American make soon monopolized the markets of the world, with Oxford, as mentioned here-to-fore becoming the leader.

In the early '80s dark clouds appeared on the horizon for the cut nail. Wire nails were first made in France. The first wire nails made in America were by William Hersey of New York who began to make them in 1850 by hand. French machines were imported but they were soon discarded for the American made machine, and the first factory for making wire nails was started in 1875 at Covington, Kentucky, by Michael Baackes and the Rev. Joseph Goebbels.

So rapid was the growth that Oxford's market began to fade. Then the curtain fell and her star was set. Years have passed by since those halcyon days and many of the participants have passed from the scene, but it is safe to say that no matter how remote



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