

283
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.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation, hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ..... Titus II. 11-12

"O Lord, keep me sensitive to the grace that is round about me. May the familiar not become neglected! May I see thy goodness in my daily bread, and may the comfort of my home take my thoughts to the mercy seat of God!

Halloween Party Next Friday Night

There will be a good social time for everybody at the Halloween Party Friday night, Oct. 25th. There will be prizes for the best masqued, cake walk, and other games. A small admission to include refreshments. Tickets now for sale, by members of the Women's S.S. Class.

A note from Mr. Weston says:-

"I have heard from the National Geographic Magazine and they express their appreciation of the suggestion to cover Northern N.J. with Oxford included, which will be taken in the future when other states planned for have been completed.

"They also thank me for giving them your name which is being kept in their files so that you will no doubt be called upon when occasion requires.

"I called to see Mrs. Sarah Stout and we went over old time Oxford. I knew her before her marriage when as girl she worked for farmer Hendershot who ran farm known as No. 5., and wanted some date on the old farm house that very likely was built in pre-revolutionary days. She is very much interested in the Bulletin and said if she is able she will surely attend the next reunion."

Mr. Charles Ritzer has contributed one dollar to the Bulletin expenses. Thanks for same.

Who Owned the Furnace in 1755?

All the histories of Oxford state that from 1749 to 1756 or 1757, the owners of the furnace and lands were Jonathan Robeson and Dr. Wm Shippen, Sr. But in the Bulletin of Sept. 8, we quoted from Dr. Shippen's Will made in 1783, the following statement:-

"I give, devise and bequesth unto my son Joseph all my lands in Sussex County, in New Jersey, which I purchased of Jonathan Robeson and my brother Joseph Shippen, called Oxford Furnace lands with all the improvements thereon, containing about five thousand acres of land more or less, etc."

But this gave no idea of the time when Joseph, his brother, was part owner. We have since found documentary proof that his brother Joseph was part owner as early as 1755.

We were lately in Newton, the County seat of Sussex County, and then also of Warren County before 1824, and by the courtesy of the County Clerk and the assistance of Miss Mary Diviny of the same office, in examining the old records we found a suit with complaint against one Henry Slaughter (Collier) or charcoal burner, brought by Joseph Shippen & Co.

The complaint repeatedly states that the firm was composed of Joseph Shippen, Jonathan Robeson and William Shippen.

The complaint charges that Slaughter was employed to make charcoal of 684 cords of wood. He was to receive 6 pounds of money per month for six men.

He is charged with neglect and mismanagement, so that he only produced 170 loads of charcoal, while the amount of wood should have made 273 loads. The Company claimed a damage of 60 pounds sterling.

With the complaint was also filed the summons signed by Russel the Clerk, and served by Maurice Robeson, Sheriff, who was the son of Jonathan Robeson.

The suit was made out in the name of King George the Second.

The Joseph Shippen could not have the son of Dr. Shippen, because he was then a minor, born in 1737, and we know that from a letter still existing of Dr. Shippen his son Joseph was in school in 1755 in Lancaster Pa. The order of the names in the complaint indicates that Joseph Shippen was at that time the largest shareholder in the Company.

The Power of Faith By Samuel J. Cooper

(At the Reunion in May last, Mr. Cooper spoke on the subject of faith, and we asked for a copy to use in the Bulletin. But we waited for a time to print it when it would fit in best. We think now is the time, and trust it will be applied by all.)

"What a wonderful thing is faith! Take the eleventh chapter of Hebrews which shows so clearly the mighty achievements of Faith. Indeed, without Faith there would be no life. Did not Christ say that if we had faith as a grain of mustard seed we could move mountains? Faith then is related to physical as well as spiritual matters, and the two are frequently intertwined that we cannot tell where the one ends and the other begins but to live spiritually we must have faith.

Let us take just a moment to look at Oxford. When the original Furnace was planned the designer had faith that there would be a market for the output; that raw material would be available; that beneath these hills were sufficient deposits of iron ore; with human ingenuity and labor it could be removed and transported to the furnace; that it could there be smelted and the ore separated. He had faith that the creek would continue to flow; that the race along the hill side would carry the water to the huge wheel erected just back of the Colonial M. E. Church, that the water would turn the wheel and thereby furnish power to make a blast for the furnace and to turn the mill stones in the mill; and so we might go right on through the development of all the industries that were here.

"The engineer that planned the R. R. tunnel had faith in his instruments and the measurements taken and in the ability of man to remove that part of the mountain where the tunnel now is. He had faith and the mountain was removed. Everywhere we turn we see evidence of the result of faith and work.

"The citizenry also had spiritual faith. They believed in God. They had faith that if they erected a building and gathered together there to worship Him, his Spirit would be there with them; that people would be good and do good because of the teaching there received and the contact with the Spirit.

(over)

"They showed their faith by works when they erected the old stone Chapel in 1848 which for so many years served its purpose. The enduring faith of the growing population again expressed itself in the erection of the edifice in which we meet today, and also in yonder Chapel.

And not only these but the other buildings for the Worship of God which have been erected in this community.

"Who is there that dare say that such faith was not justified? How the morals of this community were controlled by the spirit emanating from these various church organizations rather than by an armed force--the strong arm of the law?

"Today I would bring you this message--Have Faith! As for me and mine we will put our faith in God and the redeeming grace of the Lamb of Calvary.

Mr. Alfred Babcock of Lone Elm, Kansas, was in Oxford last week--this being the third visit here since he at the age of 12 went with his father to Kansas in 1869. He was born near Green Pond in 1857, the year of the explosion in the old furnace, when four men lost their lives. He remembers about it because at the age of five he heard the son of David Reese, one of the victims, tell about it so vividly that he was deeply impressed.

Mr. Babcock was often in Oxford, and recalls that at the age of 10 he was in the Company Store while his father was shopping he wandered about to see it all.

He even ventured through the arch opening into the Office, and retains one fact about the office, and that was a motto above a window, written as he says on the wall, It ran something like this:--

"If you have any business to transact, transact it and be off about your business, and give other people a chance to transact their business."

Mr. Babcock's father, Ananias came to Oxford and settled at Pequest in 1837, they burned charcoal for the Oxford furnace near Brass Castle from that time on till after 1850. His grandfather Daniel Babcock came here in 1837 and later married Rebecca Aten who was buried in the Jew Cemetery at Hazen. She was of the family who ran the Aten ferry at Columbia.

It is remarkable how people who left Oxford so long ago still return to visit the old home.

