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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.



Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work. Exodus 20; 8-10.

"O Lord God, in whom we live and move and have our being, open our eyes that we may behold thy fatherly presence ever about us. Teach us to be anxious for nothing, and when we have done what thou hast given us to do, help us to leave the issue to thy wisdom. Take from us all doubt and mistrust. Lift our thoughts up to thee in heaven, and make us to know that all things are possible to us through thy divine grace. Amen."

The Ladies of the Church will conduct their annual Fair in the first week of December. The Chicken Waffle Supper will be combined with it.

The Halloween Social was given on October 25th, in the Chapel, and was well attended. It was a happy time, for the children especially. The special music was furnished by the Foss brothers Orchestra, consisting Luther and Wilbur Foss and a Mr. Williams. The Cake Walk was as popular as ever since it was first given in 1929. Mr. Russel Trexler who first introduced it here was present and managed it as in past years.

The receipts were \$28.50

The Ladies who gave the Party in the Wilkinson Show room last Tuesday report a good time and patronage. They took in \$27.00

Next Tuesday is election day and the thing of greatest interest in Oxford will be the vote on the question:

"Shall the Sale of Intoxicating beverages be permitted on Sunday in this community?"

This puts it up to the people of Oxford to decide what they want to be done about it. The action then will settle it for three years. It is a question of Sabbath observance as well as temperance.

In Mr. Niels Peterson's Scrap Book referred to in last issue, there is a clipping describing the removal of the old Rolling-mill to Columbia, Pa.

It seems that in 1899, when the Empire Company bought the furnace plant and mines, that they sold the old rolling-mill to Jansen brothers for the sum of \$5,000. according to a statement made to the editor by Mr. Patrick Burns.

The clipping explains the removal thus. "Jansen brothers are at present engaged with a force of men tearing down the puddling furnaces and dismantling the old rolling mill at Oxford.

The equipment will be loaded upon cars and removed to Columbia, Pa., where it will be set up again and operated in connection with another extensive plant of the Company.

The rolling mill at Oxford will be entirely effaced from the map, as Jansen Brothers intend to tear it down and remove it with the rest of the material.

The mill was built early in the sixties, and experts who worked there pronounced it one of the most complete and best built plants in the country. Fine wages were paid the workmen and it was a very valuable industry for the town and for the whole neighborhood.

"Frank Jansen, a member of the firm, has stated that they have decided to move the plant because of the heavy freight bills on soft coal and general high freight rates on other necessary transportations."

Some one has stated that "The Mill had 26 puddling and five heating furnaces besides four for railroad spikes. There were 8 engines in it, two of 400 horse power."

The rolling mill covered more ground than any other plant of the Company.

Fortunately there are some excellent photographs of it, of which the best hangs in the upper hall of the E. T. Lukens home.

The destruction of this large plant was perhaps the first of the many buildings since raised to the ground, whose places are still barren spots in the village. The Machine shop near the rolling mill was the last to go, only this year.

It now looks like the only edifices connected with the iron business in Oxford which will be kept for the future are the oldest of all, the old furnace, the mansion house and the old grist mill now occupied by the M. E. Congregation.

(In 1952 Mr. Patrick Kempsey wrote a most interesting paper for the Bulletin, and as we have many new readers since the we are glad to reprint it)

"How many can remember when Cinder street was a very busy place? On it was located the large Wheelwright shop where they built the large ore wagons, of three tons capacity, to haul the ore from the mine to the furnace; also the large log wagons to supply the heavy timbers for the mines and the stave timber for the nail kegs.

There too they made the large ore bucket for hoisting the ore from the mines. The ore wagons were replaced by the railroad with ore cars, pulled by mules of great size named 'Bob' and 'Jule', and many other Southern names.

William Stout had charge of the work in the Wheelwright shop and some who worked there were John Weber, John Nelson, and my uncle Bartley Keenan. There were many other I do not recall.

Next door was the blacksmith shop where all the work of the wheelwright shop was 'Ironed Off', and where all the farm implements were taken care of; one hundred horses and mules were shod and a few oxen.

The men in charge of this shop were a Mr. Parks, Jess Baylor, father of William Baylor and others.

The large stone building near the blast furnace, now used as a Church, was formerly a very busy grist mill which was run by a large water wheel. The water came down the mill race from the lower end of Thomas Buckley's farm. The mill was a lively place and usually one could see from two to four large teams of horses waiting their turn to unload their corn and grain and in turn be loaded with flour, meal and feed; also buckwheat of which we ate good and plenty in those days.

It was amusing to hear the team drivers swap stories while waiting their turn. But none of them could do it so well as good, genial Frank Caley, the man in charge of the mill. He was a wonderful character, always in good humor. Later he had charge of the Stave factory, and with Mr. Warren Ward, developed the Caley and Ward tract of land on Dutch Hill. Charles Creveling succeeded Caley at the mill. He was a very fine man, and his son is now the head of the Newton Public schools.

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Still later a Mr. Gano had charge of the mill.

"In the mill were two remarkable helpers, James Pike and Thomas Walker who could tell a good tale as well as any.

I smiled when I read in the Bulletin of the payless years. Well they did pay a little at Christmas and the 4th of July.

I well remember being in the crowd of five or six hundred workmen trying to enter the pay office. When I received my two dollars I felt like a great big man.

Some got as high as five dollars. How I thought if I were as big as those men I too might get five dollars! The advisable thing to do after getting out of the pay office was to look over your self especially your feet, to see if you were all there. For in those days the workmen wore heavy hob-nail shoes. However when

we were sure we were all intact, we hid us away to some place to see how much pleasure we could get for two dollars.'

We have nothing definite about the progress in the old furnace matter.

We have been informed that the deed has been made and sent to Mr. Peckitt, to be signed by him and sent to the State Commission. But no word has as yet been received from them. The long delay has doubtlessly been unavoidable, but it is good to know that the transfer to the State is now in process if not concluded.

Mrs. Naomi Poole sends us a nice note expressing her great interest in everything about Oxford, old and new, and names an old Oxford school teacher, not before mentioned in the Bulletin. She asks:

"Does any one remember A. J. Flitcraft? He was Principal of the school when I taught there. Several years ago I saw his picture in some daily paper--a Supplement to Life Insurance Courant. A fine looking man. His pupils will remember him no doubt."

Mrs. Anna Johanson Smith died at her home in Bloomsbury on October 17th.

She was a resident of Oxford 50 years ago. She and her family were members of our Church, and her sister Josie was a teacher in the public school.



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