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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.

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity.

I Cor. 16:13-14

"Almighty God, and most merciful Father, give us, we beseech thee, that grace that we may duly examine the inmost of our hearts, and our most secret thoughts, how we stand before thee; and that we may henceforward never be drawn to do anything that may dishonor thy name; but may persevere in all good purposes, and in thy holy service unto our life's end, by the grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen."

The Annual Fair---December 4th.

The time set for the Ladies Annual Fair and Chicken-waffle Supper is Dec. 4th, the first Wednesday evening of December.

Help and contributions of all kinds are solicited to make this occasion a happy and successful one.

Bulletin Anniversary

The first issue of the Bulletin was on November 16th, 1929, six years ago.

It was started simply as an ordinary church calendar and for the first year kept to that usual form; but gradually historical notes were printed which attracted attention and former members began to write items and letters which steadily increased in interest and importance. It led in this way to the holding of the first annual Reunion in 1931 and then the subscribers began to multiply and have continued to do so ever since. Former citizens of Oxford and members of the churches in Oxford have found it an interesting weekly letter recalling former happy days together.

These subscribers now live in 12 different states of the union from Massachusetts to California. The Bulletin has earnestly furthered the public welfare and the best interests of the town, and has been useful in the movement toward the Furnace plant.

We now depend wholly upon the generosity of our readers for the expense of publication. We have now to have printed another years supply of covers and purchase supplies of paper, ink, etc.

We believe our readers will all help.

Furnace Notes

Encouraging progress has been made on the furnace during the week past.

An architectural survey was made by a body of men sent by Mr. Seymour Williams State Supervisor of the American Historic Buildings Survey, who is cooperating with the State Commission on Historic Sites.

The architect in charge was Mr. Henry Vreeland, of Dover, assisted by four draughtsmen--Mr. Earl Burd, of Dover; Mr. Allen Speer of Pinebrook; Mr. Lewis Spitznas and Mr. W.A. McSweeney, both of Morristown.

They spent the whole day last Wednesday making a complete draft of the furnace on which they will base the drawings for the restoration and preservation when the character of it has been determined by the State Commission.

On Thursday Mr. J.A. Mooney, of P'burg, in charge of the Relief Work in Warren and Hunterdon Counties, in this district, was in Oxford and through him contact is to be made with Mr. J.F. Moroney, the Director of the district to obtain funds from the WPA for the local relief work and material to restore the furnace.

Mr. Mooney was supplied with the facts about the furnace and promised full and hearty cooperation to urge the matter upon the higher officers.

His interest was won by the efforts of Mr. James Osted, Secretary of the Oxford Historical Society, and Mr. Walter Cryan, in charge of the local relief work.

These steps were taken at the request of Mr. Marple, director of the State Commission, to enable him to get in touch with the Officers of the WPA.

Though a promising beginning has thus been made, it will of necessity take weeks and perhaps months to work out the case finally, as it must be sent at last to Washington for their approval.

The Editor has received a letter from Mrs. Bertha T. Slater, Chairman of the Historical Research in the Peggy Warne Chap. D.A.R., of Hackettstown, requesting "all available information about the old Oxford Furnace which has just been taken over as a Historic Site by the State." Also about the Methodist Church building.

We will comply with this request as soon as possible. This is another of the many distant inquiries about the fine historical edifices of Oxford.

A letter written last Wednesday by Mrs. James L. Loder, of Phila. Pa., is of such deep interest to our readers, that we trust to be pardoned for printing it here in part.

Mrs Loder Writes----

"Our mutual and very good friend, Mr. George S. Humphrey, came to visit my daughter and me last Friday. And while Mr. Humphrey seemed and looked very much better than he has since his illness last summer, he unfortunately had one of his old attacks last Sunday night. He has been in bed ever since and while he is much better, and expects to sit up for a while today, he will not be able to make his visit to you this coming week-end as he planned.....

"I enjoy reading your "Bulletin" immensely, and hope before long to send you some more of Dr. Loder's writings. How pleased he would have been to know that some of the are published in your very live, interesting paper."

Only the day before Mr. Humphrey went to Phila. he wrote us of his plan to come here for the week end, especially to talk over the furnace matters in which he has been so deeply interested.

A part of this letter is of general interest and so is copied here for our readers. It is this:-

"I've been interested in the notes from Mrs. Naomi McCall Poole in recent issues of the Bulletin. She was one of the first 'girls' whom I met after coming to Oxford in 1875; the meeting occurred at a 'farewell reception' tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Kingsbury, who were leaving Oxford to take up their residence in Scranton. The affair was held at the 'Fowler House', and I remember, that, being a stranger, 'Miss McCall' added much to my pleasure.

"I wonder if she remembers the occasion. In the last issue she asks if any one remembers Mr. A. J. Flitcraft. I recall him very clearly, although just previous to my arrival or about that time, he had given up his position as principal of the school and had become connected with the Provident Life and Trust Company of Philadelphia. I know that he was highly regarded by his pupils as well as the entire community."

Mrs. J. L. Loder lives at 3932 Locust St. Phila. Pa. and Mr. Humphrey's address is 19 Hyatt street, St. George, Staten Island, New York.

Patrick Burns' Memories

In a pleasant conversation with Mr. Burns he recalled many incidents and persons of his early days in Oxford.

His father came from Ireland in 1863 and Patrick in 1866. Both worked in the Rolling Mill, the father in making plate iron and the son in puddling.

The mother, now dead, was a tailoress and sewed for the Waltons, first with Joseph and later with Benjamin.

Mr. Burns recalled a favorite saying of Col. Charles Scranton to this effect;

"If a man would eat a peck of salt in Oxford and drink once from the great spring by his house, and leave Oxford he would be sure to return again."

Again he told of an old soldier from the German army locally nick-named Hob-nail John. He won the the boys, who began deeply attached to him, by drilling them in military movements.

But he was prone to get drunk, and would sleep anywhere he might happen to be overcome by alcohol.

Once in winter when the snow was deep and it was very cold, he got drunk in Jonestown, and fell asleep out in the snow and would have frozen to death.

But the boys heard about it and took an old sled and brought him down to his boarding house.

He tells of another odd character by name of Jerry Mack, who was partially demented, but religiously inclined who would go about the town preaching.

But he was a harmless person and he was permitted to sleep in the furnace to keep warm. One night he was suffocated by gas. He wore ragged old clothes, and one night after his death, David Kirkpatrick played a practical joke on the boys who hung about the furnace, by dressing up in old clothes like Jerry Mack's and walked about the furnace and the boys though it was a ghost, and, as this fact was kept a secret the boys were shy of going near the furnace.

Mr. Burns recalls some of the men who worked in the Cooper Shop; their names were Theodore Burd foreman; William and Emmanuel White; Robert and Clark Pierson; and Johnny Bush who hauled the kegs to the nail factory.

