

# 295



Fowler House 185 yrs old

The  
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

A. G. YOUNT  
*Minister*



Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will show thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.—Deuteronomy, 32:7.



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And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

----Revelation, 19:6

"God the Father almighty, good beyond all that is good, fair beyond all that is fair, in whom is calmness, peace, and concord; Do thou remove the dissensions which divide us from each other, and bring us back into unity and love and brotherlikin<sup>d</sup>ness: and by thy grace keep us in the unity of spirit and in the bond of peace; and this we ask in Jesus name. Amer

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The meeting tonight at 6:30 is for all who may wish to come. It will be conducted by the Young People.

Mr. Wilbur Rush has applied for a letter of dismission to the Second Presbyterian Church in Newark. The Rev. Chester Clee is the Pastor.

Mr. Bertie Austie is seeing to enter the U.S. Navy.

Both of the above young men grew up in Oxford and have from boyhood attended our Sunday and have for years been members of our Church. They begin their new life in other fields and all their Oxford friends will join us in wishing for them successful and happy careers.

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The past week brought to the people of Oxford good news, in that the local strike involving 150 workmen has been settled and work will be started this week.

The closing of this chief industry of Oxford for over four months has been a great hardship to the community. The employees and the owners are to be congratulated in coming to amical terms.

Let all forget the past weeks and give all help to new start.

The Date of the Old Stone Mansion House has never been definitely settled. Histories put it at 1750 to 1760.

But now we believe that date is 1754, for reason that a fire-back taken from one of the big fire places, and is now in the Philadelphia Historical Society rooms, has that date soldered in the iron at the right hand corner.

When we saw it last summer we said that if it had come from any house in Oxford, that it could be only from the Mansion House, because of its great size, much larger than the one in the Washington museum in Morristown, which has a card on it stating that it was taken from the Col. Charles Scranton house in Oxford. Its date is 1758. But we have now proof that the big one in Philadelphia was taken from the Mansion house. We found this out by referring to a fine article on "Oxford's Historic Mansion," written by Mrs. A. M. Weston, in September 1932, and printed in No. 132, in which she states "About 57 years ago, when the old house was undergoing repairs, John Jourdan, a banker of Philadelphia, discovered that the backs of these fire places were lined with iron plates on which were engraved the British coat of Arms. He received permission to remove one of them and it now forms a part of an interesting collection owned by the Historical Society."

The conclusion is inevitable that the date of the erection of the house was on or before 1754. And this raises the question as to who built it, Robeson or Shippens? We are convinced that Jonathan Robeson's son, Maurice Robeson lived in the house from the time it was built until 1758, when he moved out to Green's Pond, because the Shippens had bought the furnace and properties. As the Shippens bought part interest in the furnace in 1749, and as Robeson still owned  $\frac{1}{4}$  interest in it in 1756, the house was built by the Company, unless it was erected before 1749, by Mr. Robeson. We know that Robeson had guests there in 1751.

## OLD OXFORD DAYS by Clinton E. Weston

The old cast house opposite the old grist-mill, -now used as the .E. Church- was the scene of a memorable Presidential campaign Republican meeting in 1884. The meeting was preceded by a torch light procession headed by a fife and drum corps connected with the military company of which I was (to use the words of the redoubtable Corporal Ed Perkins) "th self nominated and constituted Captain." The main music was of course furnished by that celebrated Band headed by E. T. Lukens.

One of the speakers of the evening was General Judson Kilpatrick, that intrepid calvary commander whose brilliant record in the Civil War is a matter of history, accompanied by his South American wife. His address, accented by his unbounded energy and enthusiasm, which were his characteristics in his many notable achievements, aroused his hearers to a degree unequalled perhaps by anyone before or since, who has essayed to pierce the atmosphere with a flow of vocabulary. The ex-soldiers who were present acclaimed their former comrade and at the end of the General's address an ovation was given him by the men and women standing and giving him the customary three cheers.

The other speaker of the evening was Col. Schoonmaker who gave an eloquent address during which he told the following anecdote that was heard in Oxford many times afterward:

A man passing a barber shop was attracted by a sign in the window reading, "What do you think- Pat Malony shaves you for nothing and gives you a drink." The man immediately went into the shop, had a shave and drank copiously of the liquid and then started to go out, when Pat called him back and demanded payment. The man remonstrated, pointing to the sign.

Pat smiled and said, "Ah! my good man, you do not read the sign right. It reads What! Do you think Pat Maloney shaves you for nothing and gives you a drink?"

With the advent of the radio such political meetings are largely of a by-gone era but to those of us who  
(over)

recall them will agree, I think, that Oxford, in spite of its otherwise placid and serene atmosphere, was a hot spot for politics.

There always was a touch of humor when those political parades took place. It was easy to distinguish to which party families belonged for when the parade passed the houses of those who were in sympathy they would all be lighted brilliantly while those of the opposite affiliation would be dismally darkened and while passing the latter various and sundry remarks would be made.

If it was advertised that refreshments were to be served after the parade--well, in an emergency even politics might be disregarded.

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In November we received a letter from Mrs. Howard Slater, secretary of the Hackettstown chapter of the D.A.R. requesting information about the history of the old furnace. In reply we sent a hastily prepared sketch which was unworthy of the subject. But Mrs. Slater writes a very gracious acknowledgement in which she states that:-

"Two more copies will be made of the history, one to be sent to the State Chapter and one to the National D.A.R. It is of particular interest to me as Washington is my home town and I remember Oxford when the furnaces were operating and knew also the Scranton family."

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We have received another interesting communication from Mr. S.F. Weyburn, Secretary of the Scranton Historical Society.

He is very much interested in the letters running in the Bulletin written in the 1840s by G.W. and S.T. Scranton; and naturally wants the originals for their Society.

He sent me a copy of a new sketch of the life of William Henry, based on the recently discovered Diary of Mr. Henry. We shall make use of this new information in a later issue. The Title of Mr. Weyburn's Biography, which was printed in the Scranton Paper last summer is:

" William Henry, the Iron Master of Oxford Furnace, N.J. "



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1751  
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