

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.*

And Joseph said to his brethren, Fear not; for am I in the place of God?

But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.  
-----Genesis 50:19-20.

George Washington kissed this passage of Scripture at his first inauguration as President. It is an apt selection as the climax of reunion of Joseph and his brethren.

So Washington's place at the head of the colonies, which had long been divided over the form of the new government, marked their union as a new nation and people.

"Grant O Lord, that this day which thou hast given unto us in mercy, may be returned unto thee in service; that all our tasks may be gladly and faithfully performed, as in thy sight; that our burdens may not be too heavy for us, because thine aid and comfort are with us continually; and that in nothing may we displease thee, or injure one another. In merciful wisdom save us from our faults, and be gracious unto us." Amen.

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During the long cold spell the health of the people in Oxford has been very good, apart from common colds. There has been one bad accident in the case of Mrs. Laura Seiple who fell upon the ice and fractured a hip bone. It is hoped that she will make a complete recovery. Mrs. Frank Bergenback is ill and in the hospital for an operation. Mr. Anton Peterson has been poorly for some time and has been taken to his daughter's home, Mrs. Jane Skove, in Merchantville, N. J. His daughter, Miss Martha writes that he is getting better, and that he wants the Bulletin sent there for Mrs. Skove, and for them all to read. A dollar was enclosed to have it mailed to Mrs. Skove regularly, which it will be a pleasure to attend to.

Letter from Mr. Peckitt

We were pleased to receive an unsolicited letter from Mr. Leonard Peckitt, President of the Warren Foundry & Pipe Corporation which donated the old furnace to the State for an historical shrine.

He writes:

"Thank you for sending me a copy of Bulletin #286.

I have read with much interest all you say about the old furnace and am glad to see that the plans for its restoration are now under way. My recommendation would be to restore the plant as it was in Revolutionary times.

Your description of the stack and and its appliances as they were in 1741 appears to be very accurate.

It would, in my opinion, be a great mistake to follow the lines as they appeared after the added changes made in 1884.

I was more than pleased when our Directors approved my recommendation to deed the property to any proper Society able to maintain it in the future and we are surely greatly indebted to you, Mr. Post, Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Gruendyke for the interest displayed in bringing this about.

A rather severe attack of Bronchitis and pleuisy beginning early in November kept me in bed for eight weeks, which explains why you did not hear from me sooner."

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We are constantly cheered by the loyal friends of the Bulletin, both in words of encouragement and by financial support. Since last report we have received \$5.00 from Mrs. Dr. L. B. Hoagland, to cover the postage for her niece, Mrs. W. W. Carson, in Virginia, and the rest to be applied on the new typewriter.

Also Miss Rosalie Sarson sends \$4.00 for the Fund, wishing 'the sum many times more, the Bulletin is so valuable.' She is much pleased with the progress of the plans for the old furnace;-"It is quite thrilling to look back over the steps you have taken to bring it about. Old Oxfordites will always be grateful to you."

Indenture of Property Sale, 1765

A newly discovered legal document of the colonial period of what is now Warren County lands, and bearing upon Oxford history, is the latest important addition to our knowledge of that misunderstood age of our history. It was recently found by Dr. Lloyd P. Shippen, of Washington, D. C. a descendant of Dr. Wm. Shippen who owned Oxford Furnace in the last half of the 18th century. It was among old papers handed down from that time through lineal heirs.

Dr. Shippen has become interested in the furnace history, and when he came across it he was kind enough to copy it for our use, and further promises to give it to the Oxford Furnace Museum when completed. Mr. Ben. R. Pittenger received it from the owner and forwarded it to us.

The land specified is not in Oxford township, but in Greenwich, between the Musconetcong and the Pakatcong rivers. Its only reference to Oxford will be explained at the close. The document reads:-

" This Indenture Made July, 4, 1765 between John Hughes of Phila., Merchant, and Sarah his wife of the One part and Jacob Starn of the County of Sussex in the Province of West New Jersey, Iron Master, of the other part. Whereas Jonathan Robeson purchased of Samuel Johnston 350 acres of land in the Province of West New Jersey as by indenture of Dec. 6, 1749 under the hand and seal of the said Samuel Johnston-- And Whereas the aforesaid Jonathan Robeson purchased another tract of land in W. New Jersey of John Cox Esq., containing 150 acres, June 16, 1750-- And Whereas- Jonathan Robeson by survey made March 1, 1754 and recorded in the Secretary's Office at Burlington in the Book called Bass Book, Folio 284, became seized of 402 acres in W. N. J. -- And Whereas Jonathan Robeson by indenture of Dec. 18 1762 for the consideration therein mentioned, conveyed to John Hughes not only his undivided two thirds of the above mentioned Four tracts of land, amounting to 1262 acres, more or less, but also at the same time sold to the said John Hughes-- (over

100 tons of pig iron at 6 pounds per ton from Oxford Furnace, annually, provided so many were made there, as per agreement between Jonathan Robeson and Messers. Joseph and William Shippen--.

NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH that the said John Hughes and Sarah his wife in consideration of 1600 pounds proclamation money of W.N.J. to them paid by the said Jacob Starn--do grant to the said Jacob Starn all title etc. in the undivided two thirds of the foresaid four piece tract of land, containing 1262 acres, more or less, --and also all their title etc. to the undivided two thirds of the messuages, Buildings, Forges, Mills, Dams, Barns, Stables and Apurtenances whatsoever to the said tract of land above mentioned etc. etc..

Signed J.S. and Sarah Hughes.

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The 100 tones of pig iron from Oxford Furnace, annually, we know about from other sources. It was the pay Jona. Robeson got when he sold, in 1757, his remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  part of the furnace and lands (4000 acres) to the brothers Joseph and William Shippen. From the above we learn that he sold this claim to Hughes in 1762. Before this Jacob Starn had leased the furnace from the Shippens.

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Citizens of Oxford and vicinity in 1845, (continued)

Cornelius Stewart; Peter Smith; Esq.; Jacob Smith; Wm. B. Smith; Jno. Smith; George R. Smith; Aaron Smith; Peter Smith, chopper; Samuel Smith, chopper; William Shaffer; John Shaffer; Peter Shaffer, Jn; James E. Shaffer; Katurah Shaffer; George Shaffer; Zebulon Shaffer; Samuel Sheridan; Thomas Sheridan; Adam Schweitzer; Abraham Seiple; Henry Snyder; Theodore Stout; Jacob Stout; James Scott; John S. Sherred; John Staples; David Stiff; John Stultz; Jos. Scott; Edward Taylor; George Taylor; James Taylor; John Thatcher; Peter Tice; Stephen Tice; George Titman; Henry Vannest; John Vannest; Geo. Vanhorn; Aaron Wilson; John Wolfinger; Sarah Wilson; George Wilson; Samuel Wilson; James Wildrick; Wm White. Isaac J. Ward; Jacob Wyckoff; Phebe Wyckoff



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