

*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.*

Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.

--Ezekiel, 14:20

"O God, who delighteth in mercy, give us of thy spirit a double portion that we may be filled with pure and holy desires. Help us to muse upon thy goodness; upon the blessings of daily life; upon the mystery of the world, and the deep shame of sin, and the certainty of death; that we cast all our care upon thee our only hope and salvation, through our Lord Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

-----

On Sabbath, July 12th, Martin Wilbur Johnson, one of our choice young men came before the Session and was examined and received into our communion. We trust that he may become a living stone in the temple of our God.

It is a cheering fact that the young people who have faithfully attended Sunday School nearly all apply for admission to the Church and the Holy Communion, and this of their own free will and choice. Thus parents should see that their children be kept in Sunday school regularly from from early childhood until mature young men and women.

-----

#### Mr. Freece to Speak

On Sunday Morning August 9th, Mr. Hans P. Freece, an attorney of N.Y. City will give an address in our church on Mormonism. He was born a Mormon, his father a Mormon elder and a polygamist. His mother was the second wife, but sent her boy to the Presbyterian Mission School and both left Mormonism and became Presbyterians. He came East got a fine education and became a lawyer. Come and hear him. He seeks no money, being moved by zeal for mission work.

## Maurice Robeson

Though Maurice Robeson, son of Jonathan Robeson, was not an owner of the old Furnace, yet he was so closely connected with its history that some account of him is essential to make the story complete.

He was born in 1724, and was 23 at the time his father began to build the Furnace, and the family tradition that he helped his father is probably correct. At any rate when he married in 1750 he went to house-keeping in the old stone house at Green Pond (Mt. Lake). And as he was a skilled iron master, he must have learned the trade with his father.

For in 1756 he moved to Orange Co. N.Y. and there erected a blast furnace, but his health failing returned to Green Pond in 1761, dying soon after, at the age of 37.

That he was an able man is shown by the fact that in 1754 he was the Sheriff of Sussex and Warren Cos. and in the few spent in N.Y. he became a Judge there.

He was a man of wealth at his death, owning three farms in this County, one at Green Pond, one at Hope and one near Blairstown.

His connection with the Oxford Furnace history is further emphasised in that he was the father of Morris Robeson who bought back the Oxford Furnace and lands in 1809. Then too his daughter Elizabeth spent much of her life at Green Pond, and died in the Old Stone Mansion House, then occupied by the family of her brother Morris. Mrs. Mary Robeson Smith of Belvidere, a great granddaughter of Maurice, has the old family Bible with its family records.

This Bible was printed in 1599 in England, and is a rare and valuable heirloom.

Our next sketch will be about Morris Robeson and family.

-----  
The next issue of the Bulletin will be on August 9th. Our readers can be sure they get all the copies by examining the numbers on the first page, which are made in regular order.

## The Religious Character of Mr. Selden Scranton.

By George S. Humphrey

Several months ago the Bulletin expressed a desire that some one write an article referring to the religious life of Selden T. Scranton who for so many years dominated the manufacturing and commercial affairs of Oxford.

Perhaps no one now living has a better knowledge of this phase of Mr. Scranton's character than myself.

During the first six months of my life in Oxford, in 1875, my home was at his house, and throughout the ten years of my residence in the village I frequently spent nights, week-ends and longer periods there. So I came to have an intimacy with Mr. and Mrs. Scranton which was quite outside of our business connection. No doubt the long standing friendship existing between my father and the three Scranton brothers, George, Selden and Charles was largely influential in creating this friendly relationship.

The three brothers were born in the strict religious atmosphere of Connecticut which affected their entire careers. In addition to this, they all married wives of deep religious convictions. So it is not surprising that their family life was profoundly spiritual. This was eminently true of the home of Selden. No matter how trying or perplexing the business affairs had been during the day, nor how late in the evening the discussion of the problems had continued, there was always a period of Bible reading and prayer before retiring for the night.

In the morning all members of the family, including servants and visitors gathered in the dining room to read a portion of the Scriptures "around", that is, each person was supplied with a Bible or Testament, and, beginning with Mr. Scranton, read two verses in turn; after that all knelt while he made a sort of patriarchal prayer.

His reading, like that of Mrs. Scranton, consisted mostly of religious books and periodicals. Having grown up under somewhat broader influences this seemed to me to be somewhat narrow, but one must remember the feeling which existed against novel reading sixty or seventy years ago; the idea being that all spare time (over)

should be employed in a strictly serious manner.

He was always solicitous in regard to the religious well fare of those with whom he came in contact, especially, young people, and I well remember the conversations with him in my early days in Oxford. Particularly at the time of my uniting with the Church.

Though nurtured in the Congregational Church, he became a Presbyterian in early life and was thoroughly Calvinistic in his beliefs; though in his family life this was somewhat tempered by Mrs. Scranton who always held to the less rigid tenets of the Moravian Church. But they both believed in giving sinners and "unconverted persons" a wholesome dread of "falling into the hands of an angry God;" and to them "the fires of hell" were no mere figures of speech. I some times wonder, if in this day and age we haven't swung too far in the opposite direction.

It is hardly necessary to refer to Mr. Scranton's interest in the Church in which for most of his life he was a ruling elder. He was a moving spirit in the organization of Presbyterian Churches in Oxford and Scranton, and was helpful to the other denominations in the village. He was always active in the Sabbath school, being for many years superintendent of the Oxford School. He was very regular in his attendance at Church services and never lost an opportunity to impress the duty and privilege of the habit upon others.

After all these years, in estimating Mr. Scranton's character, I feel that while, as is true of all mankind, his life was influenced by mixed motives its predominating characteristic was a deep, sincere, religious and spiritual nature. He was one of a type which is not so common in these days as it was half-a-century ago.

-----

Miss Florence P. Clayton, of Newark attended our service on July 12th. She was the guest of Miss Rosalie Sarson. Miss Clayton is Science teacher in the Newark Public schools, and we delighted to make her acquaintance, and to learn that she was interested in the Bulletin, and has become a subscriber.



**CHURCH OFFICERS**

*The Session*

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

*Elders*

ABRAM PITTENGER  
EDWARD T. GREEN

ELISHA B. FOSS  
LEWIS BERGENBACK



*Board of Trustees*

JAMES RADEL  
GEORGE DOCKER, JR.  
FRED K. SARSON  
EDWARD SHARPS

HARRY MILLER  
CHARLES RENNER  
LEWIS E. GREEN  
CHARLES DUX

BENJAMIN GREEN



*Church Treasurer*

LEWIS E. GREEN



*Sunday School*

|                                       |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Superintendent</i> .....           | E. B. FOSS       |
| <i>Assistant Superintendent</i> ..... | CHRIS SEIPLE     |
| <i>Secretary</i> .....                | ALVIN RENNER     |
| <i>Treasurer</i> .....                | MERRILL FOSS     |
| <i>Organist</i> .....                 | MISS RUTH SNYDER |
| <i>Assistant Organist</i> .....       | MISS ALICE BELL  |



*Choir*

*Leader* ..... MRS. E. T. GREEN

