

The
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

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Minister



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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 thou shalt do that which
- is right and good in the sight of
the Lord;that it may be well with
thee. ... Deuteronomy 6:18

"O God,by whom the meek are
guided in judgment,and light riseth
up in darkness for the godly;

Grant us,in all our doubts and
uncertainties, the grace to ask
what thou wouldst have us to do;
that the spirit of wisdom may save
us from false choices,and that in
thy light we may see light,and in
thy straight path may not stumble,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.Amen.

The next issue of the Bulletin
will be on September 6th. We shall
resume the weekly publication some
time that month.

We have had very good success
in our search for new historical
material, having discovered several
deeds or indentures, of the furnace
and lands, between Jonathan Robeson
and the Shippen brothers,Joseph and
Dr.Wm,the Elder. They settle
many disputed problems about the
ownership at that time,the middle
of the 17th,century.

When we have studied them more
carefully we will describe them
so far as they shed light on the
furnace history.

We have been studying a map of
Warren County,made in 1853,which is
x exceedingly interesting,as it gives
the names of the principle citizens
of the County about a century ago.

We shall report on it later. The
Map belongs to Miss Bertha Lapelt.

It originally belonged to her great
grand father Philip Hartung,who
lived between Hope and Delaware.

Miss Lapelt is the Secretary and
treasurer of the Hartung family
reunions, the last being held only
yesterday at Bangor,Pa.

This old map shows but one church
building in Oxford in 1853,that was
the old stone Chapel,built in 1848.

Mrs. Amelia M. Weston

Mrs. A.M. Weston, widow of Captain Christopher C. Weston, died suddenly at her home in Hackettstown, on Sat. August 15th. She had been in her usual good health and her passing was without any warning to the family. The funeral was from her home last Tuesday, 2:30, P.M., with interment in Hillside Cemetery, Oxford.

Mrs. Weston was born in New England, Dec. 4th, 1842. She was married in 1865 to Capt. Weston, and the next year came to Oxford. Happily we have her own account of her trip here, written a year ago for the Bulletin. She wrote, "On the evening of October 11, 1866, a little company of men women and children boarded a Fall River-to-New York steamer; their destination being Oxford, a small town in Northwestern part of New Jersey, ..

Our steamer, the largest of the line, was rather late in starting, being obliged to wait for a Boston train which always brought many passengers. Our first and only stop was at Newport, where many passengers and much freight were taken on board. Then after rounding Point Judith, the water became very angry. We were well out to sea and many of our company, having come from interior towns and not experienced travellers, hastily sought their state rooms.

We arrived in New York on the morning of October 12th, more than an hour late. The inner man clamoring for breakfast, which was not served on the steamer, but appeased at a near by restaurant, consumed another hour. We had no appointed leader and when we were told to make haste for our train we found it had gone.

The only alternative was to take a Jersey Central instead of a D.L. & W. train, and we had a long wait at Hampton junction.

Those were not the days of electricity and stream-lined trains, so the shades of a short October day were fast falling when I stepped on the platform of the little station at Oxford and heard a voice from the gathering gloom say, 'The Yankees are here!' The following winter was a hard one; storms, clouds and wintry winds; the care of an eight months old daughter and household duties.

Then when spring came the trees on all the hills put forth their thousands of leaves and the green grass began to grow on the side-walks. By that time more Yankees had come and people from more distant places.

When I complained to a neighbor of the lack of social life she said: 'You should go to church for there is where you will find all the social life of the place.' So the next Sabbath, a beautiful June day, I decided to go to church. I could see so little of the town from my windows, because of the many hills, that I was greatly surprised to see a well filled church, and the Pastor, Mr. Cline, delivered an inspiring sermon.

At the close of the service I received so warm a welcome I went again and after service I wandered into the Sunday school which was held in the old stone Chapel." Mr. Charles

Scranton was then the Supt. and persuaded her to take a class. "So he brought me 10 bright looking little fellows who seemed delighted to have been promoted, and the next Sunday one of them brought me a box of ginger snaps which he proudly said he had helped his mother bake on Saturday by watching the oven to see that they did not burn. They were good boys; restless sometimes on a hot summer day, but obedient and loyal to me until they went out into the world to make fuller lives for themselves.....

In 1885 or thereabouts, a new kind of nail appeared which immediately crowded the cut nail out of the market and many people were forced to find new homes in other places.

But they still cling to Oxford, and come annually from a distance to grasp the hand of friends of Old Lang Syne and to ask, 'Do you remember me?'

Yes, we remember! Remembrance is the only Paradise from which we cannot be driven."

This last sentence is surely an inspired oracle, and should become the permanent motto of our annual reunions. Mrs. Weston attended all the reunions which were occasions of great delight to her for they brought back to her memory of old Oxford days and friends. Her two children Mrs. Millie Tunison and Clinton E. Weston, with their children, still survive her.

Morris Robeson

We have given sketches of Jonathan Robeson, and son Maurice, but the furnace was sold by them before 1760 to the Shippens and remained in that family until 1809 when Morris, the son of Maurice bought it and restored it to the original builder's family.

Morris was born in N.Y. State in 1759, where his father built a new furnace, but the death of the latter in 1761 at Green's Pond, led to his going in youth to live with relatives in Phila. He later returned to the farm at Green Pond, but not for long.

He went back to Phila. and soon became a successful and prosperous man married a sister of his partners, and

with them built an iron furnace near Salem N.J. They supplied the first iron water pipes laid in Phila.

In 1809 he purchased the Oxford furnace and lands, and for a few years spent only their summers here, but later made it their permanent home. It is commonly said that Morris did not operate the furnace but that is hardly credible in view of all the facts. It is more likely that in his last years he left it idle because of hard times then prevailing, and there was no profit in it. But we have proof that he and his family after him sold ore to neighboring forges.

But Morris operated a grist mill, a saw mill, a plaster mill and a stamping mill. Besides he was a great farmer putting all available land in good cultivation, planting orchards of apples and other fruit.

He became a judge of Sussex Co. a director of the Trenton Banking Co. and the first President of the Sussex Co. Agricultural Society. Sussex then included Warren County.

He died in the stone mansion house in Jan. 1823. His widow Tacy Paul, was Executrix but her sons look after the property. In 1834 her son Wm. P. Robeson and his brother-in-law Jno. P. B. Maxwell, bought the furnace properties, and sold the furnace tract in 1839 to G.W. and S.T. Scranton, but held most of the land for several years afterward. Wm. P. Robeson was a Judge of Warren Co. for many years -- a fine and able man.



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A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

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Leader MRS. E. T. GREEN

