

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.



For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity whose name is holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite heart and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Isaiah 57:15

"Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being, to whose tender compassion we owe our safety in days past, together with all the comforts of this present life and the hopes of that which is to come. Leave us not, nor forsake us, O Father, but conduct us safe through all changes of our condition here, in unchangeable love to thee, and in holy tranquility of mind in thy love to us, till we come to dwell with thee and rejoice in thee for ever. Amen."

Next Sabbath will be Rally Day for the Sunday School. All members and friends, both old and young are urged to attend.

The Death of Richard Neustedt occurred last Tuesday, Sept. 1st., at the Warren Hospital. His health had been failing for more than a year. His age was 65, and leaves no family. His brother Otto and a sister in Germany survive him. He was an old and respected citizen of Oxford, upright and good. His wife died in 1925, and since then has made his home with his brother. The funeral was held on last Friday, with burial in Hill Side Cemetery.

The Bulletin will resume the regular weekly publication from this time. This issue is given over to the old deeds of the furnace which have great value as history, and will be read with interest by many. Letters and articles for the future papers are solicited.

New Light on Furnace History

As stated in last issue we have discovered some surprising new data relating to the history of Oxford Furnace lands, consisting of deeds called indentures at that time, in the records of Sussex County at Newton. Last week we spent a day going over six of them and making brief notes to use in this account.

The Indentures are quite long, and filled with historical references of great interest, besides the surveyors details and legal terminology. In the six deeds 13 tracts of land are described, having a total of 3155 acres, under the common title of Oxford Furnace Lands.

They cover a period of 17 years from 1749 to 1766. But their historical notes, in most cases go back to the original owners.

The first and most important deed is dated Sept. 29, 1749, in which Jonathan Robeson and wife Elizabeth, sold to William Shippen, "Chemist and Practitioner of Physick, apart ownership in the properties. There are eight tracts of which the first two only 1/6 part was conveyed, while of the other six tracts Dr. Shippen got 1/4 share. The cash consideration was 1500 pounds.

There were in the first two tracts 1403 acres, and in the other six 1752 acres. We shall describe the tracts in the order found in the deed.

No. 1. Contains 1300 acres, "on a branch of the Delaware, called Pohatcong, known as 'Fenton's Land'."

This land probably lies in Jackson Valley.

No. 2. Contains 103 acres, and was called the Loftus tract. It is described as "A tract of land formerly surveyed for Col. Daniel Cox, on a branch of the Papphannuch, (Pequest) about one half mile from John Axforde's

Ralph Loftus and wife Jane inherited it from the estate of John Snowden of Phila. Pa. and is recorded in Burlington, Book E, page 445, June 25 1739. Robeson bought it from Loftus and wife, Oct. 24, 1743. It lies south of John Axforde's place and is the same as that known as Farm No. 3. East of the Rail Road.

Of the other six tracts 1/4 part was conveyed to Dr. Shippen. They are:

No. 3. The Harman Vansant tract, 250 acres. Lies north of the Papphannuch, in the Buttzville locality.

Robeson bought it in 1745 from Vansant. It originally belonged to an Englishman named Hilby, who sold it to Sarah Stevenson, and she to Vansant.

No. 4. The most interesting and important of all. The Furnace Tract, 578 acres. Robeson purchased one half interest in it from Joseph Shippen and Wife Mary. Dr. Wm. Shippen states in his Will of 1783 that it was originally owned by William Coxe. Now Joseph Shippen was an older brother of William, and for reasons to be given later, we are safe in saying that Joseph got the land by inheritance from his father, who was also named Joseph, who died in 1741. He had immense holdings in Jersey land, and willed to his son Joseph about 3000 acres in this community. Jonathan Robeson doubtlessly leased this tract of the elder Joseph Shippen before his death, and bought one half share from the younger Joseph in 1745.

It is a fact of much significance that the Shippen family thus owned the Furnace lands before the advent of Jonathan Robeson. It may be that Robeson first heard of the iron ore and fine location for a furnace here from the elder Joseph Shippen, for they were neighbors, both in business and belonged to the same church.

No. 5. The Jeremiah Fulsom tract; contained 100 acres, and was originally owned by one Revel Elton of England. Robeson bought it from Fulsom in 1743. It lies south of the Pequest and probably in the level region between Oxford and Buttzville.

No. 6. A tract of 674 acres which Robeson bought of Joseph Shippen in 1743. It is north of the Pequest.

Dr. Wm. Shippen in his Will calls it the "Swamp Tract," probably the low ground south of Green Pond.

No. 7. 100 acres, and No. 8. 50 acres. Joseph Shippen got these two tracts from the Snowden estate in 1746 and sold to Robeson in 1747. They probably joined the Loftus tract, No. 2. near the land in Cat Swamp.

A most interesting memorandum is subjoined to the record of this deed by the Clerk of Sussex County, (over

Samuel Johnson, which states that Jonathan Robeson and wife Elizabeth appeared before him on Jan. 1, 1763, and offered it for record, stating that it was executed in 1749; they affirmed its correctness and wished to have it placed on the records. At the same time they offered other Indentures, among them two with Dr. Wm. Shippen to be noted later. Sussex County, including Warren, was set off from Morris Co. in 1753. However it was not engrossed in the present records until 1802. Robeson sold the last of his interest in the Furnace lands to Dr. Shippen in 1762.

Indenture, Dec. 10, 1754.

In this deed Jonathan Robeson sold to Wm. Shippen 1/2 interest in two tracts, of 98 and 292 acres, for 34 pounds and 8 shillings. "Land lies in Greenwich Township, adjoining Oxford Furnace." Robeson bought it of Daniel Cox of Hopewell in 1751.

The line started at the southerly side of Mount No More, thence south east around to southerly side of Rattle Snake Hill, thence to the Minnisink road and starting point.

It covers the Dutch Hill territory Mines and all other rights include

Indenture, Feb. 11, 1761. Sold to Wm Shippen by Samuel Smith and Wife Jane, 205 acres, for 112 pounds.

"Richard Smith and Ebenezer Large of Burlington bought from the Dimsdale family in England, all their estates and lands in N.J. in 1740." The lands were originally surveyed for John William Dimsdale in 1726.

"Together with... mines, minerals, woods, ways, waters, buildings, etc."

We could not place this tract.

Indenture, May 21, 1762. Between Jonathan Robeson and wife, and Will Shippen. Robeson in this deed sold all of his interests to Shippen. It included all the properties covered by the deeds of 1749, and 1754, - two small tracts in addition. These were 25 1/2 acres Robeson had got from John Axford by exchange of land. This lot joins Furnace tract. The other lot was one acre at Foul Rift on Delaware for boat piers, etc. Robeson got this May 3rd, 1744 from Johannes Vanetta.

Two other deeds noted in next issue of Bulletin.



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

