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The
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

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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.

Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that it shall no more be said, As the Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; but, As the Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the countries whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers.

-----Jeremiah 16:14-15

"We praise thee, O God, and we thank thee for all good things in the world, for food and raiment, for home and friendship, for useful tasks and pure pleasures; for all spiritual blessings, for thy holy Word, for Christian fellowship; for the good example and blessed memory of godly men and women, we thank thee, our heavenly Father."

All services, beginning with next Sabbath will be on Standard time. Sunday School at 9:30 A.M. and Church service at 10:30 A.M.

The Lord's Supper will be administered on Sunday morning October 11th. We hope all our parents with unbaptized children will present them at this service for Christian baptism. Adults will be welcomed also for this holy rite.

We plan to hold two evenings meetings preparatory to the Communion on Thursday and Friday evenings of the week preceding.

The Editor is frequently asked about the work on the restoration of the old Furnace. It is a great disappointment to all that something has not been accomplished to that end. But it now belongs to the State and is under the care of the State Commission, which is anxious to start the work, but the last Assembly failed to give them any funds, because of the vast Relief responsibility. The delay is only temporary.

Mr. Clinton E. Weston sends this interesting letter:---

"The Bulletin was very interesting last week with the records of the old deeds to the Oxford Furnace lands. It makes a valuable record in the history of Oxford, which, so far as I know, no one has ever taken the trouble to investigate--at least so thoroughly as you have, and I know that every one who is interested is appreciative.. I have been trying to check, approximately, the location of the lands with a typographical map of that section, and perhaps after reading over the rest of the deeds that you have looked up I can make more headway. I expect to have an article on William T. Henry soon.

One quite remarkable thing in connection with my mother's passing away is the verse found pinned to her calendar, that seemed indeed a prophecy. See how near it fitted the situation:----

'If some day I should die,
Without saying good-by
Let this be my farewell;
If but a smile will grace
The features of my face,
In grim satire to tell
Of how I tried my best
To weather every test,
Despite what fate might spell;
Let the world know I wore
A smile of thanks all for--
Being game when I fall.'

"When I was in Trenton yesterday I called to see Mr. Aitkins. He was quite enthusiastic about the Bulletin and the reunions, and said he surely would be at the next one."

The Editor is on the tract of more documents bearing on the Oxford lands that will help to locate the original tracts of land. We have a copy of the advertisement of Wm. P. Robeson of the lands in 1830, which help some, but it will be possible to examine more old deeds we have in view which we hope will be more definite.

In Phila. the past week we found some interesting items which will be noted later. It is now certain that enough data is available with which to reconstruct fully the history of the colonial period.

Oxford and Scranton, Pa.

Oxford's part in the founding of Scranton, Pa. is fully recognized by the latter's historians. The latest writer, Mr. S. Fletcher Weyburn, secretary of the Historical Society in Scranton, has been running a column of Chronological History of Scranton in a local paper there. He has kindly sent us a number of clippings which relate to Oxford's connection with the starting of that city, and we are glad to copy some parts of it that will surely interest the friends of Oxford. We will begin with the year 1839;-- "In this year, William Henry began his negotiations for the Slocum land (the original name of the site of Scranton) that finally led to the purchase of it by the Scrantons-Grant Company of Oxford N.J.

William Henry's first deal for the Slocum land was with Edward Armstrong of New York... The deal was closed but Mr. Armstrong died suddenly before completion of the contract.

In 1840, having lost out... Mr. Henry though discouraged yet believing that the Slocum project had real merit forthwith proceeded to Oxford, N.J., to interest his son-in-law, Selden T. Scranton and George W. Scranton, a brother of Selden, the owners of Oxford Furnace, F.J., which Mr. Henry had sold to them previously. With these gentlemen and Sanford Grant of Belvidere, N.J., he brought them to Scranton and took over the Armstrong deal. It will be remembered that Mr. Henry had been active in the iron business for several years both at Oxford, N.J. and Stroudsburg.....

At the time he brought the Scrantons here it was like a deserted village--a hamlet then consisting of five dwellings, one school house, a cooper shop, a sawmill and a grist mill with less than one hundred inhabitants. On the day the Scrantons and Grant drove from N.J. to Slocum Hollow with Mr. Henry to look over the property... they hitched their horses to a tree in the woods. This was in July of 1840. The surrounding forests were full of wild turkeys and other game, and the old Swamp in the heart of the City was noisy with frogs.

(over)

The Scrantons and Grant saw that as far as they could foresee, Slocum Hollow would become a 'Promised Land'

The Armstrong contract was assumed by them on August 20, 1840... William Henry was immediately appointed as superintendent, and instructed, as he says, to "open roads, mines of coal and iron; erect one furnace and lay out the town, which I called Harrison and erect such other buildings... as were required in such an establishment."

In the Spring of 1841 Thomas P. Harper came and built the first furnace and water wheel.. George W. Scranton spent the entire summer here while his brother Selden remained at Oxford Furnace.

In the Spring of 1842, Mr. Henry, a very sensitive man... resigned, owing to conflicting opinions about a water wheel, and went to Kingston to manage the Louisa Furnace. "

The years 1842 - 1843 were full of discouragements. George W. Scranton wrote in a letter: "We have had many and sore trials and great difficulties to encounter, and I fear harder ones yet to come. Our debts are heavy and some are pressing.. I have many a time wished I had never seen this place... But I have always hoped and still believe we shall be able to keep it and work through with all our difficulties."

And his hopes were more than realized. A rolling mill was built, more furnaces and a nail mill constructed

"The organization of the Leggett's Gap Railroad was effected with G. W. Scranton as President. The task of building such a road was herculean, but Mr. Scranton with his commanding personality and integrity was equal to the occasion.

"The influence of the Scrantons upon the civic and industrial life of the community was such that the name of 'Scranton' was shortened to 'Scranton' by unanimous consent in January 27, 1851."

"1861. This year records the death of Col. George W. Scranton on March 24, 1861, which occurred shortly after beginning his second term as Congressman. I dare say that no citizen of Scranton was more beloved: whose death was more deplored, and whose obsequies were more largely attended.."



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