

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.*

Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict our selves before our God, too seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

---Ezra, 8:21

This was the text of John Robinson's famous sermon to the Pilgrim Fathers, just before they set sail from Holland for New England. In it he said, "He was very confident that Lord had more truth and light yet to break forth out of his Holy Word."

"Almighty God, we commend to thee our families and our children.

Dwell in our homes, we beseech thee; protect our dwellings from all evil, both outwardly and inwardly, and fill them with peace and holiness. We pray for all who are dear to us, that they may be delivered from all the dangers of this present life, and kept by thy grace unto salvation: this we ask for thy name's sake. Amen."

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The annual Halloween Social will be held in the Chapel. The date will be announced in due time. It will be conducted by some of the Sunday School classes.

A Union Service will be held in our Church early Thanksgiving morning. The Pastors of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches will have charge of the meeting.

It is their hope that it may be made an important service, and ask the co-operation of all the people.

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The Bulletin thankfully acknowledges receipt of the following donations to the Bulletin Fund:

Two dollars each from Edwin Perki Perkins and Patrick Kempsey; One dollar each from Miss Elizabeth Doherty; and Daniel Thomas.

We are spending this week \$15. for additional covers and paper, and only the generosity of our friends make possible its continuation.

## The Shippen Family

Continuing our narrative from last issue about the Will of Joseph Shippen who died in July, 1741, which was made in June about a month before his death. The Will is very brief for a man of great possessions. It was all bequeathed to his four children: Edward, Joseph, William and his daughter, Mrs. Ann Willings.

The three sons were made executors and were directed to pay to their sister in various sums a very large amount. The rest of his estate was to be divided equally, share and share alike between the three sons.

This was reposing in them great confidence in their judgment and mutual good will. The bulk of the estate was in Philadelphia and N.J. lands. We could not learn the details of this division, but what concerns us is the fact that Joseph was allotted over 2000 acres of land in Oxford and vicinity, including the furnace tract of 578 acres.

Deeds and advertisements of the period make this fact certain.

To avoid confusion of the three Joseph Shippens connected with the Furnace, we will designate them by numbers: Joseph (1) who made the above Will; Joseph (2) his son and heir of Oxford lands in 1741; and (3) Joseph W., the son of William who lived in the Manor house.

Joseph bought the Oxford lands from the original owner, William Cox, some time before he leased the Furnace tract to Jonathan Robeson who began the erection of the furnace in the spring of 1741. But the death of Joseph (1) in July of that year necessitated a cessation of their work until the estate could be settled, and a new contract made with the new owner, Joseph (2). This accounts for the long period between starting the furnace and the first cast in March, 9th, 1743. In 1745 Robeson bought of Joseph Shippen (2) one half interest in the furnace tract; and in 1749 he sold one fourth of this half interest to William Shippen, younger brother of Joseph (2). This is confirmed by Robeson's advertisement in 1756 to sell his one fourth interest in the furnace and lands. (continued in early issue)

## Old Oxford Days

By Clinton E. Weston

Eugene Thomas Henry

Any history of Oxford would be incomplete without a sketch, or close-up, of the men who were responsible for its development. These men devoted their time, energy and talents towards building up what was to become an immense industry and which made Oxford one of the leading iron centers of the country.

One of the pioneers of this industry was Eugene Thomas Henry, father of Philip Walter, a prominent Engineer in New York City, and Eugenia, Librarian at Middletown, Conn., the only survivors of his family.

He was born at Belfast, about four miles from Nazareth, Pa., November 1826. His father, William Henry (whose ancestor of the same name settled in Lancaster, Pa., was an officer in 1755, serving under General Washington at Braddock's defeat near Fort Pitt) was a man of great vision, and recognized the possibilities of developing the iron business of Slocum Hollow (later Scranton, Pa) and moved there in 1840 when Eugene was 14. There he formed a partnership with Col. George and Selden T. Scranton, et al., and purchased 500 acres at \$16 per acre. Eugene obtained the

ordinary schooling such as could be had in that almost desolate country and while he was deprived of a college education, he grew up in an atmosphere of the iron business and became so interested he made a close and scientific study, and thereafter it became his life's work. Having familiarized himself in the intricacies of Rolling Mill and Blast Furnace procedure, he soon grew into prominence, and at an early age, was made Sup't of the Rolling Mill in Scranton. Selden T. Scranton recognized his ability, and having purchased the Oxford Furnace lands, and having completed plans for the erection of a Rolling Mill and Nail Factory, took Eugene to Oxford and appointed him General Manager. Eugene was highly respected and popular with his employees at Scranton, and on leaving there was presented by them with a tea and coffee service (over)

that is still in the family. He superintended the building of the Rolling Mill and Nail Factory in Oxford, and, with the cooperation of Wm H. Scranton, built the new blast furnace in 1870.

I recall him as a quiet, dignified man of a forceful personality. He was of the studious type, his only diversion being the dividing his devotion between his family and scientific reading and working out intricate problems of which he was so fond. In spite of his outward reserve he had bump of humor, and greatly enjoyed a good story.

Generous to a fault, no one was rarely turned away who asked a favor.

He was the fourth of six children, Reuben, Ellen, Jane, Eugene, William and Joseph. Ellen married Selden T. Scranton and Jane married Col. Charles Scranton. Eugene married Emma Elizabeth Walter of Nazareth, Pa., Jan. 7, 1861.

Incidentally, when I was employed in the Company store at Oxford, Selden T. Scranton told me that he attended a singing class held in a country school house, and in looking through a window, spied a young lady who impressed him so much he then and there made up his mind to make her his wife, which eventually he did, and the girl was Ellen Henry. Mrs. E. T. Henry must have formerly attended the same singing class and profited thereby, for she was a valuable member of the famous choir in the Presbyterian Church at Oxford.

The failure of the Oxford Company in 1878 was a stunning blow to the sensitive Mr. Henry, for with it came the realization that the structure on which he had spent his best years so devotedly, was about to crumble, and it proved too much of a strain on his nervous system. He tried to regain his health at Madison Conn., where he stayed for about a year, and then returned to Oxford only to be confined to his bed for three years until he died October, 1883.

Oxford owes much to this man who in his quiet, genial, unassuming and forceful way carved a niche of honor for himself, and contributed so much to the iron trade in his time and generation.



**CHURCH OFFICERS**

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A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

*Elders*

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*Choir*

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

