

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.

And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labor: other men labored, and ye are entered into their labors. ----John 4:38, 39

"O God, may we trust in thee at all times--in times of doubt and difficulty, in times of loneliness and sorrow, for all things: for the needs of the body and for our spiritual needs, believing that as thou hast made us, so that thou wilt preserve evermore the life that thou hast given. Amen."

The Ladies of the church will give a Social in the Chapel on Tuesday evening, Feb. 2nd. Tickets are now being sold. Admission 25¢

The new officers of the Ladies Aid Society are President, Mrs. A. G. Yount; vice president, Mrs. Benjamin Green. Secretary Mrs. Raymond Rush. Treasurer. Mrs. Earl Green.

The Sale of Christmas Seals in Oxford District amount to \$48.00. This is a good advance over the \$35.00 of last year. In another year it should run up to \$60.00 what it was a few years since. The money is used to support our County Tuberculosis Nurse, who has helped back to health many of our people in past years, by having them examined and if needful sent to the Sanatorium.

Our young people meet in the church Sunday evenings to practice singing. Much interest is manifested and it is hoped that a large choir will be developed with them, and the older folks. They expect to present a Resurrection pageant at the Easter season.

We find that a goodly number of our readers have been keeping a file of the Bulletins for many years and in one case, Mrs. Wm. Hornbaker, since Nov. 1929 when the paper was started as a mere church calender.

But we hear that several have kept them from the first Reunion in 1931; and among these is Mr. George Weber. If he does not get his copy a few days after the usual time he sends a postal of the fact, and an other copy is mailed to him. We would be pleased if all who fail to get it would do likewise, even though they may not be keeping a file.

Mr. Weber has just sent his subscription (\$2.00) and as is his nice habit, adds a helpful note, which in this case we think he means that we should pass it on; it is this ---

"When I consider that the postage alone for a year is 75 cents, leaving very little for material, etc., and that 90 make the Bulletin possible, saying nothing of the many hours necessary of your time every week to provide it, I wish it were more."

It is true that the 90 mail subscribers supply most of the funds, but not all, for over 25 Oxford citizens pay for it also, though they get it from church, S.S. or by some local delivery.

The cash donations range from one to five dollars, and many who give one dollar repeat it during the year. We have been urged to make a fixed price at \$3.00, but for many reasons believe it would be a mistake, especially as that price would keep many from taking it.

For the information of all we may state that the total cash received during the year from Jan. 1. 1936 to Jan. 1. 1937, was \$160.00, and in the same period the total costs were \$170.00. These sums have been carefully kept, and are as nearly correct as we can make them.

This may not appear to be good business, but considering the object of the paper and all it means to our church and town, and the many former citizens, we think it is a very good showing. The Editor's work is a labor of love, and the lack of a profit in the cash side is of little importance in view of the larger results.

Products of the Old Furnace

There has been frequent mention in former articles on the furnace, of the various products made by it during the 140 years of its operation, but only incidentally, and we think a special account of these will be of interest. Of course only the more important can be noticed in such a brief sketch.

Pig Iron naturally comes first, as it was always the principle product of blast furnaces, and also because it alone was made throughout its active period, from March 9, 1743 when the first cast was made, to the Fall of 1884, when it was finally drawn. If we are in error on this point some of the old furnace men can correct us.

The pig iron in colonial times was sold to neighboring forges in which it was made into bar iron and then by them and by blacksmiths wrought into the endless hardware needed by the settlers.

The surplus was carted to Foul Rift shipped by boat to points down the river for forges and in some cases shipped over the ocean as ballast.

It has been stated before that Judge Roseberry, who owns the land at the Rift, has recently dug up some of these old "pigs."

In 1839 G.W. & S.T. Scranton bought the furnace and soon developed a very large business in pig iron. Their papers for the next five years have been preserved, and we have them before us as we write. These show a great many orders for pig iron from forges and blacksmiths in Pa. New Jersey and elsewhere. It was sent to Boonton Paterson and mostly to N.Y. City, to an iron merchant there. A curious letter from a N.Y. business man who had sold much merchandise to the Scrantons for their Company Store suggests that they pay their bill with due bills for the iron sent to N.Y. City, saying, "I understand that you send considerable iron to this market. (The letter is dated Feb. 28, 1842, and signed by G.H. Williams).

These same papers show that Scranton developed a larger trade in pig iron than the furnace here could supply and they bought from other furnaces to fill their orders. (over)

While pig iron was always the chief product of the furnace, at certain periods there were special castings which add much interest to its history.

The Colonial period was marked by the casting of Chimney Backs.

These were large flat plates used in the back of fire-places to protect the stone or brick from burning out. The fire backs were ornamented in front with the royal Arms of the English Kings, who were George II, and George III. These belonged to the period from 1745 to 1765, or thereabout.

Many of the backs are still preserved as antiques. We have seen four of them ourselves. The largest and finest of all is in Phila. Hist. Society, bearing the date of 1754 and was taken out of the Mansion house in 1875. It is nearly three feet square and over an inch thick

In the 1830s and 1840s the special product of the furnace was cast stoves; and in the year 1850; the furnace began casting rail road Car Wheels. For this a new stone building was erected, opposite the old Grist Mill, known as the car wheel foundry. This was in 1850; and the wheels were "carted from Oxford to Scranton over the beech-woods route, 68 miles, in order to give the Lackawanna and Western R.R. Co. cars to commence running coal-trains to Ithaca.. for three cents a pound delivered." (Col. Charles Scranton)

We have space left to speak of the casting of cannon balls and shells for country, in the French-Indian, Revolutionary and the Civil Wars. There is proof that the furnace helped in these three wars if not in others.

In recent years there have been found several balls and a large shell a mile west of the furnace on the old route to Foul Rift. The shell is five inches in diameter, and is filled with powder and grape shot. These certainly belonged to the Revolutionary period. The munitions made by the furnace in the Civil War of course were shipped by rail road which was built through Oxford in 1857.



CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

Elders

ABRAM PITTENGER	ELISHA B. FOSS
EDWARD T. GREEN	LEWIS BERGENBACK



Board of Trustees

JAMES RADEL	HARRY MILLER
GEORGE DOCKER, JR.	CHARLES RENNER
FRED K. SARSON	LEWIS E. GREEN
EDWARD SHARPS	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

