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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.

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As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him; rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

---Colossians 2;6,7.

" O Lord, perfect, we pray thee, the faith of us who believe, and sow the good seed of faith in the hearts who as yet lack it; that we all may look steadfastly unto thee, and run with patience the race that is set before us. Give grace to us that we may show our faith by our works; teach us to walk by faith, having respect unto the promises given to us in thy holy Word; and thine be the glory. Amen

Miss Jane Hoagland, sister of the late Dr. Lewis B. Hoagland, died last Thursday in a New York City hospital, after an illness of a few weeks. The funeral to be in Oxford this Sunday afternoon, and interment in the Great Meadows' Cemetery.

The Annual Canvass for pledges for the church the coming year is to be taken this Sabbath. The Trustees have decided to visit the members of the congregation in the forenoon, on account of the funeral in the P.M. Please be ready for them when they appear at your home

Mr. Alvin W. Stout remembers the church each year with a remittance for church support, and for the Bulletin. The check for \$25.00 is a great help and thankfully received. A true churchman.

The Bulletin is grateful to Mrs. Elise Zapp for \$1.00, and to Mrs. Amanda P. Nelson for \$2.00 on subscription.

The Presbytery of Newton meets next Tuesday at 10 A.M. in Belvidere, First Church.

Mr. Thomas Marple, Director of the State Commission on Historic Sites, writes the Editor:-

"I have your letter of March 26th. I have had in mind the restoration of Oxford Furnace for some time.

However, I know you realize it is difficult for us to secure the funds from the State necessary to proceed with this project. I have several things in mind, and am very hopeful that when the weather breaks, we can do something to take care of this most worthy project. I will communicate with you again in the next several weeks."

A noted minister has this to say about true-hearted churchmen:-

"The man of the established heart is a churchman belonging to the marvelous company of people who are to be found day after day, week after week, year after year, not merely attending ordinances or building the kingdom of God, but, out of perhaps slender means, subscribing sacrificially to make good the obligations shirked by the wealthier. He who writes loftily about the church has never met the man to whom it represents the touch of his dead father, and mother, to whom it brings back the atmosphere of childhood..to whom criticism of the church is as impertinent as criticism of a beloved bride. This silent, faithful, sacrificial churchman, incapable of giving offense or taking it, working in his Lord's vineyard, without either sense of favor conferred or thanks due, asking nothing from life but that he may live and die within the sanctuary of his God, praying always for the peace of Jerusalem, typifies a pattern. Only Christ and an amazing people of this kind keep some of us in the ministry, for, when we grow tired of human littlenesses, and pettinesses, they recall us to those divine immensities which are made manifest in such lives to the glory of God and the happiness of the world."

(Rev. G. Stanley Russell, Pastor Deer Park United Church, Toronto, Can)

William Henry

William Henry, 3rd, of Wyoming, is the title given in the Henry family history, of the William Henry of Oxford and Scranton History.

He was born August 1, 1796, and died at his home in the Wyoming Valley, May 22, 1878.

Of his early life we have no data at our command, but we are told that he had "an expert knowledge of metallurgy and indomitable energy."

Doubtlessly too he learned the trade of an Iron Master in the furnaces and forges in his native valley. It would interest us to know how he became interested in the Oxford furnace, which had been idle over twenty years, when in 1831, he organized a company, and leased the Oxford furnace, from the Morris Robeson Estate, for a period of ten years. He moved his family to Belvidere, and began putting the old furnace in condition for smelting iron again. He first fitted it with "Tub" bellows, but in 1834 installed the hot blast, the first to be used in America, though it had been in use in England for six years. The authority for this statement is found in Swanks "Iron in All Ages," the classic book on iron working in this country.

In this same year, 1834, he moved his family to Oxford and lived in the Mansion house, where his, Joseph James, was born, who was killed in the battle of Roanoke, F.C. 1862. About this time also Henry became interested in the possibilities of a furnace at Slocum Hollow, now Scranton, Pa. He knew well that iron and hard coal were both there, and it is said that his purpose was to use coal instead of charcoal in reducing the ore. This he could see would greatly cheapen and facilitate the process of iron making.

In 1837 he moved his family to Stroudsburg, to be nearer the scene of his proposed enterprise, and yet near to Oxford to conduct that business at the same time. However he had brought with him from Nazareth Pa, an experienced furnace man, by name of Joseph Albright, to act as the Superintendent of the furnace.

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Albright was succeeded, in 1836, by Selden T. Scranton, who in 1839 married the daughter of Mr. Henry, Ellen C. Henry. In this year, 1839, G. W. and S. T. Scranton bought the Oxford furnace lease from Mr. Henry and his company, and also purchased the furnace tract, 578 acres on which were the iron works and mines.

This left Mr. Henry free to go on with his plan to build a furnace at Slocum Hollow, and the next year, 1840, he got the help of a rich New York man, Edward Armstrong, and they purchased 500 acres of land in the center of Scranton. This was in March, and in June Mr. Armstrong died, and Mr. Henry had to look for other backers of his enterprise.

Mr. Henry in his diary gives a vivid account of his next movement:-

"I left my home (Stroudsburg) to see some gentlemen in Morris county New Jersey, when on my way I was requested by my son-in-law, Selden T. Scranton, then residing at Oxford Furnace, New Jersey, to let him have the opportunity of calling on some gentlemen with a view of forming a company to take the place of Mr. Armstrong. I consented, and, briefly, Geo. W. Scranton, Phillip Mattes, Selden T. Scranton and Sanford Grant formed the new company engaging me to close the bargain with the owners as already selected and of opening roads, mines of coal and iron, and erecting one furnace; and to lay out the town which I called Harrison (which remained for ten years) erect such buildings, dwellings, etc. and works as were required at such an establishment. In pursuance of these plans I commenced making preparations on Sept. 11, 1840. In the Fall or late Summer of 1841 the furnace was ready to go into operation. Failure after failure occurred until the summer of 1842. After the establishment of the furnace a change in the management was effected."

It was in September 1840 that Mr. Henry took G. W. and S. T. Scranton and Sanford Grant to Slocum Hollow to inspect and take over the interest of the late Edward Armstrong. Mr. Henry, having resigned his position with the Scranton-Grant company, went to the Louisa Forge, and followed the iron business for many years. (To be continued)

