

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.

Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God; but he that doeth evil hath not seen God. ----III. John 11

"Into Thy hands we commit ourselves, O God, We say of the Lord: Thou art our refuge; our present help in time of trouble; our hiding-place from the wind and covert from the tempest; our God, in thee will we trust; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Next Sabbath services will be on daylight saving time.

The REUNION on May 16th, will be the 7th, annual reunion, the 74th, anniversary of the Church, and the 50th anniversary of the ordination and installation of the Rev. Irving Maxwell, who will be present and preach.

Miss Jane Hoagland was born July 4th, 1863, in the old Hoagland homestead at Great Meadows, N. J. The Hoagland (Hoogelandt) family came from Holland about 250 years ago and settled at Manhattan; later the founder of this branch moved to Wyoming, Pa. but fled thence, to escape the Indian massacre, 1778, and settled at Great Meadows.

Miss Hoagland led a useful life becoming a nurse, she was for some years the Visiting Nurse of the University of Pennsylvania. Later she went to Washington State, at Grand View, to keep house for her brother Milton. Returning in 1920 she served as Superintendent of the "Home for the Friendless" of Scranton, Pa. Of late years she made her home with her brother, Dr. Lewis B. Hoagland. She was a devoted church woman, and we shall miss her greatly.

She passed to her reward April 8th, in the Wickersham Hospital, New York, City. The funeral was from the home of Mrs. Dr. Hoagland in Oxford, April, 11th, and burial in the Cemetery at Great Meadows.

The Director of the State Commission on Historic Sites sends a copy of a letter he received from Mr. Wm. H. J. Ely, State Administrator of the W. P. A., which says:-

"Acknowledging your letter of Apr. 3rd, with reference to the restoration of Oxford Furnace at Oxford, New Jersey, I am informed by Mr. Herbert M. Moffett, Supervisor of the Historic American Building Survey, that the project has just completed a draft of the plans of Oxford Furnace, which plans have not been checked. No prints are available at this time.

I have notified Mr. Moffett to advise you when the plans are completed, and am sure he will assist you in every way possible."

Mr. Marple, in a note writes: "When these plans are received, I shall communicate with you and ascertain what can be done at this time toward a restoration of historic Oxford Furnace."

The death of Mr. William Hornbaker, April 10th, ended the career of one of our oldest citizens. He was born in the old Hornbaker homestead in Jackson Valley, May 3rd 1854. His father was Peter Hornbaker, whose ancestor, Joseph Hornbecker is mentioned by Jonathan Robeson, in 1756, as being one of the tenants of his 1300 acres, "lying at Pohatkonk creek." The house was near the creek on the south side of Stuart's Gap, which crosses the mountain south of the County House.

His mother was Anna, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Lanning, whose old stone house still stands on Mine Hill. Mr. Hornbaker had his home in Oxford from boyhood, and went to school in the old stone school house beyond the R. R. Depot. This was in the early 1860s.

He spent his life in the employ of the Oxford Iron Company, beginning in the stove factory, but mostly in the Nail Factory. In Dec. 11, 1875 he was married to Miss Ellen Repp, who survives him. Their two children Harry R. and Carolyn R. died some years ago. The funeral was at the home last Tuesday; burial at Wash. Cemetery.

William Henry (concluded)

It now remains our duty to give some estimate of Mr. Henry's contribution to the development and history of Oxford and Scranton.

His role was plainly that of an originator of great things. He was a man of vision, to foresee great possibilities and to plan for their proper development. In 1830 there was no Scranton, and Oxford was a forgotten village. It is quite probable that without Henry, they would never have been more than that, at least for a long time to come.

Take Oxford in 1830. The furnace seems to have been of little value or interest to any one.

For over twenty years it had been idle, and when the widow and children of Morris Robeson that year advertised the sale of Oxford lands, they did not even mention the Furnace though the mansion house, Grist Mill saw mill, stamping mill and plaster mill were named and extolled. But not a word about the furnace. It was apparently forgotten, or considered a thing of no value.

Then the next year Mr. Henry of Pennsylvania, formed a company, and came here and leased the furnace for ten years. He immediately began to equip it for great business, by installing, first a tub bellows, and later the hot blast, by which he was able to double its capacity.

But hardly had he got it well started on its new career, when, it seems, that having heard that some furnaces in Pa. were trying to use hard coal in reducing ore instead of charcoal, and knowing that at the Scranton site both ore and coal existed in abundance side by side, his whole interest was transferred to that promising situation, and moved his family to Stroudsburg, to be near the ground. He fore-saw the vast possibilities of the Scranton field, and never stopped until he got a financial backer and bought the land with its coal and iron ore.

But it was his misfortune to be thwarted in carrying out his plans, though they were carried out magnificently by the Scrantons. Perhaps more fully than even Henry had foreseen.

(over)

The historian may feel regret that Mr. Henry was not made a member of the Company that developed Scranton; but business ethics have never been founded on justice and mercy. It is a hard fight for success, in which the weaker party goes down. And Mr. Henry was not by nature a fighter. And so he lost out.

But nothing can alter the fact that he was the originator, and in the true sense the founder, both of Oxford's greatest period of industrial success, and of the much greater success of Scranton.

Yet it must be remembered that it is impossible to separate the two families, Henry and Scranton. Two of the Henry daughters married Scrantons, and Mr. Henry's gifted son Eugene, had much to do in the development of both Scranton, Pa. and of Oxford. Mr. Weston has recently in the Bulletin made plain the large part taken by Eugene, in the Scranton Company, in Scranton and Oxford. The Scrantons raised and educated another son of Henry's Joseph James, and advanced him to high position and success. So that in a very true sense it was all a family affair, in which all reaped the harvest of fame and success.

And it is quite evident that but for Mr. Henry's vision to foresee and inaugurate the enterprises in Oxford and Scranton, Pa. the Scranton family might not have ever been associated with the histories of these places. Likewise, without the Scrantons Mr. Henry's plans would hardly ever have been carried out.

There is glory enough for both families, and history will award them both a place of honor as founder and builders of great industries.

Those who have read the articles in the Bulletin on Mr. Henry's grand-father, Col. William Henry, will have noticed a great similarity in their character and gifts and achievements. Both were men of strong and original minds, with a remarkable vision of future developments; the teacher and inspirer of others to whom it was given to carry out the enterprises they conceived and planned originally.



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