

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.

Old Oxford Furnace and Store
(1750s) Accounts (see page 3)

The numbers before names are the original Day Book numbers, and the numbers after names are amounts in English money, Pounds-Shillings-Pence. From Ledger D.

51. Samuel Wilson. 2-2-2 $\frac{1}{2}$
87. Wm. Moore 2-7-10. (E)
67. Timothy Carty 2-9-9 $\frac{1}{2}$
From Libr E (Liber, book)

156 Andr. Orreson 1-9-8 $\frac{1}{2}$
157 Isaac Gray 1-9-8 $\frac{1}{2}$
181 John Oaks 0-2-6
55 Robt. Ellis 0-8-5 $\frac{1}{4}$
63 Robt. Coats 1-7-10
33 Thos. Hillsund 1-1-2.
71 Thos. Evans 1-6-11

Libr I.
32 Cornelius Connely 1-1-2
34 Jos. Stout 1-4- $\frac{3}{4}$
60 John Jones 4-15-4 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 Jacob Moore 4-13-4 $\frac{1}{2}$

Libr K.
75 Matthias Parr 4-4-7
Libr S.

38 C. Swartz 4-1-7
99 John Rippy 1-4-0

Libr M.
38 Wm. O'Brien 1-6-2 $\frac{3}{4}$
68 Isaac Anderson 1-8-7 $\frac{1}{2}$
70 Thomas McMeans 1-9-10
78 Rich. Orton 1-4-6 $\frac{1}{2}$
80 George Englett 1-9-4 $\frac{1}{2}$
88 Joshua Allen 2-4-5
104 Moses Tattamy 2-6-1
105 George Dean 2-2-3
Timothy Brossall 2-1-9

Libr N.
67 Peter Burns 2-3-3 $\frac{3}{4}$
69 Jon. Welch 1-7-4
70 Neal Murray 1-15-4
Amariah Hendrickson 1-6-4
77 George Clymer 1-4-6
78 John Simpson 1-4-11
97 Wm. Smith 1-2-6
88 Elizabeth White 1-2-11

Libr O.
41 John Marford 1-8-9
53 Eben Stephens 1-2-2
76 Michal Paylor 1-3-6
82 Thomas Means 1-4-6
89 Thos. Little 1-3-8 $\frac{3}{4}$
95 Wm. Bronman 1-3-5
100 Isaac Means 1-6-10
102 Wm. Caffery 1-6-9 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 Edmon Freeman 6-3-9 $\frac{1}{2}$
127 Wm. Douglas 6-19-3 $\frac{1}{2}$
128 Robt. Hutison 6-1-3 $\frac{1}{2}$
134 Wm. Honnenwell 6-3-9
(Cont. last page)

Bulletin, No. 359. May 2nd, 1937

For, Lo, the winter is past; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.... Song of Sol. 2

"O God, we thank thee for this universe, our great home; for its vastness and its riches and its infinite beauties. We praise thee for the arching sky and the blessed winds, for the driving clouds and the constellations on high. We praise thee for the salt sea and the running water, for the everlasting hills, for the trees, and for the grass under our feet. We thank thee for our senses by which we can see the splendor of the morning, and hear the jubilant songs of love, and smell the breath of the springtime. Keep us ever mindful of these priceless treasures, that our hearts may ever be filled with gratitude and joy and thankfulness to thee, O God

The Ladies Aid Society will hold their monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Lewis E. Green, next Tuesday afternoon. Preparations for the coming Reunion is the special duty of the day.

Oxford again mourns the loss of another of its prominent citizens in the death of Joseph Dillman, who passed on early last Thursday morning. He was born here Dec. 6, 1864, and spent all his life in Oxford. At the early age of 9 he began to work for the Iron company, light jobs when school was not in session. He spent many years at work in the Rolling Mill. Was fireman at the Mud Mine, and also for the Empire Steel and Iron Co. He was happy last Jan. when he was appointed watchman at Mine by the Alan Wood Co. He and his wife, Louise Taylor, had a happy home, and blessed with three children, Mrs. Edna Strackbein, Richmond, and Fred. The mother and children all survive.

The funeral this Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, d, s, t. with interment at the Hazen Cemetery.

Notes

We have been hearing locally and from correspondents about the fine article in the last issue.

Mr. Humphrey writes:- "The article in the latest Bulletin of the 'May Baskets' is a most beautiful description of a lovely custom which once prevailed in Oxford. I am sorry that the writer was so modest as not to have her(?) name appear in connection with it. I am sure that all its readers would like to express their appreciation to her directly." Mr. Weston likewise remarks;- "That was an interesting article in the last Bulletin about spring flowers. Who wrote it?" The Editor however is strictly enjoined not to reveal the author's name. But we hope for more from this gifted writer.

Mr. Humphrey sends a word about Miss Susanne Loder who is to sing at the reunion. "She expects to spend Saturday night with her mother at the home of friends in Washington. Mrs. Loder asks me to say that Susanne would very much like to be able to go into the church Saturday evening and 'rehearse' her music."

We shall be glad to arrange for Miss Loder as requested. Mr. Humphrey adds that Miss Loder is "a graduate of the Department of Music of the University of Penna., and at present is Musical Supervisor of Titicum Township, comprising two schools in the outskirts of Chester, not Phila. I am looking forward to May 16th with great pleasure... I shall probably, as hereto fore, spend the week-end with Jos. Scranton 'Mountain Lake'".

Miss Nellie E. Estler sends two dollars for the Bulletin, saying:- "I have wanted you to know how much Dr. Estler enjoyed reading the Bulletin each week, and looked for the news and messages it contained... I now appreciate the fact I can not do without it either... Mrs. Little is now with us for a time.. I hope to be able to attend the Reunion in May, as I am very anxious to meet an old friend whom I missed seeing there last year--Mary Weber Lemmon, and will probably meet many others I have wanted to see."

More Old Furnace Data

Last February Mr. Benj. R. Pittenger discovered in the Shippen papers, in the Congressional Library, Wash. D. C. some old furnace ledgers, and copied some names and items, which were printed in Bulletin, No. 349. These were dated during the 1760s. He has recently made a more careful research and found a vast number of items, dating mostly before 1759. These will be found inside covers of this and the next issue.

Mr. Pittenger writes:- "I have been over to the Congressional Library and found a long list of names of people who were debtors to Jos. Shippen. These people must have all lived in and around Oxford at that time. These ledgers are all written by hand. There is one big ledger of drugs and medical supplies, and people, all in Phila., treated by Dr. Wm. Shippen (the Elder). This would be of interest to Phila. and the medical Society there....

The other ledger contains the names of debtors to the Oxford Company, to sundry balances brought from sundry ledgers. There are about 200 names. It is like a census."

The ledgers referred to here were doubtless day books of the company, and numbered alphabetically. These were prior to 1759 and probably running back to the 1740s. These are inventory amounts and give no items or dates. But Mr. Pittenger sends some accounts from Day Books in 1759 to 1761, giving all details of the purchases. Here is a case:- July 1759 Edw. Murphy Dr. for Castings (O-5-0) for tallow (O-4-0) for Smith Work (O-2-8) to Store (O-14-0). These were debtors to Store:- Wm. Cook, Alexander Myers, Philip McDeed James Quick (Hugh McCan, for Castings) Michael Nye Patrick McDeed, Widow Sundry, John Blair, Wm Johnson, Joseph Hornbecker (for salt) John Marlatt, Sarah Decew. The exact dates are given for the above ranging from 1759 to 1761.

A few special items are these:- Jacob Starns, Dr. to Jos. Shippen. 531--2-0. (Jan. 28, 1761). Jacob Starn Dr. to Michael Welch, 259-30-18. July, 31, 1762. John Douglas. Dr. to Shippens for Scraps. 30-7-6, May 25, 1761.

Reiten Kemp for castings, O-5-0.

(over)

The last item is most interesting. "Note in Day Book, dated Oct. 1776, Philadelphia, Received from Jonathan Robeson, Two Hundred and Forty-three Pounds, 18 shillings, for his portion of outstanding debts in Oxford Furnace. L 243, 18. Signed, Jos. Shippen."

We cannot account for this, but a few facts are certain, namely:- The Jonathan Robeson above cannot be the builder of the furnace, who died in 1766. But in his Will appointed his son Jonathan Robeson his chief Executor, and we know he lived in Phila. The Jos. Shippen was of course, the older brother of Dr. Wm. Shippen, and the debt was in all probability an old one, dating back to the years of 1750s. For in that period the mansion house, the Grist Mill and other buildings were erected, when the company was composed of Jonathan Robeson, Joseph and Dr. Wm. Shippen (the Elder). So that the debt was on the estate of the original Jonathan Robeson, and probably had been long years in litigation.

It should be kept in mind that the Joseph Shippen mentioned in all these accounts was the older brother of Dr. Wm. Shippen, the Elder. The latter's son Joseph W. was not at any time a member of the company, and his name always included the middle letter W.

These accounts show plainly that from the first the company of Oxford Furnace operated a Store, a fact new to historians. This is positive proof that the claim of some recent histories that Aaron Dupue operated a store here in that period, is utterly unfounded. We have already shown that Dupue's Store was located at Shawnee, above the Water Gap.

Further, we now know that the furnace also had a forge and blacksmith shops in which iron works needed by the settlers in this region were supplied, in the period covered by these accounts.

This is a valuable addition to our knowledge, of which more will be made in compiling its history.

Mr. Benjamin R. Pittenger has rendered a great service in finding and transmitting these historic data

(from front cover)

Libr P.

74	Samuel Johnson	2-6-1
77	John Stout	1-17-1
79	Daniel Hunt	1-13-10
97	Patrick Murray	1-4-9
98	John Corriel	3-0-11
111	John Ammerman	3-4-3
135	Allen Nixon	3-2-3

Libr Q.

25	Mathiew Lowrey	1-13-10
32	John McSkomins	1-13-10
50	Edward Robeson	18-10-1
57	Stephen Ward	11-17-2
58	John Unbath	11-3-7
64	John Polair	11-1-9
67	Hugh Monough	11-1-9
73	Sam. Lundy	3-5-0
75	John Carty	70-0-0
81	John Carr	2-13-0
82	Peter Vanmester	26-3-6
	George Vanmester	0-5-3
90	Wm. Wiggons	9-7-9
95	Cornelius Quick	3-1-7
100	Abm. Vankampon	28-4-0
106	Benjamin Schooley	2-7-10
	John Wilson	6-0-5
108	Widow Allison	52-7-5
111	Alea Myers	33-8-0
115	Jas. Davis	4-8-9
121	Moses Vacourt	2-2-0
125	Barn. Sweesy	0-17-0
127	Thos. Carty	5-17-8
149	Jn. Thompson	60-8-0
150	Richard Schakleton	1-2-0

Page 157, from Libr A.

19	Ralph Loftus	1-9-9 $\frac{1}{2}$
21	Thos. Schoonover	1-15-9 $\frac{1}{2}$
29	Isaac Schoonover	1-2-6
67	Jn. Morris	1-6-5
68	Sam. Hazen	1-15-11
71	Thos. Jenkins	1-7-9
91	Thos. Jackson	1-0-9

Libr. B.

20	Sam. Jolly	1-17-0
35	Michael Covolt	1-1-10
66	Jacob Servis	1-11-3
71	Jn. Stroud	1-2-4
83	Wm. Tanner	0-7-6
90	Isaac Morgan	1-7-6
91	Jn. Iden	1-1-6
109	Jn. Wilson	1-1-6

(Note by Mr. Pittenger) These above belong to Jos. Shippen and Jonathan Robeson by agreement settled June 11, 1754)

The rest of the list will be given in next issue.

CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

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EDWARD T. GREEN

ELISHA B. FOSS
LEWIS BERGENBACK



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Ladies' Aid Society

<i>President</i>	MRS. A. G. YOUNT
<i>Vice-President</i>	MRS. BENJAMIN GREEN
<i>Secretary</i>	MRS. RAYMOND RUSH
<i>Treasurer</i>	MRS. LEWIS E. GREEN

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Leader MRS. E. T. GREEN