

July 11 - 37

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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.

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For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

-----2 Corinthians 8:9

"O Lord be merciful, we pray, to all thy people who seek thee in peace, confessing their sins in the name of Christ. Cleanse and sanctify the Church which thou hast loved, and reveal the Spirit of thy Son through the life and service of thy people. Enlighten all who are perplexed in faith, support those who are tempted, awaken those who sleep, comfort the afflicted, and give joy and peace to all true believers; through Jesus Christ. Amer

Sunday School Picnic

Next Saturday, July 17, the Sunday School will enjoy their annual picnic. The place is Central Park at Allentown, Pa., which has for a long time been the favorite place.

The school will meet at the church Saturday morning at 10 o'clock, and will remain at the Park until 5 P.M.

All who have attended the school for three months during the past year will be entitled to go free of cost. All others will be charged \$1.00.

The Organ Fund

We here acknowledge with thanks contributions to the Organ Fund in addition to those printed two weeks ago. The following have given \$5.00 each; The Ford Furniture Company; Mr. La Rue; E. E. Foss; Harry Miller; James Radel; Raymond Rush. \$1.00 each by Charles Ritzer; Mrs Wm. Merrill; J. E. Scranton; Samuel Haney. Silver donations were by C. R. Carson; Julius Hertz; Clark Wilkinson; Victor Fichtel; Mrs G. Berthier.

The canvass is far from completed but the success of the effort is so well assured that the repair work on the organ has been authorized.

As there is a gratifying interest developing regarding the improvement of Hillside Cemetery, it will be a good time to give a little history of it, such as we have been able to collect from our old church records and from a talk with Mr. Walter Docker.

In our church record there are two items in the writing of Rev. C. C. Cline which are to the point.

The first item is on the death of an infant son, Martin Granville, of Chas. B. Weston which took place Feb. 23rd, 1867. The comment is, "First funeral in new church, and first Protestant burial in village." Mr. Docker says that the child was buried near the entrance to the grove of the big brick mansion built by S. T. Scranton, and that later the body was removed to the Cemetery.

The second item is dated May 19th, 1870, after the name of L. F. Severin.

Mr. Cline's note here is, "First Burial in Cemetery." This definitely fixes the date of 1870 as the beginning of it.

Mr. Docker says that Mr. S. T. Scranton set apart the ground for the Cemetery without any legal procedure but when the Company failed in 1878 the Receiver, B. G. Clark, had to list it as an asset of the Company, and an inventory price of \$1000. was put upon it. Four men then took it over, each having $\frac{1}{4}$ share. They were Henry Harling; E. T. Lukens; Edwin Perkins; and Michael Repp.

Henry Harling died, Jacob Cooper got his share. Later Walter Docker took over Mr. Lukens' share. David Trimmer got Mr. Perkins' share and Edward Sharp got Mr. Repp's share.

These four shares are now owned by Walter Docker; Mrs. Jacob Cooper; Mrs. David Trimmer and the Edward Sharps estate.

Mr. Docker says that many burials were made in the past without any permission and with no record. It is thought that the present shareholders would be glad to sell their interests in the Cemetery.

One thing is certain, that is the situation is desperate and needs heroic measures at once.

Nearly a year ago we had a sketch of Jacob Starn, giving his connection with Oxford Furnace in the Colonial period; from 1762 he was the lessee of the old furnace and operated it until his death, which we now know took place in 1773.

This discovery we made recently when we found an abstract of his last Will, in N. J. Archives. (Volume 34, page 494). This fact bears upon the matter of the patriotism of the owner and manager of the furnace during the Revolutionary War. Dr. Wm. Shippen the Elder, of Phila. was the sole owner, and a prominent patriot, and Member of the Continental Congress. And the manager from the death of Starn was certainly Dr. Shippen's Son, Joseph W. Shippen who lived in the mansion house from before that time until his death in 1795. During the War he was paymaster in Washington's Army Hospital in Bethlehem, Pa.

However the Will of Starn shows that he would have been a warm patriot had he lived, for his sons-in-law, Hugh Hughs and Mark Thompson were both prominent in the County as promoters of the Revolution.

From a historical point of view it is a matter of great importance to fully clear up this question of the patriotism of the men who owned or controlled the furnace during the period of America's national birth. The question however did not arise until comparatively recent times, and for reasons we cannot even guess. But that the doubt was utterly baseless we have abundantly made clear from full documentary authorities.

The Will of Starns was made Nov. 27, 1773, and proved Jan. 1st, 1774. So that his death occurred between those dates. It deals mostly with his Changewater properties, the forges and buildings, and near 2000 acres of land on both sides of the Musconetcong river. There were other properties which he held in Sussex county and elsewhere. He was a notable iron man, pre-eminent in all this region in his day.

Mr. George Weber, after reading the article on the Burglary in last issue, writes this interesting personal experience:-

"We had various versions of the occurrence at the time, but I was very much interested in the article because it was in the words of the late William H. Searing himself.

Another reason why I was interested is the fact that I succeeded Mr. Searing as watchman.

On Sunday evenings we both attended service at the church. After which we would walk down and stop in the Post Office, and he would get a supply of peppermint candy. Then we would go to the store. He would remain a couple of hours and as a matter of course, often the topic of our conversation would be the attempted robbery which he described very vividly.

This would be kept up until near midnight, when he would say good night. After his departure, I can't say that it left me in a comfortable state of mind.

I don't know how long my job as watchman lasted (my diaries do not go back far enough for that).

I admit that I had a few scares during my incumbancy as watchman—not of enough interest to note here.

I did not have a dog, but I never went from store through the cellar to the office without my 32 calibre Smith & Wesson.

My next job was that of porter then clerk in grocery department and my last job at the store was one of the entry clerks at the desk with 'Jim' Loder. He having the charge accounts from A to L, as chief Clerk, and I had the accounts from M to Z. "

Recent callers at the Manse were Clinton E. Weston and sister Mrs Tunison; Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Thomas and Elmer Knarr. Mr. Weston is much interested in the Cemetery Improvement, and is taking an active part in the enterprise.



CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

Elders

ABRAM PITTENGER
EDWARD T. GREEN

ELISHA B. FOSS
LEWIS BERGENBACK



Board of Trustees

JAMES RADEL
GEORGE DOCKER, JR.
FRED K. SARSON
EDWARD SHARPS

HARRY MILLER
CHARLES RENNER
LEWIS E. GREEN
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



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

Choir

LeaderMRS. E. T. GREEN

