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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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Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be administered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

-----Second Peter 1:10, 11

"O God, who hast willed that the gate of mercy should stand open to the faithful; Look on us, and have mercy upon us; that we, who by grace are following the path of thy will, may never turn aside from the ways of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

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The Bulletin will not be issued next week. The Editor and wife will take a week's vacation, of which we had no definite plan last issue. Mrs. G. N. Lemmon, in sending a fine article on their European trip, says, "You surely should have a vacation from that weekly task. It must be a real job and irksome at times, I am sure. But we all appreciate it!" Thank you. We expect to issue the Bulletin on the 15th.

The Pastor will likewise be away from Oxford next Sabbath, and so will not hold the morning worship. But Sunday School will be as usual at 9:30 A.M.

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The Church Organ is now being repaired by Louis F. Mohr & Co. of New York City, and will be ready for use by the 15th. They are giving the instrument a thorough overhauling, and guarantee that it will be in perfect condition, with the new electric blower installed in the basement.

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Some of the latest donations to the fund are \$5.00 each from Miss Rosalie Sarson and Charles Renner; \$2.00 each from Walter Docker and the Warren County Drug Store; and one dollar from Frederick Sarson.



The Association for the improvement of Hillside Cemetery had a modest beginning last Thursday afternoon when a few plot holders met in the church lawn and with the help of Mr. Walter Docker with his list of plot holders and his knowledge of the facts, the situation was gone over under the leadership of Mr. Clinton E Weston. Nothing definite was determined in the way of action, but Mr. Weston was elected Chairman and given authority to appoint committees, call meetings, etc.

Doubtlessly plot holders and public citizens of Oxford will in time hear from the Chairman, and if he is well supported a better day for the Cemetery will surely dawn.

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Mrs. D.F. Brigham's 95th birthday.

Mrs. Clara Brigham Bennett has kindly sent a news paper clipping describing the celebration which occurred at her home in Hartford Conn. July 25th. We quote from it:-

"Mrs Harriet Maria Storrs Brigham celebrated her ninety-fifth birthday at 48 Oxford Street Sunday, after receiving the congratulations of 26 members of her immediate family and many friends Saturday at a party.

"The following members of her family attended the party: Two sons and their wives, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest W. Brigham of Newton Center, Mass; and Mr. and Mrs. Clement H. Brigham of Granby; two daughters, Miss Alice Brigham with whom she lives, and Mrs. Arthur Bennett with her husband; three grandsons, one granddaughter, eight great-grandsons, and one great-granddaughter. Each of her grandchildren is married. One grandson was unable to attend, and one great-grand son was also absent.

Mrs. Brigham was born in Ashland in 1842, and came to Hartford in 1885.

She married Don Ferdinand Brigham of Mansfield, a merchant, who died in 1888. Two brothers now deceased, were Dr. Melanthon Storrs, a well-known surgeon of his day, and Henry C.

Storrs was a prominent member of the Robert O Tyler Post. G.A.R. "

Mrs Bennett says her mother was well remembered with many gifts, cards and flowers and callers."

The "New York Sun," on July 24, had a column write up of Oxford Furnace by Walter H. Van Hoesen, under the head line "Iron Furnace is Saved to New Jersey." It is well written and emphasizes the historic value of the furnace. We quote in part:-

"A step unique of its kind has been accomplished by New Jersey's increasingly valuable Historic Sites Commission in the taking of title to the crumbling iron furnace at Oxford in the northwestern part of the State. The Commission has done

much good since it was organized several years ago to save for posterity the fast-disappearing structures of historic value and to mark suitably for all time those places where stirring events occurred.

"The Old Oxford Furnace is to be restored by experts and will be turned over to the State as the first memorial of its kind. Erected in 1741 and in continuous use thro' peace and war for 140 years, it is believed to be the last one from the Colonial period with its stack still standing. As usual with old

landmarks, the furnace has wrapped within its stone walls the history of those stirring days before even the republic was born. Its record of resistance and use is valuable to those who would learn the origin of ironware now preserved as antiques.

"It stands in Washington avenue in the little Warren county town, as it did when erected in 1741 by Jonathan Robeson shortly after iron was discovered in the rugged hills of the section. Because of the location

of the furnace at the foot of a steep hill, it was possible to discharge ore from the laden vehicles directly into the tunnel-head. The stack, in the form of a pyramid, was about thirty feet high, and leather bellows operated by water power from a stream now called Furnace Brook, at first provided the cold blast for the furnace. . .

The first iron from the furnace was used to make chimney backs, and to this day some of them may be found in old homes around Oxford.

"Other articles of common need to the inhabitants, including utensils, were fashioned from its product.

(over)



"Some of the iron found its way down the Delaware River to other parts of the Colonies and even to England for manufacturing purposes.

"During the Revolution, Robeson, (Dr. Wm. Shippen, Ed.) devoted most of the output to making cannon balls and they were used in large quantities as ammunition when the fighting raged over the northern part of New Jersey.

"Since 1898 it has been owned by the Warren Foundry & Pipe Company, from which concern title has been obtained for the State.

"The northern portion of New Jersey from Bergen to the Pennsylvania line is dotted with abandoned iron mines. Old furnaces are to be found over the area, but none of them has survived the years as well as the Oxford furnace, and few have a more stirring history." -----

We have to thank Mr. Humphrey, Mr. Weston and Miss Grace Hoagland for a copy of the above article.

It shows that the Furnace fame is spreading steadily and widely. At the same time these came we got a letter from a dealer in Antiques in Wash. D.C., saying "To-day I read of your recent acquisition of the Oxford Furnace, and that it is to be restored." The letter was addressed to the Historic Sites Com. Oxford, N. J.

If this letter was inspired by the Commission it would indicate that work on the restoration was to begin before long.

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Mrs. Isabel Jepson of Hillsdale, N. J. writes:- "I am sending you a dollar towards the Bulletin which I enjoy very much, as I am interested in the Church and the people of Oxford; going there when a girl of 17, and living with my people there, until I married. I lived in Oregon, but later came back and am living here.

Other gifts to the Bulletin are Cortland F. Cook, \$2.00; Mrs George Tims, \$1.50; Mrs Margart Hunt and George Haycock one dollar each.

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