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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.

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people. . . . Revelation, 14:6

"O God, who hast made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the whole earth, and didst send thy blessed Son to preach peace to them that are afar off and to them that are nigh; Grant that all men every where may seek after thee and find thee. Bring the nations into thy fold, and add the heathen to thine inheritance, that thy kingdom may come speedily and thy will done on earth even as in heaven. Amen.

Next Sabbath is Communion day for us, and all our people will desire to sit at the table of our Lord and Saviour. Opportunity to join Church will be given to any applying for this privilege.

The Presbyterial meets next Tuesday at Sparta, and the Synodical at Plainfield on next Wednesday. Mrs. Yount will attend both of the great Woman's missionary societies

The Editor will address the Washington High School on the story of the old Furnace, next Wednesday at 11:10 A.M. He has other invitations at future dates yet to be determined.

We thankfully acknowledge the receipt of \$1.00 each from Mrs. G.O. Berthier; Mrs Hilda Courtright and Dr. G.W. Cummins for the Bulletin expenses.

We greatly appreciate having Dr. Cummins on our mailing list, as he is the leading authority on the history of Warren County, and can help us with our local history.

To All People who are interested in Hillside Cemetery.

Shippen Manor Part II.
By Gertrude Everett Force

Activities and History of the Occupants of Shippen Manor.

A call is hereby made for all those interested in Hillside Cemetery for a meeting to be held in the Central School Building, Oxford, N.J. on Wednesday, October 13th. at 2 P.M., for the purpose of forming an association to take over the ownership of the Cemetery; to devise ways and means for its future maintenance; to elect the necessary officers, and other matters that may be of interest.

This is an important meeting, and it is particularly desired that as many men and women who possibly can will attend.

Clinton E. Weston
Temporary Chairman.

Sept. 29, 1937.

Mr. Weston in a note says, "I have heard from Mrs. Mary Cooper, and she is willing to donate her deed, saying, 'Will be glad to surrender same (Deed) to any group who will clear off the underbrush and establish some system of maintenance hereafter.'"

As many citizens will not read this notice in the Bulletin, it is important that all who do, and have this enterprise at heart, tell their friends and neighbors to go to the meeting next Wednesday afternoon.

We feel sure that many people will appreciate the article on The Shippen Manor, in the last and this issue, by Mrs. Wilbur Force, of Washington. It is the substance of an address delivered before the Peggy Warne Chapter, D.A.R. a few months ago, and the Chapter requested that it be put in writing to send to other Chapters and to the State Headquarters of the Society.

The Editor can vouch for the historical statements it contains, and nearly all is derived from the newly discovered historic documents that have been noticed in the Bulletin.

On June 11, 1754, in the year the Shippen Manor was erected, Jonathan Robeson severed his business connections with the Furnace Company, leaving Joseph Shippen, the largest shareholder, in charge until he sold all his interests to his younger brother Dr. William. This Joseph was the uncle of Joseph W. Shippen who married Martha Axford. This elder Joseph was a noted society leader in Philadelphia in that period, and was known by the sobriquet of "Gentleman Joe." He must have spent much of his time in Oxford and doubtless made the Manor house his summer home.

In fact, the Shippen family were wealthy and prominent socially in the Colonies, and they gathered around them in this old home friends from New York and Philadelphia. And every Fall a grand hunt with hounds would take place and the old house would echo to sounds of mirth and revelry under the stimulating influence of well filled wine cellars.

Many interesting incidents have come to light connected with Shippen Manor. Dr. William, Sr. had three children: Dr. William, Jr. (father of Nancy); Susan Blair, whose husband was once elected President of Princeton University, and Joseph W. Shippen, who married Martha Shippen of Oxford.

During the Revolutionary War, Dr. William Shippen, the Elder, his son Dr. William, Jr., the latter's wife, a sister of Richard Henry Lee, and their daughter Nancy, were in the very front of the noted patriots in Philadelphia. And when the British army entered Phila. in 1777, they all had to leave the City for safety, and did not return until after the enemy left in June, 1778. During this period Joseph W. Shippen and his wife Martha Axford, lived with their large and happy family in the Mansion house.

He operated the mines and blast furnace for his father, and it is said that Washington received munitions of war from the Oxford Furnace
(over)

Congress adopted a resolution confiscating the Andover Furnace, a few miles north of Oxford furnace, but sent American troops to protect the Oxford furnace. All which goes to disprove the old belief that the Shippens were Tories, and unfriendly to the American cause during the Revolution. This is made the more certain by the fact that Dr. William Shippen, Sr. was a member of the Continental Congress, and his son Dr. William Jr. was the head of the Army hospitals. At the Shippen home in Phila. all the great personalities of this period were frequent guests; among them were Washington, and his nephew Bushrod Washington, Lafayette, Jefferson, and others.

Richard Henry Lee was brother-in-law to Dr. William Jr., and went from the Shippen home to the session of Congress to propose the famous motion of the Declaration of Independence.

In all probability, Peggy Shippen, wife of Benedict Arnold visited her relations in the Oxford Castle.

She was the great niece of Dr. William Shippen Sr., but her family was supposed to be friendly to the British. Any way her visits to Oxford must have taken place before the Revolutionary War.

One of the most touching and saddest love stories in history happened about this time. Nancy, the daughter of Dr. William, Jr. had many suitors, but never loved but one, the noble young secretary in the French Embassy. But her father moved by family pride and ambition forced her to marry a heartless rake of one of the richest and most aristocratic families of New York.

She deserted him in fear and horror in two years, and the rest is a tale of sorrow in the midst of a notable circle of people and events in Philadelphia. At last it all resulted in broken hearts for Nancy and her daughter, Peggy; for her mother and even for her father and grandfather. Their home was broken up, the mother and Nancy with her child going into retirement for the rest of their lives, and Dr. William, Jr. going to live with relatives in Germantown. The old Dr. William taking refuge in the humble but

happy home in Oxford, where he probably spent the remainder of his life. He was there when his son Joseph W. died in 1795, and he himself died in 1801, in his 90th year. He left his property to his two surviving children, Dr. Wm. Jr. and Mrs Susan Blair, but out of the Oxford Furnace lands he provided good farms for the three sons of Joseph and Martha, and liberal life annuities for the Widow and three daughters.

Dr. William, Jr. died in 1808, and the next year the Oxford property was bought from the heirs by Morris Robeson, who, with his remarkable wife Tacy Paul, lived in the Manor house about 20 years and added many fine improvements to house and grounds.

Their grandson, General George M. Robeson, Secretary of Navy in General Grant's Cabinet, was born there.

In 1831 the property was leased to William Henry & Company. Mr. Henry was a great Iron Master, and later helped in founding Scranton, Pa. He resided in the Manor for a few years where his son, Capt. J. J. Henry was born in 1834, who was to be the first New Jersey Officer to be killed in the Civil War.

In the 1830s George W. and Selden Scranton, two young men from Conn. came to this community, and in 1839 bought the furnace tract. They, and at times their brother Charles, occupied the house until 1863. Selden and Charles married sisters, daughters of William Henry.

About 1870 Mrs. Elizabeth Fowler leased the Manor house and made it a notable boarding house in the town, and it was called "Fowler House" for half a century.

Shippen Manor is now the property of the Warren Foundry & Pipe Corp., but under lease to Alan Wood Steel Company, and the Superintendent, Mr. Carl Loux with his wife reside in the house.

Shippen Manor is the oldest habitable house in northern Jersey, and in a fine state of preservation.

When its rare merits in history and character are well known it will be sought as a monument of the fine old Colonial homes of the Georgian period.



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