

Oct 31-37

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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.

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and to the Lamb.--Rev. 7:2

"Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord; Grant us grace to follow thy blessed saints in all virtuous living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys which thou hast prepared for those who unfeignedly love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

A meeting of the Ladies Aid Society has been called for next Tuesday in the chapel, at 3:30 P.M.

The Halloween party in the chapel last Monday evening was an interesting event. The attendance was large, and the masks were of unusually attractive types.

Mrs Hayden Docker won the first prize and her make-up greatly admired.

Mr. Charles Aitkin sends \$2.00 for the continuance of the Bulletin, and adds: "I certainly read with interest the two recent Bulletins giving an account of the old mansion house, known in my time as the Fowler house, where I made my home while a resident of Oxford"

We thank Mr. Aitkin for the cash and the appreciation of the articles on the mansion house by Mrs Wilbur Force, of Washington, N.J. who will be gratified to learn her contribution to Oxford history has given such pleasure to others.

Most readers know that Mr. Aitkin was school teacher in Oxford over fifty years ago.

Cemetery Meeting

Mr. Weston, President of the new Cemetery Association has called a meeting of the officers and trustees for consultation, Sunday 2 P.M. Oct. 31st. to be held in the lecture room of the Methodist Church.

Of course all persons interested are welcome to attend.

----- Anton Peterson

We have to record another sad loss to the community in the death of Anton Peterson, which occurred last Saturday shortly after midnight.

He was thought to be almost ready to come home from the hospital where he had undergone a serious operation.

Mr. Peterson was born in Denmark Jan. 13th, 1863, and came to Oxford about 1882, and found employment in the Iron Company, working in the Nail factory, and mines.

He married Miss Anne Kristine Nelson in 1883. The union was blest with six children, of whom four survive; Mrs. Carrie Borgstrom, of Newark; Mrs. Marie Thomas, of Irvington; Mrs. Jane Skov, of Merchantville; and Miss Martha of Oxford, who has for many years been her father's housekeeper.

Mr. Peterson was employed by Mr. Carmichael, in Chestnut Grove for 32 years, and for the past 11 years has been with Mr. J.H. Scranton.

He was a devoted churchman, and an active member of the Danish Church in Oxford until it was dissolved a few years since, then he sought membership in our church, of which he has been a faithful member.

He was among his friends noted for his keen sense of humor, and for his conscientious principles. It is said he could not sleep if he owed any one even a nickel. He had a lovable disposition and made and kept friends for lifetime.

The funeral was from our church last Tuesday afternoon, in which the Masons took part. The burial was in Hillside Cemetery.

The Original Owners of Oxford Lands

A question often asked is, "Who were the owners of the furnace lands before the time of Jonathan Robeson?"

It may, for clearness, be best to divide it into two periods; the time before it was surveyed and located for individuals, and the long period of general ownership.

Some of the land was surveyed as early as 1714, but most of it during the 1720s, and some much later.

The Furnace tract of 578 acres is of most interest to us. Before 1741 the Shippen family bought it from William Coxe, son of Col. Daniel Coxe. It is probable that the latter had it surveyed for himself, and by will allotted it to his sons, William, John and Daniel, for old deeds show all them as holders of the different tracts. Col. Daniel died 1739, and as William got the Furnace tract by will he would have time to sell it as he did to Joseph Shippen of Phila. before 1741, who owned the tract when Robeson began to build the Furnace.

The general ownership of the land goes back to the time when the Dutch and Swedes began to settle in different parts of the State, as early as 1618. Later the Hollanders got control of it all and until 1664 had possession and called it with New York, New Netherlands.

But in 1664 England took the Province from Holland, and, with a brief interval, ruled it as a Colony until the end of the colonial period.

King Charles II. was then ruler and gave New Jersey to his brother James, afterward, James II. James sold it immediately to Sir George Carteret and Lord John Berkeley. The latter sold his share to John Fenwick in trust for Edward Byllinge, but Carteret established the first English colony in New Jersey in the year 1665 at Elizabethtown.

Byllinge who settled in West Jersey soon failed and Wm. Penn and two others were appointed commissioners to manage it, and soon afterward the heirs of Carteret offered their share for sale, and the company of proprietors, mostly in England, bought the whole province, and (over)

for about twenty years the province was under Proprietary Government.

But in 1702 Queen Anne revoked their charter and united East and West Jersey under one Governor.

Now one of the Proprietors was Dr. Daniel Coxe, a prominent London Physician, and he became one of the first Governors of New Jersey, but he never came to America. But his son Daniel (and all historians assume they are the same person) came to America in 1702 with Lord Cornbury, the new Governor, and being a favorite of the Governor, was appointed Commander of the forces of the Province, whence his title of Colonel. Col. Daniel inherited his father's interests in the colony, and he and his sons were the first individual owners of most of the Oxford lands.

This Col. Daniel Coxe was an able and popular man, and when he came was still under 30 years of age. He was described as a "fine flaunting gentleman." He lost his heart to Sarah Eckley, a Phila. Quakeress, and eloped with her in the year 1707. The Quakers retaliated by using their influence against him politically, so that he lost his position when a new Governor was appointed, and in 1714 returned to England. However he came back in 1725 and remained until death 1739, always active in business and in politics.

In American history Col. Coxe is noted for a book he published in 1714, in which he fully described the "First printed plan for a political confederation of the American Colonies."

In American Masonry he has the distinction of having been the "First appointed Grand Master of Masons in America."

Some of his descendants were brilliant men and played a notable part in early American history.

And so another distinguished family must be added to the roll of Oxford furnace history, and all in this order: Coxe, Shippen, Robeson, Henry, and Scranton. During 200 years of our history these names are linked with events of prime importance in State and the Nation.



CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

A. G. YOUNT, Moderator

Elders

**ABRAM PITTENGER
EDWARD T. GREEN**

**ELISHA B. FOSS
LEWIS BERGENBACK**



Board of Trustees

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GEORGE DOCKER, JR.
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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

Leader **MRS. E. T. GREEN**

