

Nov 7 - 37

384

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.

Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations he hath made in the earth!

He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth;

Be still, and know that I am God:

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.-----Psalm 46:8-10

"O Lord God of infinite mercy, we beseech thee to look down upon the nations now engaged in war.

Reckon not against thy people their many iniquities, which involve them in conflict and war.

Look in mercy on those exposed to peril, conflict, sickness and death, especially the women and children and other non-combatants.

Remove in thy good Providence all causes and occasions of war; and of thy great goodness restore peace among the nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

The business meeting of the Cemetery Association last Sunday afternoon proved to be all that the promoters had hoped for, and real progress was made toward forming an efficient organization.

All the officers and trustees, except one of the latter, were present and took deep interest in the matters discussed. Committees were appointed and their duties explained so that definite work can be done by them. The next meeting was appointed for Nov. 20, in the afternoon, when reports will be made, and important steps taken that should place the Association on a secure foundation.

Miss Emma Scott has preserved a copy of "The Presbyterian," a religious news paper published in N.Y. City, with the date of September 10, 1864. It has the name of her uncle Daniel Lanning written with a pencil above the Title. Evidently he was a subscriber to it. The letter from which we have made extracts in this issue were taken from it.

Old Oxford Days
By Clinton E. Weston

Our Country in 1864

Do You Remember?

When the railroad ran over Tunnel Hill, around by the old school house, and the Station was under the lee of Dutch Hill? Well, I don't; but the railroad bed is still there.

When hot days came how refreshing it was to go to the entrance of the Tunnel and have a drink of cool, clear water that was constantly dripping there?

When a walking track was made at the intersection of Tunnel Hill road and Mechanic street; George Humphrey being the official time-keeper, holding a split-pea second chronometer?

When the post office was in the old stone building on the corner lead to Dutch Hill; and when it burned boys were busy for several days looking for charred pennies?

When a large crowd gathered at the Post-Office after the mail arrived and when the window went up with a bang there was a rush, with exclamations of 'Heh! Don't push, just shove.' or, 'Say! Don't use my feet for a door mat'

When there was a Cobbler's shop just opposite the Company Store? The cobbler's name was Van de Veer.

When Lukens Band practiced over the office adjoining the Company Store, and how the people gathered outside to enjoy the music?

When school teachers were allowed to use a birch switch, and what fun it was to hear the other fellow howl.

When Charlie Wiseburn and Mike Kelly were the famous battery team?

When Jim White, the caller for dances held in Spring Grove could be heard over a mile?

When walking through certain parts of town you were liable to be butted by a goat making a rear attack without sending advance notice?

November 11th has become our national peace day, and all our people are thankful our country is at peace with all the world.

But 73 years ago the nation was in the throes of Civil War, that had raged for three years, and was to last near a year longer.

In July 1864 Rev. J. Selville, of Holmesburg, Pa. went as a delegate of the Christian Commission to the Army under Grant, to minister to the sick and wounded in the Army Hospital there. He wrote a News Paper account of his experiences which is so interesting we make some extracts for our readers.

"I was assigned to duty at the General Hospital of the 18th Army Corps, one mile south of the Appomattox river, five miles above City Point, and about four miles from Petersburg." (This was near Richmond, Va.) "At this Hospital there were about a thousand men, constantly varied by the daily removal of numbers to other hospitals, and the arrival of new cases from the field and 'Field Hospital.' One-half of this number, termed, 'convalescents,' were encamped in shelter tents, and were committed to my care. Most of these were not suffering from any acute disease. They were exhausted by the labors and exposure of the campaign. They had lost their clothing--lost their appetite--lost their spirits--in their own expressive phrase--they were played out."

"They were in a position between the field (of battle) and the hospital, and hence enjoyed the full privileges of neither... They were in special need of our supply of clothing, shirts, drawers, socks, etc... They had been through the terrible battles of the 'Wilderness,' and the subsequent marches and battles, and had lost everything but what they had on. They had lain in the rifle-pits and trenches in front of Petersburg, until this was worn out; and despite their occasional washings, filthy, too. We distributed what we had, far from being equal to the demand, it would have done your heart good to have seen the improved condition of the men, (over)

their clean dress and smiling faces in a few days after we commenced operations. I was deeply impressed with the valuable service rendered to the soldier and the cause by the ladies of the country.

"The comfort bags, as they called them, filled with thread, needles, buttons, tape, tea, coffee, sugar, spices, scissors, combs, soap, envelopes, paper stamps, a Testament, etc. I gave one to a young man who asked for needle and thread to repair his clothes, and as he examined its contents, the tear glistened in his eye, and he said to his comrade, 'The people at home don't forget us.'"

Many of the soldiers related to him their experiences.

Said one, 'There were four brothers of us, who enlisted at the same time, leaving a father and mother and two sisters at home. My father is dead, two of my brothers were killed at Cold Harbour, and the third lost a leg, and will probably die.' "He was just going to the front, and gave me a daguerretype, with a request that I would send it to his mother."

"Said another, 'How many noble, self-sacrificing men I have met!

I enlisted at the beginning of the war with two brothers. They are dead. I left at home father, mother four brothers and a sister. My father and three brothers are dead. I have enlisted for three years more.' How came you to enlist again? said I, 'The country needs men' he replied, 'and I had rather have a soldier's grave than that the cause should fail.'"

The writer gives cases of religious experiences of the soldiers

"A young man came to me on a Sabbath evening after preaching, and

said, 'That sermon was meant for me tonight,' and wept as he said, 'I have a pious mother, who sent me to Sabbath-school and often prayed with me at home: and she never writes without entreating me to attend to the interests of my soul. But I have been a wanderer; and of late have been very anxious about my soul, but after that sermon I do believe my sins may be forgiven, and that God has heard my mother's prayers.'"



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

Leader MRS. E. T. GREEN

