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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.*

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent?  
---Romans 10:13-15

"Increase, O God, the faith and the zeal of all thy people, that they may earnestly desire, and more diligently seek the salvation of their fellow-men, through the message of thy love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Send forth a mighty call unto thy servants to preach thy Word, and multiply the number of those who labor in the Gospel; granting unto them a heart of love sincerity of speech, and the power of the Holy Ghost, that they may be able to persuade men to forsake sin and turn unto thee." Amen  
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The Ladies Annual Fair will be held Thursday, December 9th. There will be an oyster supper, and sale of fancy things and other articles.

Donations are requested of any fancy articles, dressed dolls, aprons, towels, pillowslips etc. Orders now taken for delicious home made candy at 50¢ per pound.

The ladies will spend the day at the home of Mrs. Laura Seiple to make aprons, etc. on next Tuesday, Nov. 16th. All are to take a cover dish for their luncheon.

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Mrs. H. B. Thompson has been on a vacation trip on the Pacific coast the past six weeks, and spent last Sabbath with her sister-in-law, Mrs. Jennie Fichtel, and before returning home in Phila. she left a dollar for the Bulletin, which she likes as well as ever.

Perhaps I can give Mr. Weston a joke he has never heard. It had to do with Mr. Brown Hill, and happened in the Fowler House long, long, years ago. It was at the table. Ruth Axford and I were enjoying ourselves following around after Mrs. Fowler as she was setting the table for the evening meal. But I don't know that she was enjoying it, although she seemed to like having us around.

She was taking pickled peaches out of a can. In those times they spiced peaches by putting crushed spices in a bag which was put in the can with the peaches. She had come to the bottom and nothing was left but the bag of spices.

Of course it looked just like the little bag they filled with sugar and gave to babies to quiet them.

Ruth picked up the bag and said, "Let's give that to Brown Hill," and give it to Brown Hill we did.

He ate at the extreme end of the table by Mrs. Fowler. Whether to make him be good or not I don't know, for he was always up to some mischief. Ruth and I were at the extreme other end— proving how good we were. We sat there looking very innocent, when we heard a little commotion at the other end. Unconsciously we looked up and there was Brown Hill holding up his spice bag and turning around and around, but looking right down at us; and every one else was looking at us too. "Well," he said, "that is the first one of these I have seen since I was a baby."

It was very quiet for a moment and then everything broke loose.

Well, no one can tell just how silly we felt. Poor Mrs. Fowler said, "I might have known better."

So might we have known better, but it seems we didn't.

I was repeating this story to myself last night to see what I remembered. I have some dear little friends out in the park under my window, and I just love them, where most people want them to keep quiet.

They are little screech owls, and we talk to each other. They told me last to be quiet; I had talked enough.

We have been examining two old wall maps of Warren County, one dated 1853, the other 1861. The older one is of special interest to us because it indicates all the Oxford Furnace lands owned by the Company at that time, about 4000 acres, extending from Green Pond to Brass Castle.

It shows that Col. Charles Scranton, President of the Company at that time lived in the old mansion house, and that the old stone Presbyterian Chapel was the only church edifice.

The map of 1861 however has the Catholic and the "Dutch" Reformed Churches. The latter was built in 1859 and the former near the same time. This map also shows that the mansion house was occupied by Selden T. Scranton, and that Col. Charles had moved to the old stone house near the big spring.

The two maps illustrate the beginning of the D.L. & W. Rail road in the County, which was first called the Warren Railroad. The map of 1853 was printed before the road was started, but it gives the proposed route clearly. The line ran from Hackettstown along the Morris canal to Port Murray, thence turned north to Jackson valley to Vannest Gap (tunnel hill), then straight over to Smith's corner thence around Rattle snake hill past the quarry to old Oxford (Hazen) and Belvidere the terminal.

The map of 1861 shows the road as first built in 1855-6, which was quite different from the route as first proposed.

The terminals were Hampton and Delaware. It was to be a connecting link between the Central New Jersey at Hampton and the D.L. & W, which was constructed at the same time, running to Scranton, Pa. and on to Binghamton, N.Y.

The tunnel was planned at the same time, but as it took 7 years to construct it, a temporary track was made over tunnel hill. This necessitated the construction of two large loops, one in Jackson valley, and the other in Oxford.

When the road came to Jackson valley it turned eastward up the valley for a bout a mile, (over)

then made a U turn and ran along the mountain side past the foot of Sykes Gap on a fill (which is still in good condition) thence to the top of tunnel hill, and passing over it turned westward along school street and on around the Mill pond, and back along the hillside, above the mill race and stack house, then on, passing the Mansion house on north side, and thence to present line.

The first train that passed over this line was run in May 1856, and consisted of an engine and one coach. The clatter was divided into two sections, for baggage and passengers. The small engine was very elaborate with shining brass parts, and a plate with its name on it, which was, LILLIPUT. The train stopped in front of the Mansion house, and the band, which came on the train played the "Star Spangled Banner." Doubtless the passengers in this train were officers of the road, of which John I. Blair, was the President.

In the spring of 1862 the tunnel was completed, and this eliminated the loops in Oxford and Jackson valley.

The road made connection with the D.L.&W. at Delaware, of which George W. Scranton was President.

And the Warren line was from the first taken over by the D.L. & W. by perpetual lease.

The Morris and Essex was built some years later and about 1875 was leased to the D.L. & W, and became a part of the this R.R. System.

The Map of 1853 belongs to Miss Bertha Lapelt, and the one of 1861 to Mr. John Bell. Both are old family heirlooms. We have them to thank for loaning them to us.

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Miss Fannie Person who sent us the delightfully told incident on another page, has been bed fast for over a year. She taught school in Oxford over sixty years ago. Through the Bulletin she has renewed contact with many of her old time friends with whom she now corresponds to her great cheer and delight.



**CHURCH OFFICERS**

*The Session*

**A. G. YOUNT, Moderator**

*Elders*

<b>ABRAM PITTENGER</b>	<b>ELISHA B. FOSS</b>
<b>EDWARD T. GREEN</b>	<b>LEWIS BERGENBACK</b>



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*Church Treasurer*

**LEWIS E. GREEN**



*Sunday School*

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*Choir*

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

