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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.

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Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.. He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

John 5: 33,35.

"Almighty God, who showest to them that are in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Religion, that they may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same: through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Next Sabbath will be devoted by the Sunday School and Church worship to the Christmas theme and story. We hope to have some extra music appropriate to the day, and in the Bulletin will be special feature that will stir the heart of all our readers.

Hillside Cemetery.

C.E. Weston, the President of the Association, sends this notice:--

"A Trustees meeting will be held Sunday, December 19th at two o'clock in the Colonial M.E. Church, Oxford.

Reports will be given of the progress made by the Association and every one is invited to attend."

Mr. Raymond J. Baylor, of Dover, writes, "I thoroughly enjoys the Bulletin each week and eagerly scans its pages in search of some news story which vividly brings back memories of her life in Oxford a place which she holds very dearly in her heart. It might interest you to know that my father, Isaac C. Baylor was the last engineer in the furnace. Of course Dad has passed on to his greater reward some sixteen years now, but he too held a warm spot in his heart for the place where he enjoyed many, many happy hours of his early life

The Old Furnace

It now begins to look like we can set a date for the work on the old furnace to start. Last Tuesday we were asked to be present at Trenton with the State Commission on Historic Sites to appear before the Budget Committee of the State Assembly to obtain an appropriation to restore the furnace according to plans made for the Commission.

Accordingly Mr. James Odsted and the Editor met with them, and the result of the conference was most promising. A substantial sum was asked for the completion of the work, and it was taken under advisement. But there will be another meeting with the full Budget Committee in January when the exact amount allotted will be determined.

It is confidently expected that a considerable sum will then be granted for the purpose.

The Commission has also made arrangements with the WPA to add to this sum a sufficient amount for the purpose.

So that sometime during 1938 it is expected that the work of restoration will be started, if not completed.

Mr. Philip W. Henry of New York sends this kind note of appreciation

"I have been much interested in the Bulletin which you have been sending me. The recent number containing Mr. Humphrey's story of the burial of the Delaware Indians was most entertaining, although I had heard something of this story some years ago from him directly.

"I am very glad that Mr. Humphrey and Clin Weston are so active in making the Bulletin interesting, and your own research into history of Oxford I have much appreciated."

We acknowledge receipts for the Bulletin fund as follows:
P.W. Henry \$2.00; and one dollar each from Abram Pittenger, Wm. Schweitzer, Mrs. Wm. Dawe and Mrs. Fred Thomas.
Thanks to all.

Old Oxford Days--William H. Scranton

By Clinton E. Weston

One of the most popular and best loved men in Oxford, in its most prosperous days, was William H. Scranton. Those of us who recall him as an official, Sunday School teacher, host, and a gentleman at all times do so with a remembrance of kindly affection.

Mr. Scranton was born in Belvidere on the 13th of January 1840. He was the eldest son of Col. George W. Scranton, founder of Scranton, Pa.

Before he was one year old the family removed from Belvidere to Scranton, and there he spent most of his boyhood days. After five years of schooling at Montrose and Wyoming Pa., and Stamford, Conn. he entered the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1857. Leaving the Institute about the end of 1860 he settled in Oxford as a civil and mining Engineer for the firm of G.W. and S.T. Scranton, which became in 1863 the Oxford Iron Company. Of this Company he continued to be the engineer up to 1873 constructing, during this period, the buildings, furnace, etc.

In 1873 he became General Manager of this company, taking charge of its mines, works and business affairs, and retained the position after the concern was reorganized as the Oxford Iron and Nail Company in 1878, and until he resigned his office in Nov. 1885. In January 1886 he became General Manager of the Fall River Iron Works, and upon the discontinuance of that enterprise, a year or two later, wound up its business and returned to his old home in Oxford, where he occupied himself with his practice as a Consulting Engineer, and with the pursuit of professional investigations and commercial undertakings on his own account.

One of the latest of these was the introduction into the U.S. of the Wenstrom magnetic separator. Both the merits of this machine and the field of its practical usefulness were directly connected with the favorite study of his life, to which, with his records and professional papers, the public came to know of

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his ability, and to applaud his success. Mr. Scranton was an accomplished draughtsman, designer and architect. The large blast furnace for which he made the plans, and supervised the construction in 1872 and which he remodeled and improved some years later, was an evidence of his skill. In its day it was a model of thorough and advanced scientific construction, and it had long had the reputation of producing excellent pig iron at an exceptionally low cost. As a manager of workmen his success was extraordinary. Employing from 800 to 1000 miners, furnace men, mechanics and laborers of all classes, he commanded so entirely their confidence and respect that he never encountered a strike. Workingmen recognized his strict justice and absolute integrity, as well as the kindness of his disposition; and the men of all classes became, and remained his friends. He was a constant student of books, making copious notes of his reading, as well as his original experiments and investigations. His note books, an invaluable collection with drawings, calculations etc., disappeared after his death, through the robbery of his private office by unknown parties. These were models of fulness, order and critical analysis. His house at Oxford was the home of domestic happiness and refined and cordial hospitality; and those who enjoyed the privilege of tarrying beneath its roof found in their host a surprising range of knowledge, and a power of imparting it, which his habitual reserve in public did not indicate.

The principle contribution that Mr. Scranton made to his profession was connected with the use of the magnetic needle in the survey of iron ore deposits. His interest in this subject began at a very early period of his life through his mother's brother, Mr. James Hiles, of Belvidere, a land surveyor; who was a man of conscientious accuracy, original force and sympathetic temperament; highly esteemed as an authority on engineering matters.

The influence of this uncle, with whom young Scranton used to spend

much of his time, and who delighted to encourage and guide the boy's ambition, had much to do with his choice of a profession. Mr. Scranton used to speak of his uncle with much admiration and affection.

When Mr. Hiles died about 1869, his maps and papers were left to his nephew. Just before Mr. Scranton's death he arranged the materials for a paper on the magnetic survey of iron mines, and had prepared portions of the paper which were unfortunately stolen. This would have been probably the best comprehensive treatise on the subject; combining foreign with American progress, and adding much valuable criticism and suggestion.

Upon the monument of his father, in the family plot in Dunmore Cemetery at Scranton, Pa., are engraved these words: "Kind hearted and benevolent, genial and true in his relations with his fellow-men; a man of noble purposes and high Christian character; he was called to his reward in the midst of usefulness, loved and mourned by all who knew him."

The worthy son of such a father sleeps now beside him and the same inscription may fitly stand for both.

(This article was prepared through information kindly given by the Society of Mining Engineers. C.E.W.)

The Christmas seal Sale progresses very well in comparison with last year, which however was better than for several years. Forty dollars worth has already been bought in Oxford District. If it continues at this rate the increase over the past will be most creditable to our people. Seven persons have taken the 200 seals sent them and two of these from one family.

This is well; for the County Nurse writes that there has been in the past year an increase in the number of persons in the county afflicted with the white plague, and a greater effort to overcome it must be made.



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