

Dec 26-37

391

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.

Bulletin No. 391. Dec. 26th, 1937

O Lord, I have heard the report
of thee and am afraid:

O Lord, revive thy work in the
midst of the years,

In the midst of the years make
it known;

In wrath remember mercy.
Habakkuk, 3:2

"The times and seasons pass
along under thy feet, to go and
come at thy bidding, and as thou
didst dignify our father's days
with many revelations, above all
their foregoing ages since thou
tookest the flesh, so thou canst
vouchsafe to us, though unworthy,
as large a portion of thy spirit
as thou pleasest, for who shall
prejudice thy all-governing will,
seeing the power of thy grace is
not passed away with the primitive
times, as fond and faithless men
imagine, but thy kingdom is now at
hand and thou standing at the door.

Come forth out of thy chamber,
O Prince of all the kings of the
earth. Put on the robes of thy
imperial majesty. Take up that un-
limited scepter which thy almighty
Father hath bequeathed thee, for
now the voice of thy bride calls
thee and all creatures sigh to be
renewed."

The Lord's Supper will be ad-
ministered on Sabbath morning
January 9th, it being the second
Sabbath of the month.

The Pastor and family have been
made very happy by the scores of
beautiful Christmas cards that
have come from all parts of the
country, from friends old and new,
for which we cannot be sufficiently
grateful, much less able to express
our feelings in words.

Our friends in Oakland, Calif.
Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Miller inclosed in
their card a check for \$5.00, a
most acceptable Christmas gift,
which we acknowledge with much
pleasure. Likewise Mrs. Catherine
Norgaard a dollar for the Bulletin.

A meeting of the officers and trustees of Hillside Cemetery was held Sunday, December 19th.

The President, Mr. Weston, reported that all the technicalities in regard to the deeds had been happily straightened out, and with the clearing up of some minor matters the Association would completely own the property of the cemetery.

Reports were given by standing committees which showed wonderful progress is being made.

The By-law committee, after long and tedious work, offered them in a complete form and they were adopted formally as the By-laws of the Association. The By-law committee was then discharged with the thanks of the Association.

The next meeting will be held Sunday, January 23rd, at 2 P.M. in the Colonial M.E. Church.

Mrs. Mary Weber Lemmon, of Birmingham, Ala. inclosed with her Christmas cards, one of her good personal notes, but one item will be of interest to all her friends. She writes:—

"We have special cause of gratitude. Mr. Lemmon has recovered from a long illness— appendix and complications— so we are very happy."

Mrs. Dr. L. B. Hoagland has gone to Wisconsin to be with her daughter and her family for a month. She ~~went~~ by plane to Chicago—her first flight— which shows her high spirit, though of advanced age.

The closing days of the year impress upon thoughtful minds the brevity of life and the flight of time. The wise use of our time, not its length, is what counts in the end. "The Art of living rightly is like all the arts--the capacity alone is born with us.

It must be learned and practiced with incessant care." "Use your time to gain the unclouded calm, or it will be gone and nevermore within your power." These are the counsels of Goethe and Marcus Aurelius.

The Old Stone Post Office

By Miss Amelia Zapp

Your Bulletins are all most interesting. It is pleasant, especially to my mother, to read reminiscences of those who retain enough energy and good will to be willing to share with others the experiences they like to recall.

We are especially appreciative, however, Mr. Yount, of the progress made with the projected restoration of the old furnace. You have been the force that has advanced that movement. I know all lovers of historic shrines thank you.

The cemetery problem is also close to our hearts. For that I am enclosing a check for \$15.00., and at the same time I am sending \$2.00 for the Bulletin.

Now, about the old Post Office which once stood at the curve of the road on what was Shippen Manor property. My mother naturally recalls it and her recollection seems distinct.

It burned, she believes in 1881, approximately. There was a porch across one end reached by a flight of a number of steps.

The Post Office entrance was off this porch. Above the P.O. was a school room. Under it in the back was a storage room for the Company Store, and paralleling the side walk, were several small shops. The shop nearest the steps was a sadler's shop maintained by one Sigler Clausen; next was a barber shop, run by Peter Martin; the third she is not sure about. (Here Miss Zapp gives a sketch of the building that Mr. Walter Docker says is about correct)

You mentioned receiving a photograph of that building and expressing interest in the uses of the smaller shops, I believe.

We thank Miss Zapp and her mother Mrs. P. J. Zapp, for this timely letter, and for the liberal donation to the general fund of the Cemetery Association, which will be received for by the Treasurer, Mr. Edward Badrow. Also the money for the Bulletin fund, and the cordial Christmas greetings to the Manse.

We are most of all pleased with
(over)

the description of the old post office building; for we have lately become deeply interested in the history of this old structure, and regret that it ever burned or was not restored. For we have reached the conclusion that it was originally the mansion house of Jonathan Robeson, and built by him soon after he finished the furnace, probably as early as 1743.

The reasons for this conclusion are these:- It was the custom at that time to build with the furnace a house for the manager and the workmen, as the country was a wilderness and houses scarce, and a stone house was cheaper because the rock was at hand and the masons who worked on the furnace would erect the house also. We know that the Shippen house was not built before 1754, and in 1751 a company of New York people on their way to Bethlehem, Pa. stayed over night with Mr. Robeson, both going and coming, and as there were ten of them, it would require a fairly large house to entertain them.

The post office building would answer that purpose very well in those days when families often had but one or two rooms in their home.

Mr. Robeson never made Oxford his home, though from the time he had built the furnace until 1754 he was here overseeing the work, and so was much of the time a resident in the old house with the manager, Mr. Richard Shackleton.

So it comes about that, if our conclusion is correct, that old post office building was about ten years older than the Shippen Manor.

There are other reasons than we have given to support this claim, but need not be state here.

We would like very much to get hold of a picture of this edifice, and if any reader knows of such a thing, we hope he will send it for examination, or suggest where one may be obtained.

Miss Zapp is mistaken about our having seen one. However we have a picture of the Shippen house, taken in the 1870s which show the porch on the east end of the post office, which enables us to correctly locate the building.



CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

Elders

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EDWARD T. GREEN

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President MRS. A. G. YOUNT
Vice-President MRS. BENJAMIN GREEN
Secretary MRS. VIOLET BELL
Treasurer MRS. LEWIS E. GREEN

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Leader MRS. E. T. GREEN

