

The
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

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Minister



Oxford Historical Record



Unto the pure all things are pure; but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. ---Titus 1:15

We praise thee, O God, for thy goodness which breaks upon us as the morning light. We thank thee for the gift of life, and the priceless opportunities of doing good to our fellow men. We thank thee for all the good things of the world, for food and raiment, for home and friendship, for useful tasks and pure pleasures; and most of all for the spiritual blessings, for faith, hope and love, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

The Easter Services last Sabbath were well attended by our people and were impressive for the deep spiritual interest that all felt.

The baptism of Mrs Robert Bush and the welcome of new members, followed by the Holy Communion made a complete Christian service that was a blessing to all present.

The following persons appeared before the Session, and received into the Church, were welcomed by the congregation:-

Mrs. Robert Bush, Irene Poch,
Edward Vorbach, Kenneth Bell.

The latest report of our Missionaries in China, states that we have there 375 missionaries, and that 232 of them are actually on the field. Some fields of course have had to be temporarily abandoned, but none of the missionaries wish to come home, which is their privilege. This is true also of the missionaries of all other churches both Protestant and the Catholic. Apostolic zeal for the evangelization of the world is a fact that should spur the faith of Christians to more ardent work at home and the support of those in foreign fields.

75th Anniversary-Reunion, May 15.

Clinton E. Weston, Chairman

Plans are well under way for the Reunion on May 15th. The afternoon program is nearing completion and a number of new speakers have been listed. People will be pleased to know that arrangements are being made to have an amplifier installed so that voices can be heard clearly all over the church. Another innovation that has been worked out is that people who may come from a distance and wish to spend a night or two with meals can do so at a moderate sum. This will be an inducement to many who would have attended in former years but for the inconvenience of finding accommodations near by. Anyone who wishes to take advantage of this will please write to Mr. Yount stating their desires.

Miss Susanne Loder will again be the soloist. Her remarkable voice and charming presence contributed so much to last year's afternoon meeting that many people expressed the desire to hear her again.

From the number of replies that have been received the indications are that this year the reunion will be larger than ever before.

Mrs. Herbert L. Miller of Oakland California, sent a beautiful Easter card with an offering to the Church of \$5.00, and says:--

"Mr. Miller has been quite ill, but goes to the office now in the morning. He was sick for many weeks. I hope in the near future to see you again."

This has been house-cleaning week for our church. The chapel, too long neglected, has been given thorough cleaning; floors scrubbed and woodwork washed etc.

The fine thing about it all is that it was done by our good men, many of whom are at present without employment. Of course the good women had a hand in it, and saw that it was properly done. The church is to be treated similarly.

Mrs James E. Loder of Phila. Pa writes some interesting genealogic notes about the Loder family:--

"Your Bulletin of April 3rd, was especially interesting to me, because it mentioned some relatives of my husband, Dr. James E. Loder. The only living member of that immediate Loder family is Mary S. Loder, who had her 79th birthday last January. She is my sister-in-law, and has given me the following interesting information:

The William Loder mentioned was the great-grand-father of Dr. James E. Loder, and Mary S. Loder, his sister.

This William Loder was one of the founders of the 'Hazen' Church.

The James Loder mentioned was a grand-uncle of Dr. Loder's, and his son's name was James, for whom my husband was named. The name James appears to be a 'family' name, as there was always one James in each family. Miss Mary Loder tells me that a number of their family records were destroyed during the fire which occurred in the church many years ago.

My daughter and I expect to attend the Reunion again this year, and are looking forward to it with pleasure."

More Furnace Data

It is well known that Morris Robeson, grandson of Jonathan Robeson, who built the furnace in 1741-1742, purchased from the heirs of Dr. William Shippen, the Elder, all the furnace lands, which then amounted to about six thousand acres. This was in the year 1809.

We have been studying one of the deeds recorded in the Sussex Co. records at Newton, in Book T. pages 205 ff.

This deed was made by Mrs. Susan Roberdeau, wife of Col. Isaac Roberdeau, to Morris Robeson, and transferred to him her one moiety, one half interest in the lands.

The consideration was \$10,000. Mrs Roberdeau was the daughter of Susan Shippen Blair, wife of the Rev. Samuel Blair. Mrs. Blair was the daughter of Dr. William Shippen

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who died in 1801, leaving all his property to his two children, Dr. William Jr. and Susan Blair.

But the furnace lands were all entailed in the interest of the seven children of Joseph W. Shippen and Martha Axford. Three of these children were sons, and they were to get good farms of not less than 150 acres, and the four daughters were to receive life annuities of 60 Pounds, or \$300, each.

The farms for the three sons were set apart to them a few years after the death of Dr. William, the Elder. But the annuities could not thus be disposed of, and held good until all were dead; one died in 1818 and the others later, one of them lived until about 1860.

Thus the annual entail amounted to \$1200 which made the sale of the property very difficult.

Dr. William Jr. died in 1808, and his children inherited his one half interest in all the furnace lands. Morris Robeson evidently bought out their holdings, and it is probable that he paid the same price as he paid to Susan Roberdeau namely, \$10,000. this would make the total price paid by Robeson \$20,000. And the entail of \$1200. would equal 6 per cent annually.

It would seem that Mrs. Susan Roberdeau bought out the interests of her brothers and sisters, and also her mother's, but we have found but one of such deeds in the records. Doubtless Col. Roberdeau, who was a man of wealth, was responsible for these transactions. In 1804, he, with Nicholas Biddle, leased and operated the furnace for a few years. We know that the Col. and his wife resided at that time in the old Shippen Manor. They installed a piano in it, the first piano in Warren County.

When Col. Roberdeau and his wife left Oxford they settled on Washington, D.C. and became prominent residents there. He was a Civil Engineer, and helped to layout the Capital City originally. When Gen. Lafayette visited America in 1825, he was the guest of Col. Roberdeau and his wife in Washington.



CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

Elders

ABRAM PITTENGER	ELISHA B. FOSS
EMMANUEL KELSKY	LEWIS BERGENBACK



Board of Trustees

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Church Treasurer

LEWIS E. GREEN



Sunday School

<i>Superintendent</i>	E. B. FOSS
<i>Assistant Superintendent</i>	KENNETH BELL
<i>Secretary</i>	ALVIN RENNER
<i>Treasurer</i>	VIRGINIA ZAPP
<i>Organist</i>	FLORENCE WILDRICK



Ladies' Aid Society

<i>President</i>	MRS. DELMAR GREEN
<i>Vice-President</i>	MRS. LELAND BAYLISS
<i>Secretary</i>	MRS. VIOLET BELL
<i>Treasurer</i>	MRS. LEWIS E. GREEN

