

The BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

A. G. YOUNT

Minister



Oxford Historical Record

A Day At Mountain Lake  
By Clinton E. Weston

For years before Mountain Lake began to be a summer resort, it was a favorite place for campers, fishing and picnic parties. Later years Fred Buckemeyer built a hotel and a pavilion, and cottages sprang up around the shore. A Development Company erected on the southerly side some up-to-date cottages with all the conveniences of a city dwelling. One of these cottages, beautifully situated, having a well kept lawn and attractive shrubbery, is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dawe, and to this cottage the Officers and Trustees of the Hillside Cemetery Association gathered last Sunday afternoon, June 26th. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Dawe with their honored guest Mrs. Emma Lee, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Badrow, and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Odsted, Mrs. Bessie Henderson, Mrs. Minnie Hahn, Mrs. Jennie Fichtel, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Melberger and family, Mr. Knowr, and Clinton E. Weston.

Some Cemetery business was transacted which was followed by a bountiful collation to which all did ample justice. Then followed a social time in which every one joined in rapid-fire conversation that caused much amusement.

Every one was reluctant to bid the gracious and genial hosts adieu, but thankful that Nature had been so kind in bestowing upon Northern Jersey a generous portion of great beauty; and we are reminded of the description given in the beautiful poem "The Hills of New Jersey?" by Catherine H. Neal; the last verse reading:-

"Somehow, I love to think that where  
The hills and meadows meet,  
The folks have time to laugh and live  
And there they find life sweet;  
And always at the end of day,  
As birds go to their nests,  
The hills of Jersey call us back  
To dream, to love, to rest."

(The Editor and wife appreciate the courteous invitation to attend the above meeting, but were deterred by a wedding at the Manse.)

Bulletin No. 418. July 3rd. 1938

Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof. Leviticus 25:10

(This is the motto molded on the Liberty Bell in Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The bell was cast in England in 1752 for Wm. Penn's state house of his new colony.

When made no one could have foretold that it would be literally fulfilled 26 years later on Independence Day.)

"Almighty God, we praise thee for thy favor shown unto our fathers and thy faithfulness continued unto their children; for the rich land given us for an inheritance, and the great power entrusted to the people.

We are grateful for the fidelity of men set in authority, for peace maintained by righteous laws, and for an honorable place among the nations. Keep thou the Commonwealth beneath thy guiding care that it may fulfil a noble destiny. Amen.

Next Sabbath, July 10th, we will observe the Lord's Supper. The service begins at 10:30 in the morning and all our people should plan to be present. Opportunity will be given for baptism and admission into our Communion.

Rolands -- Robinson

Miss Cecilia Rolands and Mr. Joseph Robinson were united in marriage last Sunday afternoon, at the Manse. They were attended by Miss Angia Smaniotto and Mr. Victor Ruthig. All of them reside at Vineland, N. J.

Mr. Robinson is a native of England, and is an expert glassworker in the glass factory in Vineland.

The Bulletin acknowledges receipt of the following subscriptions;

Mrs. Isabel Jepson \$1.00;  
Mrs W R Lewis 2.00  
Mrs Jennie Fichtel 2.00  
Miss Jane Creveling 1.00  
Mrs D F Brigham 5.00

## The Stone Grist Mill

In 1876 Col. Charles Scranton wrote of the grist mill as follows:-

"The grist mill near the old furnace was built in 1813 by Judge Morris Robeson, grandfather of Hon. George M. Robeson, the present Secretary of the Navy. It has been on fire twice in the past 63 years.

Once it had all the wood work down to the mill stones burned out. It had wool carding machinery and clover cleaning works in it. The firing was laid to a blackman who was in the mill and had been drinking too much. He was a servant to Judge Robeson. There was also a grist mill standing where the present one is, though smaller, and also a saw mill. Both were probably built about 130 years ago."

This statement is of the utmost importance, as it is the first and only trustworthy statement about the history of the grist mill we have seen anywhere.

Col. Scranton probably obtained his information from Judge Wm. P. Robeson, the son of Morris Robeson, for they were for twenty years business and social friends.

Morris Robeson purchased the Oxford furnace properties in 1809 from the Shippen heirs, and at the time the mill was erected his son Wm. P. was 15 years of age, and so would have personal recollection besides family history of the building of the mill.

The statement that it was erected on the site of a former grist mill though smaller, and saw mill, is also valuable information, which confirms the facts of the original furnace company Ledger now in the Congressional Library in Washington, D. C., which has accounts of flour and mill feed.

Though the present building is not the original edifice yet the history of the two cannot be fully separated. It is an interesting coincidence that just one hundred years after it was built, the Methodist Congregation obtained the property and converted it into the present handsome and commodious church.

Mr. P. Walter Henry writes:-

"In looking over some old papers the other day I ran across an article written by Col. Charles Scranton on the early history of Oxford. He wrote this for me as a pupil, District No. 32 and which history I no doubt presented to the school at some function.

I have sent the original to Joseph Scanton, his son, and enclose herewith a typewritten copy. . . . I also enclose an annual statement of the Second Presbyterian church for 1888, which no doubt will be of interest to you.

I notice that my brother, Joseph Henry, was Secretary of the Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor and that my mother was Treasurer of the Home and Foreign Missionary Soc!"

The readers of the Bulletin will join the Editor in thanking Mr. Henry for sending these documents.

The article by Col. Scranton is of very great value and interest. On the opposite page special emphasis is given to one item of the article, but all the paper is a treasure trove.

We have read much of Col. Scranton's writing, but none so delightful as this. The article begins with the vivid story of the coming to Oxford of Axford and Green. Never before was it so well told, and can never be excelled in the future. It will ever remain a local classic.

It should be kept in mind that the article was written in 1876, and so 62 years must be added to some dates to bring them down to present time.

Early History of Oxford  
By Col. Charles Scranton.

Over one hundred and fifty years ago two Englishmen, named Axford and Green came into Northern New Jersey looking out for a place to settle down in life, after roaming around through the woods for a while. They went up on Rattlesnake Hill, and then and there saw what they chose for their future homes. Axford had an eye for cattle and farming which readily discovered what was long known as Pine Swamp, then partly a bog tract of level lands near Oxford Iron works, and he settled on a lot near the edge of the meadows where he could

(over)

watch his cattle and protect them from the wild beasts that then roamed through the unbroken forests, with his trusty rifle and dogs. His descendants have lived in the same neighborhood for near five generations, though the name of Axford is not so numerous as it once was in this vicinity.

Green was fond of hunting and fishing, and his eye caught a view of the beautiful little lake nestled in the Jenny Jump Mountains which has ever since borne the name of Green's Pond; and his mind was fixed, and at once settled on that location.

Both were well satisfied with their choice, and the fifth generation descending from Green are still living near the "Pond".

The most amicable relations have always existed between these two families and their descendants.

The descendants of the Greens have always been successful hunters, trappers and fishers. The late Morris Green, who died about twenty years ago, once told me that during his life time he had caught otters, minks, and other animals yielding furs, worth at least three thousand dollars

At this very time very few white people had come into this section.

There were a good many Indians living (at the time Axford and Green first settled here) around the Delaware Water Gap and over the Delaware River opposite the site of Belvidere on the flats.

They were generally friendly, and we have no accounts of any very serious troubles between the white people and the Indians.

Shortly after Axford and Green came the celebrated Indian Missionary, David Brainerd preached faithfully to the Indians on the west side of the Delaware River near what is now known as Martin's Creek, and he also occasionally came over to what is now called Old Oxford, to preach to the white people, and a few years afterward the church was built there.

And then as there were a good many Indians living along the banks of the Delaware and Lehigh rivers, the Colony of Penna. sent, in 1760, the great Doctor Benjamin Franklin to Easton at the Forks of the Delaware to make a treaty of peace with them.



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