

423

*The*  
**BULLETIN**

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

A. G. YOUNT  
*Minister*



**Oxford Historical Record**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
They shall prosper that love thee.  
Peace be within thy walls,  
And prosperity within thy palaces.  
For my brethren and companion's  
(sakes,  
I will now say, Peace be within thee  
--Psalm 122:6--

"O Lord, the Prince of Peace, we pray thee to break the spell of the enchantments that make the nations drunk with the lust of battle and draw them on as willing tools of death. Grant our people a quiet mind as the nations clamor for vengeance or aggression.

Strengthen our sense of justice and our regard for the equal worth of other peoples and races. Grant to the rulers of nations faith in the possibility of peace through justice, and grant to the common people a new and stern enthusiasm for the cause of peace.

O thou strong Father of all nations, draw all thy great family together with an increasing sense of our common blood destiny, that peace may come on earth at last, and the sun may shed its light rejoicing on a holy brotherhood of peoples. Amen."

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The Pastor expects to conduct worship each Sabbath morning during the summer season.

As the Sunday School will not have meetings until September 11, it is hoped that the members of the school will attend the Church services. They can obtain the Sunday school papers and the Bulletins.

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Mrs. Daniel Thomas passed away at the home in East Orange, N. J. on August 8th, after a long period of ill health. The interment was in the Washington, N. J. Cemetery, last Tuesday morning.

Mrs. Mary Adams Thomas was a native of this region and lived at Brass Castle when married to Mr. Thomas, and was for a long time a citizen of Oxford.

South Orange Ventriloquist  
Riles Porter of Pullman Car  
Who Blames Sleepy Talkers.  
(Newark Evening News)

Clinton E. Weston, South Orange ventriloquist, played an amusing trick on a Pullman car porter recently while returning home from Portland, Maine. The porter of the train was making up the berths and had them done with the exception of Mr. Weston's on which he was working, when suddenly a voice came apparently from one of the berths.

Voice: "Hello porter! Hello Porter!"

Porter: "Where are you?"

Voice: "In berth 23."

Porter went to berth 23, scratched on the curtain and said: "Did you call?" Man in the berth said: "Get out of here."

The porter looked very much puzzled and scratched his head and looked around and said: "Who called the porter?"

Voice: "Hurry up porter come to berth 13" The porter hurried to berth 13, scratched the curtain and said; "Did you call."

Woman inside said: "No, I didn't call. What do you want?"

Voice: "Hey porter, bring the ladder to upper 10."

By this time the porter was nearly frantic but put the ladder in front of upper 10 and then started to finish making up Mr. Weston's berth, when Weston went to the porter and said: "Did you find the fellow who was calling you?" And the porter with a disgusted look on his face, replied;

"Naw! Us porters has all kinds of experiences on these trains. Sometimes they snore something awful, and once in a while some one will fall out of a berth, but this is de first time I've had anyone to talk in their sleep."

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The Bulletin acknowledges the receipt of \$2.00 from Mrs. Ralph Decker; and \$1.00 from Mrs Margaret Hunt, for the expense fund.

Old Oxford Days  
By Clinton E Weston

We are often reminded how inventions have been discovered by chance, and how the destiny of many localities have been changed by the hand of providence. It was through a fatal accident that George W. and Selden T Scranton went to Slocum Hollow which later was named Scranton for them.

It is also conceivable how this event may have made a difference in the history of Oxford. Anyway, it all came about as follows:-

The owners of Slocum Hollow, who had purchased the tract comprising most of the present city from a son-in-law of Ebenezer Slocum, endeavored to find a purchaser who would develop the property, and after two years of correspondence and other wise they got in contact with William Henry, who later became father-in-law to Selden T. Scranton.

This William Henry, apparently, was quite a promoter. He got in touch with one Henry Armstrong, a capitalist living near Newburgh, N.Y., explaining that he had made an examination of the property which promised great possibilities, and so interested did Armstrong become that he agreed to purchase. William Henry thereupon drew up an agreement and a draft of \$500. on Armstrong to bind the bargain. But on the day the deed was to be executed, Armstrong started with a horse and wagon, and on his way to the boat landing the horse ran away and he was killed. His heirs did not want to complete the purchase and forfeited the \$500. Henry then went to the owners of the land and asked if, in case he found another purchaser, they would apply the \$500 on the purchase price; to which they agreed.

In the meantime, George and Selden Scranton had purchased the Oxford Furnace, and were not only operating successfully but had established a high credit. Henry went to see the Scranton brothers and urged them to purchase the Slocum Hollow property in which they were joined by Sanford Grant.

( Over )

Mr. William Merrifield, who wrote "Founders of Scranton" said:-

"Well do I recollect the warm August day when George W. and Selden Scranton and Sanford Grant came to my father's place in Hyde Park to take the deed. George W. was the principal spokesman and everything went smoothly as the proverbial marriage bell, until the married women objected to signing without the promise of a dress pattern--it being a Pennsylvania custom--and immediately George W. spoke up and said it would be done even if he had to stand the expense."

The Scrantons and Grant started operations at once. The foundation of the blast furnace was laid, September 20, 1840, and in the fall of 1841 was blown in but was unsuccessful. Nothing daunted, improvements were made and on January 18, 1842 the furnace was blown in with success, and the first pig iron made was for many years in the possession of Col. Charles Scranton.

(The above article is copied from newspaper clippings loaned the writer by the courtesy of Miss Grace Scranton. C.E.W.)

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Mr. Victor Fichtel possesses an interesting old ledger, being the account book with the Company Store in the year 1864, of Mrs Venables who was then Mistress of the old mansion house and kept boarders.

The ledger or credit book is of value as giving the prices of food, wearing apparel etc. at that period.

The prices generally are about the same as at present, but some items are very much higher.

Another interesting record has been put in our hands by Mrs. Naomi Polotti, it being made up of several hundred accident accounts of the Empire company about 25 years ago. Minute record is made of all the accidents to the employees during a period of several years, with payments made to them. There was a surprising number of accidents mostly of a minor kind, but some serious and one fatality.



CHURCH OFFICERS

*The Session*

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

*Elders*

ABRAM PITTENGER  
EMMANUEL KELSKY

ELISHA B. FOSS  
LEWIS BERGENBACK



*Board of Trustees*

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GEORGE DOCKER, JR.  
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LEWIS E. GREEN  
CHARLES DUX

HAYDEN DOCKER



*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

