



427

*The*  
**BULLETIN**

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By



A.  YOUNT  
*Minister*



**Oxford Historical Record.**



If ye then being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your **Father** which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him!

Matthew 7: 11

"We beseech thee, O Lord, and Master, to be our help and succour. Save those who are in tribulation; have mercy on the lonely; lift up the fallen; show thyself to the **needy**; heal the ungodly; convert the wanderers of thy people; feed the hungry; raise up the weak; comfort the faint-hearted. Let all the people know that thou art God alone, and Jesus Christ thy Son, and we are thy people and the sheep of thy pasture; for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen."

The regular Sunday services will be resumed to-day. Sunday School at 9:30 and Morning Worship at 10:30. The young people's meeting at 7 this evening.

Chicken-Waffle Supper 29th.

The Ladies annual Chicken-Waffle Supper will be given on Thursday evening, September 29th. Tickets are now on sale at the regular prices.

The Ladies of the Congregation are to meet next Tuesday at the home of Mrs. Bayliss, to complete arrangements for the Supper on the 29th. A full attendance will greatly encourage the Ladies. They will meet at 2:30 PM

The Bulletin solicits reading matter for the immediate future as the fall period is always a slack time for such contributions.

When they are not supplied by our readers, they will have to put up with installments on Church History.

Receipts for gifts to Bulletin fund; - \$1.00 from Madams W. Dawe, George Tims, Charles Ritzer, Hilda Courtright. \$2.00 Mrs. Edmund Oram.

History of Oxford Second  
Presbyterian Church  
(continued from Bulletin No. 425)

The organization of the new Church in 1863 was the result of greatly changed conditions in the business and population of the community.

The business growth began in 1850 when the Car Wheel Foundry was erected to supply the pressing demands for the new railroads.

This was followed naturally by the coming of the Railroad to Oxford in 1856. In the same year a powerful steam engine was installed in the furnace for the hot blast which resulted in doubling the output, and largely increasing the business.

And, beginning in 1861, the Civil War stimulated the iron business to its full capacity.

During the same time the influx of new citizens kept step with the business development. And the racial character of new citizens is marked by the names of various districts of the community. The first and largest settlement was in upper "Dutch Hill" and that region in all the maps of that period was called Pittenger-ville. So great was the number of Germans that they were able in 1859 to erect a substantial brick edifice which is still in use by their descendants. The Welsh were next and their main settlement was on Jonestown.

They were followed by the Irish who located in the vicinity of Mine Hill. The Danes came later and gave the names to "Denmark."

To these fundamental conditions of growth there must be added the change of management of the Iron business after 1858, due to the fact that the Scranton brothers, G. W. and S. T. having sold out their interests in Scranton, Pa. returned to Oxford and reorganized the company on a large scale.

They brought with them, besides their own families, many important families that had been connected with the iron works in Scranton; such as the Henrys, the Kingsburys, the Lukens, the Repps, and many others, which together made a considerable company of new citizens for Oxford.

While in Scranton, Pa. the Scranton brothers had led in organizing the first Church in Scranton, and built a churchhouse there. So that on coming to Oxford with great plans for the future of the town, they were well fitted and disposed to provide a suitable place of worship here that would take care of the large and growing population.

The conditions as thus summarized naturally led to the organization of an independent Church.

To that end the first steps were taken early in 1863, by sending a petition to the Presbytery.

Fortunately we have a clear and detailed account of this inscribed on the first page of the old Session Records, under the title:-

"Minutes of the meeting of the Committee appointed by the Presbytery to organize The Second Presbyterian Church of Oxford Furnace, N. J."

It is the following:-

"A memorial signed by Selden T. Scranton, Henry A. Kingsbury, Elisha Beers, Charles Scranton, Samuel Race, William Stout, Fred Wolfinger, Mrs. Ellen C. Scranton, Mrs. Jane A. Scranton, Mrs. Rachel S. Beers, Miss Ellen H. Scranton, Miss Lavinia Beers, and Mrs. Sarah R. Kingsbury, was duly presented by Charles Scranton to the Presbytery of Newton, sitting at the Greenwich Church, setting forth their desire to be formed into a new Church to be called "The Second Presbyterian Church" of Oxford, N. J.

"The prayer of the petitioners was unanimously granted, and a committee consisting of the Rev. Geo. C. Bush of Hackettstown, J. Rev. Wm. H. Kirk of Belvidere, Rev. Dr. A. H. Hand of Greenwich; and Elders John M. Sherrerd of Belvidere, James Hiles of Oxford Ist. and Joseph Roseberry of Washington, were appointed to meet at Oxford Furnace on Friday, May 8, 1863, to organize a new Church

The day being somewhat stormy the meeting was not called to order until 11 o. c. A. M. The opening prayer was offered by the Rev. Geo. C. Bush. The entire exercises, which were taken part in (over)

by Rev. M. Bryan of Washington, Rev. Dr. Hand, Elder Jno. V. Sherrerd and Rev. Mr. Kirk, were highly interesting

"Twenty three members of the First Church of Oxford were unanimously dismissed by its Session to organize the new Church.

"Messers Selden T. Scranton, Elisha Beers, and Henry Kingsbury were chosen Elders and immediately ordained to that office.

"The Rev. Geo. C. Bush then declared the Church duly organized, and the meeting closed by singing the Christian Doxology in L.M. 'Praise God etc.' and the Benediction."

Such is the official record of the beginning of our Church as an independent organization, and there needs only to make it complete to add the names of the charter members as recorded alphabetically in the Roll of Members. The Minute above says there were 23 of them, but the roll shows but 21, and how the difference occurred we cannot know.

But here is the list as they are set down in the Register of Members.

Mrs. Frances Addis, Mr. Elisha Beers, Mrs. Rachel Beers, Miss Margaret Beers, Miss Lavinia Beers, Mr. Henry A. Kingsbury, Mrs. Sarah S. Kingsbury, Mrs. Margaret Meredith, Mrs. Elizabeth Poole, Mr. Selden T. Scranton, Mrs. Ellen C. Scranton, Mr. Charles Scranton, Mrs. Jane A. Scranton, Miss Ellen H. Scranton, Mrs. Margaret Stout, Mr. William Stout, Mrs. Sarah Stout, Miss Rebecca Van Syckle, Mr. Henry Wolfinger, Mr. Frederick Wolfinger, and Mrs. Mary Young.

All of these after 75 years have passed except one, Mrs. O. N. Perry, (Rebecca Van Syckle).

However in the next few years almost as many more members from the First Oxford Church, thus making a heavy drain upon the Mother Church, but the generosity of the gift adds luster to the glory of the Giver; and moreover, for a nominal sum (\$150) the First Church deeded the Chapel and lots to the Second Church: a notable example of the Lord's saying: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

(to be continued)



CHURCH OFFICERS

*The Session*

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

*Elders*

ABRAM PITTENGER  
EMMANUEL KELSKY

ELISHA B. FOSS  
LEWIS BERGENBACK



*Board of Trustees*

JAMES RADEL  
GEORGE DOCKER, JR.  
FRED K. SARSON  
BENJAMIN GREEN

HARRY MILLER  
CHARLES RENNER  
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

