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*The*  
**BULLETIN**

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

A. G. YOUNT  
*Minister*



**Oxford Historical Record**

The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods have lifted up their waves.

The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea.  
--Psalm 93:3,4.

"Almighty God, who art a very present help in time of trouble; Let not the heart of thy people fail when fear cometh, but do thou sustain and comfort them until these calamities be overpast: and since thou knowest the cause and reason why this greivous disaster of storm and flood hath fallen upon men, so do thou heal the hurt and wounded, console the bereaved and afflicted, protect the innocent and helpless, and deliver any who are still in peril; for thy great mercy's sake. Amen."

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The funeral services for Mrs. Nellie Weber Noera were held in the Church yesterday afternoon, at 3.00 P.M.

She passed away last Thursday in Connecticut. She was the daughter of George Weber, was born and grew up in Oxford and became a member of our Church. Her home for many years was Westville, Conn., a suburb of New Haven. We lack details about her last illness and death because the word has just come from Dr. F.A. Scott, of Waterbury, Conn., and we are just going to press. Full details will appear in next issue.

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Chicken -Waffle Supper next Thursday evening, Sept 29th. Service will begin at 5 P.M. The ladies will be pleased if all who can will buy tickets beforehand.

Clinton E. Weston sends word he will be present and bring others with him. He will add much to the pleasure of the evening.

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The Fall Communion Service will be observed Oct. 9th.



Old Oxford Days  
By Clinton E. Weston

Do You Remember:--

When a singing class was held in the old stone chapel, and the teacher's name was "Singer"?

When mustache cups were popular? One time a woman bought each of her children one for a Christmas present at the Company Store.

When shaving mugs were popular, and to have one in a barber shop with your name on in gold letters was just ritzy?

When Price's barber shop was built? A man standing nearby was heard to remark that the building was so small a tall man could stand in front lean over and look through the rear window.

When Oxford's first barber shop was located in the extreme end of the old post office building and the barber's name was Martin? Barbers in those days would pull a tooth for fifty cents a pull.

When iron workers smoked clay pipes that cost one cent each? The Company Store bought them in great quantities and did a thriving business. When said worker smoked a cigar he would usually top off with his Henry Clay pipe to take the taste away.

When excursion trains ran through Oxford and the boys would gather a nice collection of handkerchiefs? As the passengers would wave them out of the open windows, the boys would stand alongside the train, as it went by, holding up a stick and the handkerchiefs would wrap around the stick, to the delight of the boy and the disgust of the passenger.

When shipments of mustangs came to Oxford, from the wild and woolly? They looked s-o-o- nice until you tried to drive one harnessed.

When a fellow-townsmen had his first

experience on an escalator? In telling about it he said he got up all-right but nearly ran his legs off going down.

Chestnuts? The tang of the autumn air stirs memories of them and who wouldn't gladly steal away for a day to go on an old time days nutting? To climb the hillside where the tree has fought its battle for fruitfulness unaided; to prick your fingers with the burrs and crunch them under heel to open them; to eat your fill of their raw richness and go home with lungs filled with ozone hearts with peace and good will and pockets filled ready for the roasting. When the writer sees them for sale in a store there comes an urge to go out and bump a tree.

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Cemetery Meeting Notice

The first meeting this fall of the Hillside Cemetery Association is to be on Sunday afternoon, 2 o'clock (Standard time) Sept. 25th, in the Col M. E. Church.

By Mrs Bessie Henderson, Sec.

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Furnace Explosion, Sept. 25, 1857

The worst tragedy in the history of the old furnace took place just 81 years ago. Six years ago Mr. Humphrey found an old letter of Col. George W. Scranton, dated Sept 27, 1857, two days after the accident, and written to his son in School, in Conn. which gives a vivid account of the explosion. Mr. Humphrey sent the Bulletin a copy which was printed at that time. We quote from it the part relating to the furnace.

"A terrible accident occurred at Oxford on Friday evening. The furnace had been stopped for some repairs about 15 hours. Gas had collected in the hearth and furnace during the stoppage, and when the blast was put on an explosion took place, which blew out the stopping in the front where the iron and cinders run out. The hearth was nearly full of iron. The iron and cinder was blown  
(over)



out with great force, filling the casting house with liquid fire, and burning several men dreadfully.

One man, David Reese, was burnt to death instantly. Two others died yesterday, and George Champion died last night. It is feared one more will die. Uncle Charles was burned some, and Mr. Grove also, but not seriously. The casting house was burnt to the ground. The other buildings were saved. I cannot now write more of the particulars, but you see what a stroke it will be to Mr. Champion and his wife (who went up yesterday.) to find their beloved son so suddenly taken away, as well as to the other families at Oxford. No blame is attached to any one. Uncle Charles had just been standing in front helping, and barely escaped with his life.

A kind Providence has spared him, while others have been taken."

The letter gives the names of only two fatalities, David Reese and George Champion. We have never been able to find out the names of the two others who were killed.

It is an interesting fact that the year before, 1856, the powerful steam engine was installed which doubled the capacity and product of the furnace, raising the out-put of pig iron to sixty tons a week.

This fact we have recently learned from a letter written by S. T. Scranton from Scranton, Pa. in 1856.

Probably as a result of this sad event, the strengthening wall was built around the old furnace; and of course the casting house was rebuilt; it was well known by Oxford citizens fifty odd years ago.

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Last Thursday three young men, students of the State Teachers' College in Trenton, were in Oxford to learn about the history of the furnace. They are now studying the Revolutionary period, and learned about the furnace and came up to get the facts and examine the place.

The Editor gave them an outline of its history in which they seemed much interested.



CHURCH OFFICERS

*The Session*

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

*Elders*

ABRAM PITTENGER  
EMMANUEL KELSKY

ELISHA B. FOSS  
LEWIS BERGENBACK



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