

431

The
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

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Minister



Oxford Historical Record

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The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

---II Peter 3:9

"Eternal God, lead us into the blessedness of communion with thee. Banish from our hearts all fear and dread by the gladness of thy perfect love. Thy love is like the luminous heaven, receiving only to purify the foulest breath of earth.

Thy gentleness is like the sun seeking to cheer and warm the chilled hearts of men. Thy mercies are refreshing as the morning dew, and thy grace is precious to our souls.

May Thy gracious Presence abide with us at all times, for Jesus' sake. Amen."

The Ladies Aid will meet next Wednesday at 2:30 P.M. at the home of Mrs Delmar Green. This is the monthly meeting, and important business will come before it.

"The Annual Meeting of the Hillside Cemetery Association of Oxford N.J. will be held October 16, 1938, at 2 P.M. in the Col. M. E. Church, Oxford N.J. for the election of three (3) trustees and Officers.

Also, for the transaction of any other business that may come before the meeting.

--Mrs Bessie Henderson, Sec.

At this meeting full reports for the year will be made, and Mr. Weston the President, has promise a summary of them for the Bulletin.

The Bulletin is glad to report that Mr. Thomas Buckley, a well known citizen of Oxford, has returned from the hospital after a successful operation. He is 75 years of age his friends feared the result of such a severe operation, but he is quite well and very happy.

History of Oxford Second
Presbyterian Church
(continued from Bulletin no. 427)

The great period of the church's history extended from its organization to 1895; over thirty years of splendid growth and prosperity.

For the first fifteen years the conditions were perfect for triumphant success, and the church prospered accordingly.

The great struggle of the Civil War was over, and the great victory filled all hearts with cheer and confidence for the future of the country.

The new Iron Company was planning great things for the industries of Oxford. They were building the Rolling Mill, Nail Factory, a new and larger Furnace with many other buildings, besides the old industries which were in operation.

The influx of new people required hundreds of new homes which could not be finished fast enough for the newcomers. So that besides the Iron workers, a multitude of workmen, carpenters, masons, painters, and all kinds of laborers were needed to meet the demands of the rapidly growing new industrial center.

In these days it is difficult to realize the excitement and thrill of those times in Oxford. It helps us to understand Mr. George S. Humphrey's statement that the happiest years of his life were spent in Oxford; and explains why Mr. Clinton E. Weston writes all his articles for the Bulletin under the common title of "Old Oxford Days." It was the golden age of Oxford.

This was made possible by the vast business prosperity of the country following the close of the War. For just as the ten years that followed the end of the World War in 1919 was a period of great business prosperity, just so it was after the Civil War; for ten years there was a business "boom", that ended with a financial panic.

Then too the character of the new citizens was of an unusual type.

Many of the leading men in the Iron Works of Scranton, Pa., came to help the Scranton family to build up

the new industries of Oxford, among them were members of the well-known families, such as, Henry, Kingsbury, Lukens, Repp, Schoonover and Thomas. Massachusetts and Connecticut sent such high grade families as, Weston Perkins, Brigham, Docker and others.

From various places in New Jersey Pennsylvania and New York came splendid families too many to name here.

The heads of a number of these families had just been mustered out of the Army where they had won laurels in the service of their country, and a number brought back titles of Colonel, Major, Captain, etc., and other marks of superior force and ability.

But of most importance for the Church was the religious spirit of the time. As we all too well know the World War had a disastrous effect on religion and the churches. Because our country was in it but a few months, and the people generally did not suffer greatly from it. A few, alas, had to mourn the loss of their loved ones, but this was not general. But in the Civil War, a long four years of agonizing strife, in which nearly every home was put in mourning; in continual fear lest the country should be torn in sunder, and in which sacrifice and self-denial had to be practiced by all the people, the religious effect was greatly deepened. There was evident a chastened spirit, and profound gratitude to God for the manifest presence and divine guidance and deliverance throughout the conflict.

The Second Presbyterian Church was blessed in the coming of the Rev. E. Clark Cline, just fresh from the Army, in which he served as a Chaplain. His experience and training there fitted him especially to serve the people who were flocking to Oxford.

But our Church was not alone to profit by all these favorable circumstances. The Methodist, Catholic, German Reformed, and the Danish Lutheran churches all enjoyed happy periods of prosperity. In fact the religious spirit was deep among all the people, and the churches

(over)

were crowded with worshippers every Sabbath. And here it should be said that the Sabbath then was a holy day, and not as now a holiday for worldly pass-times.

All business was suspended, as a matter of course. When the new railroad began running trains in Oxford in 1856 one of the largest stock-holders was Wm. E. Dodge, of New York City. So long as he was in control he allowed no Sunday trains of any kind to run. We can imagine nothing so striking as an indication of the profound religious reverence among the people at that time.

It was a period all over the country notable for special religious meetings. The winter months in most places were for the most part given over to revival services and other evangelistic meetings for the winning of souls to God.

Our Church records show that the first two or three months of each year were devoted to such special services. In 1876 these meetings lasted over nine weeks, with a service each evening and often in the day time.

It was the era of great national evangelists like Moody and Sankey who thrilled both England and America by their Gospel messages and songs. The great news papers of the time always carried complete sermons by some one of the great preachers of the period, such as Henry Ward Beecher and Dewitt Talmage, and also of Charles H. Spurgeon of London. These sermons were the most popular features in the papers of that age, and indicate the general interest taken in religion by the public.

We have dwelt upon these points at some length to enable readers to understand better the extraordinary interest the people of Oxford and of our Church in particular took in religious matters, and their devotion to the Church. It was the great thing in their lives, and in it they found their chief delight and from it derived their greatest blessings.



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

