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The
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

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Minister



Oxford Historical Record

The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

-----Psalm 34: 7, 8.

"O God, our heavenly Father, keep us, we pray thee, in health of body and soundness of mind, in purity of heart and cheerfulness of spirit in contentment with our lot and charity with our neighbor; and further all our lawful undertakings with thy blessing. In our labor strengthen us; in all our perils defend us; in our troubles comfort us, and supply all our needs, according to the riches of Thy grace in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen."

The annual meeting of the Hillside Cemetery Association will be held this afternoon at 3 o'clock in the M. E. Church.

As it will be the first annual meeting full reports for the year will be made. It should be a very interesting occasion to all who are in any way connected with the Cemetery. The meeting will be open and the public is invited.

All who have seen the Cemetery lately have been much impressed with the great improvements made in the past year.

The growing interest in Oxford historical matters is made very evident by the fact of the number of persons who visit the place and the quest of information of a historical nature. Almost every week the Manso has callers of this type. Recently two agents of the government were here seeking all the details concerning the various churches of the community, and the methods they follow indicate that it is to be a very thorough research. The results of course will be filed with the government in Washington.

Mrs. D. F. Brigham---Obituary

Revolutionary Army Camped in
Oxford Township, 1779.

The following clipping from a Hartford, Conn. paper, has been sent to the Bulletin :-----

"Mrs. Harriet M. Storrs Brigham, 96, of 48 Oxford st., widow of Don Ferdinand Brigham, died Sunday night at her home. (October 9)

Descendant of an old New England family, Mrs. Brigham was born July 25, 1842, at Westford Hill, Ashford, daughter of the late William and Harriet Woodward Storrs.

She lived in Hartford more than 50 years and was a member of Immanuel Congregational Church. One of her brothers was the late Dr. Melancthon Storrs, for a quarter of a century one of Hartford's prominent surgeons; other brothers were Henry C. Storrs, active in GAR circles, and Joseph W. Storrs, Hartford Business man. Another brother, the late William Storrs of Scranton, Pa., was a prominent railroad and coal operator.

Mrs. Brigham leaves two sons, Ernest W. Brigham, of Newton Center, Mass., and Clement H. Brigham of Granby, vice-president of F. F. Small & Co., Hartford Insurance Agency; two daughters, Miss Alice Brigham, and Mrs. Arthur Bennett, both of Hartford; four grand children and 11 great grand children.

The Brigham family lived in Oxford from 1875 to 1885, and resided in the house just South of the Manse.

Mr. Brigham was Manager of the company Store, and was held in high esteem by all. They were members of our Church, and exemplary Christians.

One of Oxford's citizens, Mrs. Mary Burke lived in the Brigham home, then a young lady, and ever since then she has corresponded regularly with Mrs. Brigham, a long friendship honorable to both. Another evidence of Mrs. Brigham's deep interest in Oxford was her great interest in the Bulletin. She was among the first subscribers, and in all her communications expressed her satisfaction with it.

The remarkable devotion and deep attachment of her children to her is the finest tribute to her high character.

In Bulletin No. 422, appeared a note from Mrs. Ralph Decker, saying:

"You know doubtless that there is some interesting history about the camping of Gen. Sullivan's soldiers at Oxford in 1779 when they went into the campaign in Pennsylvania."

The Editor confessed his ignorance of the event, and requested information on the subject.

Dr. G. W. Cummins, the historian of Warren county, has kindly sent the Bulletin the desired information in a printed copy of an address that he recently delivered at the Anniversary of the Oxford First Church at Hazen. In it he said:-

"After 1753 Oxford Township was formed and the same locality here became known as Oxford, and even Belvidere was Oxford until close to the end of the Revolution. And when we read that on October 26, 1779

General Maxwell's New Jersey Brigade marched up the old Greenwich road from Phillipsburg through what is now Harkers Hollow Golf Club to Oxford and camped that night, we know that they camped, 1294 men, along the Pophandaisy Creek between here and Belvidere, because the Old Greenwich Road crossed that creek $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south-east of Belvidere. They were on their way back from a campaign in York State where they had gone to wipe out the Indians, which they did successfully, for the Indians never recovered from that blow."

Dr. Cummins informs us that he derived these details of the movements of the soldiers from a study of the original army reports.

In the same address Dr. Cummins makes the interesting statement that "Probably the first road along here was the road built between Oxford Furnace and Foul Rift in 1741."

We have tried to trace the route of this road all the way, but cannot determine all of it. The start of the road from Foul Rift is known exactly--the old road bed is still visible in front of the wharf, and from the Furnace end the first mile is also known. (over)

It led west from the south side of Furnace creek along practically level ground until opposite Mount No-More, there it turned northward and crossed the north branch of furnace creek directly opposite the home of E. J. Foss. The road bed at this crossing is very conspicuous because it cuts across what is locally known as the "devil's race track" about fifty feet of very stony ground. Before it could be used the stones had to be removed, thus leaving a sunken road bed; with the stone piled on either side of the road.

An interesting evidence that it was the old Foul Rift road was the discovery there of an old pig iron buried in the mud. It was found by Mr. Paul Race, whose father Henry Race owns the land at the crossing.

From this point the route veered to the west and ran between the homes of Mr. Foss and Mr. Race.

But from this point we are in some doubt to choose between two routes.

The most direct and nearest to Foul Rift runs past Summerfield Church and through Lommasson's glen; but that would seem not to have been practical at that early day.

The other way is down the ravine road into Hazen on the Belvidere and Washington pike.

From thence the road would be on level ground all the way to the Rift.

The determination of this road is of special interest in connection with the history of the old furnace and for that reason we would be glad to receive more information bearing upon it.

The Bulletin acknowledges the following receipts for the expense fund:

One dollar each from
Miss Emma Belkey
Miss Martha Peterson
Mrs Elmer Frome

The Bulletin sends no notices to subscribers as everything is on a voluntary basis; but when they do not send word or a contribution for a year or more we suppose they have lost interest in it, and so discontinue mailing it to them.



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