

441

*The*  
**BULLETIN**

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

A. G. YOUNT  
*Minister*



**Oxford Historical Record**

Bulletin No. 441. Dec. 18, 1938

Turn to your strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even today do I declare that I will render double unto thee.

-----Zechariah 9:12

"O God, most holy, wise and powerful Preserver and Governor of all thy creatures and all their actions.

Keep us 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 our pleasure purify us; in our difficulties direct us; in 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."

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The Hillside Cemetery Association will meet Sunday afternoon, Dec. 18th, at 2 o'clock, sharp, in the Col. M. E. Church.

Mrs Bessie Henderson, Sec.  
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The Christmas Exercises of the Sunday School will be held next Wednesday evening, Dec. 21st.  
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The sermon next Sabbath morning will be on the Christmas theme.

People need more than ever to turn their attention and thought to the beauty, the power and the reality that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. He is the one strong hold for the Christian's hope.

In these distracting days of wars and rumors of war, when news papers and broadcasters of news capitalize every direful and ominous event in the world, it is well for the Christian to pay less attention to these things which disturb the mind, and give more time and thought to Him who came to bring peace to men.



Mr. Humphrey sends some information about Mrs George Weber, and the Bulletin hopes his suggestion that some one will write a more extended reference to her life and character, will be carried out. This is his note:-

"I am sure that all of the older residents of Oxford must have been shocked by the news of the death of Mrs George Weber, a brief notice of which appeared in this week's Bulletin; I trust that a more extended reference to it and to her history may appear later.

"Concerning her connection with the Scranton family: her first husband was Selden Brown Hill, the son of Samuel Hill and Caroline Scranton, his wife, who was a sister of George, Selden and Charles Scranton. They resided in the Scranton homestead at Madison, Conn.

"'Brown' as he was generally called, was for a long time connected with the Oxford Iron Company, as was also his brother Charles who was the head of the pattern shop. They both died many years ago.

There were two other brothers, William and Edward, who frequently visited Oxford and some will doubtless be remembered by some of the old timers."

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There is such a thing as the tragedy of wrong ideals. In the days of our Lord his apostles believed that the Messiah (Hebrew for Christ, that is the Anointed of God) when he came would establish an earthly kingdom and make Jerusalem the mistress of the whole world. Yet the prophets distinctly stated that it was to be a spiritual kingdom, and the Christ of God was to be "just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass" He was to be "despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."

The same wrong ideals threaten to destroy the world today, and can be saved only by intervention of the same meek and lowly Christ, whom they reject openly or in effect.

The kingdom of God is built upon the rule of love, good will among men. Other ideals lead to tragedy.

## Old Oxford Days By Clinton L. Weston

I have in my possession a fine group-photograph of the original nailers, and I believe the only one in existence, who were employed when the nail factory was built.

When the photograph was given me some years ago by Charles B. Weston I fortunately wrote the names thereon so that in years afterward they could be identified.

The names are: Bennett Perkins, (father of Edwin C. and Harrison B. Perkins), William R. Call, Vander-walker, Benjamin Winkley, Ezra Estler, Ben Rice, Lou Gammon, James Whitaker, Baxter Booth, James Myers, Rod Davis, Joseph Doughty, H. B. Perkins, Christopher C. Weston, C. B. Weston, and Dan Nichols. Evidently there are some workers missing, for I recall that Edwin C. Perkins, Harry Docker and Owen Garvey were among the originals.

This picture was probably taken before 1870 and before the storehouse just opposite the factory was built. A few of the men stayed in Oxford but a short time, but many of those mentioned will be remembered by old timers,

When the factory was built Selden T. Scranton, wishing to secure experienced nail men, went to Taunton, Mass., and contacted Chas. B. Weston who was then connected with the Old Colony Iron Works, the largest nail making concern at that time, and through this contact came the number of Massachusetts people who later made their homes and spent their remaining days in Oxford.

The business attracted a number of other fine men who learned the trade; and it could be truly said that through the years the personnel was as representative as one as could be found.

Among the men who came to Oxford was James Wright, whose name was mentioned in a previous Bulletin, and I mention him in particular because of an interesting incident.

He came from Virginia shortly after the close of the conflict between the States. He was a fine, commanding looking man (over)



who had the admiration and respect of all who knew him. Applying for work he was introduced to my father, popularly known as "Tip" Weston, who took him on to feed one of the machines.

Learning that "Tip" had been a Captain of the 7th, Mass Infantry in the Civil War, Wright let it be known that he had been in the Confederate Army; and as they were Reminiscing one day "Tip" told about being sent out with others on a reconnoitering expedition, and they hadn't gotten far when they were suddenly ambushed by a delegation of Mosby's men.

What to do! What to do? Why they just turned tail; and then occurred the best horse race that was never publicized.

One of the men was heard to exclaim, "What are all the flies following us for?" And his nearest side-kick shouted, "Them's not flies, them's bullets."

Fortunately the Union men were not good targets, or else the Rebs were lousy shots; for no one was injured.

Wright listened attentively to this recital and after a few silent moments, and then, with an inquisitive look, began to carefully check the place and date; after which he said, "I am glad you were not shot, otherwise I would not be working for you now, for I was one of the men who fired on you."

A few years ago I attended a reunion of the 7th Mass. in Taunton, Mass. and meeting one of my father's old comrades, he told me, without my having mentioned it, of being on the same expedition but not knowing the sequence, of course; so that the main incident is based on fact.

As to the reported conversation-- Well, we can assume that.

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