



459

# The BULLETIN

## SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

A. G. YOUNT

*Minister*



Oxford Historical Record



Pittenger Family Genealogy  
By Benjamin R. Pittenger

I have just received a letter from the Genealogical Society of N.J., who are translating the old Dutch Reformed Church records at Lebanon, Hunterdon County, N.J. The records are as early as 1768; and in them they found the record of the baptism of Cornelius Pittenger, December 10, 1770, and his birth, Nov. 3, 1770. His parents were William and Gertrude Pittenger.

This is the first definite proof I have that William was the father of Cornelius and of his brother Abraham, born 1790 (my great grandfather). The date Nov. 3, 1770, was exactly the same as the one I had already.

Mr. Pittenger also sends us a sale notice taken from the "Penna. Gazette" (of Phila.) Aug. 29, 1751 —

"To be sold by John Rockhill in Phila. a tract of land of 539 acres in Morris County, West Jersey, near Oxford Furnace. Is well watered and timbered, and several swamps to make good meadows. Anyone interested apply to Maurice Robinson at Oxford Furnace."

This tract of land lies in Jackson Valley directly south of Oxford, and ran up on the hill to the present Mine head.

Maurice Robinson (Robeson) was the son of Jonathan Robeson, and a brother-in-law of Dr. John Rockhill.

This proves that Maurice Robeson was married and lived at that time 1751, in Oxford Furnace, probably in the old stone post office building, which was the original mansion house.

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(Concluded from back cover)

They had to call out the Washington police department, which at that time consisted of officer Shrope, and he emerged from the tangle minus his hat, coat and police club. He did however retain part of his shirt, his trousers and shoes.

This will be enough for this time.  
(the end)

Bulletin No. 459. April 23rd, 1939.

Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from thy presence  
and take not thy Holy Spirit from  
me. Restore unto me the joy of thy  
salvation; and uphold me with thy  
princely spirit. --Psalm 51:10,12

"Merciful Father, provide for  
us things needful for our welfare  
in soul and body. Teach us to look  
unto Thee as our Master and our  
Rewarder, that all our work may be  
done in Thy service; replenish us  
with daily gifts that we may not  
lack any good thing; and keep us  
ever in a humble and grateful  
mind, that we may live peaceably  
with all men, and praise Thee by  
well-doing, according to the com-  
mandment of our Lord Jesus Christ."

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Day Light Saving Time begins  
next Sunday, April 30th. It would  
be a wise plan, that many have been  
following in the past, to set for-  
ward our clocks on the evening be-  
fore so as to go to our nightly  
rest an hour earlier. Then it will  
be easier to rise earlier in the  
morning. If such a plan was gen-  
erally carried out there would be  
no let down in attendance at  
church services, as usually is  
the case.

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Meeting of Cemetery Asso'n

"A meeting of the Hillside Cem-  
etery Association will be held on  
Sunday, April 23rd, 1939, at two  
o'clock in the Col. M E Church.

The presence of all trustees and  
officers is requested."

---By Mrs Bessie Henderson  
Secretary.

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The local Library is rejoicing  
in the addition of a handsome and  
commodious shelving unit for the  
new books. It will accomodate sev-  
eral hundred volumes, but will soon  
be filled.

May 21st. REUNION May 21st.

By Clinton E. Weston

Plans are now practically complete for the Reunion on May 21st, and it is a safe guess to believe that many are looking forward to it as a day to experience again the inward thrill that comes in greeting friends who, in many instances, have been separated by distance for many years.

The joy one feels in a friendly hand-clasp, to reminisce and to learn the whereabouts of former neighbors lost track of through the years is well worth setting apart this day for the journey to Oxford.

These reunions are unique in that they are entirely voluntary, and to all who attend there is an unmistakably cordial and friendly greeting which in itself has been the means of so impressing a number of persons who had never previously visited the town that they have become regular attendants.

It is a day for relaxation; a day to set aside and forget the irritations that frequently beset one; a day through which the smiles and greetings bring rewards of renewed energy and inspiration.

The morning service will be interesting because the sermon will be preached by a former Oxfordite, Rev. Howard D. Perkins, of Portland, Maine.

An unusually fine program has been arranged for the afternoon.

Those taking part will be the Burd Trumpeters; Mrs. Ethel Oliver, accompanied by Mrs. Bessie Henderson will sing for the memorial service.

Among the speakers will be George S. Humphrey, Edward F. Stout, Will G. Atwood, Sup't of Warren County Schools, Mrs. Clarence V. Price, Mrs. Mary Weber Lemmon, Miss Amelia M. Zapp, Miss Matilda V. Dreisbach, and possibly one or two others to be heard from.

As the popularity of these reunions continue to increase we are convinced that the one this year will eclipse any heretofore held.

The morning service will begin 11 A.M. D.S.T. Then the Luncheon by the Ladies, and the afternoon meeting at 2 P.M. giving a good time for visiting and conversation.

Old Oxford Days  
By Edward F. Stout

In recent issues of the Bulletin I was much interested in the contributions of Clin. Weston, Sam. Cooper and others in their stories of Old Oxford days and things that happened in the old town so dear to many of us in the days of yesteryears. And here is my two cents worth.

I too remember the old Stone Post Office that stood at the foot of the Fowler Hill, the ten or twelve steps that led to the entrance. The old Post Master, Dexter Campbell reigned supreme. He was a crusty old gentleman quite hard of hearing and if one did not speak loud he would invariably cup his ear with his hand and shout, Heow, Heow, so loud he would frighten the timid ones.

Beneath the post office was the barber shop presided over by Mr. White (colored), one of the White family who lived in the old stone house near the Company stables at the foot of Church st, or Washington Ave, as they now call it. The Whites were a very fine family, and that was the only barber shop in town at that time.

It had a row of benches all around the room, and on many Saturday nights these benches would all be full with men waiting patiently for the well known call, "next!" There was also a harness shop conducted by Mr. Sig. Clawson. He was also sexton of the church for several years. I can see him yet, every Sunday night rain or shine with lantern lighted, going to the church to get things in order for the evening service. He invariably went at a certain hour and it was said the folks would regulate their time pieces by Sig, and his lantern.

There was also a storage room below the post office, used by the Company to store various things that were needed in a hurry. Many of us

remember the old Company store and the tremendous business they used to do before the advent of a Pay Day in Oxford. At that time I was about 14 years old and worked in the Nail factory and at the end of each month I would be given a statement of what

I had earned and would turn the same in at the office, which would be credited to my mother's account, and which we could trade against the (over)

following month. That procedure went for every one who worked for the Oxford Iron and Nail Company.

Next to the store was the office of the Company, and over the office was Ben Walton's Tailor shop where all the young blades had their clothes made, in fact they had to do that as they had no money to go elsewhere. I recall my first custom made suit tailored by Ben Walton and his brother. "Was I proud of it?"

I have said that the company store did a tremendous business for it was the custom on the first of the month to buy practically all that was needed for the entire month. The store at that time would be crowded two or three deep with customers trying to get waited on. It was not unusual for them to wait several hours for their turn. At that time Mr. Chris Zapp was watchman at the store. He lived near us so I arranged with him to leave my mother's monthly order on my way to work at the Nail factory about 6:15 A.M. I would go around at the side of the store by the scales with a pre-arranged signal, hearing it he would come and raise the window and take my order to be delivered by Jimmy Obrien later in the day. Thus saving me many hours of waiting. Finally the Company "strange to relate" failed. I well remember when we were told one night that the Company had failed and there would be no more work until further notice and what a calamity that seemed to be. The next day of course nearly every man in Oxford gathered at the store and Office awaiting news; I being one of those who were sitting on the steps of the old post office waiting for the mail train to come in from New York around 10 A.M. to learn what news if any it would bring. When it did arrive and the news it brought was given out, what a shout went up, for it was splendid news. Mr. B. G. Clark had been appointed Receiver for the Company and all the works were to resume operation next day, and we were to have a regular pay day each month. I well remember the first pay day we had, for every one was paid in gold, and when I went home with my first pay in my pocket I

was so proud the road didn't seem wide enough for me to walk in. And was my mother pleased when I poured the gold in her lap! And from that time on for many years Oxford was really a prosperous place.

Skating on the Mill pond was an eternal round of pleasure; also straw rides in winter was one of the more healthy sports. I well remember when the Astor, Mr. Cline, would be holding extra meetings he would feel hurt if we did not attend, and we would often take our skates to the meeting and go to the Mill pond afterwards. It was good exercise and much fun.

We also had glorious times on our straw rides. I remember one time we went to Easton, had dinner at the United States Hotel, and started for home about 11 P.M. But before we reached Washington the horses balked, as they sometimes do. It seemed impossible to get them going, so every one got out, girls included, then they would start, and we would all climb in again while they were moving. But they were "wise horses and had real horse sense" and would stop again. We finally decided it was no go. So we had to climb out in the deep snow and hoof it to Washington and secured other horses, and so on home in the wee small hours of the morning. But it was lots of fun at that. Also picnicing to Green's pond, now Mountain lake, afforded us great pleasure.

Surely many of us remember the Oxford base ball club, one of the very best clubs in the vicinity. Charles Weisburn was always on the pitcher's mound, and Billy Collins was behind the bat. The way Charlie could rifle those balls over the plate was something worth seeing, but Billy could always hold them. I do not recall the names of the other men on the team, but they could really play ball. Nearly every time they would go to Washington to play that club it would wind up in as fine a scrap as one would care to see.

The "Umps" job in those days was a mighty tough one. No matter what his decision was some one was displeased. One time in particular

(Concluded on front cover)



CHURCH OFFICERS

*The Session*

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

*Elders*

ABRAM PITTENGER

ELISHA B. FOSS

EMMANUEL KELSKY

LEWIS BERGENBACK



*Board of Trustees*

JAMES RADEL

HARRY MILLER

GEORGE DOCKER, JR.

CHARLES RENNER

FRED K. SARSON

LEWIS E. GREEN

BENJAMIN GREEN

CHARLES DUX

HAYDEN DOCKER



*Church Treasurer*

LEWIS E. GREEN



*Sunday School*

*Superintendent* ..... E. B. FOSS

*Assistant Superintendent* ..... KENNETH BELL

*Secretary* ..... ALVIN RENNER

*Treasurer* ..... VIRGINIA ZAPP

*Organist* ..... FRANCES PITTENGER



*Ladies' Aid Society*

*President* ..... MRS. DELMAR GREEN

*Vice-President* ..... MRS. LELAND BAYLISS

*Secretary* ..... MRS. VIOLET BELL

*Treasurer* ..... MRS. LEWIS E. GREEN



*Young People's Society*

*President* ..... WILBUR JOHNSON

*Secretary* ..... JOSEPHINE MEYERS

*Treasurer* ..... MRS. ELLA RITZER

*Organist* ..... FLORENCE WILDRICK

