

The BULLETIN

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By

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Pastor

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Oxford Historical Record



Mrs. Katherine Amendt Bergenback died at her home in Oxford, last Monday evening, February 26th., after a long illness.

She was born in Oxford on June 13, 1865, the daughter of Jacob and Annie Amendt. Her parents had come to America from Germany about a century ago, and were married in Easton, Pa. Not much later they settled in Oxford, their permanent home. Jacob had a brother William who was in the employ of the Iron Company as late as 1880, at which time he was one of the most highly paid of all the employees. This fact we derive from a Company time book of that year.

Katherine Amendt was married to Frank Bergenback May, 2nd, 1886. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Robert Luburger, pastor of the German Reformed Church at that time, the Church to which her parents and herself belonged.

Two of her sisters survive her, Mrs. Ann Sandercock, of Penargyl, Pa. and Mrs. Jennie Fehr the same place.

There was a brother Henry, and a sister Margaret who married Charles Venzke, a brother of Mrs. August Badrow. The Venzkes moved to Calif.

There are two surviving children of Mrs. Bergenback; Mrs. Jennie Weisburn, of Wash. N. J. and Lewis E. Bergenback of Oxford.

Mrs. Bergenback and her husband were hard working and thrifty all their lives, and besides raising a family of devoted children, they accumulated a modest property.

Her whole life was devoted to her family and home. She was a member of the German Reformed Church and lived and died in the Christian faith and hope.

The funeral was from the home on Mine Hill, Thursday, Feb. 29th, and the burial beside her husband in Hillside Cemetery.

Miss Nellie Martin died in Oxford last Sunday, Feb. 25th, and was buried on Wednesday 28th, in the Catholic Cemetery. She left no near relations in Oxford, and an only brother in Jersey City, Mr. Kime Martin, whom old  
(to back cover)

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

For every one that asketh receiveth and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

-----Matthew 7:7,8.

"Almighty God, we praise Thee for the mercies which Thou hast bestowed us as a household, and we beseech Thee to bless all the families of earth with a Father's blessing. Look mercifully upon the solitary and lonely, the weary and the heavy-laden, and grant them rest unto their souls. Shed abroad the holy influences of the Lord's Day throughout our land, and keep our whole country, with those who are chosen to govern it, in the way of righteousness and peace.

May Thy fatherly goodness follow all who are near and dear to us, to watch over them, to provide for them, and to guide them in the path of life; through the grace and the wisdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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The Annual Reunion will be held on May 19th, the third Sunday in May, as has long been our custom. Mr. Clinton E. Weston will have charge of the program for the afternoon meeting as in the past.

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Next Sunday evening Choir will give a pageant. There will be much singing of hymns and special songs and speaking by the Rev. Mr. McClain pastor of the Hampton Presbyterian Church. The public will be most welcome.

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The Easter Communion will be administered on March 24th.

Palm Sunday will be observed by fitting services of music and sermon, on Sunday March 17th.

The Bulletin has received \$2.00 each from Mrs. Jane Skov and Miss Martha Peterson.



The Bulletin has a way of getting around the country. Recently a man called my attention to a letter he had received from a friend, a Mr. S. C. Curtis, formerly Sup't of the Delaware & Hudson R.R., now retired and living in St. Petersburg, Florida, in which he wrote:-

"I have received two Church Bulletins published in a town called Oxford, New Jersey, in which were articles on railroads that were very interesting, especially to me as a former railroad man. The history of the Lackawanna impressed me because for years I had followed its operation closely; in fact I consider myself an ex-employee, having been placed in charge, by the administration during the World War, of the Hoboken Docks. The mention of the name of George Scranton reminded me that he was a director of the D. & H. Canal Co. R.R., and a remarkable man he was. I was very well acquainted with the dynamic, peppery Sam Sloan who frequently rode over the D. & H. It was my privilege to see that his private car was taken care of. It reminded me of an incident that occurred at Ft. Ticonderoga one time when his baggage went astray. You have heard of a bull in a china store? Well, Sam was a whole flock of bulls that day, and the atmosphere was decidedly blue from an assorted variety of language. Finally the baggage was located and Sam came into my office, looked around and said, 'Curtis, what's the matter with your accommodations here--you haven't a decent chair to sit on.' I looked at him for an instant and then replied in the vernacular which R.R. men understand and enjoy, 'See here, you old grouch, if you don't like my chairs go into the waiting room and help yourself to a bench.' Just then his private car rolled in, we shook hands and had a hearty laugh as he climbed aboard."

During the Sloan regime an incident occurred which always struck me as being particularly funny.

There was a track-foreman located on the branch running from Summit to Gladstone, N. J., who had disobeyed the rules. ( see back cover)

One of the thrilling experiences of my boyhood was the day I was allowed to accompany the Lukens Band to Hope, where they were engaged to play for the afternoon and evening at the town's Fourth of July Picnic and celebration

We were driven up by "Daddy" Faulkner with his team of beautiful dapple grey horses--the Band riding in his spring wagon with seats on each side. I rode proudly on the driver's seat. The members of the Band all had good voices, and their singing on the way home late in the evening, as we journeyed along, was to me a very lovely experience. The orator of the day was Congressman Van Blarcomb, of Newark a man of striking personality, and a clear ringing voice. The eloquence of his appeal caused my admiration and patriotism to rise to great heights.

One impressive incident that I remember was the quiet appreciation with which the crowd listened to the music, and the applause that followed.

It was also interesting to note the number of fine looking men and women who made their way up to the band stand and personally complimented Mr. Lukens and his band on the fine music. I suspect I was pretty proud of Mr. Lukens and the band. Also of my father and Mr. Estler who both played solos that day.

It is probably without question that the Lukens band was the best in Warren County, and highly thought of throughout the State of New Jersey. It was an aggregation of true lovers of good music, trained and skilled to a degree of excellence. And the man to whom credit is due is Edmund T. Lukens. He was a musician of great talent and ability; and the church, social and musical organizations of the town were given generously of his time. He organized, tutored and directed the band, having himself mastered every instrument used in the band.

As leader he played at various times the C flat and E flat cornet and the saxophone. Aside from these the organ, piano, violin and cello, responded to his skill and understanding touch. He was tireless and exacting in his training, and his selection of music was always the newest and the best, such as was played (over)



by the leading bands of the country. If I am not mistaken he was one of the very first to introduce the saxophone in the smaller bands of the country.

As my mother read a recent article in the Bulletin, giving the names of the former clerks and employees at the Company Store, she remarked what a pleasure it was to see their names in print, it brought back so many memories. Perhaps there are others who feel that way. For these I append a list of those who at one time, about 1885, were the members of the Lukens cornet band.

Edmund T. Lukens, Saxophone (tenor)  
Edwin C. Perkins, Sr. C flat Cornet.  
Harry B. Perkins, B flat Cornet,  
Henry Weber " " "  
Louis Estler, Saxophone, (tenor)  
Benjamin Walton, Piccolo and flute  
George Searing, Clarinet  
George Weber, Saxophone, (Alto)  
Jay Hoffman, " (bass)  
Philip Radle, Alto (solo)  
Frank Owens, 2nd, Alto  
William Hornbaker, 3rd, Alto  
Chris. Zapp, Valve Trombone  
Ezra Estler, Trombone, (solo)  
Thomas Reese, 2nd. Trombone  
Jacob Zapp, 1st. Bass  
Theodore Cottle, 2nd Bass  
Elmer Thompson, Bass Drum and Cymbals

Mr. Lukens and George Weber are now the only surviving members of the old original band group. I would appreciate being checked up on the above data, and also of hearing some more reminiscences of the band.

The pastor visited Mr. Joseph H. Scranton the past week and found him much improved in health. He was greatly pleased with the many letters sent him by friends who saw in the Bulletin a brief notice of his illness. He expressed much surprise that the Bulletin reached so many of his friends so widely separated over the country. It has become a medium of communication among many hundreds of old Oxford citizens and even strangers who scarcely heard of the place.

( Old Oxford Days, From p. 2)

A report was sent to Sloan and he sent a letter to the foreman, discharging him. This was in the days when type writers were not generally used. Letters being written in long hand, and there was never a worse penman than Sloan. His writing was simply impossible. The foreman received the letter, and all he could make out was the signature. He showed it to the Station Agent who gave it up in disgust, as did also two or three Conductors. So he placed the letter in his pocket. Three or four months afterward Sloan noticed that the foreman's name was still on the payroll. He flew into a rage and sent the foreman a telegram to come to the office at once. The man arrived and when he told who he was Sloan hit the ceiling, gave the man a dressing down, and asked him if he didn't know he had been discharged. The man looked crestfallen and stammered out he didn't know anything about it.

Sloan then asked if he had received the letter and the man said, "Yes, but we all thought it was a Pass and I have been riding all over the road with it." Sloan was flabbergasted for a moment and then started to laugh long and loud. Then he said, "Use it for a pass to go back home, then tear it up, and stay on your job"

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A meeting of the Ladies Aid is called for next Wednesday afternoon at the Manse.

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(from front cover)

residents will remember. The Editor was much indebted to Miss Martin for some historical information he had been unable to obtain, regarding the closed room in the Manor house. She said that her mother in the 1860s did day work there, and she as a little girl went with her, and that she recalled that there was a trap door in the dining room which let down into this closed room, and that it was used for storage of fruit vegetables etc. a fact we had deduced before that time, but it was a satisfaction to have it confirmed by an eye witness.





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**A. G. YOUNT, Moderator**

*Elders*

**ABRAM PITTENGER  
EMMANUEL KELSKY**

**ELISHA B. FOSS  
LEWIS BERGENBACK**



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<i>Assistant Superintendent</i> .....	<b>KENNETH BELL</b>
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*Ladies' Aid Society*

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