

522

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By

REV. A. G. YOUNT, Ph. D.

Pastor

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Likewise also the Spirit helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought. But the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be heard. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God.

---Romans 8: 26, 28

"O Lord, our God, we desire to feel Thee near us in spirit and in body at this time. We know that in Thee we live and move and have our being, but we are cast down and easily disquieted, and we wander in many a sad wilderness where we lose the conscious experience of Thy presence.

Yet the deepest yearning of our hearts is unto Thee. As the hart panteth after the waterbrooks, so pant our souls after Thee, O God.

Power of our souls! enter Thou into them and fit them for Thyself, making pure with Christ's purity, loving and lovable with His love. Amen."

(Samuel McComb)

The Lord's Supper will be observed next Sabbath morning, July 21st, and will be the last until in October.

It ought to be a time of deep spiritual concern to all our people, for we live in a period of universal confusion, in the world at large and in our own country, and not least in our spiritual lives. There is everywhere uneasiness of mind and uncertainty of what a day may bring forth.

Human hearts are sad and burdened as never before, praying and hoping for deliverance not only from the desolation that haunts the world but also from the spiritual poverty of this materialistic generation.

The trysting place for souls in trouble is at the Cross of Christ where the great Sorrow becomes the most blessed consolation and help.

This is symbolized in the Lord's Supper. Let no one fail to enter into this haven of rest.

The vacation Bible schools are doing good work, with large attendance.

They will continue this coming week.

Letters to the Editor:-

Mr. Weston says:- "The 4th of July oration in the Bulletin was apropos at thistime and several people here have been very much interested in it.

Also your suggestion in the last issue about having some recognition given to the 100th anniversary of the Scranton regime is timely and I hope it will bear fruit. Just in what form would depend on how the citizens would warm up to it. Even though there were nothing but a town meeting it would be something.

I also was glad to see Floyd Dreisbach's talk published."

Mr. Charles James, of Mt. Hope, N. J. writes:- "During my recent conversation with Mr. L. R. Dohm, he remarked that you were interested in obtaining historical records. We have at Mt. Hope M. E. Church a communion set which was presented to the Church by Mrs. Joseph Scranton in the year 1868 A. D. If you are interested in the above record we would be glad to give you any information you may desire."

On receiving this communication from Mr. James we showed it to Mr. Joseph Scranton at Mt. Lake, near Oxford, and he said that the Joseph referred to was his cousin in Scranton, Pa. We knew of this Joseph Scranton and surmised that it must have been his wife that presented the Communion set to the Mt Hope M E Church. These Scrantons were not connected with Oxford history, so that we could have no claim upon them, but Mr. James might find out about the matter by writing to some of the Scrantons at Scranton, Pa. as we know that the descendants of that Joseph Scranton have been prominent citizens there, and doubtless some are living there now.

But it would be of interest to us to learn how Joseph Scranton's family in Scranton, Pa. became interested in Mt. Hope.

For this Joseph Scranton and his brother E. C. came from Augusta Georgia, in 1842, and joined George W. and Selden F. Scranton, who were their cousins, in the development of the Iron Works there. We have in our keeping some of their canceled notes,

Who Built the Old Mansion House?

The question has never been answered correctly, but now we have sufficient documentary evidence to determine who was responsible for the erection of this interesting old edifice.

The first step is to fix the date of the building. This is settled by the chimney-back, in the museum of the Pennsylvania Historical Society in Philadelphia, which was taken from the southwest corner room of the first story of the mansion house in 1876. The date of the chimney-back is 1754. This proves that the house was at least begun in that year, though it may have taken several years to complete it, as labor was scarce at that time, and they had to depend upon negro slaves, imported "servants" and "Redemptioners" for extra work of the kind. Doubtless this had to be done during periods when the furnace was idle, as in extreme cold weather and in the changing of the hearths between "blasts"

This date however is confirmed in a manner by the old Company ledger in the Congressional Library, to be referred to later.

The next step is to determine the owner or owners of the property at that time. This can now be settled absolutely beyond question, by the Indenture (deed) of 1749 by Jonathan Robeson, which conveys to Dr. William Shippen, the Elder, $\frac{1}{4}$ interest in the furnace tract and furnace; and Robeson states that in 1745 he had purchased $\frac{1}{2}$ interest in this property from Joseph Shippen, an older brother of Dr Shippen. Which left Robeson with only $\frac{1}{4}$ interest, which he advertised for sale in 1756.

Thus the owners at that period were Joseph Shippen $\frac{1}{2}$, Jonathan Robeson and Wm. Shippen $\frac{1}{4}$ each. Further proof that this is correct is supplied by a law suit in which the Company's legal title was Joseph Shippen and Company, and the Complaint gives (Sussex County Court House) all the names in the order, Joseph Shippen, Jonathan Robeson and William Shippen.

The date of this Complaint is 1755. So then the Shippen brothers owned the controlling interest, and could and did over ride the opposition of Mr. Robeson. That the latter did object to the building of the Mansion (over)

House is indicated by the Ledger in the Congressional Library, which the preceding accounts "Belong to Jos. Shippen and Jonathan Robeson by agreement settled June 11, 1754."

In other words Mr Robeson then withdrew from the business of the Company, and it appears that he refused to bear any part in the expense of the building, because in the same Ledger, in "Day Book dated Oct. 1776, Phila. 'Received from Jonathan Robeson Two Hundred and Forty Three pounds and 18 Shillings, for his portion of outstanding debts in Oxford Furnace. Now Jonathan Robeson died in 1766, and his son Jonathan Robeson Jr. was an Executor, and paid the claim against his father's estate, doubtless after years of litigation.

Moreover the Company had a small mansion house sufficient for their needs, which was certainly what was afterwards known as the old stone Post Office, burned in 1881.

Now though Dr. Wm Shippen supported his brother in building the house, he would not have done so in his own interest, as he lived and had all his business as a Chemist and Physician with a large practice in Phila.

Without doubt then the person responsible for the erection of the Mansion House was Joseph Shippen, who originally inherited the furnae tract from his father Joseph Shippen Sr. and was born in 1706, six years before his brother William.

But Joseph Shippen was not a good business man, and only noted as a society man, a fine dresser, and very extravagant, and so among his family and friends was known as "Gentleman Joe." Doubtless his main reason for building such a great mansion in the wilderness was to gratify his vanity, and to entertain his society friends in Philadelphia and New York, in his country mansion, where the hunting in the fall must have been great sport.

The above documented conclusions clearly explain the confused traditions about the ownership and the building of the mansion house, and of events connected with it.

But we may be glad it was erected whatever the person or the motives, in view of the subsequent usefulness of it, and the romantic history connected with it in after years.



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