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*The*  
**BULLETIN**

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

A. G. YOUNT  
*Minister*



*Therefore every scribe who is instructed in the kingdom of heaven, is like an householder who bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old. Matthew 13:52.*

Old Oxford Days  
By Clinton M. Weston

Before the furnace pond was built facilities for actual swimming were somewhat limited. . . For there was no place in town worthy of the name, where one could more than get his feet wet, except perhaps the miniature hole just below the new furnace. Will Henry, with the help of several others, improved the creek just below the Rolling -mill pump house, and it for a while this popular until it became polluted.

Other places for getting damp was the same creek below the railroad tracks where one could have comparative seclusion; and also the race that fed the grist mill.

The only other alternative was to double up in the wash-tub at home. In this respect an unusually large person could not be envied, for it meant taking the ablution in installments.

On completion of the furnace pond the masculine persuasion flocked there and it might be said, there was no competition in bathing suits, for so far as Oxford was concerned they were tabooed. At school the signal for a swim was to spread the fingers, stroke motion; and arriving at the pond a scurrying took place to see who would be the first to take the plunge.

If in the hurry to undress clothing was torn, ripped and mangled, that was a mere incident. Once in, ducking and splashing and knocking stones together while heads were under water, causing anything but an agreeable sensation, all of these things proceeded with regularity.

Some took rails from the fence bounding the south side of the pond on which to paddle around in the water. It was from one of those I learned to swim by falling off in a deep spot. As I went down over my head a kick or two and a movement of my arms brought me to the surface, then with few strokes I landed on terra firma, both surprised and pleased.

Parting one's hair while under water was considered a par-excellent trick.

Any drying process was not even considered, and after all the harness was adjusted, the crowd dispersed, usually leaving two or three to unravel shirt sleeves and what not that had been dampened before tying tightly, while the rest pierced the atmosphere chanting Charos-beef, the beef is tough, etc.

(over)

A real swim was to be had at Mountain Lake, nee Green Pond. Some of us from the Company Store chartered a wagon and after store hours one evening went there to enjoy the water sports.

Great preparations were made for lunch from the choicest viands that the store possessed. A large hamper was filled and placed in the wagon, and upon arrival at the Lake it was given to Mrs. Wintermute to disassemble and have ready when we returned.

After a time we hurriedly dressed and made a rush for the house. Food, food was the battle cry, and we were bent on its destruction. On arrival, however, one look at the afore-said lady's face showed it to be a study in expression.

Trembling and with a hoarse voice she merely pointed to the basket and said "Look". We did, and what we saw was a beautiful collection of empty tin cans, chloride of lime and stones!

Gloom and despair! Abject Misery! Strong hearts melted like marshmallows on a hot fire; tears flowed like a spring freshet, with Mrs. Wintermute contributing to the tiny rivulets trickling hither and yon over her well kept floor.

The return to Oxford was similar to the retreat of Napoleon from Moscow.

Came the morn, and a hunt for the culprits, and while we were never sure we strongly suspected Fred Bigelow and Charlie Lanning.

Yes, the old swimming hole met our needs at the time and furnished just as much pleasure as the marbled and scientifically constructed pool of to-day.

The Bulletin thankfully acknowledges the following receipts for postage and a surplus for the Fund:

- Mrs. L.B. Hoagland \$2.00
- Half for the fund and the other half for postage for Mrs. W.W. Carson, her niece, in Nottoway, Va.
- Mrs. O.N. Parry \$3.00
- Mrs. Florence Stinson 2.00
- Miss Jane M. Creveling 2.00

The Editor and family deeply appreciate the kind notes accompanying the remittances, and warmly return the greetings of interest and goodwill.

Motto Text

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me...  
Psalm 51:10

"Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

The Annual Canvass to-day

The members of the congregation will be waited on in their homes today by canvassers to obtain pledges for the current expenses and the Church Boards for the coming year, beginning April 1st.

The annual business meeting of the congregation will be held in the Chapel on Friday evening March 29th.

Reports for the past year will be presented by the various officers; and trustees whose time has expired will be chosen.

The Pastor assisted by some members of the choir conducted the services at the Synodical home for Old Folks in Belvidere on last Sunday afternoon. There are about fifty inmates in the Home at present, and they make a delightful audience for a speaker. Mrs. Werner the Matron is managing the Home in splendid style, and is an admirable hostess.

The Spring meeting of the Newton Presbytery will take place on April 16th, in the Westminster Church of Phillipsburg. This is the most important session of the year, and there is always a full attendance from all the churches of the Presbytery.

Our Church will be represented by the Pastor and an Elder selected by the Session.

Mr. Weston writes. " It is not too early to begin to think about a reunion for this year,if we are to have one...All the people,I think, are expecting one, and the sooner it is definitely decided,arrangements can be made for keeping the date in mind. I am merely throwing out this as a suggestion.

"Sorry I could not get to the services for Fred Fowler,nor George Searing, much as I would have liked. They will be greatly missed. In the event of a reunion it would be fitting to give over a silent moment to the memory of those who passed on during the year."

Others beside Mr. Weston have inquired about the reunion in May.

The Editor at this writing can only say that, at the annual congregation a year ago, it was unanimously voted to make the reunion an annual affair and so,unless this action is rescinded, there will be one. We think that the sentiment of the congregation is that it will be a great pleasure and honor to hold the reunion so long as the old members and citizens of Oxford who live elsewhere, desire it,and will plan to attend. But definite announcement will be made in two weeks.

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At the annual meeting of the Sunday School Board in the Chapel last Wednesday evening, officers were elected for the year beginning April first.

Superintendent	Elisha B. Foss
Asst. "	Mrs. Edward T. Green
Treasurer	Miss Ida Smith
Secretary	Alvin Renner
Organist	Miss Elizabeth Zapp

The Board decided to contribute \$10.00 for the Benevolent boards and to buy two tons of coal for the Church. This will be sufficient to heat the church until summer.

The Sunday School is in a flourishing condition; the collections are good and the attendance on the oncrease.

The School will have an excellent report at the coming Annual Business Meeting.

