

CHESTER TIMES – February 23, 1909

TENTING ON THE OLD CAMP GROUND – Brighter Days Ahead For Chester Heights, the Summer Methodist Meeting Place – The Cottagers' Association

Realizing that while beautiful and picturesque Chester Heights is one of the finest and best conducted camp meeting resorts in the country, possessing all the natural advantages that could be desired in which to locate a "Gospel Village" or a spot where one could pass the summer months, far removed from turmoil, dust and stifling heat of the city's streets, many people who visit the heights year after year and hold cottages there, are alive to the fact that the placer could be greatly improved and made more attractive and desirable as a place of peacefulness.

The "Camp meeting goers" had this in mind when late last summer a number of them got together and organized "the Cottagers' Association," the aim and object being to improve the Heights by artificial methods, which with the present natural conditions will make the grove a veritable Paradise.

The Cottagers' organized by electing Superintendent Wilson of the Northwest District, Methodist Episcopal Conference, president; Bert Kensil, secretary and the Rev. Mr. Petrie, treasurer. The association have been holding meetings each month since the season ended last summer, with the result that a fund has been created which will form a nucleus for an improvement fund to be raised and used to make the place conform with the idea of those who are at the head of the movement.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT – The first improvements to be made will be the laying of concrete walks through the grounds, so that when the weather is rainy the cottagers and visitors to the camp grounds will be able to get around dry shod; then something important will be done for the young people. A gymnasium will be erected and a swimming pool built, these improvements, especially the latter being sadly needed. It will not cost a great deal of money to establish a swimming pool, in view of the fact that there is plenty of water with which the natatorium can be filled; "and won't this be aa fine thing for the girls and boys?" enthusiastically asked a member of the association in telling what it proposed doing for the young folks who go to Chester Heights.

The Cottagers' Association, which includes in its membership people of this city, Philadelphia, West Chester and other places, will give a three days' festival in the grove next June, and plans are now being made to make this the finest outdoor fete ever attempted in this section. A feature of the festival will be a Japanese scheme, called "A Night in Japan." The decorations will be elaborate. There will be other features which are sure to prove equally pleasing.

That the Association is thoroughly in earnest in this matter is shown by the fact that at each of the meetings held during the last five or six months not less than fifty persons were in attendance, and interest is constantly increasing. Anyone who would like to join the Cottagers' Association can hand their names to Stephen L. Armour, of Concord Avenue and Minor Street, this city, and they will be enrolled at once. Mr. Armour is also a member of the Cottagers' and also a member of the Board of Managers of the Chester Heights Association. The latter Association is thoroughly in sympathy with the movement to make the Heights more attractive.

One disadvantage with Chester Heights is the poor passenger service to the grounds, and it is thought if the grove is improved and made more desirable as a place to

pass the summer months (an inland Ocean Grove, as it were), there will be an improvement in the transportation facilities before next summer has passed away.

The Cottagers' will hold their next meeting at the residence of Frank Freeman, who lives on Market Street, West Chester, when further plans will be made for three-days' lawn fete in the grove.

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION