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BACK TO SCHOOL



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The Former Glenwood Institute

A Prestigious Private School

Founded 1834 - closed 1915

Church and Jackson Streets

Matawan, New Jersey

(see article on page 4)

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about Glenwood Institute.

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P.O. Box No. 8
Matawan, NJ 07747
566-6637



Published Quarterly By:
**JR ADVERTISING
& CONSULTING INC.**

Matawan, NJ

Publisher-Editor
Joan Roum

Contributing Editor
Kevin Roum

**FALL ISSUE
SEPTEMBER, 1992
Volume II, Issue IV**



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The Glenwood Institute



For 81 years of Matawan's long history, the community was strongly influenced by a very famous and prestigious school. Located at Church and Jackson Streets, the school was known for most of its life as the Glenwood Institute, attracting students from as close as New York and as far as St. Louis and New Orleans.

The school opened in 1834 under the name of Middletown Point Academy enrolling two students: the children of the school's sponsor. By 1838, however, the co-educational academy had grown to 84 students, 40 of whom came from out of town. Academically, the school was divided into a "Male Department" and a "Female Department". Both departments were taught English, but beyond that a separation of the sexes existed. For \$6.00, the young men could learn foreign languages and higher mathematics, and for \$5.00 they could take natural and social sciences including philosophy and astronomy. The young women could take for a cost of \$6.00 drawing, painting and embroidery. For \$10.00, the women could also take music. Board could be obtained in good families at a cost of \$2.25 a week.

In 1857 the stockholders erected another building opposite the original school and the institution then became known as the Collegiate Institute of Middletown Point. When the building was enlarged in 1874, the name was changed to the Glenwood Institute. The alumni of the Glenwood Institute went on to become some of the more prominent men in the state and the nation. Included in that list were: Judge Henry S. Terhune, Elmer H. Geran, who became a state legislator and sheriff of Monmouth County, Joseph D. Bedle, who served as justice of the state supreme court and governor of New Jersey from 1875-1878. Garret Augustus Hobart, of Marlboro, was a student at the institute in 1859. He served New Jersey as speaker of the state assembly, as well as president of the state senate. Hobart served our nation as Vice-President of the United States from 1897 until his death in 1899, under the William McKinley administration.

The most distinguished teacher of the institute was a young man of 19 years named Robert Laird Bordon who came from Nova Scotia in 1873 to teach mathematics and the classics. Thirty-seven years later he became Prime Minister of Canada.

About 1890, the Glenwood Institute introduced military training and the young men in their gold and gray uniforms presented a colorful picture as they drilled on the spacious grounds. Students in this period included youths from Central and South America, and the West Indies, one of whom, Jack Alonzo, later became vice-president of the standard Oil Co. of Cuba.

The school continued to be co-educational until early in the 20th century when the school was forced to close due to lack of students and money. It was reopened in 1908 under the name Matawan Military Academy and operated exclusively as a military school. By 1915, competition from the free public high schools forced the academy to close.

Today, the building which was once the illustrious Glenwood Institute, is now a cooperative apartment complex.

This fall, take a step back into Matawan's past and visit some of our historical sites.



Material in this article obtained from Matawan Journal news clippings about the Glenwood Institute — 1940.

MATAWAN 1686-1936, by the Federal Writers' Project
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