

DELAWARE PUBLIC ARCHIVES

**A HISTORY
OF
KENT COUNTY DELAWARE**

HAROLD B. HANCOCK

DOVER, DELAWARE

1975 -76



The Harrington Business District in 1907

HARRINGTON

Harrington is another town developed by the railroad. In the eighteenth century most of the land belonged to the Clark family. In the early nineteenth century a settlement developed at the intersection of two roads called Clark's Corner consisting of one house and one store or tavern.

After the railroad appeared in 1856, Matthew Clark laid out a number of town lots, and twenty houses were erected in the next four years. A post office was secured in 1857, and the construction of the Junction and Breakwater Railroad helped the growth of the community. In 1862 the legislature honored Chancellor S. M. Harrington by changing the name from Clark's Corner to Harrington. The town was incorporated in 1869.

Harrington in 1868 was described as "warp and woof of railroad advantages and impulses," with most of its business coming from that source. By the 1880s the town had developed other enterprises and was described as a live manufacturing town in the midst of a rich agricultural country and with commercial interests of importance. Manufacturers consisted of a saw mill, cannery, fruit evaporator, basket factory and fertilizer plant.

At first merchants dealt with the Milford bank, but the First National Bank was organized in 1888 and the People's Bank in 1905.

The *Harrington Enterprise* was the first newspaper, and its successor since 1913 is the *Harrington Journal*.

Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church began to hold meetings in the school house in the 1860s and erected an edifice in 1870. The Presbyterians erected a church in 1871, the Episcopalians in 1876, and the Methodist Protestants in 1881.

Children at first attended Powell's school in District No. 48, but in 1863 a school house was built in the village.

Harrington is noted throughout the state and in adjacent states for the Delaware State Fair, which was first held in 1920. From the beginning it had harness racing, and exhibits of stock, produce and handiwork. Thursday is Governor's Day when politicians from far and near attend, while Saturday is reserved for automobile racing.



Delaware State Fair c 1925 at Harrington

Today the railroad is of small importance in Harrington. Industrial enterprises consist of three shirt and dress companies, one canning company and Burris frozen foods. Harrington approaches the future with confidence. At the time of the celebration of the centennial of its incorporation in 1969, Mayor Burton E. Satterfield said, "A Century of Progress has elapsed since the incorporation of this municipality. The City of Harrington has worked constantly on its facilities, with late developments including improvements on streets, sanitary sewage, drainage, water supplies and trash disposal. However, the activities of the City will not cease here. Our goal and aims are for continual progress to make Harrington a better community in which to live."

HARTLY

Early in its history Hartly was known as Butterpat or Butterpot, Arthursville and Hawkins Corner. Originally the land was patented by John Durborrow in 1734 and then sold to Thomas Procter who called the tract Procter's Purchase. After James Foraker built a log cabin in the area, the place came to be called Butterpat or Butterpot. The name originated because a lady formed butter into pats and put them in an iron pot in a stream to keep cool. Another theory is that this was the name of her cow! Young men are supposed to have traveled from house to house singing, "Butterpot gals, ain't you coming' out to-night?" to the tune of *Carolina Gals*.