

FELTON, DELAWARE

LOCAL HISTORIANS:

Mrs. Dorothy Donaway
Mr. and Mrs. Ashton Jester
Mrs. Edie Hemphill (outline compiled by)

Pictures Courtesy of:

Mr. Raymond Dill
Mr. Ashton Jester
Mr. Joseph Winger

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I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A. Founding

Felton came into existence in 1856 during the time of the building of the Delaware Railroad. The railroad located $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of a little town known as Berrytown was called Berrytown Station and also, Johnny Cake Station later Frederica Station.

Felton is situated in South Murderkill hundred, in the middle of Kent County, approximately 11 miles south of Dover, approximately 6 miles west of Frederica, and approximately 7 miles north of Harrington.

The town is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile square with the railroad in the exact center on the northern and southern lines. The town was incorporated before 1861.

The matter of giving the town a name caused some heated controversies between the people on the west side of the tracks who referred to it as Berrytown Station, and the people on the east side of the tracks who referred to it as the Frederica Station.

One day a farmer on his way to market with a basket of eggs was stopped by several citizens who were involved in an argument on the subject. The farmer was asked for a suggestion that might solve the problem to the satisfaction of all concerned. He replied, "Why not call it 'Felton', and make it a namesake of Mr. Samuel M. Felton, a director and president, of the Delaware Railroad." From that day forth, the town had a name of its own to put it on a level with the dignities of other towns.

In 1853 Mr. Samuel M. Felton was a director of the railroad. Mr. Samuel Maxwell Harrington, the first president of the Delaware Railroad, died in 1856 and Mr. Samuel M. Felton was elected president.

The Pennsylvania Railroad built a steamboat in 1865 and named it Samuel M. Felton after one of their directors. This railroad dominated the Wilmington-Philadelphia line with their fast steamboat, The Samuel M. Felton, until 1882 when competition came from the Wilson line. Ill fortune struck the Felton in 1885 when a laborer left explosive material near her boiler and the steamer blew up at her pier. The Felton was later rebuilt and sold for excursion service on the Chesapeake Bay.¹

¹Elliott, Richard, Last of the Steamboats

B. Population

The first census of Felton was taken in 1870 which showed a population of 437.

The next census taken was in 1880 which showed a smaller population of 383. This can be explained by the fact that the Pennypacker Sawmill and Lumber Yard was moved from Felton to Wilmington in 1873.

After 1880, the population showed a steady increase upward through 1920. The 1920's were the peak point in Felton's history. The town was flourishing with basket factories, sawmills, a creamery with a good business in fluid milk, a canning factory, many stores, shops, and a hotel.

In 1930, the town suffered an \$80,000 fire in the heart of the business district. At that time, the town had no modern water system and water had to be shuttled from Harrington by railroad.

From 1929 to 1940, there was a decline due mostly to the depression. Many of the people left Felton to seek jobs in the cities.

In 1959, Felton had another fire damaging many businesses and some residences' homes. Estimates of the damages were over \$70,000.00.

Felton, like all other small towns in Kent County, is changing. The town is becoming surrounded by housing developments instead of the familiar farm land of the past. Felton is part of an urbanized complex. It depends on Dover, the capitol of the State, for most of its employment. Dover has a large Air Force Base, a food processing plant, and many other major industries for employment of the local people.

As you can see from the following chart the population of Felton is basically the same as it was one hundred years ago.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>
1870	437
1880	383
1900	400
1910	451
1920	771 - highest
1930	463
1940	442
1950	455
1960	422
1970	495

C. Development

The town was developed on land owned by Mr. Joseph Simpson and Mr. Alfred O. Clifton. The farmer, Mr. Simpson owned the land on the northern side of main street and sold lots for building. Mr. Clifton whose land was on the southern side of main street refused to sell land to anyone, but agreed to allow people to build on his land for ground rent.

In 1856 when the railroad and Adams Express authorities opened their offices, Mr. Robert W. Reynolds was the first agent. He was shortly followed by Mr. George C. Hering who after a brief period was succeeded by Mr. James B. Conner. Mr. Robert Reynolds and his brother opened a general store on the southeast corner of Main and Lombart Streets. There was one blacksmith shop and one farm house.

In the fall of the same year, a hotel was built by Mr. Hering. This was called the Fountain House and later Smoots Hotel. The building still exists and is owned by Mr. Fred Casper who purchased the property in 1966. It is his residence, and it also houses a grocery store managed by Mr. Ronald Walters.

In the early days of the town, there were two bakeries, one of which was owned by Mr. Prettyman. The baking was done out-of-doors. In 1869 to 1870 Mr. Prettyman's outdoor furnace was located on Railroad Avenue.

Mr. Sam Morgan manufactured carriages. His place of business was located where the Bank now stands. There were two brick yards in Felton between 1860 and 1870. During this time, Felton had a lumber yard, sawmill and two foundries.

In the early 70's a foundry was converted into a basket mill by Mr. James Hubbard.

Mr. J. H. Jones manufactured wagons in the early 70's and continued for fifty years.

Dr. Jefferson Luff built his general store, drug store, and granary in 1884 and continued to operate it until 1904.

In the late 70's and early 80's Dr. R. W. Hargadine, an importer of seeds, was the first to introduce crimson clove in Delaware. Dr. Hargadine reportedly owned and operated the most extensive greenhouses on the peninsula. His seeds were imported from Europe.

Mr. George Godwin and Mr. Charles Severn were carpenters and building contractors. Godwin's business operated for a half century. While Severn worked from 1860 until 1880 in Felton. In

1890, an exchange for flour and meal was owned and managed by Mr. Harry Lynch and his father. Mr. Walter Harrington and Mr. Lynch developed a wholesale fruit and produce business.

For a number of years, Mr. Gilbert Meredith handled the Felton branch of the Farmer's Exchange. Later Mr. James Jones acted as an independent shipping agent for the farmers in the community. Felton was known as a peach shipping center in the late 70's and as late as 1905.

In 1910 a cooperative creamery built by Mr. John Jones came to Felton. It was later a milk cooling station. A good business in fluid milk was carried on until about 1930, when the plant closed down because his company (Breyers see photos) had enlarged the Harrington plant so that it took care of both communities. Then came a canning factory owned by Mr. Al Conner. The A & P Company operated it next, followed by Paramount Poultry Company who operated it until Swift Company bought it. The Swift Company is still in operation in Felton. There were two lumber yards in Felton during this time.

At one time there were four automobile dealers in Felton. Mr. George Milbourne owned a blacksmith shop on Main Street. Mr. Clarence Voshell was a dealer in farming implements from 1910 to 1938. Mr. Louis Outten opened a watch repair shop in 1900 and operated it for over sixty years, repairing watches and clocks for people in other communities as well as in Felton.

Felton boosted a newspaper in 1967-1968, "The Felton Standard".

At present, industry and businesses in the area are:

- Agway Fertilizer Company
- Swift Poultry Company (processing)
- DuCat Poultry Company (hauling)
- Simpler Lumber Company
- All Right Rubbish Company (trash removal)
- Parnell's Mobil Station
- Bell's Arco Station
- Berry's Funeral Home
- G & B Market (groceries)
- Winger's Market (groceries)
- Felton Hardware
- Felton Bank
- Moore Brothers Barber Shop
- Various Beauty Shops
- The Owl's Nest Tavern & Retail Liquors
- E. B. Warrington-Massey Ferguson & Oliver Farm Machinery

Many men in our area are engaged in painting, plumbing, and carpentry. Several are contractors in business for themselves.

D. General Status of Town and Nearby Areas

We are a typical small town and have few industries of any size. Swift Poultry Company is our largest industry, hiring approximately 150 people, most of them from the Felton area.

Most of the people employed in all the local businesses live in the area. The majority of the people who work must look outside of the community for a job. Many are employed in Dover at International Latex, General Foods, State government, civil service jobs at the Air Force Base, and others are employed by the duPont Company in Seaford.

New dwellings have created an automatic urban renewal program, replacing many buildings of the late 1800's and early 1900's. Felton does not have any vacancies, probably due to the housing shortage created by the Dover Air Force Base.

All the dwellings that have been built in the last ten years are modern ranch type homes.

On July 1, 1969, consolidation of Felton, Harrington, and Frederica school districts was accomplished in accordance with an Act of the State Legislature. Commonly known as the Educational Advancement Act of 1968. In a contest to name the consolidated district the newly formed Board of Education chose the name "Lake Forest" proposed by Margaret (Peggy) Phelps, a Felton eighth grade student. The district is blessed with beautiful lakes and forests, and the high school has both a lake and a forest adjoining the school property.

The Lake Forest Board of Education then designated this building to serve grades nine through twelve for the entire district and named it Lake Forest High School.

The school was built to accommodate 700 pupils initially and designed to be expanded to a capacity of 1,600.

The Felton School became Lake Forest North Elementary; the Frederica School became Lake Forest East Elementary; the Harrington became Lake Forest South Elementary and the W. T. Chipman Jr. High School.

For many years the people of Felton had no other school facilities than those afforded by the old-fashioned school house situated a half mile east of town on the site of Purnell's Meeting House lot and hence called Purnell's School House.

In the 1860's some of the more wealthy families in the community did not wish their children to attend the free or public school. A group of these wealthy men formed a stockholders' company and built a seminary for the education of their children. The Felton Seminary was completed in 1869 and was ranked as one of the leading institutions of the entire State.

The Seminary was discontinued in 1885. Between 1873 and 1875 the public school burned. Another one-room school took its place along the railroad tracks. It was used by all the pupils of Felton. About 1884 it was moved to Church and High Streets. In 1885 an addition was made, so that it became a three room school. This was the origin of Felton High School.

The principal in the public school on Church and High Streets in 1885 was Mr. Tyndale, who was followed by Mr. Outten and then Mr. Lattomus. In 1907 Dr. Holloway took the position. He was succeeded by Mr. George Messersmith. Next came Cecil McDonald, Gleen McKay, Howard Evans, Ruben Friedel, Clifford Simpler, Thomas Pyle, Mr. Myers, Mr. Evans, Mr. Leach, and Mr. Hahn, who was the last principal in the location before the school moved over to the old Seminary building.

In 1920 the State Department of Education bought the seminary building for use as a high school. Mr. Calvin Afflerbach was the first principal in this building. He was succeeded by Mr. John Thomas, Mr. Virgil Wiley and Mr. Felix Mick.

In 1927 a bill was passed by the State Department for a building program to include a new elementary and high school building for Felton. This building was to contain thirteen rooms and an auditorium-gymnasium to cost \$117,211, of which \$101,500 was appropriated by the State and the rest to come from local sources. The school was opened in 1929. At this time, Frederica dropped its ninth and tenth grades and these pupils came to Felton. Mr. D. A. Petry was the principal of this school until his retirement in 1947. He was followed by Mr. H. F. Cobby and then by Mr. Howard E. Henry.

At this time Felton had twenty three teachers and thirteen of them held Bachelor's degrees, and five of them held their Master's degrees. Much additional work was done by many to enrich the courses they taught. Special reference was made to work done in speech, drama, chorus, psychology, business administration and military science. The average teaching experience at this time was twelve and a half years. The object of the course was to acquaint students with opportunities available in the aviation industry and in the military aviation.

During Mr. Henry's administration the enrollment sharply increased. Two building programs doubled the size of the school and made possible the addition of the commercial and vocational agriculture courses. A third addition in 1957 doubled the size of the cafeteria-gymnasium-auditorium, and provided seven more classrooms.

Still another addition costing \$415,000 was completed in 1962. This addition included six new elementary classrooms, five senior high classrooms, two science labs, industrial arts shop, and a new athletic field.

The school's original cornerstone was removed to permit the joining of a new east wing onto the original building. The same stone was re-engraved to add the year 1962 to the original date of 1926.

II. NOTEWORTHY RESIDENTS

A. Present

In 1949 Dr. Howard E. Henry came to Felton School as Supervising Principal. He held that capacity for 20 years and 4 years as Deputy Superintendent of Lake Forest School District. Dr. Henry was instrumental in achieving the consolidation of Felton, Harrington, and Frederica Districts to form Lake Forest School District. He had worked with other Delaware educators and laymen toward this objective since 1950 when he served on the Kent County Committee for School District Reorganization. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Trenton State College, a Master's degree from Duke University, and a Doctor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania. His articles on school administration, curriculum, and pupil growth have been published in State and national magazines.

Mr. Reuben Outten was born in Laurel, February 18, 1892 and came to Felton in 1896. Aside from learning everything about clocks from his father, Rube Outten worked in the basket factory in the early 1900's. He got paid 75 cents per 100 baskets. All baskets were made by hand. He recalls a Mr. Wil Godwin made 601 baskets from sun up till sun down breaking a previous record of 400. Mr. Outten started with the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1912. He retired after 45 year's service.²

B. Past

Mr. John Bassett Mocre was born in Smyrna but educated in Felton Seminary. He lived in the house opposite the Methodist Church. He was Secretary of State under two presidents. In 1921 he was appointed head of the International Court of Justice at the Hague in Holland and

²Please refer to newspaper articles and pictures. The Delaware State News, April 4, 1969, donated one complete page to Mr. Outten.

also served in numerous diplomatic positions. After his retirement, Mr. Moore devoted himself to literary work until his death in 1947.

Mr. James H. Hughes was born on the outskirts of Felton, and was educated in law. After several successful years of legal practice in Dover, Mr. Hughes entered politics and in 1921 ran (unsuccessfully) for governor. In 1891 he became Assistant Secretary of State from 1897 to 1901. In the late 30's he was elected United States Senator. After completing senatorial duties he returned to Dover until his death in 1953. He was 86 years old.

In January 1897 Harry V. Holloway began teaching in Felton where he served as principal until 1902. In 1904 he married Mabel Connor, the daughter of State Senator Connor of Felton. In 1914 he received his Philosophy Doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania. Under the existing school law of School Code, he became County Superintendent of Schools and in 1921 under a revision became State Superintendent of Public Instruction. He held this office longer than any other man in any of the States except one from Wisconsin.

In 1903 George S. Messersmith became principal of Felton School. He was Vice President of the State Board of Education from 1912 to 1914 when he became a diplomat. In 1919 he was appointed Consul at Antwerp, Belgium and six years later was Consul General at Belgium and Luxemburg. In 1926 he was appointed Consul General at Buenos Aires and in 1930 held the same office in Berlin. Ambassador Messersmith became Assistant Secretary of State in 1937. Later he traveled to Cuba and Mexico as Ambassador.

Mr. John Shilling was born in 1884 and came to Felton when he was six years old. After graduating from Felton High School he attended Goldey College, then taught for a year. He received his doctorate at Dickinson in 1908 then went to Trenton where he taught for eight years. From 1916 to 1918 he taught in North East High in Philadelphia. In 1919 he became Kent County Superintendent of Schools. A year later he became Assistant Superintendent of Schools in charge of Secondary Education.

Mr. Randolph Hughes was born in Felton in 1908. He graduated from Felton High School in 1925 and Wesley College in 1928. He also attended the University of Maryland Law School. Mr. Hughes was State Bank Commissioner from 1951 until his death in 1969. Mr. Hughes started his banking career as a runner at the Equitable Security Trust Company, Wilmington. In 1931 he was elected as cashier of West Dover Trust Company; Hartly, and later served as director, Vice President, and President of the bank. At the age of 26 he was elected to the State House of Representatives where he served as minority floor leader. Mr. Hughes served as an assistant to the president of the Industrial Trust Co. 1936-1937 and

that year became secretary to U. S. Senator James Hughes, a post he occupied for the next five years. Promoted to lieutenant commander in 1946, he joined the U. S. Navy in 1942. A trustee of Wesley College and a member of the National Press Club, Mr. Hughes had been active in the National Association of Supervisors of State Banks serving as treasurer, vice president, president and chairman of the executive committee.

Born in 1883, Maude A. Reynolds, lived near Hopkins Cemenary west of Felton. She was schooled and graduated from the Felton School. She was a first grade teacher for forty two years in the Felton Schools. In 1954 a wing was added to the school, and named the Maude A. Reynolds Elementary in her honor for her years of dedication and service. Upon her retirement in 1957 she received the distinguished service award from the Delaware State Education Association for her efforts in raising professional standards and her years of service. She died in 1957 at the age of 74. Note! A former student recalls a little play house in Mrs. Reynold's classroom for when you were bad you had to sit in the little house.

Another merchant of the Town of Felton was Elmer R. Poynter. Elmer and his wife, Amy, came to Felton in the 30's and ran a wholesale produce business. In the early 40's they opened the only restaurant in the area at the corner of town and Rt. 13 at which time it was a white bungalow type structure. Many of the town's children spent a lot of time at the restaurant and later at the restaurant and service station, (now Parnell's Mobil). Also, Amy and Elmer had an Ice Cream Parlor in the now vacant building across from the hardware where they sold millions of cones of good old Cupid Ice Cream. In the early 40's they built the first Motel in the area one mile south of town. At this time, there wasn't even a motel in Dover. Mr. Poynter served for many years in our area as the Justice of the Peace. He was the State Republican Committee man and served many times as a delegate at the Republican Conventions. In his later years he served as the Kent Co. Civil Defense Director. Mr. Poynter died in January, 1974. Mrs. Poynter now resides in Harrington.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE AREA

- A. Recently Established - None
- B. Long-Standing

The Felton Avon Club is a women's club in Felton that has an interesting history and has done much to foster good in the community. The Club was organized in 1895 and federated in 1896. There was thirteen charter members. The Club was organized as a Shakespearean Reading Club and was known as "TIK". It later became known as the Felton Avon Club. The Club has a long record of achievements of which it is very proud. The Felton Avon Club meets the first Wednesday of each month to study such diverse fields as education, art, history, prison reform, highway safety, health, community improvement and home economics. The Club's motto is, "Bestirring as the times".

Fraternal organizations and their auxiliaries include:

1. The Independent Order of Oddfellows was organized and received their Charter in 1859.
2. The Rebekah Lodge was instituted in 1932.

3. The Adams-Simpler-Ware V.F.W. Post received its Charter in 1945. Its auxiliary was formed the same year.

4. The Felton Girl Scout Chapter was organized in 1935. Boy Scouting started around 1932.

IV. FORMER ACTIVITIES OF THE AREA, NOW INACTIVE

B. During the Civil War "Felton Home Guards" were organized about May 16, 1861 with the following officers: Captain Thomas Draper
First Lieutenant R. B. Duncan
Second Lieutenant D. LaMotte, Jr.
Third Lieutenant J. J. Toner
Fourth Lieutenant J. E. Bailey
Surgeon Joseph Simpson

The Trophy Grange No. 22 was organized in 1875 and its Charter received October 11 of that year. The first Master was Mr. George Killen. Insofar as can be ascertained, Charter members were as follows: Mr. & Mrs. George Killen, Mr. & Mrs. Myron Gruwell, Mr. & Mrs. Benny Gooden, Mr. & Mrs. John Slitter, Mr. & Mrs. Herman Kydder, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rice, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Killen, Mr. & Mrs. James Hubbard, Mr. & Mrs. Leach, Mr. & Mrs. Peck, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Saulsbury, Mrs. Clarison Saulsbury and Mrs. John Heyd.

The newly organized grange laid a firm foundation of loyalty and cooperation. A great deal of cooperative buying and selling was done by the organization. The bumper peach crop of 1875 was pooled and sold collectively, and the sales were so large that a refund of commissions was returned by the grange and distributed to the members. The Boston Commission agent, Mr. John Bigelow, presented a table to the grange as a token of good will and pleasant business relations. That same table was used by every Master from then on and was treasured as a token of the cooperative achievement of the grange.

For many years, meetings were held in a rented hall. As the Grange increased in strength, it became the hope and ambition of the members to own their own hall. Soon their plans materialized and the actual work of building was begun. Most of this work was done by the members themselves.

During the years when the State Fair was held at Elsmere, Trophy Grange was always on hand with a cooperative exhibit, and the organization carried off a fair share of prizes. The members who could not make the trip to Elsmere spent much time collecting exhibits for those who could go.

In the early days there was a fair and bazaar in the Grange hall every year, and the proceeds were used to retire the stock. In the years that followed, the Grange lost a good many members because of death, the depression that followed World War I and migration to other communities. New members who had had no part in the building of the hall had no conception of the magnitude of the effort and the spirit of the undertaking and were therefore not interested in retiring the stock. As a result of this, for several years the payments were made slowly. The debt is now satisfied.

Although the membership was not as large as it might have been, the Grange carried on in the tradition in which it was founded.

The Grange has now joined with Camden Grange.

C. Epworth League - A youth group same as the present M.Y.F. connected with the Felton Methodist Church.

V. EXISTING LANDMARKS

A. Landmark No. 1

A marker on east side of dual highway indicating the farm formerly known as Burberry's Berry, the home of Captain John Caldwell a native of Felton. Captain Caldwell raised game chickens, noted for their fighting ability. These chickens were said to be of the brood of a Blue Hen.

Captain Caldwell's Company was attached to Colonel J. Haslet's regiment which fought at Long Island, White Plains, Trenton and Princeton. When not fighting the enemy, the men amused themselves by pitting these Blue Hen Chickens.

The fame of these cock fights spread throughout the Army and when in Battle the Delaware men fought so valorously that they were compared to the fighting cocks, with the result that they received the nickname, "Blue Hen Chickens". Because the Blue Hen was used again and again in the history of our country as a symbol for the men of Delaware, it is now officially the motto of our State.

B. Landmark No. 2

The Fountain House housed soldiers during the Civil War. Fountain House was first a Hotel in Felton, 1856. The first floor of the Hotel contained a saloon, a smoking room, dining room, and kitchen. The second floor held the ladies' parlor which boasted a stained glass window, that is still intact and eight bedrooms. The third floor contained 13 bedrooms.

In 1910 the saloon was changed to a grocery store. In 1913 J. B. Case purchased the hotel as a residence (Mrs. Ashton Jester's father). Mr. and Mrs. Ashton Jester purchased it in 1946. The Fountain house is now owned by Mr. Fred Casper as a residence and a grocery and meat market operated by Mr. Ronald Walters.

The old Fountain House Hotel is located on Main Street next to the railroad.

C. Landmark No. 3

The farm house opposite the Methodist Church is still habitable and connects the past with the present. Former residence of John Bassett Moore. The farm house is now owned and lived in by Edgar Smith. *1st house - original house - Clifton Farm.*

D. Landmark No. 4

The Methodist Church located on the corner of Main Street and Church Street is another of Felton's landmarks. A tablet in the front gable of the church as the date 1860 carved in it which signifies the date of its erection antidoting the Civil War carrying the

memory retrospectively to the days of slavery. In fact, the pews in the gallery were built for and occupied by the slaves freed by the Emancipation Proclamation of Abraham Lincoln.

VI. FORMER LANDMARKS

A. Landmark No. 1

The most famous landmark - The Seminary

The three story structure had served as a seminary for young ladies and gentlemen, and was a sanitorium for those afflicted, with spinal curvature, blindness, and other chronic cases.

In 1860 a group of wealthy Felton men built the structure as a private school. Mr. Skinner, a graduate of Dickinson College, was the principal. The school provided lodging for its students who came from Felton, surrounding areas, and Maryland. The parents provided food from home for the meals.

The first floor was used for classrooms; the second floor was girl's dormitory; and the third for the boy's quarters.

The establishment was then one of the top ranking institutions of the State and produced a long line of educators. Its most famous graduate was perhaps Mr. John Bassett Moore, President of the International Law Court.

The school closed in 1884. Three years later it opened as a Sanitorium under the direction of Dr. Webster, M. Raines, M.D., who specialized in electrical treatment. The building was then occupied for several years by Dr. Samuel T. Cabbage until his death in 1915.

The building once again became an institution of learning, with its sale to the Board of Education. It was used as a supplementary school to the Felton Public School built in 1885. Both schools were discontinued with the opening of the new school in 1929.

The property passed into the hands of Mrs. William Marker who occupied it with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph DeLong and Mr. and Mrs. James Bishop. Mr. Harry Carlisle was the last owner. He tore it down for wood for bungalows in 1956.

VIII. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

A. Mr. Henry Austin from Felton, Delaware in 1923 was the largest asparagus root grower in the entire world.

B. Mr. George Rayne, born in Germany, February 11, 1882 was in America since 1914 and traveled throughout the United States during his life time as a foot runner. In 1928 George ran from Los Angeles to New York in 84 days. He was 54 years old at the time he made that famous run.

George came to Felton, Delaware around 1933 and started making rocking horses and sold them for \$30.00. They were carved and then upholstered in cowhide. He started raising goats and selling them usually just before Easter. George Rayne now 92 years old just recently moved from Felton to Virginia with some friends.

C. The movie star, Robert Mitchum, was originally from the Town of Felton and attended Felton School.

D. The Town of Felton, from its early inception until 1897 held the ballot box for all the voters in South Murderkill Hundred, from Delaware Bay to the Delaware - Maryland boundary lines. Three citizens who cast their votes for more than a quarter of a century were nominated for Governor of Delaware.

1. Thomas Boone Coursey in 1870 - lost.
2. John Wood Hall of Frederica was elected Governor of Delaware in 1879 - Democrat.
3. Robert J. Reynolds of near Petersburg was elected Governor of Delaware in 1891 - Democrat.

The Town of Felton held the annual Kent County Democrat Parade most of the time up until 1896 when they were abandoned.

From the Town of Canterbury, north of Felton, George Truit was Governor of Delaware from 1808 until 1811.

E. Liquor License Application in Felton 1892 as follows:

Legal Notice in the "The Delawarean", Sat., March 26, 1892.

I, Reynolds Cook, of the Town of Felton, Kent County, and State of Delaware do hereby give notice that on Monday the 18th day of April, A.D. 1892, I intend to make application to the Court of

General Sessions of the peace and Jail Delivery of the State of Delaware, in and for Kent County, then to beholden at Dover, for a license to keep an Inn or Tavern, and to sell intoxicating liquors, in less quantities than one quart to be drunk on the premises at the house known as the "Felton House" situated in School Districts Nos. 102 and 103 and in United School District Nos. 102, 103, 54 and 82 in Kent County aforesaid, and located on Railroad Avenue, in said town of Felton, Kent County, Delaware aforesaid, of which said house, Hotel and premises, I am tenant. The respectable citizens recommending my said application (one half of whom at least are substantial free holders) are: Joseph Spence, James Abbott, Harry C. Holden, G. P. Hardesty, R. W. Hargadine, W. Milbourn, Charles D. Sipple, N. Chapman, J. T. Lee, Morton Jabobs, Thomas H. Kelley, Albert Vincent, Howard Harrington, James B. Williams, John Williams, Benjamin E. Hugg, W. M. Satterfield, John Sipple.

Felton, Delaware, March 18, 1892
Reynolds Cook

F. The following are Doctors who practiced in the town from 1856 until 1944. At the present time, we have no Doctor.

1856	Dr. Joseph Simpson
1881	Dr. John A. Moore
1866	Dr. Andrew P. Niles
1866	Dr. Benjamin Hopkins
1867	Dr. Robert Hargadine
1869	Dr. Conner
1870	Dr. Melvin
1874	Dr. Morris
1880	Dr. Raines, also was a Dentist
1882	Dr. J. M. Luff
1899	Dr. Money
1901	Dr. Cabbage
1914	Dr. Chipman
1918	Dr. Bringham
1934	Dr. Fitchett
1940	Dr. Faunce
1942	Dr. Sanford

G. The next items are pictures and newspaper clippings of various places and events in the Town of Felton.

Carroll's Sale

Located on U. S. 13 - Felton, Delaware

Livestock Auction held here every Friday. This auction sale came to Felton in 1961.

At the sale on Tuesday they hold an automobile auction. This was an addition to the activities of the sale in 1973.

TORNADO, 1967

On January 27, 1967, at 2:32 p.m. the power failed throughout the town of Felton, rain fell in torrents, gales whipped, and skies darkened so much that it was impossible to even see. An indistinct rumbling was heard, and fear and question entered the minds of all the citizens.

A tornado had struck with deadly, destorying winds only yards from the Felton School which housed 1,200 of the Town's children. A few feet away from the School buildings were flattened or relocated, but fortunately the School was not touched.

The School went on emergency service immediately and continued to do so the entire night.

To show the spirit of the Town's people for basketball, our teams played ball that night against J. M. Clayton at Felton and won.

See the following newspaper clipping for more details.

FELTON FIRE COMPANY

In 1939, a group of Felton residents, who were interested in fire protection joined together forming the Felton Community Fire Co.

Prior to 1939, an old hand pumper was the only piece of fire fighting equipment available to the residents of this community. This was manned by local persons but they had no organization.

On February 8, 1940 the firemen purchased a Seagraves pumper from Denton Fire Co. and on February 17, had their first call, a chimney fire at the residence of Cornelius Hurd with no fire loss but a little water damage.

In 1951, we built on our present lot a building to house three pieces of equipment, a meeting room, large dining room and kitchen.

In 1965, after purchasing an ambulance, we needed more space and built an auxiliary building across the street in the parking lot for the ambulance and one truck.

Soon we needed more space and in 1969 we added our new engine room which houses six units thus allowing space for all our present equipment.

It is with pride that the Felton Community Fire Co., Inc., displays its building and equipment to the public which has played an important role in its development.

OTHER THAN THE PICTURES AVAILABLE THE FELTON
FIRE COMPANY NOW PROUDLY DISPLAYS THE
FOLLOWING:

- 1972 - New Ambulance
- 1972 - New Tank Truck
- 1973 - New Grass Fire Truck
- 1975 - New Hahn Pumper Truck

FELTON FIRE COMPANY

From my great-grandfather, John Green's, records, I find that he was Felton's town assessor 1875 to 1884.

I find that the Felton Fire Department was organized February 26, 1883.

Chief Engineer, Mr. Fred Hubbard, Assistant Engineer, Mr. David Hugg, Elected Assistants; Mr. W. T. Parvis, Mr. W. P. Waldman, Mr. A. P. Hugg, Mr. W. T. Sapp, Mr. Chas Cook, Mr. Wilbur Needles, Mr. B. Lewis, Mr. J. H. Morris, Mr. Edward Hugg, Mr. William Hugg, and Mr. J. H. Parvis.

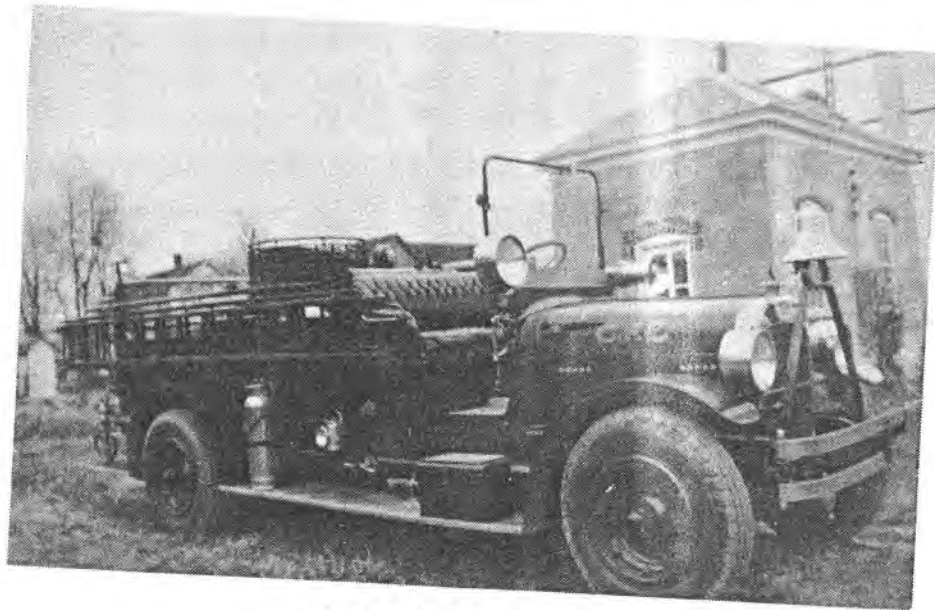
The committee to solicit subscriptions toward paying for the Fire Engine and Hose was Mr. C. L. Luff, Mr. J. M. Hargadine, and Mr. J. H. Hubbard.

In the year 1884 they were to inspect and if suitable to buy the wheels from Mr. Dunlary and also purchase all other material needed to build the hose cart. To be built as soon as possible.

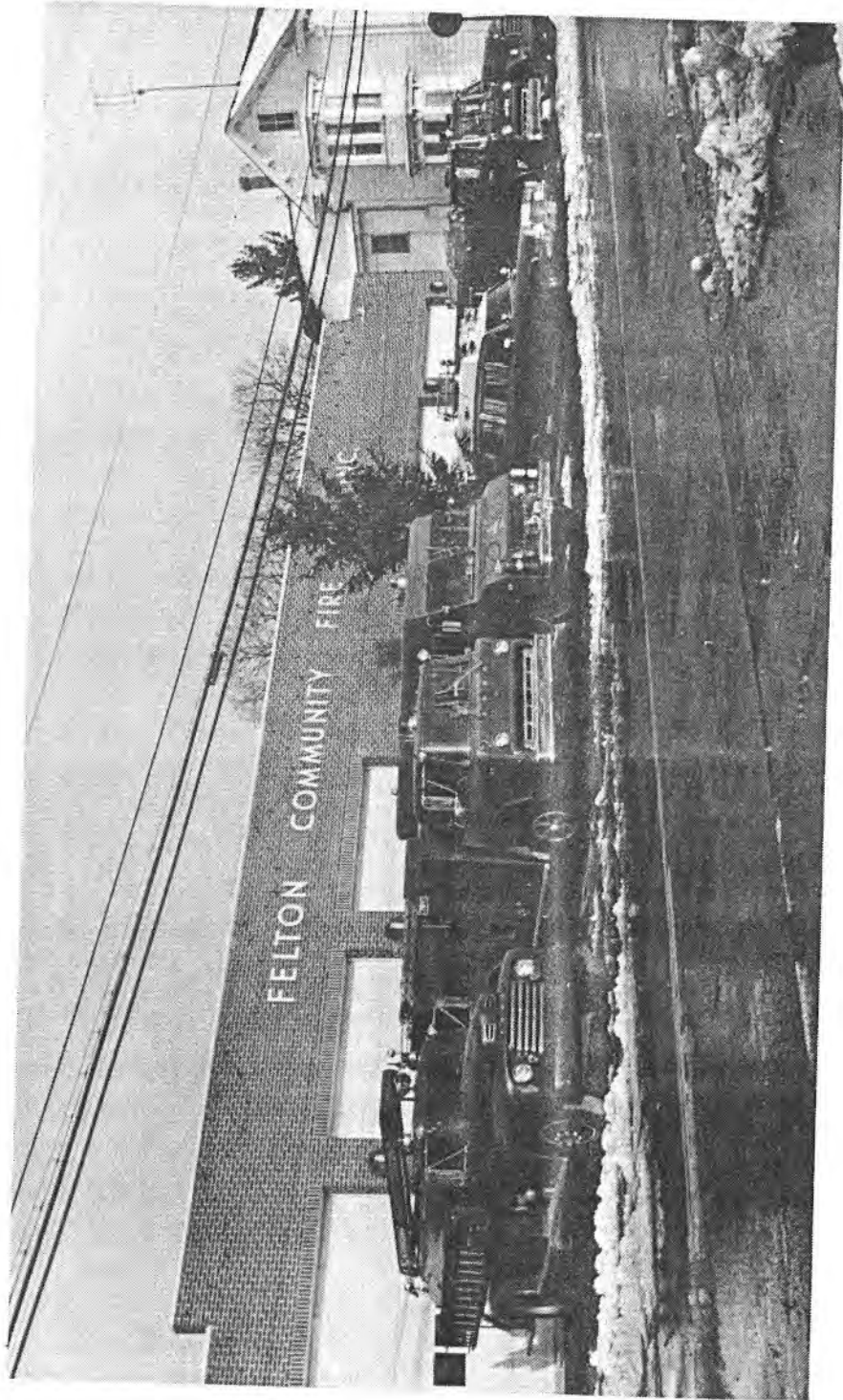
BY: J. Ashton Jester



1851 PUMPER



SEAGRAVES PUMPER
Purchased Used Feb. 8, 1940
Price \$737.50





1953 GMC PUMPER
Purchased Sept. 8, 1953
Price \$5,890.00



1965 FORD PUMPER
Purchased Nov. 15, 1965
Price \$28,820.00



1946 CHEVROLET PUMPER
Purchased Nov. 28, 1945
Price \$4,644.60



1950 FORD TANK TRUCK
Purchased Feb. 13, 1950
Price \$5,540.45



CONVERTED 1953 DODGE GRASS FIRE TRUCK
Purchased Oct. 14, 1968



1970 FORD TANK TRUCK
Purchased Oct. 27, 1970
Price \$32,000.00



1969 CADILLAC AMBULANCE
Purchased Feb. 19, 1969
Price \$20,000.00



1970 DODGE RESCUE TRUCK
Purchased June 10, 1970
Price \$13,000.00

FELTON METHODIST CHURCH

BY: Rev. Hugh G. Johnson
1959 - 1961

Just as the history of the town of Felton properly begins with the history of Berrytown and Purnell's Chapel, so the history of Felton Methodist Church must begin with its ecclesiastical predecessor, Purnell's Chapel. It was there that the worshipping body now known as Felton Methodist Church had its beginning.

Bishop Francis Asbury established a Methodist Society in 1779 which met at the house of Andrew Purdin, where Asbury found himself a frequent guest. He is known to have preached there more than once, and to have administered the sacraments there. That small but noteworthy society can lay claim to fame on the ground that they contributed seven hundred pounds of pork towards the completion of Barratt's Chapel, now generally recognized as the cradle of Methodism. From that time until the closing of the Chapel in 1861, subsequent to the erection and completion of the larger and more modern structure in Felton, the Chapel flourished as a center of religious activity.

Purnell's Chapel was situated about one-half mile east of the present town of Felton, and was constructed entirely of wood. It was described as an old-fashioned building, about eighteen by thirty feet, with a high, canopied pulpit, after the fashion of Anglican Churches. At that time, Methodists were members of Methodist Societies of the Church of England. After the congregation began to worship at the town church in November, 1860, the building was remodeled and used as a school which served the citizens east of the railroad until 1870.

On August 1, 1856, the Delaware Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad was extended to Harrington, Delaware, and operations began on that line. At that time, there was no town where Felton now stands, and the population being scarcely enough to support a church, there was no church, although testimony of contemporaries suggests that the need was ample.

Francis Asbury, the first American Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the name chosen by the united societies in America, tells in his Journal under the date, January 22, 1781, that the boys to whom he entrusted the care of his horse while he engaged himself in his religious duties were given to racing the horse around a half-mile track near here. One afternoon as the Bishop was riding by the track, "Sparks" rushed onto the track and raced against time, in spite of the Bishop's terrified and embarrassed efforts to dissuade the mount from the spectacle. Those watching had

great sport at the expense of the churchman, and he dubbed the region the "Devil's Synagogue."

As Felton began to grow around the freight depot of the railroad, two men, the Reverend Messrs. John Edwards and T. B. Killiam, who were copastors of the Willow Grove Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church held services of worship for the townspeople and neighboring farmers, which included those attending Purnell's Chapel. The site of worship was the freight depot of the Delaware Railroad. William O'Neil, a Methodist Local Preacher, succeeded Edwards and Killiam as exhorter for the community.

Five men, A. J. Wright, John Simpson, George W. Anderson, John W. Cartee and David Needles, who were both community leaders and Methodists, saw that the growth of the community warranted the establishment of a permanent church in Felton; the plot purchased is the same as that which now contains the church and the parsonage. Mr. Moore discounted the purchase price in the amount of one hundred dollars provided a church was built on the land.

Mr. James Kensler donated and delivered 175,000 red bricks which were laid by Charles Maskell and John T. Taylor.

By June 26, 1860, enough progress was made in the construction that the gable-stone, sometimes incorrectly called a corner-stone, was laid. The Reverend Messrs. T. C. Murphy, Charles Cook, and J. Allen officiated at the gable-stone laying with the assistance of a Mr. Smith, who was not otherwise identified. Between June and November, the outside walls were completed, and a roof was placed on the shell so that services were first held in the basement, as the first floor was called in those days, on November 11, 1860. J. F. Chaplain and John Allen were ministers at the time, and the former officiated at the consecration of the first floor of the uncompleted building.

In 1861 the second floor was completed and prepared as the "Audience Room" of the church. Today it is called the nave and sanctuary for worship. The minister preached from a rostrum located at the center of a stage at the north end of the nave, from which he looked down upon twin aisles. One aisle was provided for women worshippers who sat on one side of the nave, and the other was used by the men, who sat on the opposite side of the room. They were separated by a dividing wall three feet in height which ran directly down the center of the section of pews. The original pews are still in use. He looked up to a balcony at the rear of the room, where the Negro slaves sat to worship prior to the Emancipation Proclamation. In later days, the freedmen, then called "laborers" continued to worship with their former masters, and held

membership in the same churches, but remained in the balcony.

By September 29, 1861, the entire structure was completed, and it was dedicated by the Reverend Dr. Charles Cook, of Philadelphia. The structure, measuring forty-five feet in length and thirty-six feet in width, surmounted by a steeple and bell, had been built for a sum of two thousand, five hundred dollars, with no indebtedness.

The five men who bought the land deeded it to James K. Burnite on January 30, 1865, who in turn deeded the property to the trustees of the Felton Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc., and to their successors forever. The trustees on that date, May 1, 1865, were William Simpson, Dr. J. A. Moore, William Case, John W. Cartee, A. J. Wright, George W. Anderson, Peter Creadick, William Creadick, and J. Lee. They are succeeded today by Richard Adams, Ingwald Saboe, Clifford M. Simpler, Robert J. Donaway, James N. Goerger, Lynn F. Torbert, Lawrence J. Kates, and Marion McGinnis.

From 1856 until 1865, nearly a decade, the Felton Methodist Episcopal Church had been a part of the Willow Grove Circuit. In 1865, however, the Philadelphia Area Cabinet, and the Wilmington Annual Conference separated the Felton Church from the Willow Grove Circuit, and appointed the Reverend Mr. H. A. Cleveland pastor. Horace A. Cleveland became the first pastor of Felton Methodist Episcopal Church as a station (single-church) appointment on faith and a salary of eight hundred dollars. He observed that the membership was not large, but that the people were energetic and liberal. He served the community for two years.

He was succeeded in the appointment by the Rev. Mr. Thomas J. Quigley in 1867. Mr. Quigley claimed "Considerable success" during the two years of his tenure, although he appended to his evaluation the footnotes that he labored "with but little fruit till near the close of the long year (when) there was a revival." Seventy were said to have joined the church as probationary members during his ministry at Felton. He returned in 1869 and labored with but little success, according to his own evaluation.

His commentary was verified by his successor, David R. Thomas, who "found the state of the church by no means favorable for success." He, too, found "but little fruit for labor bestowed." Indomitable, he returned to the charge in 1871. During this year, "about forty professed conversion, mostly backsliders."

The Reverend W. B. Gregg followed the Reverend Thomas at the church, and found much more success under much

favorable conditions, but found it necessary to leave the appointment after having served it for only a few days more than a year, stating that "the principle cause of my leaving so soon was --- ill health."

At some time in the latter part of the nineteenth century, a long carriage barn was constructed in the rear of the church, facing on Church Street. The barn, characterized by a long row of open stalls, was originally used to shelter the carriages and animals of church-goers in inclement weather. With the changing of the times, and the advent of the horseless carriage, the barn was somewhat modified. When automobiles became plentiful, the church converted the stalls into garages, and this proved to be a means of support for the church, for as garages they could be rented to automobile owners. Along with the advent of the automobile came the tendency of worshippers to travel longer distances to the church of their choice, and Felton Methodist Church found itself bursting at the seams. Thus the very automobiles which had provided income for the church also made it necessary for the Church to expand, taking the area occupied by the garages for that expansion. The garages were razed to make room for a Church School Addition.

The Reverend Robert W. Todd saw improvements made on the church, and conducted a reopening service on Oct. 11, 1874. Eight years later the Reverend Jonathan S. Willis embarked on a similar venture.

A parsonage was constructed adjacent to the church, on the same lot, facing Main Street as does the Church, in 1884. William J. Hubbard contracted to build a house for the church, to be used as a parsonage, for the sum of one thousand, three hundred sixty-five dollars. Although there was occasional anxiety concerning the finances of the building, each payment was made in full and on time. The parsonage built was a ten-room frame dwelling, without central heating and without closets, as were most of the other homes of the period. A parsonage foundation stone, containing a history of the church, the parsonage, and a list of contributors, is located under the bay window facing Main Street.

The original steeple was removed from the church, and a new one was built in the Fall of 1897; the task was completed, and the bell was installed on October 24, 1897. More than a half-century later, in 1954, Hurricane Hazel, according to witnesses, lifted the second steeple directly out of the frame and dropped it into the street beside the Church. By then the cost of new steeples had become somewhat prohibitive, and the Official Board decided not to invest in a third steeple. They ordered a belfry constructed where the steeple once had been.

A year later it was discovered that the old brick was crumbling dangerously, and soon would have deteriorated, causing irreparable damage to the old building. An attractive layer of artificial stone was added to three sides of the Church. The fourth side was left in anticipation of the required construction which was to come.

In August, 1957, after an arduous campaign for assurance the project would be successful, ground was broken for the expansion of the building to provide more adequate educational facilities, and construction crews began their work the following month. The unit was completed early in 1958 at a contracted price of forty thousand dollars. Because of the diligence of the members and the spirit of ecumenicity of the community, most of the debt has been retired in the very short span of three years. The building was consecrated in June, 1958, since only unencumbered properties may be dedicated. The dedication is to come later.

In 1959, from May until July, a garage was built on the back of the lot to house the minister's automobile, and two additional church school rooms were built, both at a total price of \$2,160.00.

Today The Methodist Church serves the community conscientiously through opportunity for citizens of all ages. It serves the women of the community through the Woman's Society of Christian Service; the youth of the community through Church School, including the Methodist Youth Fellowship; the children of the community through the Church School, a Little League Baseball Team, and the Children's Choir. Adults and youth express their musical talents in the Adult Choir, while nearly everyone of the community worships at Felton Methodist Church from time to time.

A new brick parsonage was built in 1966 for a total cost of \$20,061.15.

MINISTERS OF FELTON METHODIST CHURCH

1860-1861	John Edwards, T. B. Killiam
1861-1862	W. H. Merrill, John E. Elliott, William O'Neil
1862-1863	W. Hammond, Rev. Weston
1863-1864	W. Hammond, John Warthman
1864-1865	Joseph E. Smith, D. C. Ridgway
1865-1867	Horace A. Cleveland
1867-1870	Thomas J. Quigley
1870-1872	David R. Thomas
1872-1873	W. B. Gregg
1873-1874	J. M. Williams
1874-1875	Robert W. Todd
1875-1876	E. E. White
1876-1878	Henry Colclazer
1878-1879	John W. Pierson
1879-1880	Joseph Robinson
1880-1882	Jonathan S. Willis
1882-1883	A. W. Milby, B. C. Warren
1883-1886	Isaac Jewell
1886-1888	Vaughan S. Collins
1888-1891	E. C. MacNichol
1891-1892	T. H. Haynes
1892-1896	H. S. Thompson
1896-1898	D. F. Waddell
1898-1900	T. C. Smoot
1900-1902	John D. Kemp
1902-1905	Edwin H. Nelson
1905-1909	Ellenzie C. Sunfield
1909-1915	L. W. Layfield
1915-1917	William E. Matthews
1917-1921	M. W. Marine
1921-1924	W. F. Dawson
1924-1927	D. G. Moore
1927-1931	J. D. Parker
1931-1936	Henry T. Caldwell
1936-1939	E. W. Hervis
1939-1943	Willard Everett
1943-1947	John R. Diehl
1947-1950	Thomas B. Brinton
1950-1953	William Benjamin Hutchens
1953-1956	Carl W. Henn
1956-1959	Lawrence S. Renner
1959-1961	Hugh G. Johnson
1961-1963	Wilmer Abbott
1963-1966	Donald Washburn
1966-1967	Charles Trader
1967-1971	Charles Moyer
1971-1973	John Massimilla
1973-197	David Paul

The Felton Methodist Church has an annual Street Fair each year. See newspaper clipping.

POSTAL SERVICE

In 1767 Preston Berry built a home and shop at a location about one half mile west of present day Felton. This location was named Berrytown. On August 16, 1836, the first post office was opened with David J. Richards as the postmaster. This post office was closed April 2, 1844, Nathaniel S. Anderson then being postmaster. However, eight years later (1852) it was re-opened under Nathaniel Bostick.

In 1856 when the Delaware Railroad was extended to Harrington, Felton Station, named after the first president of the railroad, was built. This attracted most of Berrytown's business, thus causing the post office to be moved to Felton Station on June 15, 1859. Robert W. Reynolds was the new postmaster relieving Edward D. Milehan, the last postmaster to work in Berrytown. The new postoffice was located in a store owned by the postmaster and his brother. The building was located on the southeast corner of Main and Lombard Streets of the present Felton. It is interesting to note that Robert W. Reynolds later became the 47th Governor of Delaware, 1891 to 1895.

Felton Station was incorporated before 1861, but the exact date is unknown. Records also fail to show who the postmaster was at this time. In 1869 when the town was re-incorporated, the postoffice was in a building adjacent to a home west of the railroad tracks on High Street and Railroad Avenue. This property was known as the Friedel property. Mr. Prettyman (first name not known) was the postmaster at this time.

John Green was postmaster from 1873 to 1885. In 1873 he kept a record of how many letters were sent, postal cards and drop letters, and recorded as 64 letters, 2 cards and four drop letters.

respectively. Box rent received between January 1, 1878 and March 31, 1878 was reported as \$2.50. While John Green was postmaster, the postoffice was moved several times, including the Friedel property, a home on the northwest corner of High and Gay Streets; a home across from the railroad station, and a home on Railroad Avenue. But from 1885 to 1890 the postoffice was in a store, now a hardware store on Main Street. Two men, Peter Credick and Walter A. Allen were postmasters, each during the years of 1885 to 1888 to 1890, respectively. In 1890, John Friedel became postmaster and moved the postoffice to his home, the same Friedel property as before.

Felton had its first woman postmaster in 1894 when Mrs. Robert Mangadine took over. At this time the postoffice was moved to a home along Railroad Avenue. John Ander Caldwell took over the job as postmaster in 1898, with the postoffice, once again, in the store on Main Street, and served until his death, at which time his widow was appointed to take his place. When Mrs. Caldwell took over, the postoffice was moved back to the Friedel property. Approximately 1904, J. Morris Harrington became postmaster and served until 1912. The postoffice remained on the Friedel property until 1910 when it was moved to a new building, owned by the postmaster, on Railroad Avenue. It remained at this spot for many years.

Postmasters who used the postoffice on Railroad Avenue were: William T. Bradley, 1912 to 1916; John Green Jester, 1916 to 1921; John Godwin, 1921 to 1928; Edmund Harrington, 1928 to 1934; and J. Asnton Jester, who took office on June 1, 1934 and served until August 1, 1939.

In 1936, while Mr. Jester was postmaster, the postoffice was moved to a new location on the southwest corner of Main Street and Railroad Avenue. E. Reed Hughes took over as postmaster on August 1, 1939. It was during his term, on July 1, 1965, that Felton became a second class postoffice. On December 1, 1967, Mr. Hughes retired and Margaret C. Kates was sworn in by Inspector R. E. McGee, as acting postmaster.

Mrs. Kates was officially appointed Postmaster on June 20, 1968, by President Lyndon B. Johnson and is still serving in that capacity at this writing.

*It is interesting to know that John Green *1873-1885) was the great-grandfather of J. Ashton Jester (1934-1939) and that John Green Jester (1916-1921) was the father of J. Ashton Jester. J. Morris Harrington (1904-1912) was the father of Edmund Harrington (1928-1934.)

On March 26, 1968, excavation was started for the foundation of a building on the corner of High Street and Railroad Avenue, which would become The United States Post Office of Felton, Delaware, Daniel Koffler and Associates of Wilmington, Delaware, being the builder and owner. Ten months later, the moving day arrived. On Saturday, January 25, 1969, after business was closed for the day in the old Post Office, the moving was completed by the employees, husbands, wives, and children.

Mr. Samuel Ludlow was the first to deposit a letter in the drop box.

Monday, January 27, 1969, at 8:00 A.M. the doors were opened for business. Mrs. Robert Donaway made the first stamp purchase from Postmaster Margaret C. Kates. The stamp was placed on a letter to

Mrs. Donaway's daughter-in-law, which will be retained as a souvenir.

Dedication date was held on June 14, 1969, at 2:00 P.M. The Honorable William V. Roth, Congressman-at-Large from Delaware, presented an American flag to Postmaster Margaret C. Kates. This flag had previously been flown over the United States Post Office Department Building in Washington and the United States Capitol.

The Dedication Address was given by Postal Service Officer Charles E. Jackson.

Master of Ceremonies for Dedication was Dr. Howard E. Henry, Supervising Principal of Felton Schools.

Entertainment was provided by The Felton High School Band, which was one of its last performances. Members will join with Harrington High School Band members to form a new Lake Forest High School Band.

Thus begins another era in the long history of The United States Postal Service in Felton, Delaware.

SALUTE TO FAMOUS OLD MANSHIP CHURCH

Over 100 years ago Manship Church was built in an ancient grove amid stately oaks and rural shrubbery on the ridgepole of the terrain between the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays, and on the old State highway, the dividing lines between Mispillion and Murderkill Hundreds exist from the old Blackswamp M. E. Church at Whitakers' land to the Delaware and Maryland boundary line, the practical, identical, highway from Frederica on the Murderkill river, to Greensboro, Maryland, on the Choptank.

On December 2, 1855 Rev. Andrew Manship, a crusading Methodist minister, preached the dedication sermon, accompanied by the Denton Choir, and led by their gallant Choirester, Frederic Garey.

In this hollowed grove - A Temple Shrine for this rural suburban, parallelgram area, and neighboring surroundings never once faltered, only in the direful seventies, when a thoughtless Congress deflated our financial system, that made money scarce, and times hard. Then, and only then, was this church ever dropped by the M. E. Conference.

During this extreme picture, Rev. B. C. Warren then a Theological, student of brilliant aptitude, came forth and offered his service providing they could get cooperation from another church that was also dropped from the Conference, but this was without success.

So the Church remained closed until Rev. Jonathan S. Willis, was Pastor of the Felton Church, and Circuit; who was acknowledged as one of the most brilliant and eloquent speakers, that ever graced a pulpit, and also an agriculturist, horticulturist, introducer of famous horses in Delaware, lecturer, poet, industrialist, Congressman in 1895-96. This fine talented man came to this church one Sunday afternoon in early spring of 1891 and said, "We are going to re-open this church this afternoon". With pencil in hand the man said, "I will give \$10 to start the subscription list." Alexander Hughes, not a church member, but a regular attendant said \$10, and the desired amount was acquired in a few minutes.

This great preacher, took for his assistant the youthful, brilliant, Rev. B. C. Warren, who had only a few years previous officered his services to this church. From this time on, this church has withstood all decadency of time.

In 1940 the Manship Church people bought the beautiful abandoned Willis' Chapel, which was built in 1880 or 1881, in place of the old Ebenezer Church, and named for their pastor Rev. J. S. Willis, a popular eloquent preacher, who preached the didication sermon accompanied by a mixed choir led by the late Chief Justice James Pennewill, with Wm. T. Smilters at the organ.

Now standing side by side, these two once famous, Willis' a community hall, both plump, erect in modern attire.

According to tradition and records, this community was settled in the seventeenth century by people by the name of Reed, Whitaker, Moore, Carter, etc., who came with a Bible in one hand and a flag in the other, bought their land and made peace with the Indians, who had a village of wigwams on Whitaker's land, at Lookout Hill, where thousands of arrowheads and some martars and axes could he found in the 19th century.

Written by: Native of Hollandsville
Felton, Delaware
1955

For the past thirty five years members of the Manships Church, located on Route 12 at Hollandsville, on the road from Felton to Whielysburg, have had a Thanksgiving in the true spirit of Thanksgiving. People travel from Washington, D. C., Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland, to eat Thanksgiving Dinner here.

They serve every Thanksgiving afternooon from 600 to 700 people in their small Willis' Community Hall. Some arrive early and visit Manship Church next door, the old church to pray and then continue on to enjoy the good home cooked feast.

The traditional meal includes:

Roast Turkey, dressing, gravy, fried oysters, mashed potatoes, candied sweet potatoes, turnips, cranberry sauce, cole slaw, apple sauce, chicken salad, pickles, string beans, rolls and butter, along with short biscuits. Lots of coffee and ice cream.

The first Thanksgiving Dinner was held in 1940 at the Church.

THE FELTON BANK

The First National Bank was organized in 1908. Before this time, the safe in Killen's Store was used as storage for valuables. The people of the town also used the Dover banks, and every week someone took money to Dover for other people, to save unnecessary trips.

The First National Bank changed its name to The Felton Bank in May 1917. Remodeled in the late 1920's. During the depression of 1929, The Felton Bank was closed. Stockholders found their stock worthless, and many people lost money. Later the bank was reopened in 1933 and new stock sold. The new bank lobby was added in 1964.

There have been only four cashiers since the bank started.

Mr. J. H. Whitaker
Mr. C. M. Simpler
Mr. L. D. Keller
Mrs. Louise Biddle