

WYOMING INSTITUTE OF DELAWARE

WYOMING, KENT CO., DEL.

INSTRUCTORS.

REV. W. HEATH, A. M. PRINCIPAL,
Mathematics, Greek and German.

MISS ANNE B. HEATH,
Mathematics and French.

MISS ANNA M. LINDALE,
Natural Science and Latin.

MISS LIZZIE LORRY,
International Music.

MISS M. HEATH,
Practical Work and Painting.

MISS M. H. CROSS,
Practical Drawing and Sewing.

CHARLES R. JONES, Ph. D.,
Chemistry.

THIS INSTITUTION, now in its twelfth year, is designed to show the advantages of a first class school in which students are enabled to prepare for college, for business, or for social life. Courses of study and modes of training are intended to prepare the student, whose studies are, in extent, next below those of a university.

ITS LOCATION

The Wyoming Institute of Delaware was founded in 1866, offering three courses of study: Mathematic, Scientific & Literary, and Classical. Students boarding with private families paid \$3 to \$3.50 per week and were expected to provide their own napkins, towels, umbrella, and overshoes.³⁰

WYOMING

By Kay Wood Levenberg

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The *Great Little Town of Wyoming*, in Kent County, Delaware, was founded in 1856 with the coming of the Delaware Railroad. Earlier, the town had grown on part of a tract surveyed for James Wells in 1680, in North Murderkill Hundred.

In 1852, the town of Wyoming, then known as West Camden, consisted of three houses, a grist mill, and a saw mill. The power for these mills was provided by the water of the 42 acre Wyoming Lake (Pond). In 1855, the Delaware Railroad located here, with train service beginning in 1856, and the town grew because of the railroad and the fruit industry.

The story of Wyoming is typical of the towns which grew up along the Delaware Line of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Few towns, including Camden, wanted a railroad disturbing their peace, so the railroad detoured, and a new town was born.

The village of Wyoming is not an old community, having its inception in the completion of the Delaware Railroad in 1856, and in the opening of an express office.

IF YOU WISH A PERFECT FITTING SHIRT WITH A PATENT BOSOM WHICH CANNOT BE RUMPLED AND WILL FIT ANY PERSON LARGE OR SMALL, GET ONE OF

The New



FOR SALE BY

JAKES & SON,
PALACE STORE, CAMDEN,
AND OLD STAND AT WYOMING, Del.
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A business card of John Jakes.³¹

John T. Jakes an illustrious citizen who was instrumental in the growth of Wyoming was born November 28, 1833 near Pearson's Corner, Kent County. He was of French Huguénot descent, the name originally being Jacques.

On June 1, 1856, the Delaware Railroad and Adams Express Company opened their respective offices for business and appointed John T. Jakes their agent. At the time of Mr. Jakes' taking possession of those offices there were two dwelling-houses which were occupied by the owner of the grist mill located on the opposite side of the stream (Isaac's Branch) in East Dover Hundred, and by his miller. In the same year Wm. P. Lyndall built a storehouse and entered in the mercantile business, but in the year following he sold out to John T. Jakes.

Mr. Jakes was one of the pioneers of the new town, and assisted greatly in building it up. He was the leading man in building and having the first Methodist Episcopal Church Society organized there. He was also greatly instrumental in securing the establishment of a post-office and became its first postmaster. He was appointed January 6, 1866, and held the office continuously until August 10, 1885, a term of nineteen and a half years. Mr. Jakes was also one of the founders of the First National Bank of Dover, and was chosen a member of the first board of directors in March, 1866.

By 1869, the village of Wyoming which had been partially laid out by Dr. Isaac Jump of Dover had already grown into a respectably sized village, located three miles southwest of Dover, one mile west of Camden, and bisected by the Delaware railroad. The village was known by the name of "West Camden" and sometimes as "Camden Station" from its inception down to the year 1865, on account of its location.

In 1865, The Reverend John J. Pierce of Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania came to "West Camden" and laid the town out into building lots. In that year the citizens of "West Camden" decided to change the name of their village to Wyoming out of deference to the Reverend Mr. Pierce. On March 20, 1869, Wyoming was first incorporated as a town, it was reincorporated in 1888.

The center of the town lay at the intersection of Front Street with the railroad near the original location of the freight offices. On the West side of this intersection was Jakes' Store which was for many years the leading mercantile establishment and also the location of the post office.

According to Beer's Atlas printed in 1868, only twelve years after the founding of the town, the following streets had already been laid out: Wyoming Avenue (known as Railroad Avenue today), Layton Avenue, Front Street, Second Street, Third Street, Lake Drive, Water Street, and Mechanic Street.

The main road led from Wyoming into Camden along Front Street to its intersection with the present Caesar Rodney Avenue, then along Caesar Rodney to its intersection with the present Camden-Wyoming Avenue, at which intersection there was a black settlement called Jarrelltown, and then along the present road into Camden. That section of Camden-Wyoming Avenue which lies between Caesar Rodney Avenue and the Railroad was in early times, a path leading through orchards and a marsh, called by the more romantically inclined "Lover's Lane". The present back road to Dover ran along the railroad only so far as Hamilton's Store, then known as Garton's crossing. It was extended into Dover between 1896 and 1900.

By 1880, Wyoming, the first station below Dover on the railroad, was a nicely laid out town of 600 inhabitants, including "A handsome depot, two churches, a good hotel, the Wyoming Institute, several stores, etc. in the heart of a rich fruit and vegetable country". The town was well on its way.

By 1913, Wyoming was a village with large homes, businesses and farm produce brokers, centered around the railroad. The Wyoming Directory of 1913 not only listed persons' telephone numbers (if they had one), but also the number of acres and children one possessed, the address, and whether one were a tenant, worked on shares or were retired.

By 1938, the Federal Writers' Project compiled their book *Delaware, A Guide to the First State*, in which the following is excerpted. "From Camden, on State 10, is Wyoming (911 pop.), a

village that developed after the coming of the railroad in 1856. It has a very large cannery and is in the center of one of the richest orchard and dairy regions in Delaware."

The population has fluctuated as indicated by the following tabulation:

Year	Population	Source
1868	200	1981 Directory of Wyoming
1880	600	Edwards, Richard; <i>Ind. of Del.</i>
1900	450	Bevan, W.L.; <i>History of Del.</i>
1911	517	— do —
1920	661	— do —
1955	911	<i>Del., A Guide to the First State</i>
1960	1,172	<i>Wyoming Community Profile</i>
1970	1,062	Del. State Planning Office
1984	1,000	Wyoming Town Council

Wyoming's heartbeat for most of its history has been the railroad. The center of the town lay at the intersection of Front Street with the railroad near the original location of the freight offices. Passengers and produce kept the train station a focal point in the town. Elaborate buildings surrounded the station as a support system. Fred Marker, Jr., longtime store owner and one-time railroad worker, shared his knowledge of the site with T.E. Townsend, Jr. An accompanying drawing shows the extensive buildings and describes where they were located.

By the 1940's the backbone of the Delmarva Peninsula was still the Pennsylvania Railroad, not yet the U.S. 13 and 113 Highways. America moved on rails, not highways, and a truck simply followed the wagon as a vehicle to move goods from the train station to local stores and homes and from the farm or orchard to the ice cars. There was a double track all the way from Wilmington to Cape Charles, Virginia, down at the end of the peninsula. The old folks used to say they could tell when bad weather was coming by the tone of the steam engines' whistle. And many times they were right.

Today, since automobile and truck traffic on Delaware's highways has supplanted rail traffic through Wyoming, no passengers or produce wait at her train station. The last passenger train left heading north March 17, 1959, and recently the Town Council purchased the station from Penn Central to renovate the building into a town hall as soon as funding can be obtained.

WYOMING'S BUSINESSES AND STORES

Although the Grist Mill had been in operation since 1734, the start of other business activities is believed to have been June 1, 1856 when Jakes was appointed agent for both the Delaware Railroad and Adams Express Co.

The center of the town lay at the intersection of Front Street with the railroad near the original location of the freight offices. On the West side of this intersection was Jakes' Store, which was for many years the leading mercantile establishment.

To dry and process some of the fruit produced on the farms near town, James Marsh and Jacob G. Brown started a factory in 1875 on the northeast corner of Third St. and Railroad Avenue. Through subsequent mergers, combinations, sales, and removals, the Libby, McNeil and Libby plant in Wyoming grew out of the small Marsh and Brown firm.

By 1888 there were three general stores, one drug store, one milliner, one shoe shop, one harness maker, one nurseryman and two physicians. Of these, the T.R. Brown Lumber Co. was founded by John Hunn in 1876 and the Jenkins Coal and Lumber Co. and the Jenkins Wholesale Grocery Company were both founded soon after. Willis Jenkins was the proprietor of Jenkins Wholesale Grocery Store in which Delaware Theatrical Supply and Equipment is now located.

By 1956, the following statement appeared in the *Delaware State News*, "Wyoming lies about three miles southwest of Dover, and today has several large canneries, a cold storage plant, lumber yard, some good produce houses, and some up-to-date prosperous stores. It is also a banking town.

WYOMING HISTORIC HOUSES

Wyoming has many varied styles of Victorian architecture since the founding of the town occurred at the height of Queen Victoria's popularity. Ornate large homes of physicians, fruit brokers, businessmen and farmers were interspersed with the modest yet attractive homes of the laborers of the period. For example, an early early example of row houses can be seen on Camden-Wyoming Ave. at Layton Avenue. In fact, there are so many interesting homes and buildings that only a few can be selected.

Bethel was a home built on Front Street next to the railroad in 1895 by John Lindale, owner of the Wyoming Mill. Mr. Lindale built this Victorian house in a formal town-house style for his wife, Margaret Lyndall, and her three children from a previous marriage. The Round Table Club of Wyoming-Camden was later founded by this same Margaret Lyndall-Lindale as the ladies sat around a round marble table in the parlour of her house. The house had the first indoor bathroom in Wyoming. It also had speaking tubes throughout the nine bedroom house, as well as one tube which ran to the mill before the advent of the telephone.

John Lindale's granddaughter Virginia Lyndall served on the Wyoming Town Council for many years as had he, and she ran for Governor on the American Party ticket in the 1960's.

Many large homes were built adjacent to the railroad to get a better view of the incoming trains and passengers. The social activities were generated around this center of town.

The old mill house at the Mill Pond was built in the last century to house the miller and his family. It was never lived in by the owners.

The former store on Railroad Avenue and Second Street was once a dance hall. In 1917, the Holdens bought the building and operated a combination grocery store/butcher shop and ice cream parlor beginning in 1918. The store featured gas lights and deliveries made in a Model T car. Breyers Ice Cream was shipped to Wyoming by train in dry ice and was picked up by the Holdens at the old freight station. The ice sold in the store came from the old ice house off Southern Boulevard.

College Professor Sam Johnson's large Victorian house on Railroad Ave. was built by Mr. Charles Wetzel, a farmer and the first bank president of the First National Bank of Wyoming.

The site of Wyoming Hardware Co. had been a basket factory before Robert Marker converted the factory into a hardware store in 1915. The official sea level measurement set by the U.S. Government is embedded in the sidewalk of the store.

The T.E. Townsend, Jr. house on Southern Blvd. has a shed behind the house which was moved from the railroad station area. The shed had been used to store the hand-pump track repair cart. Here one can also see the original "his and her" railroad comfort stations, also moved from the railroad property.

Former Governor John Hunn, Jr.'s home is located on the corner of Camden-Wyoming Ave. and Railroad Ave. He served as Governor from 1901 to 1904. His wife was Sally Cowgill Emerson.

The Wyoming Town Hall was used as a civic meeting place and kindergarten after its use as a fire station. It housed a hand pump for fire fighting. Town Meetings are now held there the first Monday of every month.

The Wyoming Hotel, which was in operation by 1868, still stands at its original location on the Southeast corner of Railroad Avenue and Second Street.

There is some doubt as to which is the oldest house now standing in Wyoming. Some believe that Jakes' Store, later known as Sapp's Store, and now converted into a dwelling house on the Southeast corner of the intersection of Front Street and Railroad Avenue is the oldest. Others believe that the house on the Downham farm at the end of Pine Street is the oldest.

WYOMING'S CHURCHES

No history of Wyoming would be complete without some mention of its Churches. During the summer of 1865, John T. Jakes started a subscription to raise money to erect a temporary building for a Sunday School. It was soon decided to build a Church instead and in the same year a small plank Church was located on the East side of Mechanic Street, built on his property on the lake. The building was plain, the walls made of plank set upon end. The dedication service was held on November 12, 1865. In just three years, the membership grew to almost 100. The existing sanctuary was built in 1882 with a parsonage to follow in 1885. When the present structure was built, the old plank church was abandoned. In 1912 the present church was remodeled and moved from the center of the lot where it previously stood to the corner of the lot where it now stands.

After the War of 1861-1865 a considerable group of Pennsylvanians settled in the area of Wyoming. Many of these were members of the Dutch or German Reformed Church. Ministers were sent to these families from 1869 until 1874. St. John's Reformed Church was dedicated near the corner of Broad Street and Layton Avenue. The building was sold in 1922, moved onto Camden-Wyoming Avenue, and converted into a double-dwelling house.

Baptist Services were held intermittently in the Chapel of Wyoming College from 1869 until the erection of a Baptist Church in Camden in 1891. Episcopal Services were held for a short time in Wyoming in 1890. In 1913, St. Paul's Church was started in a building on the Southwest corner of Mechanic and Walnut Streets, but services were soon discontinued and the structure is now used as a dwelling house.

In 1984, there are two churches in Wyoming. One, the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, meets in the small building which was formerly owned by the Round Table Club of Wyoming-Camden. This building is located at 11 West Camden-Wyoming Avenue.

The other church is the Wyoming United Methodist Church on Broad Street. This church has a very large congregation, which draws its members from a community with a strong Methodist tradition.

There are weekly prayer breakfasts at Anthony's Restaurant located at 108 N. Railroad Ave. and many weekly home prayer meetings and Bible studies held in private residences.

WYOMING'S SCHOOLS

The earliest school in Wyoming was held in the old plank Church where Mrs. Kate Sterner Brown taught reading, writing, and arithmetic with what a lifelong resident calls a "heavy emphasis on temperance". Later Mrs. Brown kept school in a little plank bulding on the North side of Second Street which is now a summer kitchen.

When the Civil War began in 1861 there were 1,796 slaves in Delaware and 19,829 free blacks. At that time there were only seven schools for black children in the state, and one of them was in Wyoming.

A new two-story schoolhouse was built in 1886 on the east side of Pine Street on land now owned by the Reverend O.B. Reed and Howard Worrell. In 1888 the school had "Two efficient teachers and one hundred and twenty-five scholars". This school was used until the first section of the present Caesar Rodney School was built about 1900.

Like many other small towns after 1865, Wyoming became conscious of the value of higher education and thus Wyoming College was bult in 1868. The college was run for a while by members of the Baptist denomination. The building was originally located in the center of the lot, but was presently situated on the Northeast corner of Broad Street and Railroad Avenue, now owned by Dr. Jarrell, it could accommodate 100 pupils.

The Wyoming Institute of Delaware, founded in 1866, was described in its brochure of 1878 as being "designed to afford the advantages of a first-class school in which students may thoroughly prepare for college, for business or for social life." The same bulletin stated that its location was "in the center of the State, on the Delaware Railroad, over which several trains pass each day, affording two daily meals from each direction, and easy communication with Philadelphia, Baltimore and the Eastern Counties of Maryland and Virginia. Both Wyoming and the adjoining town of Camden are situated in the midst of a gently undulating agricultural region, noted for its variety of productions, healthful and genial climate, beauty of scenery, and for the intelligence and morality of the inhabitants. Students, boarding in either place, will, therefore, be under refining and elevating social influences, without being exposed to the temptations which cities, and larger towns, present."

The brochure went on to read, "the building is surrounded by ample grounds adorned with shrubbery and shade trees, and with its Chapel, Study Hall, Recitation, Library, and Apparatus Rooms, is very conveniently arranged for its purpose. The rooms for study and recitation are well supplied with Maps, Charts, Blackboards, Globes and other furniture of recent improvements."

Three courses of study were offered: "Mathematical" (which states that Ladies must substitute Latin, French or German for mathematics above plane trigonometry), "Scientific and Literary" and "A Classical Course" which included "Latin and Greek Grammars and Readers, Composition and Antiquities, with the usual amount of reading from Caesar Virgil, Cicero, Livy, *The Anabasis*, *Memorabilia* and *Iliad*."

Board with private families, including fuel, light and furnished room, was \$3.00 to \$3.50 per week. Proper reduction was made to those boarding from Monday to Friday evenings only. The Principal, Rev. M. Heath, would take a few young ladies and Misses into his own family to board. Each scholar would need to provide her own napkins, towels, umbrella and overshoes.

Representative expenses for tuition for one term of the school year were:

Common English	\$8.00 and \$9.00
Instruction on Piano and Organ	\$9.00
French and German, each	\$3.00 to \$5.00
Drawing	\$2.00 to \$5.00
The Diploma upon Graduating	\$5.00

This bulletin listed its student's names. Among them was Maggie Jakes of Wyoming. Although local families were quick to patronize the Wyoming College or Wyoming Institute, as it was called in 1875, it was not a financial success and by 1888 was no longer operating.

WYOMING TODAY

Through the innovative leadership of Mayor Nancy B. Tieman, since her election in 1976, Wyoming has seen the growth in businesses to 45 in number, with more scheduled to appear because of the recently designated Wyoming Foreign Trade Zone. Mayor Tieman was instrumental in the approval of this first Delaware trade zone through her active involvement on the national level with the U.S. Commerce Dept. in Washington and on the state level through her provision of pertinent information for legislation to the Delaware State Legislature.

For the past six years a 6.5 mile race of national importance has been run through Wyoming and its surrounding fruit orchards. The Great Wyoming Buffalo Stampede of July, 1984 saw 1,004 runners of all ages, representing the U.S. and several other countries, competing for prizes.

The Town partially funds a bi-monthly town newspaper *The Wyoming Gazette* founded in 1982 by its Editor Kay Wood Levenberg who is a former Town Councilwoman.

The Town purchased the Wyoming Park in 1965. The 4 acre Park reaches out to a point in the 42 acre Wyoming Lake, across from the Wyoming Mill, which has been in operation since 1704. Swings and slides for children and picnic tables for adults draw large numbers of families on a year-round basis.

Recently the Caesar Rodney School District has been recognized and honored nationwide for its superior student test scores and for its high standards of discipline. Many families are moving to Wyoming, which is included in this school district, specifically because of the school's fine reputation.

Today Wyoming continues its growth as a rural community, lightly touched by the proximity of the Dover Air Base's Military Air Transport Command, General Foods, Scott Paper and other industries that have come to the surrounding area within the past generation.

WYOMING'S PROMINENT PEOPLE

It has always been a difficult task to compile a list of favorite sons because of the many facts and circumstances to be evaluated; therefore, no such listing has been attempted. It is, however, only proper to mention several citizens of Wyoming who have served in the political and economic life of the State and Nation. The late John Hunn was Governor of Delaware from 1901 to 1905. The late George M. Fisher was Treasurer of Delaware from 1919-1922. Ralph W. Emerson is a former State Treasurer. Brook Jackson went from Wyoming to become a Vice-President of The General Motors Corporation.

Isaac McCullom was a physician and Lt. Governor of the State in the 1940's. He ran for Governor and was narrowly defeated by Governor Bacon.

In addition to the Jakes, Lyndall and Lindale families, Abram N. Brown was a well-known personality. The following is taken from a biographical letter from the collection of Samuel Thomas:

"Abram N. Brown was born at Milton, Pa. July 28, 1863, and died at Wyoming, March 26, 1926. Mr. Brown married Alice Rouch and to this union were born nine children — five sons and four daughters. Mrs. Brown was a capable woman, but due to her responsibility as mother of a large family, was not always able to accompany her husband. Mrs. Brown was a charter and 50 year member of Fruitland Grange.

Mr. Brown was a deacon in the German Reformed Church, and later became a member of the Episcopal Church.

Mr. Brown was one of the pioneer fruit growers of Delaware and was a salesman and promoter. He was President of the Peninsula Horticultural Society; Secretary of the old State Fair Association at Dover; Editor of "The Fruit Grower" published in Michigan, and manager of the Associated Orchards of Sussex, first commercial orchard in Delaware."

This year, two exceptional men have recently passed away. Edward Storey Knight and Glen Cool, Sr., were both well-known personalities in Wyoming.

"Eddie" Knight, 88, had served in the Delaware House of Representatives in 1939-1940. He was a president of the Wyoming Lions Club while in his eighties, and had served on the Wyoming Town Council. On May 4, 1982, "Eddie" was honored by the House of Representatives who designated Eddie Knight Day throughout the state.

Glen Cool, Sr., 70, was the owner of Cool's Bus Service, which serviced the Caesar Rodney School District for the past 35 years. Two of his three sons, Doug and Kendall, live in Wyoming, as do his two daughters, Carol Whitescarver and Michelle Fennemore.

Both men were active members of the Wyoming United Methodist Church.

In 1869 commissioners were elected under the new act of incorporation for three, two and one years, respectively,—

John Woodale.....	1869	Dr. G. G. Harmon.....	1876
Edward Lord.....	1869	Charles G. Temple.....	1876
Matthias Jernan.....	1869	Charles G. Temple.....	1877
Matthias Jernan.....	1870	Daniel L. McBride.....	1878
William Slay.....	1871	James W. Catts.....	1879
Edward Lord.....	1871	Stephen Postles.....	1880
William K. Evans.....	1872	George Knight.....	1881
John Woodale.....	1872	W. Ellison.....	1882
Matthias Jernan.....	1873	Stephen Postles.....	1883
Dr. George C. Harmon.....	1874	C. A. Jackson.....	1884
William J. Caultk.....	1875	Thomas W. Hairgrove.....	1885
Stephen Postles.....	1875	C. W. Lord.....	1886
William L. Carter.....	1875	William Ellison.....	1886

Under the act of 1887 five commissioners were fixed for the town, and E. O. Raymond and I. H. Hinsley were elected for three years, W. R. Postles and D. L. McBride for two years, and E. A. Shilling for one year.

On "Brecknock" is located "Hanson's grist-mill," which was deeded by James Clayton and wife to Thomas Hanson and Joshua Gregg, millers, January 31, 1761, for the purpose of building thereon a grist-mill. June 12, 1766, Gregg deeded his title in the same to Thomas Hanson, in whose possession it continued until his death, which occurred in 1783. In his will, proven June 3, 1783, he devised to his son-in-law, Samuel Howell, his mansion, plantation, mill, etc., and the use of two hundred acres, purchased of Joseph Rogers, during his natural life. The mill property is still in the possession of his descendants, the Howells.

Upon this tract is located, on the southeast side of the public road from Camden to Dover, and lying upon Isaac's Branch. "The Camden Union Camp-ground for the Methodist Episcopal Churches of Delaware and Philadelphia," incorporated by act of the General Assembly, February 3, 1859, and re-incorporated February 19, 1879. This camp-meeting ground consists of one of the most beautiful groves of forest trees on the Peninsula, and possesses numerous springs of purest water of unfailling flow. Here the people from different parts of the State and from Maryland assemble together for ten days in the hottest weather of summer, living in board tents and receiving their friends from abroad. On Sundays, from the influx of the surrounding country and of strangers from abroad, the numbers on the ground often reach ten thousand persons.

"Dundee" is a tract of nine hundred acres taken up by James Wells, for whom it was surveyed December 24, 1680. It adjoins Brecknock and "Little Geneva." In 1771, Richard Jackson was the owner of one hundred and fifty acres. In 1783 the greater part of this tract was in possession of the heirs of James Gardner. In 1887, two hundred and nine acres of this tract is in possession of the heirs of the Rev. Ignatius T. Cooper. Other parts are owned by Thomas Saxton, Thomas Downham, the heirs of Walker Mifflin, the heirs of Thomas L. Madden, by

Philo A. Kent, Abram N. Brown, Thomas Jackson and others.

WYOMING.—On this tract is located the thriving village of Wyoming, which dates its existence from the 1st of June, 1856, when the Delaware Railroad and Adams Express Company opened their respective offices for business, and appointed John T. Jakes their agent. At the time of Mr. Jakes' taking possession of those offices there were two dwelling-houses which were occupied by the owner of the grist-mill located on the opposite side of the stream (Isaac's Branch) in East Dover Hundred, and by his miller. In the same year Wm. P. Lindall built a store-house, and entered upon the mercantile business, but in the year following he sold out to John T. Jakes, who has continued the business down to the present date.

John T. Jakes, merchant at Wyoming, Kent County, Delaware, was born November 28, 1833, near Pearson's Corner, Kent County. He is of French Huguenot descent, the name originally being Jacques. His first American ancestor was Henry Jacques, who emigrated from France and went to Virginia and settled. Thomas W. Jakes, his father, married Nancy, daughter of William Anderson, a farmer of Kent County. At the time of this marriage she was the widow of Robert Hargadine, who at his death left two children,—William A. now of the firm of Hargadine, McKittrick & Co., importers and wholesale dealers in dry goods in St. Louis, Mo., where he emigrated before he was of age, in the year 1842 (he has been eminently successful and amassed a large fortune, and is one of the leading men of that city); and Julia Ann, widow of Hon. Robert B. Wright, of Kent County, who served one term in the Legislature of the State. Mrs. Jakes was a noble Christian woman. She died July 17, 1863, aged sixty-nine. Thomas W. Jakes, her husband, lived to the ripe old age of eighty-six years, and died March 3, 1885. He was a man of sound judgment, sterling integrity and noted for his honor and excellent character, was never sued for debt during his life, and never sued any person on his own account. John T. Jakes, their only child, and the subject of this sketch, obtained his education at the common free schools in the vicinity of his early home; at the age of seventeen he was taken from school and entered the store of Luff & Green at Camden, Delaware, as clerk in December, 1849, and continued with the firm until they closed business, when he went into the general mercantile business in the town of Camden with Wm. S. Prouse, under the firm-name of Prouse & Jakes, and continued for two years. In 1856 he was appointed agent for the Delaware Railroad Company at then West Camden (now Wyoming), and for eleven years performed the duties of that position with great acceptability to the company and public, until he resigned in favor of N. B. Buckmaster, the present agent. In 1857 he embarked again in the mercantile business at his present stand, which is the second house built in the village of Wyoming after the railroad was laid, since which time his busi-

ness has steadily increased, having now an extensive and lucrative business. He was one of the pioneers of the new town, and assisted greatly in building it up. He was the leading man to organize a Sunday-school in the village, and was the leading man in building and having the first Methodist Episcopal Church Society organized there. He was also greatly instrumental in securing the establishment of a post-office, and became its first postmaster, appointed January 6, 1866, and held the office continuously until August 10, 1885, a term of nineteen and a half years. He was appointed agent of Adams Express Company when the office was established at Wyoming in 1857, and still holds that position. Mr. Jakes was one of the founders of the First National Bank of Dover, Delaware, was chosen a member of the first board of directors in March, 1866, and has since held that position until the present, and meets with the board every Thursday. In 1869 he became connected with the Surrey Land and Lumber Association, of Surrey County, Va., was elected secretary and treasurer of the company, and spent considerable time and means during the succeeding two years in looking after his interests in that State, having opened a large store and blacksmith shop at Spring Grove, on one of the tracts.

His father accompanied him to Virginia, and while there was appointed postmaster, and served two years as president judge of the Magistrate's Court of that county, and until his return to Delaware.

In 1868, Mr. Jakes was elected Grand Secretary of the State of Delaware by the Independent Order of Good Templars, which he filled with honor to himself and the society. In 1870 he and his wife were elected Grand Representatives to represent the Grand Lodge of North America of that order at its session, held in St. Louis, Mo., of that year, and were present.

He joined the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in 1854, and has filled all the offices in the subordinate lodge in which he was initiated—Amity, No. 20, located in Camden, Delaware—and has filled most of the offices in the Grand Lodge of the State, except the chair of Grand Master. In 1879 he was elected Grand Representative of the State to the Grand Lodge of the United States, and represented the State for four consecutive years—at Baltimore, first; the second year (1880) at Toronto, Canada, where he was placed upon the committee to revise the revision of the new ritual adopted at that place and the name changed to the Sovereign Grand Lodge; in 1881 at Cincinnati, and in 1882 at Baltimore. He was also present at the session held in Providence, R. I., in 1883, and at Minneapolis, in 1884, he was appointed Grand Marshal by the Grand Sire-elect Hon. Judge Garey, of Baltimore, Maryland, and at the next annual session, held in Baltimore he served in his official capacity at the cornerstone laying and unveiling of the Ridgley Monument in that city in 1885. He also filled his place at the annual session held in Boston in 1886, and in 1887 he was present at the session held in Denver, Colo-

rado, and was appointed Assistant Grand Messenger to the Grand Body. In 1878 he was made a life director of the American Bible Society and has been treasurer of the Kent County Bible Society since 1872. He was elected treasurer of his lodge (I. O. O. F.) in Camden, Delaware, January 1, 1875, which position he still holds; was also elected treasurer of Dover Encampment, No. 5, located at and meeting in the same hall; was also elected receiver or treasurer of Kent Lodge, No. 8, A. O. U. W., January 1, 1884, located at Wyoming, Delaware. He connected himself with the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1867, since which time he has been one of its trustees and has been continued in an official capacity since its dedication in 1865, and of which his wife is a member and a hard worker for the interests of the church, being at the head of several of the societies belonging thereto. In politics Mr. Jakes is and always has been an ardent Republican and a constant and devoted advocate of the principles of that party, as well as that of the Temperance Reform movement. He was one of the few in Kent County who voted for Abraham Lincoln for President in 1860, and earnestly favored the prosecution of the war. He is also an honorary member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of his town, and has been since its organization. At the election of President Hayes the family represented three generations, his father, himself and his two sons all voting. On the 14th day of February, 1854, Mr. Jakes was married to Mary B. Townsend, daughter of Benjamin B. Townsend, of Camden, Delaware. Their eldest son, William Hargadine Jakes, was admitted to partnership with his father in 1879 in the general mercantile business, and doing business as Jakes & Son. He was married to Mollie E. Jackson, daughter of Thomas Jackson, a farmer near Wyoming, Delaware. They have one son, named John T., who was nursed by and knew each of his great-grandfathers before their deaths. Dr. C. Russell Jakes, the second son, is a graduate of Delaware College and the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, where he took a regular allopathic course and is practicing his profession successfully. He was married to Miss Laura Ferris, of New Castle County, in December, 1884, and in August following she died, only living eight and a half months. Maggie T. Jakes, the only daughter, is a graduate of Wyoming Institute and has since been a successful teacher until the close of school in December, 1887, when she resigned. Thomas W. Jakes, the youngest son, is at home clerking in the store of his father and brother, at Wyoming.

In 1860 the village, which had been partially laid out by Dr. Isaac Jump, of Dover, was quite a respectable village. It is located three miles southwest of Dover, and one mile west of Camden, and is bisected by the Delaware railroad.

The village of Wyoming was known by the name of "West Camden" from its inception down to the year 1865, and sometimes as "Camden Station," on

account of its being located for the convenience of the people of Camden and the surrounding country.

Some time in 1865 the Rev. John J. Pierce, of the Wyoming Valley, Pa., came to "West Camden" and purchased the land from Dr. Isaac Jump and others, and laid it out in building lots. Through the exertions of Messrs. Pierce, Jakes and others, the village received quite a boom in the way of building, and many persons from the Wyoming Valley, and from North Murderkill and West Dover Hundreds, flocked to West Camden, and engaged in business. During the same year a meeting of the leading and most enterprising of the citizens was called to take into consideration the propriety of severing all connection or identity with the town of Camden, and out of complaisance to Mr. Pierce, they agreed that it should be called "Wyoming," after his native valley on the North Branch of the Susquehanna. During the same year, in the midst of the peach season, John T. Jakes started a subscription list for the purpose of putting up a temporary building to be used for a Sunday-school, which had not progressed far before the movement developed into a church. Out of the moneys collected was built a plank church, but before its dedication the Rev. Mr. Hamersley, of Camden Circuit, organized the board of trustees to receive the edifice in the name of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Upon the perfecting of this board of trustees they issued the following notice :

"DEDICATION.

"THE M. E. PLANK CHURCH, OF WEST CAMDEN,

"Located at Camden Station, will be dedicated to the worship of Almighty God, on Sunday, the 12th inst.

"Rev. Andrew Manship, of Philadelphia; Rev. J. J. Pearce, late of Wyoming Conference; Rev. Colclazer, of Philadelphia Conference; Rev. A. D. Davis, of Erie Conference, will officiate. Services to commence at 10 o'clock A.M., and continue at 3 and 7 o'clock P.M.

"All are invited to attend, by the

"PASTOR & TRUSTEES.

"Nov. 3, 1865."

Present board of trustees : John T. Jakes, Thomas Jackson, Thomas Downham, John Leager, Samnel Conner, Wm. B. Wheatley, Wm. C. Longfellow, Wm. A. Lewis, Geo. M. Crossmore. Officers : Samuel Conner, president of board ; Thomas Dorenham, secretary ; Thomas Jackson, treasurer.

This plank church answered all the purposes of a church and Sunday-school for the people of Wyoming till it became dilapidated, and necessitated the building of a new one. In 1883 the new structure was begun, and dedicated in September of the same year. In 1885, a parsonage for Wyoming Circuit—comprising the Wyoming, the Willow Grove, the Union, near Hazletville, and Asbury near Pearson's Corner was finished late in the fall.

The list of pastors from the time of organization to the present is here given :

Rev. J. J. Penre.....	for the balance of the year 1865
Rev. A. D. Davis.....	1866 and 1867
Rev. John B. Mann.....	1868
Rev. J. L. Tompkinson.....	1869 and 1870
Rev. George S. Cunaway.....	1871 and 1872
Rev. Jos. Darr.....	1873 and 1874
Rev. D. W. C. McIntire.....	1875, 1876 and 1877

Rev. W. W. Redman.....	1878
Rev. A. W. Leighbourne.....	1879
Rev. S. L. Pilchard.....	1880 and 1881
Rev. A. T. Melvin.....	1882 and 1883
Rev. Wm. M. Warner.....	1884, 1885 and 1886
Rev. Wm. H. Green (the present pastor).....	1887

Some time in the year 1868 a collegiate institute was organized here, under the name of "Wyoming College," and incorporated by the Delaware Legislature, February 16, 1869, with a full corps of college professors, with power to confer all the degrees incidental to a regular collegiate course in learning. The seminary was dedicated April 14, 1868, by Rev. A. Wallace.

The numerous Baptists settled in and around Wyoming, having no place of worship nearer than Dover, and sadly feeling the want of a church, entered into negotiations for the purchase of Wyoming College, which they accomplished in October, 1869, through the efforts of the Rev. O. F. Flippo, who had been sent into the State as an evangelist. The building possessed a chapel, which they used for church services on Sunday, and was furnished for one hundred pupils. In 1875 the institution received a new charter, and the name was changed to "Wyoming Institute." Under the management of the Rev. Moses Heath, principal, the institute was liberally patronized by the people of Camden, Wyoming and the adjacent country. The Rev. Joseph Perry was the last principal, who remained but a short time. The building is not now used for educational purposes. In 1880 (December 18th), the Baptists of Wyoming were incorporated under the name of "The Wyoming Baptist Church." In 1881, under the care of the Revs. James M. Hope and Moses Heath, the Baptists purchased a lot of ground of George Parris, of Dover, upon which they erected a church building in 1881. This lot was in the town of Camden, and in consideration of the erection of the church building upon said lot, Geo. Parris, the elder, in his will, provided that \$300 per annum should be paid to the said church for the period of five years. The church organization is now under the control of the Rev. Frank Howes.

"St. John's Reformed Church" had no meeting-house until 1874. In April, 1869, the Rev. Dr. G. B. Russell, of Philadelphia, came to Wyoming and preached for his congregation for more than a year. On July 18th of the same year a congregation was organized, the official act being effected by the Rev. Dr. S. R. Fisher, when twenty-two persons entered into covenant relations. The Rev. C. C. Russell was the first pastor, who began his labors in the fall of 1870, and remained with them until his death, which happened in about one year. For several years there was no pastor. However, on the 9th of June, 1872, the corner-stone for a meeting-house was laid, and on the 19th of April, 1874, the house was dedicated by the Rev. Dr. E. V. Gerhart, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The second pastor was the Rev. W. F. Lichtler, August, 1875, who resigned at the end of the year. He was succeeded by the Rev. E. H. Dieffenbacher, November, 1876, who continued with them until 1880,

when he was succeeded by the Rev. Newton J. Miller in June of that year who remained until June, 1882. He was followed by S. F. Laury, who entered upon his pastorate December 1, 1882, and remained with them until March 1, 1886, since which time the pastorate has been vacant. They are supplied with religious services from time to time by visiting ministers from other congregations, principally from the State of Pennsylvania.

In 1875, James S. Marsh, of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, and Jacob G. Brown, of "Rising Sun," formed a partnership, and built a large evaporator for the preservation of peaches and other fruits and vegetables. In 1880 the firm of Marsh & Brown was dissolved, and the company reorganized under the name of Brown, Hanson & Co. The company claim to have the largest evaporating establishment in the State, with the capacity of evaporating seventy-five tons of peaches alone. In connection with it is also a canning establishment with a capacity of one million cans per annum.

A post-office was not established here until January 12, 1866, when John T. Jakes was appointed postmaster, which position he held until August 10, 1886.

In 1870 a new school district was formed from the present outlying districts, and a school-house built in the village, which accommodated the children until 1886, when the population had increased so rapidly that a new school building became necessary. In that year a new two-storied building was erected, and the public school organized on the graded system, with two efficient teachers and one hundred and twenty-five scholars.

There are to-day three general stores, one drug-store, one milliner, one butcher, two blacksmiths, two wheelwrights, one dealer in lumber and lime, two coal-dealers, one shoe-shop, one harness-maker, one nurseryman and two physicians.

There are two secret societies—"The Ancient Order of United Workmen, Kent Lodge, No. 8," instituted in 1883, with twenty-two members; and the Grand Army of the Republic, General Daniel Woodall Post, No. 11, instituted in March, 1884, with a membership of twenty-eight persons.

Beside the extensive cannery of Brown, Hanson & Co., there are two other small evaporators, that do quite an active business in seasons when peaches are plenty and cheap.

Wyoming was incorporated as a town March 20, 1869, and again incorporated at the 1888 session of the General Assembly. George M. Fisher has been town clerk up to the present year, when he was succeeded by Carrol S. Fisher.

TOWN TREASURERS.

Hon. C. P. Ramsdell.....	1869
N. B. Buckmaster.....	1870-73
S. L. Richards.....	1874
C. M. Carey.....	1875
John T. Jakes.....	1876
N. B. Buckmaster.....	1877

Robert M. Hewes.....	1878
James R. George.....	1879-80
Caleb Jackson.....	1882-88

ASSESSORS.

William McGonigal.....	1869
S. R. Meredith.....	1870-71

S. W. Powell.....	1872-73
William Broadway.....	1874-75
E. B. Baker.....	1876
George Ayers.....	1877
William Broadway.....	1878-81
John H. Jenkins.....	1882
A. E. Wetzel.....	1883-85
A. A. Lawrence.....	1886-87

COLLECTORS.

Daniel George.....	1869
D. G. Dewoody.....	1870-73
George M. Fisher.....	1870-73
C. M. Carey.....	1874-75
George T. Miller.....	1876
C. M. Carey.....	1877
Robert M. Hewes.....	1878
James R. George.....	1879-81
Caleb Jackson.....	1882-87

TOWN COMMISSIONERS.

William P. Lindale.....	1869
W. W. Meredith.....	1869
John T. Jakes.....	1869
William P. Lindale.....	1870
W. W. Meredith.....	1870
William T. Alrich.....	1870
William P. Lindale.....	1871
M. H. Gross.....	1871
John Hale.....	1871
George M. Crossmore.....	1872
M. H. Gross.....	1872
Abel Hartson.....	1872
William P. Lindale.....	1873
E. B. Baker.....	1873
William K. Atkins.....	1873
Milo H. Gross.....	1874
George M. Crossmore.....	1874
Floyd C. Ramsdell.....	1874

G. Nickerson.....	1875
W. L. Hubbard.....	1875
William K. Atkins.....	1875
G. Nickerson.....	1876
Lewis Raymond.....	1876
John Hale.....	1876
Elwood Jenkins.....	1877
M. H. Gross.....	1877
C. M. Carey.....	1877
Elwood Jenkins.....	1878
John Hale.....	1878
H. B. Hopkins.....	1878
Elwood Jenkins.....	1879
John Hale.....	1879
William T. Alrich.....	1879
Elwood Jenkins.....	1880
John Hunn.....	1880
William T. Alrich.....	1880
Elwood Jenkins.....	1881
John Hunn, Jr.....	1881
James Montague.....	1881
Caleb Jackson.....	1882
Jonas Landis.....	1882
James Montague.....	1882
Caleb Jackson.....	1883
Jonas Landis.....	1883
James Montague.....	1883
Caleb Jackson.....	1884
Dr. T. C. Frame.....	1884
James Montague.....	1884
James Montague.....	1885
Caleb Jackson.....	1885
John Leager.....	1885
James Montague.....	1886
Caleb Jackson.....	1886
Carrol S. Fisher.....	1886
D. Milfin.....	1887
Caleb Jackson.....	1887
E. Hubbard.....	1887

West of "Dundee," and south of Isaac's Branch, is a small tract of land containing one hundred and seventy-six acres, taken up by George Morgan under a warrant bearing date March 22, 1738, called "Morgan's Chance," and now in the possession of William R. Allaband.

To the west and southwest of "Morgan's Chance" lies a tract of six hundred acres, called "Barnes' Chance," taken up by Lewis Johnson under a warrant issued for John Barnes April 21, 1682. It is now mainly owned by the heirs of James Kersey, by the heirs of Edgar J. Kinney and by Kent County. On this tract is located the "Alms-House" of Kent County.

On the same land is the ancient grist mill seat, called by the name of the "Allaband Mill," which was known as a mill-seat prior to 1783. In 1791 part of this tract is described as being upon "School-House Branch," where the Forest Landing road crosses, and is part of Mill Pond, and contained in the aggregate about two hundred and twenty acres.

On the southwest of "Dundee," and southeast of "Morgan's Chance" and "Barnes' Chance," lies the tract called "Howell's Lott," taken up under warrant to James Wells, dated December 21, 1681, and surveyed to John Howell November 25 and 27, 1683, containing one thousand acres, now owned in part by Daniel L. McBride, by Willard A. Gray, by Dr. James Avery Draper, by John H. Berry, by — Wells, late of Asa Griffith, and ten acres in the

eastern corner of the whole tract by the heirs of Rev. I. T. Cooper.

Adjoining "Howell's Lott" and "Dundee," on the south, is located "Longacre," containing one thousand acres, taken up by Nicholas Bartlett under warrant from court of Kent County, dated the 20th 4 mo., 1682. In 1742 seven hundred and forty-five acres of this tract were in the possession of Andrew Caldwell. This ancient tract is now in possession of the heirs of Rev. I. T. Cooper, L. E. Neilson, John B. Cleaver, heirs of Samuel B. Cooper, Rev. Joseph E. Waugh, Mrs. C. I. Du Pont, land late of S. J. Everett, of Harvey Soper, of W. D. McGlohan, and of S. M. Thomas.

Little Geneva is a tract of four hundred acres, taken up by Alexander Humphreys, and surveyed for him March 4, 1680. It adjoins "Dundee" and "Brecknock," on the south of them, and "Great Geneva" on its southwest boundary, and lies on both sides of the Upper King's Road, just outside of the town of Camden, leading toward Canterbury, and extends to the road leading from Camden to Willow Grove. In 1745 two hundred and four acres, lying between the Willow Grove and Canterbury roads, were in the possession of Andrew Purdon. This part is now owned by William K. Evans, William P. Lindale and Matthias Jerman. The part lying east of the Canterbury road was owned in 1783 by Warner Mifflin, George Truitt and others. This part is now chiefly owned by Levi S. Prond and the assignee of Samuel J. Everett.

Upon this tract is the colored people's church, called the "Star of the East," which was described in connection with "Brecknock." There is a hamlet of colored people, who have bought small parcels and built upon them.

On the southeast side of Tidbury Branch and southwest of the tract "Tidbury" lies a tract of land containing four hundred and sixty-five acres, resurveyed August 15, 1733, for Ezekiel, Daniel and Thomas Nock, the sons of Thomas, deceased. This tract remained in possession of the Nocks as late as 1783. Some time about 1760 Ezekiel Nock built a grist-mill there, and left his property to his sons, of whom Thomas remained on the homestead.

About the year 1783, or a little later, the mill property passed into the possession of Daniel Mifflin, who left it to his two sons, Daniel and Samuel. The mill was known as "Nock's Mill" and "Mifflin's Mill." Some time about 1852 the property passed into the possession of James Greeu, now deceased. William B. Nock, druggist, of Camden, is the sole survivor bearing the name of the Nock family.

West of the Nock tract, on the opposite side of Tidbury, is a tract called "Gainsborough," comprising four hundred and forty-five acres, surveyed for John Nowell December 16, 1680.

West of "Gainsborough" and south of "Little Geneva" is a tract called "Grigg's Purchase," taken up under a warrant of December 21, 1681, containing

one thousand acres. It lies on and adjoins Tidbury stream on the north, and is on both sides of the Upper King's Road. It was originally surveyed for Alexander Humphreys, but is now in possession of Henry C. Cooper, George Gibbs, John Evans, J. B. Slaymaker and others.

South of "Grigg's Purchase," and on the south side of Tidbury, is the tract "Tiocullever," taken up under a warrant dated August 17, 1682, by Robert Betts and John King, and contained twelve hundred acres. It is now chiefly owned by Samuel W. Derby, Thomas B. Coursey, heirs of Mrs. Powell, B. F. Abbott, heirs of Dr. I. T. Cooper and others. The land late of James L. Dyer and of William T. Maloney was also of this tract.

On this tract, on the Upper King's Road from Canterbury to Camden, is situated a grist-mill. It was bequeathed by Mary Caldwell to her son, John Caldwell, for a grist-mill seat October 15, 1786, and a mill was soon after erected. The grist-mill is now owned by Thomas B. Coursey.

South of "Longacre" and southeast of "Grigg's Purchase" and "Tiocullever" is a large tract of land called "Rhodes' Forest," containing two thousand acres. It was taken up by John Rhodes, of Wherekill County (Sussex), on warrant from that court November 23, 1679. It was inherited by his son, John Rhodes, who, May 8, 1725, sold it to Andrew Caldwell, of Kent County, and took in exchange therefor parts of tracts of "Bartlett's Lott" and adjacent tracts, lying towards the mouths of St. Jones' and Murderkill Creeks. This tract, on account of the change effected, was called by Caldwell "The Exchange," by which name in subsequent deeds it is generally known. It is described as being on the west side of Tidbury Branch, beginning at the mouth of a small run that falls into the branch a little above an Indian path (Camden and Willow Grove road at Red House Branch) that leads from Jones' Creek to Choptank. It extended from "Indian Path," west by south nearly three miles, and southeast by south nearly two miles, and thence in a northerly direction about three miles, to the forks of Tidbury, and up Tidbury to beginning.

The Caldwells owned other large tracts. In 1746, Andrew Caldwell, Jr., owned seven hundred and forty-five acres of "Longacre," a tract of two hundred and eight-seven acres, called "Quiet Entry," situated south of the eastern part of Exchange, and partly north of "Hudson's Lott," and a tract of ninety acres called "Caldwell's Range," west of the Exchange. Besides these, he owned other large tracts in different parts of the county.

The tract "Quiet Entry," three hundred and four acres, passed into the possession of Christopher Green, in 1650. In later years it passed to Robert Catlin.

Upon this tract, one mile north of Canterbury, was located a meeting-house by the Methodists. May 16, 1781, Christopher Greeu conveyed one acre

In the 1930s one man, Houston Short, was bragging about the size and quality of his watermelons, and he mentioned an especially large one at home on his porch. Some boys rode to his home on their bicycles and brought back the watermelon to the rear of the store. There it was cut into small pieces and served. Everyone, including Mr. Short, commented on what a splendid watermelon it was! Only when he returned home did he realize that it was his own.

Today most residents work in Dover. The only business is the production of limestone. Mr. Ohn Dill, Sr., is noted for his display at Christmas time of more than 10,000 lights. Mr. Virgil Jarrel, an inventor of an important part of a bean picker, is a resident of the town.



Joy riding in Woodside in 1907

WOODSIDE

Woodside was founded in 1864 when Henry Cowgill persuaded the Delaware Railroad to establish a depot. It was founded on land for which John Rhodes had received a warrant in 1679 and sometimes was called Rhodes Forest. The land was later exchanged by his son for another tract, and for that reason it is sometimes referred to as Exchange.

Prior to the coming of the railroad, the locality was at various times called Burnt House Crossroads, Willow Grove Station and Fredonia. Supposedly it was named Woodside because a large amount of timber and railroad ties were piled next to the station. In 1864 it consisted of two houses and 8 people.

Taking advantage of its location in a fertile land suitable for grain and fruit, it was described in 1882 as "quite an enterprising

place." During the eighties two canneries and two fruit evaporators were established.

One of these canneries, originally owned by Samuel Derby, was bought by Green Giant in 1953 and replaced by a modern plant after its destruction by fire. The village was incorporated in 1911.

In 1929 the town contained five stores, a dealer in farm supplies, another in fertilizers and other small enterprises, serving a population of 300.

At first the inhabitants attended Green's Chapel built nearby in 1781, but in 1889 a Methodist Church was erected. On several occasions services have ceased, but they have always revived. Residents remember the saying that as long as a single brick remains of Barratt's Chapel the spirit of Methodism will not die out in this section of the peninsula.

The first public school was built in 1886, but in 1943 the district was combined with that of Caesar Rodney.

A quiet peaceful community, most of the inhabitants work in Dover.



Woodside Tomato Market c 1920

WYOMING

Wyoming developed because Camden did not wish to be disturbed by the coming of the Delaware Railroad in 1856. George Purnell Fisher, later a member of Congress and Judge of a Washington, D.C., court appointed by President Lincoln, permitted the railroad to cross land owned by him west of Camden. His action explains why the railroad has a curve leaving Dover and a compensating curve south of Wyoming. Around West Camden Station, as the place was first called, grew up stores, a blacksmith shop and later a church and school.

The new community was located on a tract of 900 acres called Dundee, which had been taken up by James Wells in 1680. The first



Apple Line Up at Wyoming c 1920

business was located nearby on the site of the present Wyoming Mill on the east side of Isaac's Branch. It was the first gristmill on this branch and was constructed by John Clayton as a gift to his son, John Clayton, Jr., in 1738. Later owners included James Clayton, grandfather of Senator John M. Clayton, Dr. Joshua Clayton, early Governor of Delaware, Judge Fisher and William P. Lindale.

After the railroad was constructed, the place grew rapidly. John T. Jakes was the first agent for the railroad and for the Adams Express Company. Families who built homes or established businesses included the Jenkins, Emersons, Jacksons, Hunns, Fishers, Browns and Lindales. John Hunn became a Governor of Delaware in 1900.

"Wyoming is a new, enterprising, plucky little place, full of hope and self-reliance, and is bound to be something because its people think they can, and are determined to be," wrote the editor of a state directory in 1868. He reported that the houses were so fresh and new that they looked as if they had come out of a New England bandbox. The inhabitants were interested in education, religion and temperance.

In 1865 the Rev. John J. Pierce of the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania arrived. He laid out building lots, and in his honor the name was changed to Wyoming. The village was incorporated in 1869.

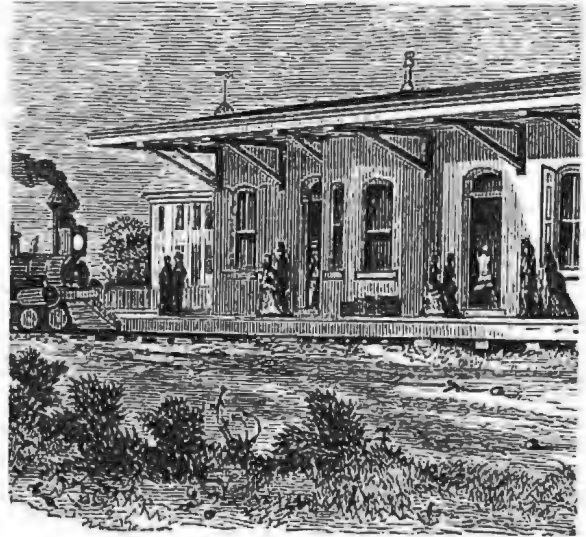
About this time the Methodists built a plank church, and the Baptists organized, though they did not erect an edifice until 1881. The first school house was erected in 1870. (From about 1868 to 1888 the Baptists operated Wyoming College, but it was not a financial success).

In 1875 James S. Marsh of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, and Jacob G. Brown of Rising Sun built a fruit evaporator, the largest in the state with a capacity of 76 tons of peaches per year. Through subsequent mergers and changes in the twentieth century the plant

became Libby, McNeil and Libby.

Wyoming was a peach center of the state in the 1880s, and long lines of wagons were drawn up waiting for their turn at the loading station of the railroad. Shade trees were planted along Railroad Avenue for the benefit of the drivers and horses.

Today it is a quiet residential town, most of whose inhabitants work in Dover.



Railway Station at Wyoming in 1880





HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATED: A Delaware Public Archives historical marker for the town of Wyoming was dedicated with a small ceremony Sunday at the former train station. From left are State Rep. Gerald Buckworth (R-34th), Town Councilman Donald Bilow, Mayor Jim Brown, and Hans Reigle, a local citizen who spurred the effort to have a historical marker placed. The marker tells

how Wyoming began as West Camden, a community that grew up around the train station that came with the building of the railroad in 1856. The citizens, however, decided they wanted an identity separate from Camden and changed the name to Wyoming, the effort culminating in the town being allowed to incorporate by the General Assembly in 1869. Photo by Betsy Gufstafson.