## HISTORY

OF THE

## STATE OF DELAWARE

HENRY C. CONRAD

FROM THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENTS TO THE YEAR 1907

IN THREE VOLUMES

VOLUME II

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Concord is a small village which was laid out in 1796, on a tract of land called "Partnership." Some thirty years before the place was occupied, a company of New York and Philadelphia merchants settled here and crected a furnace, naming it "The Pine Grove Furnace." For a long time, the iron business was conducted by this company at this point, which made the place the seat of a thriving industry. A prosperous business was carried on until the beginning of the Revolutionary War, when the blockading of the Chesapeake Bay suspended the work, and the business was abandoned. The town of Concord was located on the site of this little settlement in 1796, and grew rapidly to be a thriving village.

Among the prominent personages who lived in this village, were the "Ellegoods," from which family Dr. Robert G. Ellegood was descended. He was born and for many years lived in Concord, and was a physician of high standing. Ellegood was quite active in political affairs, having been elected as a Representative to the General Assembly and having served as State Auditor of Accounts for three terms. Joshua A. Ellegood, for the past ten years the leading specialist in Wilmington in eye and ear practice, is a son of Dr. Robert G. Ellegood. Born at Concord, Dr. Joshua A. Ellegood pursued his professional studies abroad and by reason of the mastery that he has attained in the special lines chosen by him, stands deservedly high in his profession and has richly merited the measure of success that has come to him. It was in this town that Judge John W. Houston, a distinguished jurist of Delaware, was born.

Bethel is a flourishing little village in this Hundred, and until 1880, was known as Lewisville. At an early period it was noted as a great shipping point. The building of boats for many years formed the chief industry of the place. In 1869, a marine railway was established here which added largely to the business of the village. The excellent facilities for milling in the Hundred afforded by the many streams, were early utilized, and almost as soon as the settlements were

# The History of Concord

By HARVEY J. MORGAN

In 1763 a tract of land known as "Partnership" was purchased by Abram Mitchell, hatter of Philadelphia, and Walter and Samuel Franklin, merchants of New York.

This tract contained about 290 acres, which includes what is now known as Concord. This land was taken over by the above named gentlemen and a furnace was erected thereon, which was known as "Pine Grove Furnace."

Bog iron was produced here and shipped to England and Scotland. This industry was vigorously conducted here until the breaking out of the Revolutionary War.

When the British Fleet blockaded the Chesapeake Bay, this industry ceased and about all the men employed at the Furnace joined the American Army, entering the Regiment of Lieutenant Colonel Vaughan.

Two of the iron ingots made in Concord at that time are still in Concord, one on the Ellegood property, and the other in the street in front of where Rus-

sell Joseph now lives.

In 1793 all of the iron works, buildings, furnaces, etc, were sold to Seth Griffith, who was colonel of the Delaware militia, and William Elgate Hitch; and later, in 1796, the town of CONCORD was laid out by Seth Griffith and Thomas Laws and contained 159 lots (60 feet by 198 feet).

The road over the mill dam was known as Washington Street. This street ran east and west. The first cross street was called Main Street, running north and south. The other streets that ran parallel with Main Street were Second and Third Streets. The first street next to Washington running along Main Street was named Green. A large mansion occupied the corner at Green and Main Streets which was built by General Jesse Green, born in 1766, who was a prominent citizen of the community during the early

part of the 19th century and a lineal descendant of George Calvert, the first Lord Baron of Baltimore.

General Green was Adjutant General of the State Militia for a number of years and a member of the General Assembly for thirty-one years, being at one time the speaker. He was in business in Concord from 1809 until 1834 when he died and was buried there. General Green became very wealthy. He was succeeded by his son, George, who was also a prominent business man of Concord for many years. He afterward moved to Baltimore

and lived to a great age.

The first store was opened in Concord about the year 1800 by Seth Griffith and John Bell, on the corner of Main and Washington Streets. In 1831, a store was kept by Alfred Cottingham, on Washington and Main Streets. This store was burned in 1844. On the south side of Main Street Louis Spicer had a store. Jesse Green had a store here from 1810 to 1834. John Houston also had a store in 1810. In addition he built vessels at Concord and had them lightered down to Outten's Landing, afterwards known as "Cherry Tree Landing" which is the head of the Nanticoke River, about two miles below the village. Mr. Houston also conducted a tannery here. James Outten and others also built vessels at "Cherry Tree Landing."

The Concord M. E. Church was formed in 1804. On August 24th of that year, Robert Boyce conveyed to John Jefferson, Elijah Morgan, A. Phillips, Adam Short, Covington Messick, John Lord and John Culbry, three-eights of an acre of ground for that purpose. The church was built in 1804 and afterwards rebuilt in 1841 and again in 1870. In 1870, the Rev. J. B. Mann was pastor and the church was dedicated October 8th, 1870. The Reverend J. B. Merritt and Reverends Todd and

Syphard assisted in the dedication.

The distillery being suspended in 1820, one-half interest in this property was owned by Alfred White and Edward Daugherty before 1816. The property was bought by Robert Boyce and Michael Stuart in 1832 and then passed to Joseph Chipman. In 1840 the property was sold to George W. Green. Mr. Green sold it to George H. Vincent about 1864, and in 1872 it was purchased by Isaac and James Cannon who for many years conducted an extensive stove factory, saw mill, grist Mill, etc.

Concord was the birthplace of Judge John W. Houston, who was a prominent justice of the State of Delaware for many years. He was born in the Dr. Ellegood residence as was his brother, Dr. David

Houston.

Concord at one time contained several prominent physicians—among them may be mentioned Dr. Thomas Adams, Dr. Weightman Jones, Dr. James Fisher, Dr. R. G. Ellegood, who was State Auditor and member of the State Legislature and Dr. David D. Palmer.

The first school house was built in Concord in 1804. Up to a few years ago the original building remained. It has, in most recent years, been rebuilt. The original

building was in district No. 58.

The post office in Concord was discontinued a number of years ago. Among those who have been postmasters in the past are George Grimes, Joseph Neal, Isaac Adams, George W. Collins, Isaac P. Jefferson, John Smith, Jacob Morgan, James H. Radcliffe, James B. Butler and George M. Outten.

Prominent business men of Concord for many years, from 1830 to 1901 may be mentioned: Hiram and William Jones, who for several years were merchants and shippers and who also built vessels; George W. Green, James W. Morgan and Thomas P. Rodney; and later on James W. Vincent and Merrill W. Tilghman. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Rodney between them both had stores continuously from 1848 until 1902. Mr. Green was a buyer of grain for many years as were Mr. Rodney and Mr. Morgan, who also bought lumber, wood, railroad ties, etc. During the early part of the 19th century, before the railroad came through the shipping was done by vessels and steamers and Concord being the nearest to tidewater caused many farmers for miles around to come to the village with their products, and trade at the mills and stores. Thousands of bushels of corn and wheat, thousands of cords of wood, thousands of feet of lumber were bought and shipped from the village.

The decline of the importance of Concord as a business place became gradual after the opening up of the railroads.

Up to about 1870 this was not noticed; but the opening up of the great West with their railroads and the building of our own Delaware roads as far as Laurel. gradually drew the trade away from Concord. The low price of grain making it unprofitable to ship, the farmers devoted their attention to the growing of small fruits and vegetables. The markets were at the railroad stations and the farmers had to haul their products there. This together with the filling up of the creek, and taking away the post office, caused Concord to decline as a business and shipping point, but not as a place of interest or deep affection.

The mill pond at Concord which is said to have the most powerful natural water power in Sussex County, is one of the most attractive features of the village. The natural scenery is very beautiful and the pond offers much pleasure to those who care to fish or boat.

DEDICATED TO THE
MEMORY OF

LUTA M. OUTTEN
(Maiden Name)

First Marriage
MRS. CHARLES F. BOEHMLER

Second Marriage
MRS. JOHN BAUGHMAN

A GOOD MOTHER
AND
STEPMOTHER

George W. McGee, William Mitchell, William S. Warrington and Hamilton B. Truitt were elected a board of trustees. The trustees in 1887 are William H. Rodney, George W. McGee, William J. West, H. D. Powell, George A. Betts and Josiah C. Johnson. At the formation of the church there were forty members; the number has been increased to seventyfive the present year. The church has been supplied with ministers from a circuit composed of Shiloh, Trinity, St. Paul's and Providence Churches. The list of ministers is as follows: 1866, Rev. Thomas H. Burgess; 1868, Rev. Jeremiah Clay; 1869, Rev. I. T. Adkins; 1871, Rev. William D. Litsinger; 1874, Rev. J. H. Ellegood; 1877, Rev. William A. Crouse; 1880, Rev. L. J. Lelich (during this gentleman's time a fine parsonage was erected); 1882, J. M. Ellderdice; and 1884 to '87, J. E. Nicholson.

Shiloh M. P. Church.—This church was erected at a cost of one thousand dollars in the year 1879 upon land donated by W. W. Dashiel, of Laurel, and is situated on the Laurel Road, near the farm of the late Robert Lambden. Levin S. Hitch and Reuben James were the trustees at the time of the erection of the church. At present there are sixty members. The ministers are given in the article upon Trinity.

Schools.-There were very few schools of any kind in the hundred prior to the year 1829, when the county was laid out into districts. In Elzy Moore's meeting-house a free school was conducted for several years, and two or three subscription schools were run in the hundred, one being near Concord and the other the predecessor of what is now known as the Washington School-house. These schools were rarely open more than three months in the year. The districts laid out in 1829 were Nos. 43, 44, 45, 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60. Schools were erected in all these districts in the years 1831 and 1832. At present there are eleven. They are open from five to eleven months a year; the average in most districts, however, is not over six and one-half months. The schools are improving and every year finds them open for a longer period. In the year 1886 there were four hundred and eightyeight scholars in attendance.

CONCORD.—The town of Concord was laid out in 1796 on a tract of land called "Partnership," on which Pine Grove Furnace was erected. The company established a settlement here thirty years before the town was laid out and made it for a time a busy hive of industry.

In 1763, soon after the establishment of Deep Creek Furnace about three miles above the present town of Concord, a company was organized for the purpose of making iron at the place now Concord, on Deep Creek. A tract of land (three hundred and ninety acres), called "Partnership," was taken up and a furnace erected called "Pine Grove Furnace." The company was composed of Abraham Mitchell, hatter; Thomas and William Lightfoot, merchants of Philadelphia, and Walter and Samuel Franklin, merchants of New York. On the 9th of November, 1768, Wal-

ter and Samuel Franklin bought two-fifths interest in the property of the others. This deed recites that the "company had purchased several tracts of land and procured sundry warrants for others and located some parcels thereon in ye counties of Worcester, Dorsett and Summersett, in Maryland, now likely to belong under ye government of New Castle, Kent and Sussex, on Delaware, in ye county of Sussex, all which tracts of land and warrants have been procured for ye use and promotion of Pine Grove Furnace, now erected on Deep Creek." It is also recited that on the tract was "ye furnace, saw-mill, gristmill, domo houses and buildings." A tract of two acres, called "Adam's Folly," embracing the mill pond, was near the tract. "New Ireland; "five hundred acres lay west of the Furnaco Tract or "Partnership." "Cook's Chance," two hundred acres, was in Broadkill Forest and eight hundred and fifty acres in Care's Neck, on Gravelly Branch, in Nanticoke Hundred, on which, in later years, Collins' Forge was built; also the interest "of all ye iron ore and mines" in a tract called "Mile's End," of three hundred acres, and one hundred acres, part of a tract called "Pilson's Lot," both on Barren Creek, in what is now Wicomico County, Maryland, with privilege to dig and carry away all ores obtained thereon. The company also had rights in several warrants from the Penns not then located, one dated August 29, 1764, which called for two thousand acres near Deep Creek; one for five thousand acres between Deep Creek, Broad Creek, Nanticoke River and Stony Branch; and five other warrants granted by the proprietors of Maryland for different quantities of land. But little is known concerning the operation of the company, except that business was vigorously conducted until the blockading of the Chesapeake Bay during the Revolution, when work was suspended, as were all the formaces and forges in the vicinity. The company bui' a road from the furnace to the landing at the point in later years known as Outten's Landing, to which place the iron was drawn and loaded in vessels and shipped to Scotland and England.

The landing was directly opposite "Old Meadow," the landing-place of the Deep Creek Furnace Company, this being the highest point to which vessels could come up the Nanticoke. It was still later called "Calloway's Harbor." On the 8th of March, 1773, Walter Franklin purchased the remaining fifth interest of the furnace, and became the sole proprietor "with all houses, edifices, mills, mill-seats and furnaces." The employees of the furnace joined the army, the same as those of other furnaces, and the business was ahandoned. Walter Franklin died in 1778, and his executor, Samuel Franklin, November 12, 1791, sold the rights of the heirs to the property to Ebenezer Gracey, of Darby, Connecticut, and Theophilus Brower, of New York, both merchants. On the 8th of August, 1793, "all those certain iron works called Pine Grove Furnace," with the lands belonging thereto, were sold to Seth Griffith and William Elgate

Hitch. The mills were still in operation, a distillery was added, in 1796 the town of Concord was laid out around the little settlement, the name of " Pine Grove Furnace" was entirely abandoned, and the thriving village took its place. The interest of William E. Hitch passed to Thomas Laws in September, 1796, who in the same year, with Seth Griffith, laid out the town. The road crossed over the dam, and when it passed through the town was named Washington Street; the mill and distillery was on the west side of the road. A street on the east side, parallel with Washington, was named Green, on which was one house, and between Washington and Green Streets was a large mansion-house. Parallel with Washington Street west was Liberty Alley, between which was a block extending to Market Street, on which were two houses, and one house still west to Shippen Street, which was the last street west 'and joined William Anderson and Elzy Spicer's lands, which were sold to them by Griffith and Hitch, August 15, 1796, and upon them their respective houses stood. The old landing-place, about two miles below and known in later years as Outten Landing, also Cherry Tree Landing, was sold by Griffith and Laws to John Outten, January 11, 1797. The streets running at right angles with Washington were First, Second and Third. There were in all one hundred and fifty-nine lots laid out, mostly sixty by one hundred and ninetyeight feet. On the 17th of June, 1803, Griffith and Laws sold to Robert Boyce fifty-two lots in the town. Thomas Laws sold the tan-vard and store and lots to John Houston, son of Robert, who continued the tanyard and store at the place now owned and occupied by Dr. Robert G. Ellegood. John Houston also built schooners, one of one hundred and fifty tons hurthen. at or near the Pine Grove Furnace. They were lightered down to Cherry Tree or Outten's Landing. In this house Judge John W. Houston and Dr. David Houston were born. John Houston continued in business until his death, in 1828. Seth Griffith married a daughter of Robert Houston, and a sister of John. Joshua Ellegood married Ann Griffith, daughter of Seth Griffith. Dr. Robert G. Ellegood is their

Thomas Laws removed to Philadelphia and was engaged in the leather business in that city, and Houston shipped his hides to him.

Seth Griffith had a tavern on the corner of Main and Washington Streets, where he lived and died in 1814. The tavern had been in operation before 1800. The first store was opened soon after 1800 by Seth Griffith and John Bell, and was on the corner of Washington and Main Streets, and the store-house is still standing in the rear of the present store-house of G. A. Phillips & Brother. M. Stewart and John Jefferson had an interest in the mill and store later. On Water and Market Streets was a store (still standing) which was later kept by Boyce & Phillips and L. H. Smith. A store was kept in 1831 by Alfred Cottingham on Washington and Main Streets; it was burned down

in 1844. Lewis Spicer's store was on the south side of Main Street as early as 1830. It was later owned by Joseph Neal, George W. Collins and Samuel Jefferson in 1844, and last by Phillips & Morgan. It is now a dwelling.

THE MILL AND DISTILLERY (the latter of which was suspended about 1820), and the mill passing to Alexander White and Edward Dougherty before 1816. One-half interest was owned by Robert Boyce, and an interest was owned by Michael Stewart. In 1832 it passed to Joseph Chipman, who continued it until his death, in 1840. It was then sold to George W. Green, who kept a store and run the mill. Green sold to George Vincent, who continued it until September, 1872, when it was sold to Issac and James W. Cannon, the present owners; the store of Jesse Green was run from 1810 until his death in 1824. John Houston, Esq., also had a store before 1810 and many years later in the house already mentioned as occupied by him.

In 1809 the following persons were lot-owners in Concord: John Fletcher, one house and lot; heirs of James George, one house and two lots; Jesse Green, Seth Griffith, Robert Boyce, Levin Stuart, Michael Stuart and John Jefferson.

The Jesse Green mentioned was born January 12, 1766. He descended from Thomas Green and was a lineal descendant of George Calvert, the first Lord Baron of Baltimore. Thomas Green came to this country with Lord Baltimore and married his daughter, Lady Winifred. Jesse Green came to this country from Alexander, July, 1790, and married a Mrs. Buchanon, who soon after died, leaving one son. Willia m, who died many years ago. He later married Elizabeth, the granddaughter of Col. John Gunby, of the Revolution, and who lived at Snow Hill. His son James lived between Millsboro' and Concord. Green settled first at Seaford. After the death of his first wife he returned to Alexandria, and was engaged in merchandising. He remained but a short time, however, and returned and settled at Concord, and engaged in merchandising and shipping. He amassed considerable wealth, owning over three thousand two hundred acres of land in the vicinity. He was adjutant-general of the State militia for a number of years and served thirty-one years in the General Assembly, the longest term ever known. He was Speaker. He died in 1834, and is buried in Concord. The old mansion house is still standing.

A post-office has been established here for years. Among those who have been postmasters are George Grimes, Joseph Neal, Isaac Adams, George W. Collins, Isaac P. Jefferson, John S. Smith, Jacob W. Morgau, James H. Radcliff, James Butler, J. M. Outten and James T. Smith.

Concord Methodist Episcopal Church.—This church was formed in the year 1804. August 24th of that year Robert Boyce conveyed to John Jefferson, Elijah Morgan, Arabel Philips, Adam Short, Covington Messick, John Lord, John Culbrey, Charles Brown and

## HISTORY OF DELAWARE PAST AND PRESENT

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pany. There are also two general stores at Cannon, and about ninety-five inhabitants.

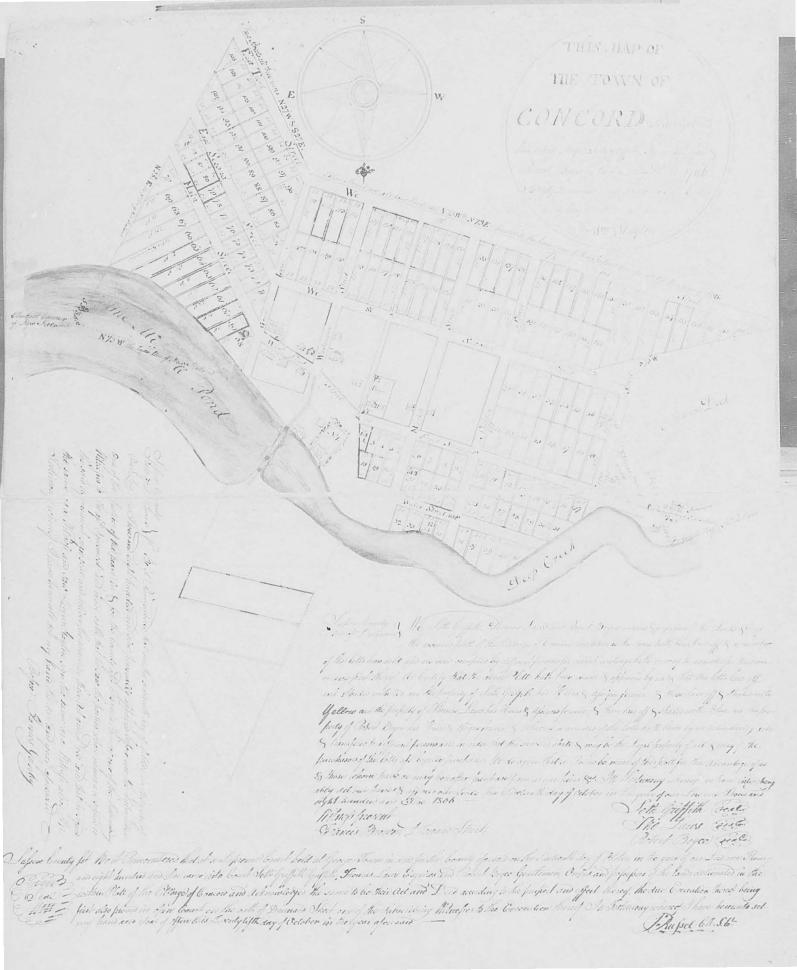
Clarksville, about five miles from Frankford, is a post village of about fifty-five inhabitants. It has two stores, one kept by John P. Betts, who is also postmaster, and the other by R. J. Hudson. J. H. Williams & Sons operate a garage business in this place.

Columbia, a hamlet of sixteen inhabitants and one general store (G. W. Owens) is about eight miles from Laurel.

Concord, a small village in Broad Creek Hundred, was laid out in 1706, on what was known as the "Partnership" tract; but the settlement dates much farther back. Thirty years before, some mining men of New York and Philadelphia interested themselves in the iron industry of Sussex. They erected a furnace here. It became known as Pine Grove Furnace, and was actively worked until the Revolution. Then, with Chesapeake Bay blockaded and business conditions uncertain, the enterprise was abandoned. After the Revolution, the settlers applied themselves to farming pursuits, and do not come into official records as a community until 1796, when Concord was laid out. The mining of bog ore in Sussex County was continued until about 1804, but then, with the discovery of richer deposits in other States, the bog ore industry was abandoned. A map of Delaware published in 1807, shows two furnaces (Lightfoot's and Douglass's) as located near the village of Concord. Concord, which is about three miles from Seaford, is now village of three hundred inhabitants. There are two stores and a mill (Hearn's). The Ellegood family is of Concord, and Judge John W. Houston was born here.

Coolspring is a village of 125 inhabitants, with a station on the Delaware, Maryland & Virginia branch of the Philadelphia, Baltimore & Washington Railroad. The railroad company needed the station primarily for the handling of the lumber from this well wooded district. The settlement however dates much farther back. In 1742, the Society of Friends erected a meetinghouse at Cool Spring, and it was a Quaker meeting place for many years. The religious record goes even farther back, for in 1725, possibly earlier, a Presbyterian Church was built about seven miles west of Lewes, and called Cool Spring, "taking its name from a spring of cool water near."

Dagsboro, an incorporated town in Dagsboro Hundred, derives its name from General John Dagworthy, a colonial officer who gained distinction in the French and Indian Wars and also in the Revolution.



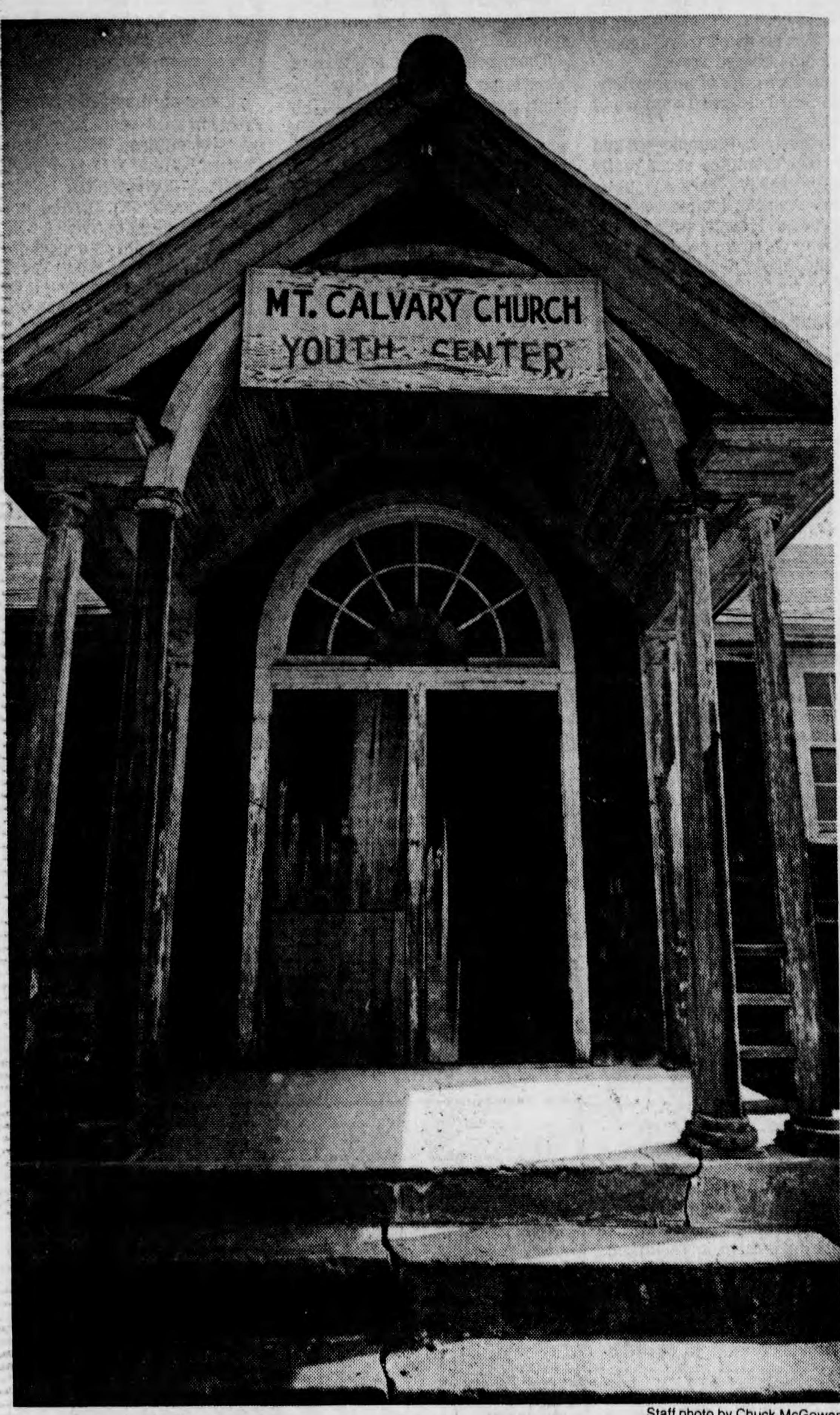
# News 2

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Staff photo by Chuck McGowen

The steps are cracked at the entrance to the former school in the tiny town of Concord.

# Sleepy town, lively past

## Concord's glory days are history now

By CAROLYN LEWIS

Sussex Bureau reporter CONCORD — Concord is a sleepy little hamlet about which local resident Luanne Fleetwood says, "You sneeze and you've gone through it. We're kind of hard to find."

So little known is the settlement that two employees in a small supermarket on Delaware 20, the main highway a quarter mile from the town, said they'd never even heard of it.

It is as though the Cabomba weed that is swallowing the Concord Pond has swallowed up the

town as well. Concord has a rich and lively history, reaching back to before the Revolutionary War. Once, in the

glory days of the 1830s, the town had grist mills, an iron forge, five or six stores, a tavern, two blacksmith shops, a tanyard, a stagecoach stop and inn, a wheelwright shop and several dry goods shops.

Today, there are no stores in Concord; just two churches and a handful of houses along Deep Creek and Concord Pond, three miles east of Seaford. But Concord still lives.

"There's a strong feeling of fellowship here," said Patricia Fleetwood. "You know your neighbors, and they know you - but they never bother you. Only, you know you can call on them if you need them."

See CONCORD — B7



Staff photo by Chuck McGowen

Concord's main road will never be confused with New York City's 42nd Street.

# Weeds wage war on pond

By CAROLYN LEWIS Sussex Bureau reporter

CONCORD - Mary Hill stood at the edge of the small pier below her house and stared into the waters of Concord Pond.

"It's green and mucky," she said. "It looks poisonous — like a drowned lawn."

Hill, 77, grew up in the town of Concord, which straddles Deep Creek and Concord Pond, three miles east of Seaford. She remembers when the 73-acre pond was "so clear you could see clean through

"We'd go up and down the pond in a paddle boat," she said. "We'd catch perch, pike, catfish, bass."

But now, she said, "You can hardly paddle a boat in there. Those weeds will just tie you up."

Like Mary Hill, Arlene Hendrickson, 64, lives in a house by the pond. To Hendrickson, formerly of Pennsauken, N.J., Concord Pond is more than a heap of memories gone sour. It is a headache of substantial proportions.

"My husband, John, bought the pond in 1973 or ['7]4" she said. "He died two years ago, and I'm stuck with it."

The problem is that growing along the bottom of the pond are vast networks of the Fanwort weed. of the Cabomba family, and Hydrilla. Both plants are native to South America.

They first appeared in Sussex County 15 years ago. At that time, Robert Beck, supervisor of state fisheries and technical services, theorized that the plant took root when someone dumped an aquarium into a local waterway. From that one point, the plant spread by attaching itself to the undersides of vessels that were moved from one body of water to another.

Hendrickson estimates that it would cost about \$15,000 every year to keep the weeds under control. She thinks the state of Delaware should do the job.

'I own the land at the bottom of the pond," she said, "but they own the water on top."

Not so, says Charles A. Lesser, manager of the fisheries division at



Staff photo by Chuck McGowen

Mary Hill, 77, remembers when Concord Pond was "so clear you could see clean through it."

the state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. "What we own is the watercontrol structure at the pond."

The state would spend the money to control the weeds if there was a health hazard, Lesser said. Otherwise, Delaware would require Hendrickson either to deed the land to the state or offer a long-term

'Seventy-five percent of our funding for these projects comes from the federal government," Lesser said. "And they require unrestricted public access to the waters, including a parking area next to the ramp.

While Hendrickson allows the public to use the pond — and there is a small access ramp near the bridge — Lesser said the state has no guarantee that the next owner would offer the same privileges.

"We can't spend public funds there without that kind of full assurance," he said.

"I can't afford to deed the pond to them because I need to have farm status," Hendrickson said. "I'd also lose on real estate taxes."

Hendrickson owns a 40-acre farm in addition to the nearly five acres where her house is. By adding the 73 acres at the bottom of Concord Pond to the land she already owns, she brings her total acreage to more than 100.

"My husband wanted to enhance our income when he bought the pond," she said. "We needed to own over 100 acres to belong to the Farm Bureau and qualify for their [group] Blue Cross health insurance. We also got a break on our real estate taxes."

Hendrickson said she enjoys watching "the action on weekends" on the pond. "A lot of people have a

good time out there fishing," she

The pond has other visitors too.

"Last year, there were 200 swans at the bend there. And a white duck. And at night, you can hear the geese talking, singing, hassling and howl-

One day, she saw a deer swimming across the pond.

Hendrickson and Lesser insist that Concord Pond is not in danger of dying, as are some other ponds in Sussex County. Numerous natural springs underneath the pond feed in fresh water and keep it replen-

But as the weeds continue to grow and spread, Hendrickson continues to worry.

"I guess I'll just have to make the best of it because I'm happy here,' she said. "I wouldn't want to be living any place else."

## Concord: Quiet town with a lively history

· Continued from B1

Hannah Davis, 67, said Concord is a "nice little town," but a quiet one. Not much excitement over the years, she said.

She did recall that about 40 years ago, some young people broke into the town's liquor store. The proprietor took a shot at them. Police tracked down the violators to an old shack on an island in the middle of Concord Pond.

"Those boys came from Washington," Davis said, as though that explained it all.

Small as it is today, Concord is not one town, but two. The road that crosses Concord Pond and Deep Creek separates the white community from the black community.

The black section is called Pilot Town, because it was first settled by black pilots who guided vessels along the creek into the Nanticoke River. Unlike most blacks in Sussex County, these were free men.

Free or not, in the early 19th century, Concord blacks were required to worship in the slaves' gallery, above the main floor of the town's Methodist church. A history compiled by Mt. Calvary AME Church in Pilot Town says even this shared experience was of short duration:

"Around the time the Civil War started, a change came to the inhabitants of Pilot Town. The white members of the Methodist Church decided that since the Negro wanted his freedom, he must also be responsible for his own wel-

"Early one Sunday morning when the colored ladies in their long Mother Hubbard dresses, starched white aprons and stiff bonnets, along with the men in their severe black suits with stock ties or clean overalls, made their way to the village church — they found the doors closed and locked against

"Sorrowfully, these people trod back to Pilot Town, the women weeping and the men with heads bowed in grief."

One of the congregation, Noah Boyce, vowed on the spot that the black community would have a place of worship of its own.

Working through the night, he

cleaned out an old log cabin, built benches inside, and "by sun up on Monday morning, the doors of the log cabin were opened for the praise of God."

Mary Hill, whose ancestors were among the first blacks to settle in Concord, says that separation has long been a part of life there.

Hill, 77, recalls that when she was a girl, "We had our church and they had their church."

Of the white residents, she said, "There were a few nice ones - the kind that didn't show their hatred too much. But my family didn't have any trouble. We were reared to mind our own business and leave other people alone."

Hill was one of nine children living with their parents on a 49-acre farm at the edge of town. Her father worked in the grist mill in Concord, while the family grew its food on the farm.

Her Uncle George Laws "used to tell us about driving his boat up and down the water," she recalled. And she remembered Daniel Brown, whose ox pulled a cart filled with lightwood stumps through the center of town. The stumps were used to light the camp meetings. "But we kids were really scared of that ox," Hill said.

The town character was Hill's grandfather, James Denard. "He would go to the store at the top of the hill, not too far from the mill. He'd sit by the big stove and tell lots of jokes," she said.

In the early mornings, before she walked to the one-room schoolhouse, Hill said she worked with her grandfather in the fields. "I was always thirsty, but he never seemed to want a drink," she recalled. "He used to say he was a sheep. He only drank dew."

Denard died when he was 92.

Like a lot of other residents of Concord, Hill has a lot of memories wrapped up in the small commu-

"Once Concord was bigger than Seaford; now, it's the other way around. A whole lot of people have never heard of it. And that's a shame, because this here's a very interesting place."

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Sto	ıte	rea	ware	)		SC	HF	T	TI TI	E No. 1.	-POPII	TATION	J		1	Supervisor's District	No.		1_	
Co	unty	Su	ser	∫			LIL	مدد		1 1 40+ -			4.		1.	Enumeration Distric	ct A	ro. 8	4	
To	mnshi	n or oth	er division of county B	road er	eek	1dun	dra	d		se may be. See instructions.]	Van	e of Institution,								
-									sion, as the ca	se may be. See instructions.]		e of institution, .			****			YTA 7	c 11	
JVC	ome oj	incorpe	rated city, town, or village,				ision,	Ĺ			~000-J	e. morgan						Ward o	f cit	
			Enu	merated by	me on	the	/ 0		day	of June, 1900,	orgrea.	c. morgan	<u> </u>			, Enumerator.				
	LOCA	rion.	NAME	RELIATION.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.				N.		NATIVITY.				IP.	OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR		EDUCATIO		
IN	CITIES.	the the	of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was			DATE OF BIRTH.		ried,	dren	Place of birth of each person States, give the States	Place of birth of each person and parents of each person enumerated. If born in the United States, give the State or Territory; if of foreign birth, give the Country only.			E C	7	PROFESSION of each person TEN YEARS of age		8	1	
	ť	dwel	in this family.  Enter surname first, then the given name and	Relationship of each			rthday.	r divon	how n				nigratio States.	rears in		and over.	1 49	ochoo		
	Numb	ret of fa	middle initial, if any.	of the family.	or 1860.	Month. Year.	t last bl	owed, o	dren.	Place of birth of this Person.	Place of birth of FATHER of this person.	Place of birth of Mother of this person.	of Imp United	ted Sta	alizatio	Occupation.	the no	nded tha).	rite.	
Street	House	Numb ord ord	OMIT children born since June 1, 1900.		Color Sex.	1	Agea	Whet wid	Moth chil	FAIT .		-37	Year	Numb	Natur		Mont	Atte mor	Can w	
		1 2	3	4	.5 6		8.	9 1	0 11 1		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21 22	23	
51			massey Otis C.		A decision the market of	Jan 189				The state of the s		Delaware								
52		· , - , ;	Elsien	Daughter	WF	Feb 189						Delaware				6 N = (1 = 0 = (-				
53		382386	Oright Harrisen							1 1	Delaware				3	Farm laborer.	. 3	no	no	
54			- annie	mife	B 3			7	2 7 6	maryland	0	maryland				·		no		
55			- Gillette	Der 4	13 m	11				Delaware	Delaware	maryland			-		-		ns	
56				Daughter	THE RESERVE AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NAMED IN		_		++	Delaware	and the same of th	marifand			+		$\vdash$		no	
8				Daughter		men 189	the second second second second			Delaware	- Charles and the Control of the Con	maryland						no	no	
9		383 384	Al Brillian D.	Skad	THE RESERVE THE PERSON NAMED IN	June 1864			7	- A	Delaware	Delaviere			-	Day laborer	4	Que	yes	
0		507	mary 8,			Dre 1861					Delaware	Delaware			+	Day laborer			no	
1	-		- Robert n.	A DESTRUMENTAL PROPERTY.	13A8201341	may 1884		200	/_/_/		Delaware	Delaware				at School.	-	3 200		
82		384 388			The second secon	Del 187				Dilaware		Delaware	1			apten Shucker	3		yes	
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martha J.

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