



**Circa 1923  
Members in front of their  
new 1922  
American  
LaFrance  
Pumper.**



## **100th Anniversary Celebration**



**July 12, 2003**

**Circa 1955  
Members  
with their  
new 1954  
Mack Pumper.**



**Circa 2000  
Members  
with the  
1954 Mack  
Pumper  
at a parade.**



## To Organize a Fire Company.

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting held in the Court House to night, (April 11, 1903), at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of organizing a fire department for said town.

All citizens are requested to be present and participate in the formation of said fire department.

When said department is organized and fully equipped, it is promised that there will be a reduction of the insurance rates now in force in this town.

By order of the Board of Town Commissioners.

Rufus W. Torbert, President  
Jno. L. Thompson, Secretary  
George W. Hatfield.  
James H. McGlothen.  
George R. Mears.

**Reprint from Sussex Journal  
April, 1903**



## 100th Anniversary Schedule of Events

**10am - 1pm Open House**

**11:30 - 100th Anniversary Ceremony**

Welcoming of Guests: Past Chief Robert W. Ricker

Invocation: Past Deputy Chief Robbie West

Pledge of Allegiance: 100th Anniversary  
Chairman Lewis W. Briggs, III

Presentations by Distinguished Guests

Unveiling of Historical Marker

**8pm - 11pm**

**Community Concert**

**Featuring The Fabulous Greaseband  
Georgetown Cheer Center**

# Historic marker unveiled



An historic marker was unveiled Saturday at the Georgetown Fire Company. Pictured above, after the unveiling (left to right): Russell McCabe of Delaware Archives, Rep. Joe Booth, Gov. Ruth Ann Minner, former Rep. Charlie West, Fire Company President Ira Hitchens and Sen. Tom Carper. Pictured to the left (left to right): Reps. Pete Swartzkopf, Joe Booth and Ben Ewing. All signed a proclamation in the House of Representatives for the Georgetown Fire Company.

Photos by Valerie Lemoi

any part thereof shall and will by their Parents  
Parents and forever defend. In witness whereof  
the said parties of the first part have hereunto  
set their hands and seals dated the day  
and year first above written

sealed and delivered  
in the presence of  
Blara H. Johnson

Charles H. Cullen (Seal)  
Lawrence Cullen (Seal)

Notary Public  
4/25/00

State of Delaware  
Sussex County

Be it Remembered that on this  
seventh day of January in the year of our  
Lord one Thousand Nine hundred and  
Twenty Five, personally came before me  
Minnie M. Cree, the Subscriber, a  
Notary Public for the State of Delaware

Minnie M. Cree  
Notary Public  
Nov. 12, 1925 for  
2 years Sussex County  
Georgetown Del.

Charles H. Cullen and Lawrence C. Cullen  
his wife, parties to this Indenture known to me  
personally to be such, and they severally acknow-  
ledged this Indenture to be their deed, and the  
said Lawrence C. Cullen being at the same time  
privately examined by me apart from her husband  
acknowledged that she executed the said indenture  
voluntarily without compulsion or threats or fear  
of her husband's displeasure Given under my hand  
and seal of office the day and year aforesaid.

Received for received  
January 13th 1926

Minnie M. Cree  
Notary Public

Horse G. Sermon Recorder

Purchasers Report Made this 12th day Jan. 1926. Board of  
Assessment of Sussex County Per W. Edwood Wright lclt.

Milled to Paul R. Miller lclt. 3/6/26

Deed Delaware Trust Company to Georgetown Fire Company

This Indenture made this twelfth day of January in  
the year of our Lord one Thousand Nine hundred and  
Twenty Six. Between Delaware Trust Company a corporation  
of the State of Delaware, party of the first part  
and Georgetown Fire Company, a corporation of the  
State of aforesaid, party of the second part. Witnessing  
that the said party of the first part for and in  
consideration of the sum of Thirty Two Hundred  
Dollars (subject to a mortgage of Twenty Nine  
Hundred Dollars) current lawful money of the  
United States of America unto it well and  
truly paid by the said party of the second  
part, at and before the sealing and delivery of  
these presents the receipt whereof is hereby  
acknowledged has granted, bargained, sold

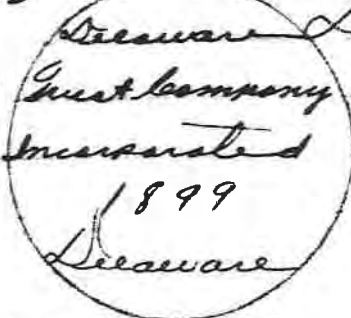
X

✓

released conveyed and confirmed and  
 by these presents does grant bargain sell alien assign  
 release convey and confirm unto the said party of the  
 second part its Successors and assigns All that certain  
 tract piece or parcel of land improved with a single  
 story brick building situated in the Town of Georgetown  
 Sussex County Delaware fronting on the public  
 square a distance of Twenty Six (26) feet and extending  
 back to Cherry Lane a distance of one hundred and  
 Twenty (120) feet adjoining other lands of Delaware  
 Trust Company and lands of Daniel J. Layton  
 containing three thousand one hundred and Twenty  
 (3120) Square feet being the same lands and premises  
 described as tract No 1. as conveyed to Delaware Trust  
 Company by the First National Bank by deed dated the  
 Thirtieth day of September 1918. and of record in Deed  
 Book No. 212. Page 21. Together with all and singular  
 the buildings the improvements ways woods waters  
 water courses rights liberties Privileges hereditaments  
 and appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging  
 or in anywise appertaining and the revenues and  
 remainders rents issues and Profits thereof and  
 all the estate right title interest property claim  
 and demand whatsoever of it the said party  
 of the first part in law equity or otherwise how  
 soever of in and to the same and every part and  
 parcel thereof. To have and to hold the said tract  
 of land the hereditaments and Premises hereby granted  
 or mentioned or intended so to be with the opportunit-  
 unt to the said party of the second part its Successors  
 and assigns. to and for the only proper use and  
 behoof of the said party of the second part  
 its Successors and assigns forever. And the said  
 party of the first part <sup>by deed and assigns</sup> for itself its <sup>and assigns</sup> does by these  
 presents covenant grant and agree to and with the  
 said party of the second part its Successors and  
 assigns that if the said party of the first part  
 its Successors or any singular the hereditaments  
 and Premises hereinabove described and granted  
 or mentioned or intended so to be with the opportunit-  
 unt to the said party of the second part its Successors  
 and assigns against it the said party of the first  
 part its Successors and against all and every  
 other person or persons whomsoever lawfully claiming  
 or to claim the same or any part thereof by force  
 Through or under it shall and will by these  
 presents stand and defend in witness whereof  
 said party of the first part has caused these

Presents to be signed by its proper officers and its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed, dated the day and year first above written.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of Scott S. Baker



Delaware Trust Company by George L. Medill, President, and Lincoln Kelley, Secretary.

11/2/68 50

State of Delaware  
New Castle County

Be it Remembered: that on this twelfth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and Twenty six personally came before me the subscriber for this year of a Notary Public for the State of said State of Delaware George L. Medill, President of Delaware Trust Company, party to this instrument of writing known to me personally to be such, and acknowledged the same to be the act and deed of said Delaware Trust Company; and further acknowledged that he was President thereof, that he knew its corporate seal, hereunto affixed with the corporate seal thereof, and that these presents were executed by authority of the Board of Directors thereof. Given under my hand and seal of office the day and year of aforesaid.

Received for Record  
Jan'y 15th A.D. 1926

Wesley Hamilton  
Notary Public

Henry D. Burman Recorder

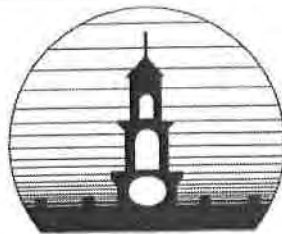
Purchaser's Report made this 15th day Jan. 1926. Board of Assessment of Sussex County. C. W. Edwood Wright Clerk

Mailed to Ohio Trust Co. 3/6/26

Deed Annie E. Hall et al to Edward M. Adams et al  
This Indenture made the --- day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and Twenty-Five. Between Annie E. Hall (Widow) Frank S. Hall and Frances S. Hall his wife, and S. Warren Hall and Lucretia S. Hall his wife, all of the town of Dover, Kent County and State of Delaware parties of the first part, and Edward M. Adams, Walter M. Adams, Alpheus J. Adams, and William E. Adams, trading as E. M. Adams & Bros. of Sussex County and State of Delaware, parties of the second part, Witnesses: that the said parties of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Sixteen Hundred Dollars (\$1600) lawfully of the United States of America, to them in hand



# State News



# SUNDAY

The Downstate Daily

July 13, 2003

Vol. 103, No. 346

## Tiny Del. big on marking history

By Randall Chase  
Associated Press

DOVER — For such a small state, Delaware seems awfully big on history.

Roadside markers and bronze plaques noting significant events, people and locales of the past seem to be cropping up around Delaware like dandelions in the summertime.

The state's historic marker program has been around since 1931, but according to Russ McCabe of the Delaware Public Archives, only 42 historic markers were erected between 1933 and 1986.

In recent years, however, markers have been going up at the rate of about one every other week, including two scheduled for this month. Mr. McCabe said there are now

- Significant Kent and Sussex markers **Page 6**
- For a complete listing of Downstate markers, go to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)
- Delaware Public Archives: [www.state.de.us/sos/dpa.markers.htm](http://www.state.de.us/sos/dpa.markers.htm)

close to 500 historic markers, plaques and tablets throughout the state.

"Delaware, I think, overall is just a very historic, preservation-conscious type state," said Jeanne Desmarais, a sales representative for Healy Brothers Foundry in Manville, R.I., which produces bronze historical plaques found in Delaware and several other states. "It's a tiny little state, and they do a huge amount."

Mr. McCabe, who oversees

the marker program, attributed contemporary interest in Delaware history partly to the dawn of a new century, but also to the state's rapidly changing population and landscape. While the better-known aspects of Delaware history have been etched in metal for years, the new markers tend to be more localized.

"Delawareans in general, I think, have become much more interested in the history of their communities," Mr. McCabe said. "The subject matter has become much more varied."

The marker commemorations literally range from A-Z, from the site of Aiken's Tavern near Glasgow, quarters for British Gen. William Howe in September 1777, to the Zwan-



Staff photo/Darrell Neale

Looking at the historical marker unveiled Saturday to observe the Georgetown Fire Co.'s centennial are, from left, Russ McCabe, administrator of historical markers with the State Archives; company Chief Joey Pepper (obscured); state Rep. Joseph W. Booth, R-Georgetown; Gov. Ruth Ann Minner; and former state representative Charles P. West.

See Markers — Page 6



# Markers

Continued From Page 1

nendael Club in Lewes, home to a women's community service group founded in 1905.

The characters mentioned include the famous, such as George Washington and fellow Revolutionary War patriots Caesar Rodney and John Dickinson, and the obscure, such as Duncan Beard "a locksmith of great distinction" who died in 1797, and a man simply known as "Anthony," a black man who was among the first permanent settlers of what was then called New Sweden in 1639.

The subjects covered run the gamut from war and politics to religion, business, sports and geography. Markers pay homage to the state's highest elevation above sea level, a whopping 447.85 feet, the studios of illustrator Frank Schoonover, and the use of the "highball signal," a ball raised by a pulley to signal a clear track on early railroads.

"We look at the state's history with a fairly broad scope," Mr. McCabe explained.

Last year's markers included the first of what may be several recognizing Medal of Honor recipients from Delaware. The first two were erected in honor of Sgt. James Connor, a World War II hero, and Sgt. John Maberry, a Union private who captured the flag of a North Carolina unit as Union forces repelled Pickett's Charge at the Battle of Gettysburg.

Baltimore photographer Roger Miller, who collaborated with author Joe Swisher on "The Complete Guide to Delaware Historic Markers," a 144-page book published last year, said he was amazed to

discover how many historical gems can be found in the First State.

"When I started the book on Delaware, my comment was, 'This should be easy,'" recalled Mr. Miller, who figured there wouldn't be much to aim his lens at beyond the Delaware Memorial Bridge, the historic town of New Castle, and Rehoboth Beach.

"There's an amazing amount of stuff," Mr. Miller said. "... The Nemours Mansion is almost a duplication of Versailles. Winterthur is just beyond itself; it's just mind-blowing."

Instead of focusing on the markers themselves, Mr. Miller said he and Swisher, who also collaborated on a book about Maryland historic markers, tried to explain and illustrate the stories behind them.

"Our goal was to get people out and about," said Mr. Miller, who has published pictorial books on Maryland, Baltimore, Annapolis and the Naval Academy. "It almost becomes a tour guide."

In addition to Mr. Miller and Mr. Swisher's book, history fans also can find "Roadside Markers in Delaware," an 84-page pocket guide published this year by Charles Adams of Frankford, who also has written guides to roadside markers in Maryland and West Virginia.

Delaware has two types of historic markers: the one-sided bronze plaques produced by the Rhode Island foundry, and traditional, two-sided roadside markers manufactured by Sewah Studios in Marietta, Ohio, which likes to advertise its cast aluminum markers as "History on a Stick."

# Rise in roadside markers reflects Delaware's varied history

By **RANDALL CHASE**  
Associated Press

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The state's historic marker program has been around since 1931, but Russ McCabe of the Delaware Public Archives said only 42 historic markers were erected between 1933 and 1986.

But in recent years, markers have been going up at the rate of about one every other week, including two scheduled for this

month. McCabe said there are now close to 500 historic markers, plaques and tablets throughout the state. The latest one, a marker commemorating the 100-year-old Georgetown Fire Company, was unveiled Saturday.

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The characters mentioned include the famous, such as George

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The News Journal/GARY EMEIGH

Reps. Joe Booth (left) and George Carey help Gov. Ruth Ann Minner unveil a Georgetown historical marker.

See **MARKERS** — B5

www.delawareonline.com

## Markers: From the famous to the obscure

### FROM PAGE B1

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McCabe said most of the new markers going up in Delaware are the bronze plaques, which he added are more pedestrian-friendly and don't pose distractions for motorists.

Whether bronze or aluminum, every marker is the result of a request from citizens or

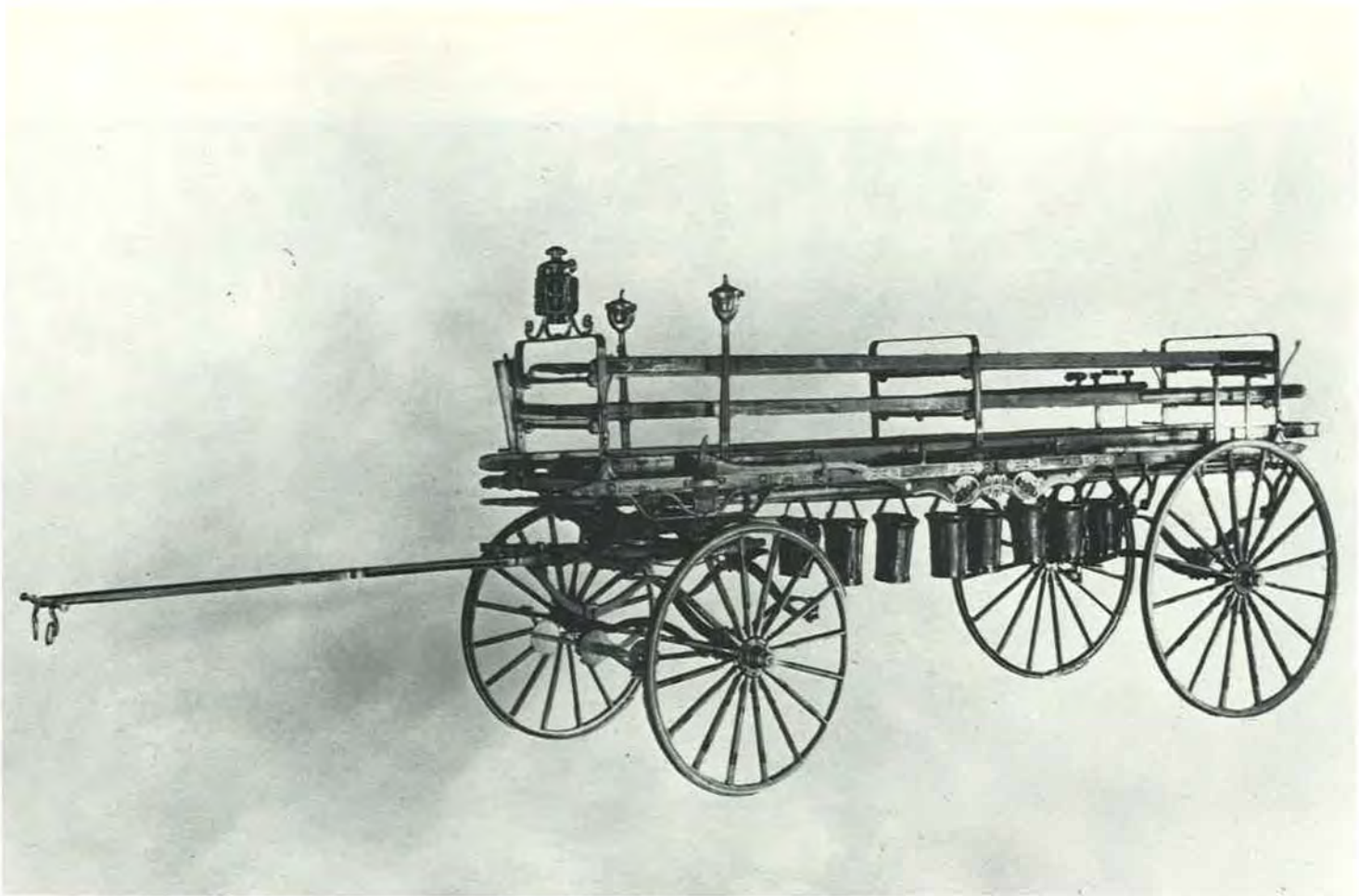
groups working through the Legislature, which appropriates money to erect the markers. While funding for new markers has decreased this year for the first time, McCabe said, there were enough appropriations for 27 markers at about \$2,000 each.

The markers are approved only after state archivists sign off on the historical accuracy of the subject.

"It's not a quick and dirty process," McCabe said. "It's been an effort for us just to keep up with the requests."

### On the Net:

Delaware Public Archives:  
[www.state.de.us/sos/dpa/markers-htm](http://www.state.de.us/sos/dpa/markers-htm)



*Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Fred Brown and D.D.H.C.A.*



# GEORGETOWN

An article appeared in the Sussex Journal on April 11, 1903 which stated in part: "When said department is organized and fully equipped it is promised that there will be a reduction of insurance rates now in force in this town." That article referred to the formation of the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Company. Prior to 1903 there were apparently three or four fire brigades around Georgetown, all with hand-pulled equipment.

A meeting to organize the Georgetown firemen into one official group was held in the Georgetown Court House.

Dr. Thomas Robinson was elected temporary Chief and Charles L. Moore was elected permanent Chief on June 6, 1903. Andrew J. Lynch was elected the first President. There was a recruiting session for the new group which resulted in 109 members in two days.

The minutes of the October 7, 1903 meeting indicated that a hand drawn ladder truck was purchased complete with ladders, buckets, pikes, lanterns, nozzles and even an automatic bell which was attached to the back wheel and rang every time the wheel was turned.

This original ladder truck is still in possession of the Georgetown firemen and kept in the firehouse at all times right along with the modern equipment. The type of wagon they have is considered rare because it was designed and constructed to be hand-drawn and not horse drawn as was the more common occurrence. The wagon was made by Charles T. Holloway Company of Baltimore and thought to be built by them about 1897.

In 1922, the Georgetown firemen bought a new American LaFrance No. 2 Chemical Wagon for \$10,500. It also is still owned by them and is complete with its original nozzles, bell and lanterns. They believe it to be the oldest piece of motorized fire equipment still owned by firemen in the State of Delaware.

A Foamite Childs hand-pulled chemical wagon Model D-2, circa 1907, was given to the Georgetown firemen by Frank Brown to display along with their other antique equipment.

The Georgetown firemen moved into their present one-story modern building in 1967 which was built for only \$100,000, thanks to vol-

unteer labor to the firemen. Prior to 1967 they occupied a long narrow building on the Georgetown Circle. One disadvantage to the building was that it was only wide enough for one truck and they had to be parked one behind the other. If the first truck didn't start, or there was some other problem, it naturally kept all of the rest of the trucks from answering the alarm. The building had been expanded to space limitations and there was no alternative but for the firemen to seek a new location. The building is now occupied by Lawyers Title Company.

One of the most popular and successful fund raising events the firemen have is their annual "Oyster Eat." An all-male occasion, the first one was held on December 6, 1934 and was just a get together for the firemen and friends. Raw or steamed oysters and beer were the only things served at the early dinners, but there was always some good foot-stomping music to eat by. The men let their hair down and had a good time. For the last twenty-five years, the "Oyster Eat" has been a regular annual event and busloads of men come from Dover, Baltimore, and other parts of Maryland as well as Pennsylvania to eat oysters. Even though it was not originally meant to be a fund-raising event, it now brings in a couple of thousand dollars profit each year. It is an all-you-can-eat menu which includes ham and cheese sandwiches along with the oysters for \$5.00 a person. It is held on the last Friday in February.

The firemen conduct their annual fund drive in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week and present awareness demonstrations and displays for the public.

The fund drive itself is a letter solicitation which reaches about 2,500 area residents.

The active ladies auxiliary sponsors an average of six dances through the winter months and caters wedding receptions and an annual chicken and dumpling dinner. They buy equipment for the firemen with their approximately \$2,500 annual profits.

The Georgetown firemen now have about 95 active members with the minimum age of eighteen. They own seven pieces of modern equipment plus the three antiques for a total assets in the neighborhood of \$335,000.00.