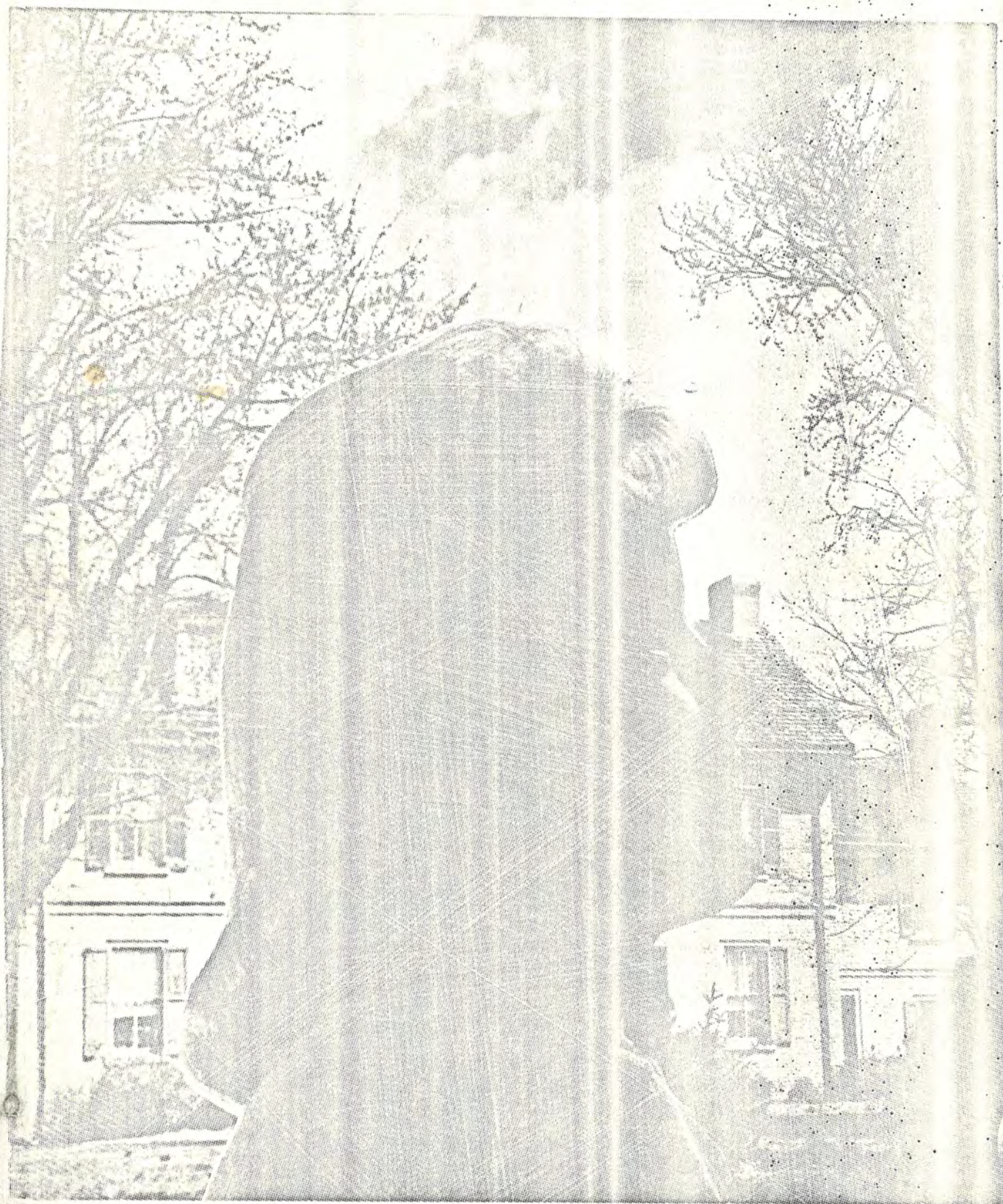




KENTON

KENTON, DELAWARE

by Darlene Masten

JANUARY 16, 1963

KENTON

BY

DARLENE MASTEN

January 16, 1963
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KENTON

Kenton Hundred follows Duck Creek Hundred geographically. This Hundred was created by an act of the General Assembly, February 3, 1869. It was formed from Duck Creek and Little Creek Hundreds, and comprised all the original territory of those Hundreds which lies west of the Delaware Railroad.

The boundaries of Kenton Hundred are: On the north, Blackbird Hundred of New Castle County and Duck Creek; on the east, the Delaware Railroad; on the southwest, Dover Hundred and Fork Branch of St. Jones Creek and on the west by the State of Maryland. Little Duck Creek runs through the center of the Hundred, and its several branches keep the meadow lands well watered.

The Delaware Railroad running down the east side, the Delaware and Maryland through the centre and about one mile of the Kent County, Smyrna and Delaware Bay Railroad in the northwestern section. In 1880 the population was two thousand eight hundred and seventeen. There has been no survey since the erection of the hundred, but the area is about thirty-five thousand acres.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS

Early settlements in the new lands of America were usually made along the waterways, where the settlers had a convenient and easy means of transportation, and in grants of land in the Hundreds of Duck Creek and Little Creek the settlers followed the course of their neighbors in other Hundreds. Most of the settlers in Kenton Hundred were English, and the greater portion of the land was known as the ¹"Manor of Freith." "Freith" was a tract of ten thousand acres laid off by William Penn under warrant and survey bearing date of May 3, 1683. A portion of this tract was purchased by the Bristol Naval Store Company in 1714, and Benjamin Shurmer took three thousand one hundred and twenty-five acres of the tract on a branch of Duck creek. Walter Dulany in 1706, took up a large tract of this land on Freith as did also Captain Richard Smith in 1710. South of the Dulany tract was what was known as the ²"Deer Park" tract comprising two thousand and two hundred and fifty-five acres.

¹ "Manor of Freith", is the land in Kenton before it was divided into sections or lots.

² "Deer Park", was the Cross Roads at Blackiston which is now Blackiston's Cross Roads.

This tract was granted to Benjamin Blacksinton June 14, 1733, by Lord Baltimore. Samuel Chew also took up lands on the west side of the Hundred and in the Maryland territory. Other large property owners and early settlers in this hundred were William Ellingsworth who received one thousand and twenty-five acres of the "Manor of Freith" on Little Duck creek, which he named "Duncaster". John Hillyard, a large land-owner in Duck Creek Hundred, in 1682, took up four hundred and twenty-six known as "Hillyard's Exchange", and is described as being on the south side of the west branch of Duck Creek and on Hillyard's Branch. It is near and southeast of the town of Kenton, and adjoining what was called "Wapping", "Williams Range," "Baliff Hill," and others. A part of this land was by deed of gift conveyed to Arthur Cook and Elizabeth, his wife, August 8, 1720, and to Hillyard's grandson, John Hillyard.

The Hillyard tract later came into the possession of Philip Lewis, who also owned other large tracts, including the land on which the town of Kenton stands.

Philip Lewis began the purchase of lands May 2, 1791, then buying three hundred and sixty acres of James Hynson and sixty of Thomas Murphey; and November 8, 1791, bought one hundred and fifty-nine acres of William Dickson, which, in 1793, was part of a tract surveyed to John Faries, who, October 20, 1773, sold to William Jones, who, in turn, Feb-

ruary 6, 1775, sold to William Dickson, Christopher Long and Samuel Jemison. These tracts extended to the ³ "Seven Hickories," an old stopping-place for teams on the road from Dover to Kenton, so called for the reason that seven large hickories stood there. In 1825, the Lewis property was divided among the sons of Phillip Lewis, Jefferson, Albert G., and Phocion P., The first name is still living. The lands of Albert G. and Phocion P. were conveyed to Frederick Staake and by him conveyed to Mason Bailey, and are now in the possession of Bailey's heirs, with the exception of a small strip of one hundred acres held by Elizabeth Jones.

The following names are of person assessed in Kenton Hundred in 1785, and are taken from the assessment rolls of Little Creek and Duck Creek Hundreds, of that date:

³ "Seven Hickories", is the name where there was seven large hickories standing there, at that time.

Sarah Allee

John Allee

Aquila Attix

Abrm Anderson

John Attix

Jeremiah Boroughs

Benj. Blackiston

Richard Boroughs

Edward Boroughs

James Bostick

Ebenezer Blackiston

Elijah Boroughs

John Barnes

Benjamin Boroughs

John Boroughs

Benj. Blackiston, Jr.

Daniel Cummins, Jr.

James Cummins

Nicholas Clarke

Wm. Cahoon, Esq.

Daniel Cummins

Rachael Clark

John Clouds

Wm. Clark

George Cummins

Elijah Boroughs

John Barnes

Benjamin Boroughs

John Boroughs

Benj. Blackiston, Jr.

Samuel Cole

Charles Clark

Ebenezer Clark

Benj. Chew Esq.

Daniel David, Esq.

Isaiah Derham

Wm. Derham

Joseph David

Joseph David, Jr.

Hugh Durborow

Wm. David

Daniel Durham

James Dean

Patrick Downs

Widow Durborow

Whitonton Durham

GarrettDushane est.

George Derham

John Durham

Henry Farsons

Wm. Farsons

John Farsons

Joseph Foreacres

Robert Ganel

David Griffin

Daniel Durham

James Dean

Patrick Downs

Widow Durborow

Whitonton Durham

Lydia Griffen

Wm. Griffen

Eben Griffen

Thomas Hillard

Barthia Hazel

Matthew Hazel

Benjamin Hazel

Jacob Hurlock

Wm. Hutchinson

George Jazel

Wm. Hurlock

John Hazel

Ebenezer Hurlock

George Harris

Wm. Hill

John Hutchinson

Isaac Hazel

Joseph Howard

John Ham

John Hill

Bell Jones

Hannah Jones

Jacob Jones

Benj. Jones

Thomas Jones

Dr. James Jones

Samuel Jones

Richard Keys

Thomas Lacount

Aban Moore

Thos. Moore

Robert Moore

Joseph Meredith

Wm. Murphey

Peter Moore

Godfrie Molestan

Michael Numbers

Joseph Numbers

James Numbers

Thomas Numbers

Joseph Nock

Mary Numbers

Wm. Numbers

John Numbers

Joseph Price

Allen Palmetry

Abm. Parsans

Robert Palmetry.

Hyland Pennington.

Widow Redgester

Jermiah Rees
Edward Rees
John Rees
John Spruance est.
John Spruance
John Spearman
Wm. Sharp
Presley Spruance
John Starling
Wm. Scotten
James Scotten
John Scotten
Matthew Tilghman
Wm. Thomson
Abm. Thomson
John Thomson

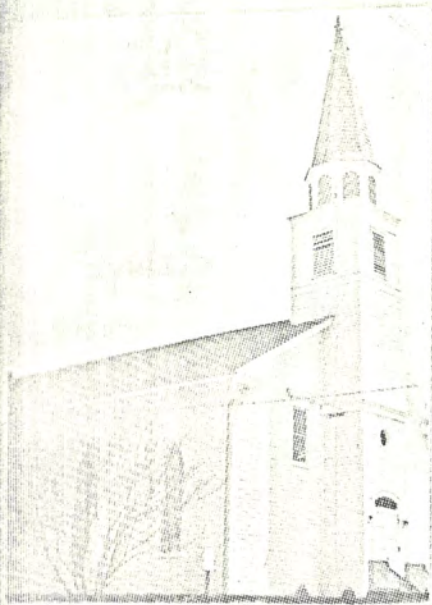
Moses Thompson
Jethro Thompson
Robert Thomson
James Thomson
Benjamin Truax
Hendrick Truax
James Tippitt
Pete Williams
Samuel Wilson
Nathaniel Wilds
Wm. Wallace
Wm. Wartenbury
Josiah Wallace

James Green another large owner of land in Duck Creek Hundred owned a large tract in Kenton known as "Brenford", Philip Lewis took up several large tracts adjoining these and extending from a small settlement known as the "Seven Hickories", on the road from Dover to where the village of Kenton was eventually built on his land; and one thousand acres adjoining the settlement of Seven Hickories, were owned by Moors who came to the Hundred direct from Spain in 1710, and who settled in a village known as Moortown on the Dover-Kenton road.

In 1785, these Moors owned large estates and had a prosperous and thriving community. John and Israel Durham were leading members of this settlement. They and their descendants refused to mingle with their white or black neighbors and have maintained to this day their pure Moorish blood. Several families now remain in this section as direct descendants, of these Moors.

CLAYTON

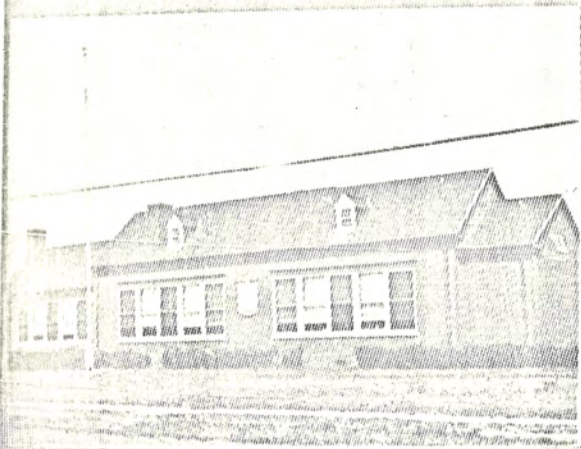
Clayton, the largest town in Kenton Hundred, is in the extreme northeastern part of the hundred. The earliest settlement at or near the present town site was known as "Jintown" on the road to Smyrna Landing. The land on which this settlement was located was held by one Richard Tibbitt, with a reversion of the fee to one William Wartenby, in case Tibbitt had no heirs. In 1859, Tibbitt sold ground for a



Kenton M. E. Church

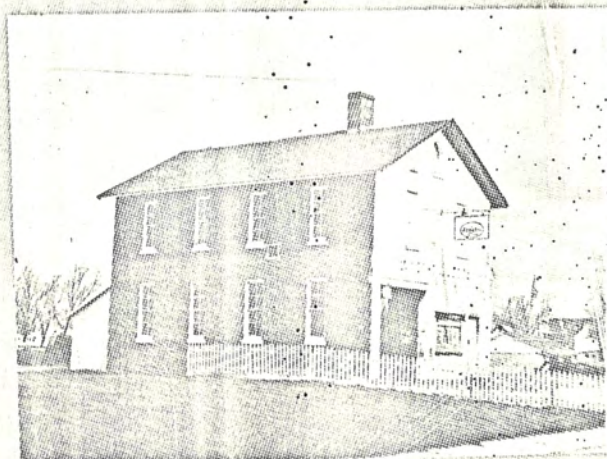


Kenton Post Office



Old School House

Kenton Public School



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town site, the Delaware Railroad was built and a town established along the railroad a quarter of a mile from the site of the old "Jintown", settlement.

The town was named Smyrna Station. In 1860, the Post-Office Department recognized the town for postal purposes as Clayton but it was not until 1877, that an Act of the Legislature changed the name from Smyrna Station to Clayton, at which time the town was also incorporated.

KENTON

Kenton is the oldest town in the hundred, and situated near the centre, on the Delaware and Maryland Railroad, was first known as Lewis' Cross-Roads, afterwards as Grog-town, and by act of Legislature, in 1806, it was changed to Kenton. It was called Lewis' Cross-roads, after Philip Lewis, who, in 1791, owned all the surrounding land, and laid out the roads in 1796.

The oldest house in the town is one now occupied by Mrs. Mary Green. It was built by Philip Lewis, and is of frame, and was moved to its present location about seventy years since. On the corner is an old brick house standing on the road, which was built shortly afterwards and used as the first general store in the town.

The old hotel, still standing and known as the Kenton Hotel, was also built by him in 1809. It was occupied by William Arthur in 1811, and in 1812 by James Bayels, who

run it for a number of years. Charles Hamm had it in 1843 and in the same year Thomas L. Temple, a brother of Governor Temple, took in and ran it for a number of years; it is now in charge of Terrance Carvin.

The post-office was started in 1860, and since that time the postmasters had been W. H. Taylor, John Wilds, William C. Jump, Joseph Roop, William H. Moore and W. Denny Wilds.

The town's main growth has been since the war, and the Legislature, on April 23, 1887, passed an act incorporating it into a town.

At present there are three general stores, kept by J. M. Arthurs, W. H. Moore and W. Taylor; a millinery store, two blacksmith shops and one drug store. There are sixty houses and a population of three hundred.

KENTON IN 1920

¹ Kenton in 1920, looks something like this: This is the year my father brought here to live with Uncle Jimmy Burrows. He kept store in the old Hotel. The building Mrs. Bigers has had torn down. Uncle Frank kept store in what is the Clifton Property.

There were two hard-ware stores. Now located in a building which belonged to Mr. John Arthurs. Now the

¹ Kenton in 1920: Information from Mrs. Avis Pinder in Kenton.

Ruch property. The post office run by Mr. William Arthurs was located there too. It stood in the corner of the lot opposite Mrs. Thomas. The other hardware store was run by Mr. H. Hilyard, Sr., which is now Raymond Faulkner.

There was a store or rather a meat market where the post office is now. Mr. Bull owner. Mr. John Arthurs had a canery down the railroad track opposite side from the Diamond State Daries.

Mr. Biger had a canery what now is the Van Holten. Later in the year 1923, or 1924, Mr. H. W. Hilyard were in partnership with him.

There was an old log cabin located where Mrs. Biger built her new home. It had two rooms. The big room was curtain off for a sleeping space. The kitchen had just a dirt floor. Mr. Biger's Mother and Father lived there, Mr. and Mrs. Dawson.

Then there was another store located next to the log cabin. This was operated by Mrs. Poore. Next to it and what is now the post office was a Blacksmith shop. Mr. Biger and Mrs. Reed were the Blacksmiths.

The Barber shop was a shoe repair place. Mr. Donlop was a shoe repair man and painter. The barber shop was in the Jewell Property beyond Moores store. The barber was Al Morgan. (Morrish race)

The station was opposite Weigle's mill. Trains came into Kenton four times daily. Two north bound and two

-15-

south bound. Time around 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 and 6:00 p.m. The freight station was opposited the Buritan lot.

The creamery was located in the colored section near Van Holtens. Just below Raymond Ford's. The milk was taken to the railroad by horses. They were beautiful.

Dr. E. F. Smith lived where Viridins' now lived and his office was where Elva Attix has a storage building. The small building next to her home. He later bought the home where Eva Carey now lives.

On the street where the trailers are, the lot belonging to Mrs. Davis was a small building that was a jail. Mr. Shultz was town cop.

Not that I knew, this following but Mrs. Hughes, father was a doctor. I have been told that he had some sort of a hospital there in his home. (The Hughes Home.)

Another doctor who left before I came to Kenton was Dr. Money. They lived where Mrs. Susie Knotts now lives.

¹ Kenton in 1920 from
Mrs. Avis Pinder.

When the Baily home was bought from Mr. Lewis, Mr. Bailey rode a horse from Centreville to Kenton with a twine, used for a belt, and it was all ragged. He buried his money in the branch between the Bailey property and the Somerville property.

When it was auctioned off he bid the highest and people didn't think he could pay for it. He left and dug up his money and paid cash for it to every ones' surprise.

In 1907, the wheel-right shop was where Mr. Hazel's home is now. The Hoop Shop in 1917, was where they made hoop for vessels, and sailing ships. This was done by Dr. Money in off time. He took in government contracts. Mr. Taylor ran the butter factory. There was also an armory where the Cliftons lived, on the four corners of Kenton.

In the town of Kenton in 1873, there were three doctors: Dr. Godwin had his office at the Edward Attix home and at the Somerville place. Dr. Cooper at the Cooper home, and Dr. Temple was in the town. About three years later there were three new doctors, in town as Dr. Manship, Virden and Dr. Money, and Dr. Smith.

In 1887, Mr. James Hughes taught at Kenton and in 1907, Mr. Edward Hughes his nephew also taught at the old Kenton school where Mr. Everett owns.

² Reference on Kenton:
From Mr. Edward Hughes.

Mrs. Durborough gave the bell to the church and it is still there. Mr. Hughes has the dedication of the Methodist Church in September 15, 1878 and he has all the records of the church, society.

Terance Carvin, owner of the old Hotel in Kenton operated during the 1887s, and there was a fight in this old hotel, turned over a stove, and he picked it up and threw it out in the street with the fire and all.

There was sometime between 1887-1888 a cyclone came through Kenton and knocked out the end of the school building. The scholars were home but Mr. J. Hughes was cut on the side of the head. The house that stood on the corner, of the property now Mr. Everett's was also torn apart knocking a lamp into the street and unharming a woman lying sick in bed.

Where Mr. Ed. Hughes now lives there stood an ice house which was also blown away and they never found any trace of it afterwards.

The old school is moved out on the old Wild's place and still is standing. The old little red jail house was moved to the property of Mr. E. Jarrell, as he used it for a milk house and now as an odds and ends place.

Mrs. Hughes, is now the oldest native still residing in the home in which she, her mother and grandmother was born in 1882.

2 Ref. from Mr. Edward Hughes, in Kenton.

MANUFACTURES IN KENTON

Kenton has been devoted into the best farming lands of the state are in the hundred, they have been highly cultivated for years. Large quantities of peaches, wheat, corn and vegetables are raised.

About 1840, Simon Spearman, who lived on the Middle Alley road, on the farm now owned by Edward Streets, shipped the first peaches for market, and the return was so profitable that a number of the farmers planted trees, until to-day three-fourths, of the land is planted with peach trees. The shipments from various railroad stations have approximated in one year as high as three-hundred thousand baskets. The year 1887, was one of the poorest ever known, and fifty-thousand will cover the shipment.

Kenton has also been devoted almost exclusively to farming, and only up to within the past few years has there been any manufacturing interest outside of old grist-mills.

J. B. Messick has a small phosphate factory at Kenton, which has been in operation since 1884, and has an output of one thousand tons. W. P. Wright, since 1879, has conducted a brick-kiln at Clayton, and manufactured between three hundred thousand to four hundred thousand bricks a year. John W. Graham, at Kenton, manufactures one hundred thousand bricks a year, and has been engaged in it for seven years.

Old brick-yards have existed on the farm of James



Wilds Home

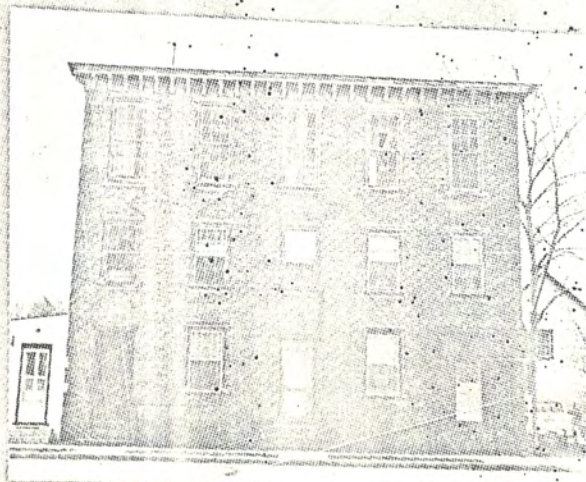


Cooper Home



Aspendale Home

Old Town Hall



Williams, near Kenton, about thirty-five years ago, but were abandoned in 1875. John T. Poor formerly had a yard in Kenton, but it has been out of use for several years. Another old yard was operated by Nathaniel Wilds, on what is now the Underwood farm, two miles from Kenton.

Being a fruit-growing country, the evaporation and canning of fruit is naturally one of the main industries. At Kenton, J. M. Arthur has a large canning establishment, built in 1882, capable of turning out two hundred and fifty thousand cans of fruit in a season. In the same town John W. Graham built, in 1882, an evaporation capable of turning out three hundred baskets a year.

WILD'S SCHOOL-HOUSE

This school, was the name given to the school in District 9, for the reason the land upon which it was erected was given by Nathaniel Wilds, which has in its limits the town of Kenton, the building being located there. In 1829, there was a school-house a short distance below Kenton, with twenty scholars and eighty-five children between the ages of five and twenty. The old building was log and had been erected about 1800.

It stood until 1839, when it was torn down and a frame building erected in its place. In 1885, the Legislature authorized the erection of a new building, the old one was abandoned and a fine brick building erected in the town of

Kenton valued at three thousand dollars. In 1886, there were in it a graded school and primary with one hundred and twelve scholars.

KENTON CHURCH

The Kenton M. E. Church is in the Smyrna Circuit, and was built in 1818, at the end of the town of Kenton, on the road leading to Downs Chapel. It was a frame building, twenty-four by sixty feet. The ground was donated and the building erected by Isaac Buckingham, Rev. John Durborough and James Scotten. Rev. John Durborough, was a grand father of Bishop Cummins, of Kentucky, and the first minister of the church.

Previous to the erection of the building, services were held at James Scotten's house. The old building was abandoned in 1877, and the present substantial building was erected in that year and was dedicated September 15, 1878, by Bishop Scott. The list of preachers will be found in the article upon the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church of Smyrna.

In 1747, a conveyance of one half an acre of land was made by William Griffin to six men, trustees of the Baptist Society, for church used after the confession faith adopted by the Baptist Association at Philadelphia, which met September, This land was never occupied by a church building,

the Welsh Tract Baptists rebuilt the church and the Independents and known as Mount Zion. The congregation and church were incorporated July 22, 1794. In the graveyard of this church repose all that was mortal of many of the old families of the hundred.

In 1828, there were 55 members attending the Kenton Church. Now, 1963, there are around 110 members attending the Methodist Church.

KENTON TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

In 1834: Agreeably to previous notice a meeting of the Kenton Temperance Society was held at the Methodist Church in the afternoon and on the evening of the _____ of _____ as 1841, these meetings were addressed by McCasey and Vicken, two of the reformed drunkors of Baltimore and it was unanimously resolved that the title of this society should be changed from the Kenton Temperance Society to that of the Washington Temperance Society of Kenton, as an evidence of the effect of these powerful addresses this society.

ROADS IN KENTON

In 1796, Roads were laid out and straightened, some of these roads are:

The road leading from the Duck Creek Cross Roads to Holliday's Landing by James Scotten. Through Lewis Cross Roads to Duck Creek Cross Roads. The roads running from the line through the Cypress Branch through Lewis Cross Roads and by Peter Millers' Mill, to Dover.

POPULATION

Kenton is a small trading center with a population that I know in these years:

1900---192

1910---209

1958---231

1962---221

In the years of 1900 to 1962 you can see that Kenton, has fewer people in the town today then, in the years of 1958.

BUSINESS IN KENTON

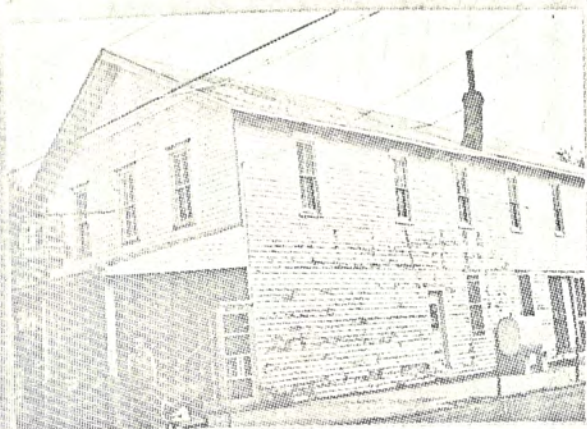
In the year of 1900 until around 1933 these business places were in the town of Kenton.

Blacksmith shop	Meat Market
Hoop Shop	1 Creamery
Wheel-write shop	Jail
Barber Shop	Town Cop
Post Office	Hospital
Old Hotel	3 Doctors--- then, 4 other new ones later
1 Hardware store	1 Church
1 Drug Store	1 School
1 Fertilize Plant	Liquor Store
3 Grocery Stores	1 Butter Making Plant
3 Caneries	1 Peach Dryer ¹
1 Mill	

Business Places from 1950 to 1963.

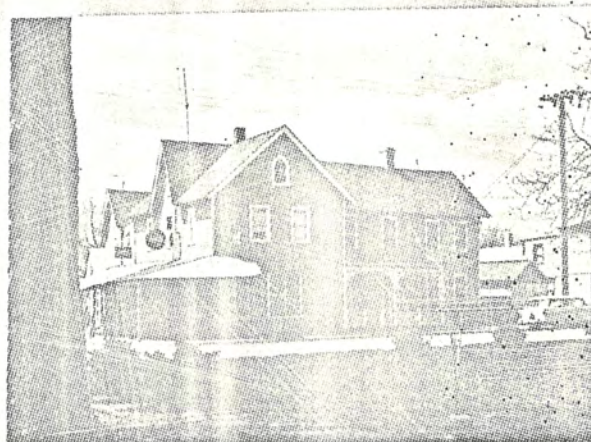
Post Office	2 Mills
School	Diamond State Daries
Church	Farm Implement
3 Grocery Stores	1 Liquor Store
1 Hardware Store	Billard Parlor
1 Canery	Betty's Beanty Parlor

1 Peaches are layed on a screen until
they are dry.

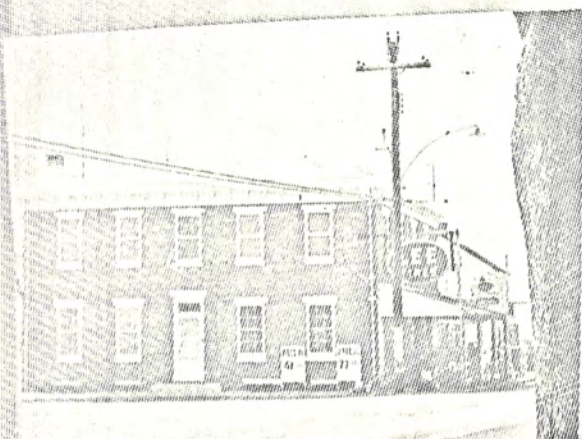


Faulkner's Store
(Kenton Mayor)

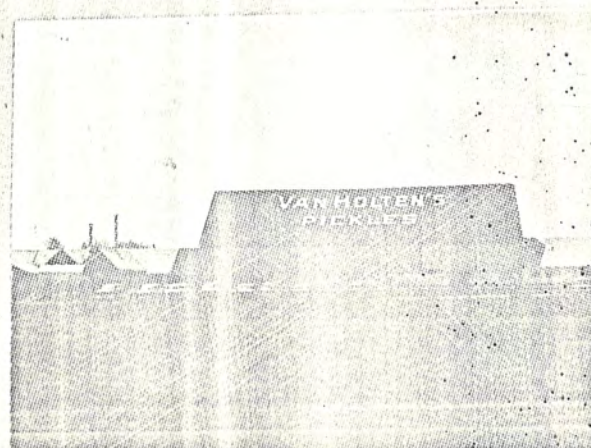
Clifton's Store



McGinnis Store



Van Holten



CLUB ACTIVITIES

The Club Activities now, in Kenton are:

1. Homemakers' Club--¹ The Kenton Home Demonstration time was organized in 1934, with Mrs. Ada Hilyard as the first president and Miss Whitcomb as County leader with 12 Charter members.

The purpose of the club was for home improvement. The county agent, Miss Whitcomb, furnished the materials for the programs. We had lessons on chair caning, stool making, sewing, painting, making lamp stools, food demonstrations and many other home projects.

With the dues that are collected from the members we donate to the Heart, Cancer, March of Dimes, also the Scholarship funds.

W.S.C.S.

As far as its known there has been the Ladies Aid Society ever since the church was started, which changed its name to the W.S.C.S. December 1940. There are at present 25 members, and Mrs. Alfred Shackleton is President.

¹ Information given by
Mrs. James Rowlinson & Mrs. Alfred Shackleton.

BIBLE CLASS

The Kenton Bible Class started in 1925. Mrs. Tim Sylvester was President with 25 members. The Minister was Rev. John E. Parker at that time. Each year they hold an Anniversary Dinner. This year there were 11 charter members present. This organization helps out with different church expenses or what ever is needed.

KENTON SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

The Kenton Sunday School has 110 members on roll at the present time. Rev. Frank O. Baynard minister, Superintendent Mr. Paul Palmer, Secretary Miss Darlene Masten, Treasury Mrs. Belle Palmer.

Mr. Edward Hughes, Sr. is the oldest active member with 37 years of perfect attendance.

RURITAN CLUB

The Kenton Ruritan Club's charter was sign on December 9, 1959 with 35 members present. There are now, 16 members. This organization helps in the community affairs. The President is Mr. Edward Hughes, Jr.

GUN CLUB

¹ The Kenton Gun Club was organized in May, 1958, with 15 members. There are now, 45 members. Originally, there was only one trap field. Now, there is a lighted trap field, a skeet field, and a club house.

The members plan to install another trap field this spring. The club is located on the property of Edward
¹
Alexander.

¹ Mr. Charles Austin

HISTORIC HOMES IN KENTON

ASPENDALE HOME

(Route 300, about a mile southwest of Kenton)

¹ Aspendale, built in 1771-73, stands on part of a tract originally known as Duncaſter. A great portion of this tract, at the headwaters of the ſouthweſt branch of Duck creek, was deeded in 1770 to Charles Numbers. "Yeoman, of Duck Creek Foreſt."

Charles Numbers ſtarted to build his home in 1771 and completed it in 1773. Not far off is the old "brick hole" (now a ſmall marſhy pond) whence was dug the clay to make the bricks to be uſed for the three-bay, two ſtorey and attic houſe of Georgian quality. Apart from plan, it might be claſſified as reſtrained Middle-Georgian with ſome Early-Georgian elements, and a venture or two into the future.

Aspendale is one of the comparatively ſmall number of old Delaware houſes that have never paſſed from ownership by the families of the original buildres, and have been continuously lived-in by them. Charles Numbers was the great-great grandfather of the preſent owner. The houſe Charles Numbers built in 1771, has, therefore, eſcaped ſuch maltreatment as changes in ownership ſo often cauſed, and likewise the neglect and abuſe incident to absentee landlordiſm.

The Flemiſh-bond brickwork of the ſouth and north fronts is of admirable quality, and it is worth noting that two

courses of moulded bricks cap the water-table instead of the more usual single course. A belt course, five bricks in width with the three middle courses recessed, imparts effective accent to the south and north fronts.

By way of contrast, the east and west ends of the house, with their twin chimneys coupled by short curtain walls, are stuccoed. When the house was completed in 1773, the ridge of the roof was slightly fattened, covered with lead, made with lead, made into a deck between the pairs of chimneys, and enclosed with a balustrade. During the Revolutionary War, the lead was required for bullets. The balustrade was then removed, and the shingled roof given its present form.

The one-storey and attic frame wing at the west end adds a note of interest to the composition. It is a good instance of the frequent Delaware habit of having a frame wing on axis with the main body of the house. It is older than the rest of the house, just how much it is impossible to say. The particulars of construction indicate that it was already standing when the brick structure was erected. It is certainly of much earlier type, the one room, fireplace and winding-stair type, only, in this case, instead of a winding stair, a ladder or "stee" gave access to the big chamber above. The previous presence of the wing may have suggested the plan of the 1771 building.

The various dependencies, farm buildings, old lanes and divisions between the fields, have never been changed, and although there have been renewals and additions about the barn. Aspendale and its plantation surroundings are virtually the same as when Charles Numbers finished his brick house in 1773. The place is a living example of a prosperous Kent County farmstead in the last quarter of the eighteenth century.

It would be little short of a miracle if Aspendale had altogether escaped Victorian "improvement." The "improvement," however, was of very limited extent and easily eliminated. Outside, it consisted of a Victorian verandah hitched onto the middle bay of the south front, and an "ornamental" Victorian cornice. Inside, two partitions encroached upon the area of the large parlour.

When the present owner took over after the demise of two old spinister aunts, who had occupied Aspendale during part of the Victorian Era and in the years following, the only exterior restoration needed was the removal of the aforesaid verandah, and the replacement of the cornice "prettification" by a Georgian cornice in perfect scale with the house. Indoors, only the parlour partitions had to be taken away.

One of these partitions had sliced off the west side of the parlour to make a long, narrow hall from the front door

clear through to the door on the north front. The other divided what was left of the parlour into two smaller rooms. When these came out, the original character of the room appeared. Its ample dimensions, twenty-eight by eighteen feet, assured exceptional dignity and spaciousness; it was actually one of the largest rooms in Delaware when the house was built. Removal of the partitions, besides revealing a room of unusual and satisfying proportions, disclosed the formerly obscured fine panelling and the cupboards at each side of the fireplace.

On removal of the parlour partitions, the original plan of the house at once became obvious and intelligible. When Charles Numbers built his house, he adopted the "Quaker plan" William Penn had advocated in 1684, a plan little heeded elsewhere in Delaware. Georgian methods were confined to the exterior and to the appointments of the interior. The parlour was the one big room; the partition "near the middle" divided "one end of the house into two small rooms," the hall and the stucy (formerly a dining-room). The frame wing was the "added" room and became the kitchen. Aspendale, indeed, affords the best instance in Delaware of what can be unquestionably identified as the "Quaker plan" recommended by Penn.

As to the appointments of the interior, besides the handsomely panelled whole east or fireplace wall in the parlour, already mentioned, there is a wood cornice and a

chair rail but, in the manner of the day, no panelled dado. In the hall, the entire fireplace wall is panelled; there is a good wooden cornice and chair rail. In the study the vigorously panelled dado, chimney-breast and cupboards, and the robust wooden cornice, are all of a pattern much earlier than the actual date of the house. In all likelihood, the joiner had learned his craft under his grandfather and was loath to give up time-honoured practices. Instances of the same thing occur in plenty of other houses. In the upstairs rooms there is the same carefully-studied and admirable panelling and other woodwork as there is downstairs. So much for the Georgian interior dressing of a "Quaker plan" house.

There are no mantels above any of the fireplaces except in the kitchen; the panelling ends in mouldings framing each fireplace. All the fireplaces are of different measurements, including one in the attic, (without panelling or any other accompanying grace,) which is probably the smallest fireplace in Delaware, or in any other state for that matter.

It is worth noting that in the study the paint on the woodwork is the original coat applied in 1771, and the paint now on the walls is the same colour as the original lime wash. This same fortunate preservation of paint and wall colours occur elsewhere in the house also.

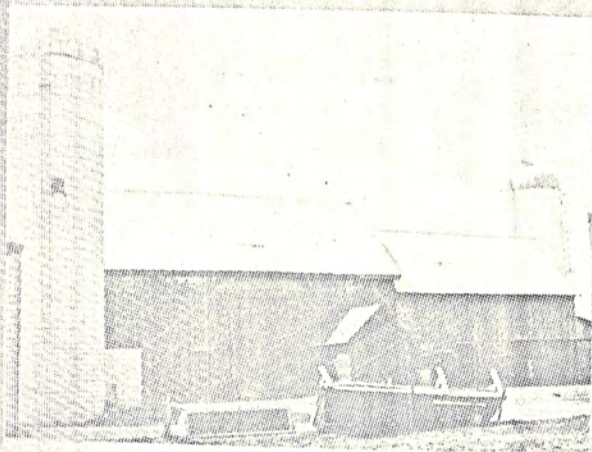
The few slight changes required to make Aspendale convenient for modern living have in no wise altered the aspect of the house. Enclosure of the north porch to the frame wing



Bailey Home



Somerville Home



Jail for Slaves

Landscape



to make a modern kitchen, has made the former kitchen available as a dining-room. Besides this, the judicious introduction of several bathrooms, so far as any visible changes go, has rendered the house completely comfortable.

COOPER HOUSE
(Kenton)

Late eighteenth-century two-storey-and attic brick house, at northeast corner of State Routes 300 and 42. In good condition; excellent woodwork and panelling.

The home of where Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Hughes now reside.

BAILEY HOUSE

At the Cross Roads in Kenton, Bailey House, built a century ago by Major John Wilds. It is a two storey-and a attic brick house. They claim that there is a skelton of¹ a horse's head between the two floors.

¹ This information, was taken from
Mr. Eberlein & Mr. Hubbard from their book.

SOMERVILLE

(MY HOME)

One mile beyond, Gamalien Garrison farm. Brick colonial home. A two-storey and attic, five bay Georgian brick house, c. 1799 to 1800. Exterior painted white and much Victorianized. Interior has good woodwork and admirable panelling. In what was the parlor a landscape of the branch, where the colored church now stands painted in large dog-eared overmantel panel.

The walls are 16 to 18 inches thick. The Former home of Chancellor Ridgely, where he held Court of Chancery, until he moved to Eden Hill.

The old brick building now used as a barn, is still standing which was used for a jail for the slaves. There is an ice house beneath.

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