

Bridgeville Historical Society

102 S. William Street, P. O. Box 306, Bridgeville, DE 19933

August 2014



General Store on Railroad Avenue

After the Delaware Railroad reached Bridgeville in 1856, commerce began shifting from the eastern end of Market Street to the area next to the depot on Railroad Avenue.

One such general store on the present site of Ralph and Paul Adams, Inc. (RAPA) has had many owners.

THAWLEY'S -190?-1919

One of the first owners, and perhaps the builder of that store, was John C. Thawley. His 1919 obituary states that he had been in the grocery business for ten years. The 1906-07 Delaware State Directory lists him as owner of a confectionary-cigar store in Bridgeville so it could have been for longer.



Thawley's store about 1910

B. P. Jones and Co. - Early 1920s

The next known owner of this store was Bradford P. Jones and a description is provided by "Old Timer," Koder Collison. "As one stepped off the veranda of the hotel and headed north along Railroad Avenue, he would come to an unusual store. It appeared to be a grocery, or general store, but was really more. It boasted a soda fountain and tobacco stand as well as a number of tables in the rear where one could get a sandwich or plate of baked beans. There had been previous owners, but in the early 'twenties,' its sign proclaimed "B. P. Jones, prop."

B. P. Jones and Co. in the early 20s.



Lewis & Anderson - Mid 1920s

There is an ad in the 1925 Bridgeville High School newspaper for **Lewis and Anderson - Cigars - Tobacco - Groceries - Produce**. More research is needed to learn the names of those owners. The photo below shows the store as it looked in the mid 1920s.



Photo courtesy of the Laurel Historical Society - Waller Collection

Charles Jackson - 1940s

Charles Jackson was the store's owner when Leroy Truitt took the photo below of a fire on April 23, 1943.



From the editor...

As BHS members sort through the papers and photographs in our collection, questions arise as to the subjects of those archives and the history behind each item.

Older members and Bridgeville residents are consulted and online research is done. Still, much more information is needed.

If you have any information or memories of this particular store and any others in the Bridgeville area that you can share with the Society, we would appreciate hearing from you

Bridgeville Historical Society

2014-15 Officers

President Howard E. Hardesty
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Secretary Gerri L. Coble
Treasurer Sharon Hawk

Directors

Eleanor Bennett Charles Hawk
Marie Hitchens Byron Lewis
Joan Morton Bill Nennstiehl

Newsletter editor - Kay Sue Hardesty

Next Meeting

Wed, Sept. 10

St. Mary's Parish House - N. William St.

Covered-dish Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Our guest speaker, Kendal Jones, will share his postcard collection with a slide show presentation.

Christmas Party

Friday, December 12, 2014

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Heritage Shores Club House

Hot hors d'oeuvres - cash bar

\$15.00 per member



Presentations will be made to individuals for service to the Society

More information later

In Memoriam

Paul Byron Horsey (1922 - 2014)

Welcome New Members

Larry Curlett
James Moneymaker
Schuyler G. Anderson
Florence James
Robert Messick

Auction - Social

Our 36th annual Auction-Social is just a couple of weeks away. Eleanor Bennett along with Sally and Dickie Ray are organizing this major fund raiser being held on **Saturday, September 6**, at the Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Company's banquet hall on Market St.

The social hour starts at **6:00 p.m.** with hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, and light beverages, followed by the auction at **7:00 p.m.** Auctioneer Frank McCraghan is ready to auction many nice items to the highest bidders.

The proceeds from this event help to maintain our museum, park, and collection of historic items. **Tickets are \$20 each** which includes a bid card. We need your continued support, so mail in those reservations ASAP.



School desk, needlepoint items by Charlotte Cannon, paintings, etc.

If you need more information or have an auction item to be picked up, please call (302)841-1550 or (302) 337-8595.

Museum & Park Matters



(L-R) Byron C. Lewis, Charlie Towers, and Pres. Hardesty install new sign on May 6.

A new sign has been placed in Cahall Park to list the "Rules and Regulations" and hours that the park will be open. The sign should serve as a reminder for all who visit to respect the park and neighbors.

Summer Social & Sign Re-dedication at Sudler House

The Society had its second summer social on May 18, at the historic Sudler House on North Main Street. The event was hosted by Sylvia and Richard Calhoun with forty members and guests in attendance.



The refreshments were delicious and the weather was delightful. Guests were able to tour the house and all the surrounding out-buildings that make up the historic complex.

Entertainment was provided by Emma Scott playing her violin, accompanied by her brother, Gray Scott, on the classical guitar.



(L-R) Larry and Ruth Skala, Ann Sieger, and Phyllis and Wayne Sterling

Our sincere thanks to the Calhouns for hosting this event and providing the refreshments for this summer gathering for for the Society's members.



A ceremony to re-dedicate the historic marker for Sudler House was held during the afternoon festivities.

Kate Fair, the Historical Markers Coordinator at the Delaware Public Archives, explained the reasons for the new historic marker.

The original 1976 marker had deteriorated and many letters were missing. Historian John Williamson had discovered an incorrect name in the original text, so a new marker was in order. The corrected text was done by Mr. Williamson and Thurman W. Adams.

The new one is made of cast aluminum and should last much longer. Following OSHA guidelines, the marker had to be at least seven feet above ground level and mounted on a crashworthy post that would "break away" should it be hit.

The complete text is on the back page.

SUDLER HOUSE

Attawattoquin

A patent for 1200 acres called Attawattoquin, upon which the house and outbuildings stand, was granted in 1684 by Charles Calvert, 3rd Baron Baltimore, 2nd Proprietor and 6th and 9th Proprietary Governor of Maryland, to Christopher Nutter, a government agent and Native American interpreter from Maryland. Attawattoquin is an Algonquin Indian word meaning "Village in the clearing of the woods [trees] by the river." A log cabin was the first dwelling erected on the property and was situated in the front yard of the present-day house. As the oldest known domestic structure in Bridgeville, the earliest portion of the house was standing by 1730, along with a springhouse, icehouse, barns and stables. When the Mason-Dixon Line survey was completed in 1767, a new patent for Attawattoquin was granted by William Penn's sons, as Proprietors of the Province of Pennsylvania and the Lower Counties (Delaware). The property was transferred to John Jessop, a descendant of Nutter's. Jessop, along with Freeborn Garrettson, was commissioned as a circuit rider by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, and Francis Asbury, the first Bishop of the Methodist-Episcopal Church in North America, to spread the Methodist-Episcopal Gospel in Canada. Together with Daniel Baker and William Morgan, Jessop and Garrettson became the foremost American circuit riders of the 18th century. Before leaving for Canada, Jessop sold the property to Dr. John Carey, Bridgeville's first physician who, in 1833, sold the property to its namesake Dr. John Ralston Sudler (1797-1871). In 1974, Sudler House was named to the National Register of Historic Places and in 1976, was entered into the Historic American Building Survey Registry as part of a special Bicentennial project honoring the original thirteen states.

Delaware Public Archives – 2014

SC-71



Bridgeville Historical Society

P. O. Box 306

Bridgeville, DE 19933

Dates to Remember

Sept. 6 - Auction-Social

Bridgeville Vol. Fire Hall

Social at 6:00 p.m. Auction 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 7 - Museum Open

Sun. - 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Sept. 10 - BHS meeting

Kendal Jones, speaker

Covered-dish 6:00 p.m.

Oct. 5 - Museum Open

Sun.-12:00-3:00 p.m.

Oct. 11 - Apple Scrapple Festival

Sat. Museum open 9-3 p.m.

Nov. 2 - Museum Open

Sun. - 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Nov. 12 - BHS Meeting

Dec. 6 - "Christmas in Bridgeville"

Sat. 9:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Dec. 12 - Christmas Social-

Heritage Shores -6-9 p.m.