



Ye Old Tye News

Volume XXXIV No. 2

FALL 2003

Special points of interest:

- Stephen Hurd was the earliest known paid teacher working in Dover in 1807. He married Lydia Fairchild and later moved to Sparta, built a store and became a very prominent citizen.



PIERSON'S BLOCK (c. 1887) 79-89 W. Blackwell St. This building is an outstanding example of late 19th century row house architecture and the most architecturally elaborated attached dwelling in Dover. Because of its historic significance this building is eligible for the registry of historic

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Jacque MacKinnon's memory to be immortalized at Dover High

DOVER-On Friday, October 10, 2003, the memory of Dover High School graduate, Jack MacKinnon, Class of '57, will live on forever. That's when the DHS football jersey number 58 that Jack wore during the mid 50s, will be retired forever in his honor.

After graduating from Dover, Jack spent a brief time at Colgate University and soon signed with the San Diego Chargers where he played from 1961 through 1969. While he performed in both backfield and lineman positions, he became noted for his outstanding blocking ability at the position of tight end. He was twice named to the League All Star team and was one of four players first chosen to the San Diego Hall of Fame. Jack died tragically in 1975.

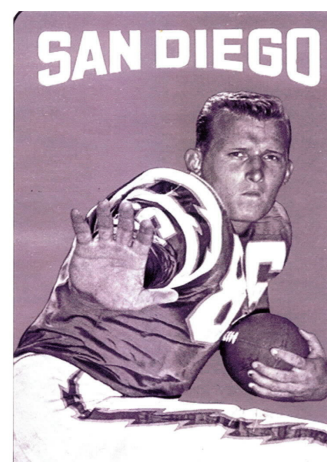
Jack was honored in October 1999 by being

posthumously selected to the Dover High School Hall of Fame. His sister attended the ceremony to accept the honor in

Hall of Fame

her brother's memory.

The Dover High School Hall of Fame (HOF) Induction Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, October 12th. The program begins at 11:30 am with a brunch served in the school cafeteria. The public is invited to attend. This will be the third group of inductees that will bring the total number in the HOF to 41. The Hall was initiated in 1996 with the induction of 11 esteemed graduates. This was followed in 1999 with another group of 20 alumni added. Membership to the Hall is by public written nomination and selected by a committee of Dover High alumni representing graduates over the past 78 years. The new members are: Donald



Alperti, Class '49 (Education), Rita Berkowitz, Class '60 (Education), Ralph Costanza, Class '67 (Chiropractor), David Harris, Class '48 (Public Relations), Betty Inglis, Class '44 (Community Service), Clifford Johnson, Class '25 (Law and Community Service), Thomas Kearney, Class '78 (US Navy), Joan Munson, Class '51 (Public Service), Stan Schoonmaker, Class '49 (Education & Local History)

Dover's 1918 Influenza Outbreak

D O V E R - I n September of 1918, soldiers at an army base near Boston suddenly began to die. The cause of death was identified as influenza, but it was unlike any strain ever seen. As the killer virus spread across the country, hospitals overfilled, death carts roamed the streets and helpless city officials dug mass graves. It was the worst epidemic in

American history, killing over 600,000--until it disappeared as mysteriously as it had begun.

In N.J.the great influenza and pneumonia outbreak occurred with Morris County being the hardest hit county in the state with a 7.7% death rate. Dover, Morristown and Boonton were the hardest hit with reported outbreaks in

Roxbury, Chester, Rockaway, Netcong, and other areas.

On January 13, 1919 the Dover board of health requested permission to use the St. John's Parish House as an emergency hospital and permission was granted. Dover "grappled with the epidemic" and 500 cases were reported. Dover General Hospital was already overcrowded.

2003 Membership

The following are paid members for 2003. Thank you, Membership Committee.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Dr. A.L. & Jean Baker, Hopatcong
Curtis & Lois Brown, Lancaster, PA
Harriet Buono, Dover
Al Ciardi, Dover
George Coulthard, Dover
Evelyn Gilbert, Dover
David & Karen Glaser, Dover
Victor & Ellen Guadagno, Sparta
Clifford Johnson, Wharton
Patricia Kalena, Dover
Richard Kelly, Dover
Alderman Frank Poolas, Dover
Mr. & Mrs. Wm Richardson, Mt. Arlington
Tuttle Funeral Home, Randolph
JoAnne & Robert Zarger, Mine Hill

SUSTAINING

Brownwood Realty, Co., Dover
Frank D'Auria, Denville

Betsy & Jim Davenport, Dover
Dover Market Place, Dover
Jan Gordon, Landing
Nancy & William Kattermann, Dover
Joyce Lake, Dover
Scott & Judy Miller, Dover
Helen Heater, Dover
Rev. James & Loretta Slattery, Dover

FAMILY

Bob & Mary Ellen Allen, Wharton
Ivan & Natalie Basch, Dover
Ray & Vivian Berg, Dover
Joan & Alan Bocchino, Dover
Juan & Kathleen Casiano, Dover
George & Mary Castellitto, Dover
Visnja Clayton, Dover Film Festival
Richard & Cathy Cole, Dover
Lowell & Janis Cook, Wyckoff
Alderman James & JoAnn Dodd, Dover
Barbara & Gordon Dunn, Lk Suzy, FL
Russell & Edith Fine, Milford, DE
Dr. Edward & Ellen Forbes, Randolph
Bogart & Helen Holly, Dover

Bob & Janet Hooper, Dover
John & Caroline Huntzinger, Milford, DE
Stuart & Betty Inglis, Dover
Carl & Shirley Iosso, Dover
Paul & Kathleen McDougall, Randolph
Linda & Byard Miller, Kissimmee, FL
Dr. Hugh & Minerva Miller, Dover, DE
Wm. J. Moss & Janet Rutledge Hackettstown
Karl & Ginny Miller, Hayes, VA
Roy & Marion Miller, Dover
Arch & Nancy Nicholas, Dover
Marilyn J. Patterson, Dover
Helen & Carmen Pennella, Dover
Frank & Mabel Poulos, Dover
Augustus & Mary Ritzer, Hackettstown, NJ
Alderman Cindy & Richard Romaine, Dover
Stan, Marjorie & Beth Schoonmaker, Dover
Ethel & Sidney Schwarz, Dover
Ian & Gertrude Simms, Hopatcong
Dorothy & Duncan Smith, Milford, DE
Michael, Joanne & Bob Steinberg, Dover
Raymond & Mary Storey, Rockaway
Martin & Edith Trengove, Wharton
Anthony L. Troha, Mine Hill
Diane & John Unger, Succasunna
LeRoy & Edith Varga, Dover
Alderman James & RaeAnn Visioli, Dover
Steve & Linda Wagoner, Dover

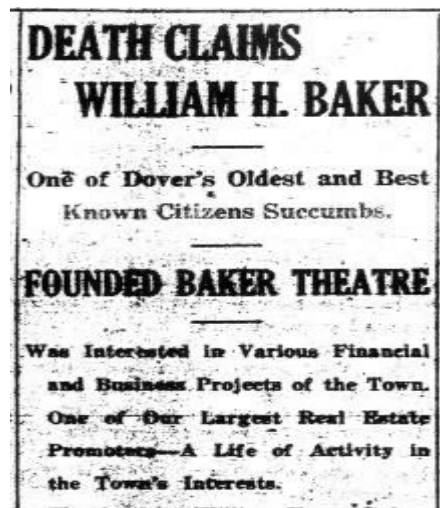
1918 Influenza Outbreak

(Cont. from page 1)

Deaths soon began in Dover, including those of Mary Dehler, a 30-year old stenographer at the Surrogate's Court who lived on Liberty Street, Mary Albanese, Sallie Keiler and George Woods. Fedele Pratola and Victor Kishpaug both of Dover. Victor was 19 when he died at his Princeton Ave. home. Fedele died at the St John's Parish house and was a 32-year old musician at the Baker Theater. George Woods, a storekeeper on Clinton Street and Fairview Ave. died at the age of 33. Frances F. Hummel, founder and editor of the Dover Index died at the age of 67. Also, William H. Baker who opened the

Baker Opera House and later the Baker Theater, treasurer of the Friends Meeting House and the Cemetery Association of Randolph passed away due to the illness. Lucy Elene Gibbons died at the age of 18 at her Losey Street home. Lucy was a 1917 graduate of Dover High School and a member of the Grace M.E. Church. Her death prompted John Gibbons to compose a poem "In Memoriam - Lucy E. Gibbons."

By October 1918, epidemic statistics showed the impact was the "hardest" for Dover in the Morris area. Dover reported 743 cases of flu and 106 cases of pneumonia. Dover alone suffered over 40 deaths during the course of the epidemic.



In Memory of Lucy E. Gibbons by John Gibbons

As the bud unfolding to the flower,
Its promised beauty thus displayed,
And all the fragrance of its soul,
Pours forth in a few brief days.

So was her life a lovely plant
That just began to bloom;
No sorrow ever crossed her path
Nor shadow cast its gloom.

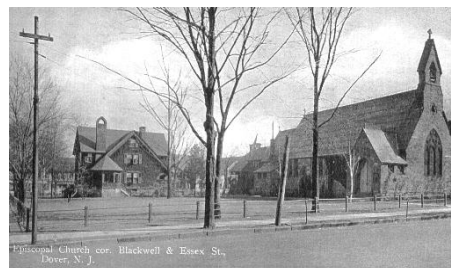
'Til foul disease, that stealthy foe,
That robs us of our best,
Stretched forth its hideous, blighting

hand
And tore her from our breast.

But while no more her form we see,
Nor feel her gentle power,
The influence of her holy life,
Shall reach from shore to shore.

Her gentle voice no longer heard,
In songs of praise and love,
Shall still resound in loftier strains,
With the heavenly host above.

"Tis sad to part with those we love,
But God knows what is best,
Her spirit shall her Saviour see,



The Parish House was razed in 1956 for off street parking.

Robert & Alice Wagner, Wharton
 Henry & Miriam Willinger, Dover
 Robert & Barbara Woodhull, Dover
 William & Brenda Woodhull, Dover
INDIVIDUAL
 Robert Bahrs, Morris Plains
 Edith Baker, Dover
 S. Ginsberg Barkauskas, Morris Plains
 Phyllis Casey, Dover
 Elaine Campoli, Mine Hill
 Patricia Davis, Landing
 Alderman Patrick Donofrio, Dover
 Richard Egan, Dover
 Madelyn Erickson, Malvern, PA
 Alderman Patrick Fahy, Dover
 Margaret Greenan, Dover
 Robert Hofacker, Denville
 Judith Klement, Rockaway
 James Leydon, Dover
 Joan Munson, Dover
 Diane Power, Rockaway
 Gary Razin, Rockaway
 Diane Saitta, Dover
 Henry Will, Ledgewood

SENIOR

William Anderson, Richmond, VA
 Mrs. Ellen Appio, Randolph

Jack Bennett, Morris Plains
 Carolina & Joe Benvotato, Dover
 Edna Burkart, Dover
 Carolyn Bishop, Dover
 Frances Campbell, Mt. Tabor
 Mrs. Eva Casey, Dover
 Jane Cody, Dover
 Jean Cater, Dover
 Jean Chervnsik, Dover
 John Chirip, Randolph
 Edward Curry, Dover
 Ed Daniels, Dover
 Marion DeArmond, Rockaway
 Catharine DeShazo, Dover
 Douglas Dickerson, Dover
 Emma Eckhart, Dover
 Alice Lee Erickson, Freehold
 Edward Falks, Dover
 Robert Fancher, Wharton
 Phyllis Fisher, Dover
 Robert & Mary Flanagan, Dover
 Roger Flartey, Denville
 Rolando Gomez, Dover
 Gary Gordon, Morris Plains
 Florence Gray, Dover
 Leonore T. Harrison, Mt Tabor
 William Hastie, Wharton
 Doris Hay, Dover

Elizabeth Huelsenbeck, Rockaway
 Mary Jenkins, Dover
 Jim & Verna Johnson, Dover
 Paula Kassell, Dover
 Mrs. Judith Kovar, Rockaway
 Helen Lambert, Wharton
 Dorothy Lindberg, Jamison, PA
 Virginia List, Dover
 Shirley Lohman, Dover
 Marion McKane, Dover
 Marilyn Martin, Cottage Grove, MINN
 Albert Meyers, Dover
 Kenneth Miller, Mine Hill
 Ruth A Monahan, Randolph
 Marjorie R. Nackley, Morris Plains
 Mayor Richard & Barbara Newman, Dover
 Edna Rawson, Dover
 Edward & Madeline Reich, Dover
 Marie Rubury, Dover
 Virginia Shukailo, Dover
 William & Peg Shuler, Dover
 Carolyn Ward Seeger, E. Stroudsburg, PA
 Alfreta Suter, Dover
 Paul & Gladys Sullivan, Dover
 E. Doris Taylor, Newton
 Louisa Wall, Dover
 Kay Walker, Dover
 Neldon Williams, Dover
 Ann Young, Dover

Circuit Riders Attempted to Preach in Dover

DOVER-In the decades following the American Revolution, Dover, like most of Morris County and the rest of the country, was wild and lewd. "The war had had a demoralizing effect upon officers and men." The restraints of religion had become irksome, infidelity had made rapid progress and intemperance had greatly increased. Previous to the war liquors were imported from abroad, and were used in comparative moderation. After the peace, distilleries were found established in all parts of the country, and drunkenness prevailed to an extraordinary extent and among all classes

of people."

Although Dover had yet no churches of its own, townsfolk could easily travel by horse and wagon or walk to nearby Rockaway, the Quaker meeting house, Millbrook, Succasunna, Mendham or Chester, all with active congregations. Most families in Dover were beyond the reach of the local church thus the need for circuit-riders or sometimes called "saddlebag preachers" became more and more necessary. However, Dover, being the small hard working, immigrant, mining town that it was, was a tough place to crack. (Cont. on page 7)

Compliments of
 Alderman Scott Miller
 Judy and Jeffrey Miller
 Dover

Compliments of
 Frank D'Auria
 Denville, NJ

Compliments of
 Jan Gordon
 Landing, NJ

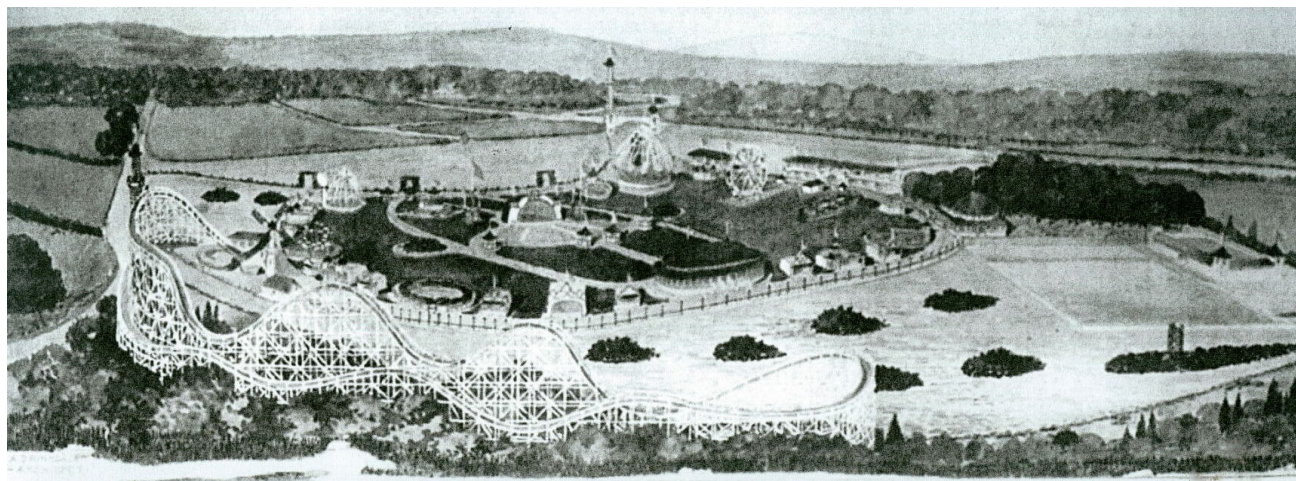
Steve Allen's Parents Were Popular in Dover

DOVER-Every time the Billy Allen Musical Comedy Company appeared at the Baker, the town was delighted and the shows were usually sold out. Billy Allen (Steve Allen's father) and his traveling musical troupe were noted for their lavish scenery and dressy dancing women.

Billy Allen and his wife, Belle Montrose, were vaudeville comedians. They had one son, Steve, who was born on December 26, 1921 in New York City during a brief respite from their travels. It's conceivable that while appearing in Dover, little "Stevie" was either running around backstage or napping in a trunk in one of the dressing rooms.

Steve Allen, with natural humor in his bloodline, went on to make a name for himself in radio and television, most notably pioneering the original "Tonight Show" in 1953.

Colonial Lake Amusement Park Dover, NJ



This is an architect's rendering of Colonial Lake Amusement Park looking east. The road to the left is Franklin Road and the park was located behind J. Dusenbery's building. If one should take a short walk into the woods behind the building, foundations of this once marvelous park can still be seen. The park covered over 70 acres and part of the park in the lower right hand corner is today's site of Transistor Devices Company at South Salem St. and Route 10.

DOVER-The Colonial Lake Amusement Park was located on Franklin Road, now J Dusenbery Corp. in Randolph, next to the Dover border. It opened on July 17, 1926 and was billed as "giving the traveling public a high class, refined place of amusement." The park included a twelve to fifteen acre lake and swimming pool and an athletic field large enough that a stadium was to be constructed at a later date. Colonial Lake Park offered clean attractions and rides with seventy acres of natural beauty and boasted of having the largest circular ballroom in the region.

The park's attractions included a roller coaster, old mill, fun house, chair-o-plane, tumble bug, Missouri mule, frolic, caterpillar, over the Alps, futurity race, custer cars, Ferris wheel, Jove's journey, bathing pavilion and plenty of parking. In fact, the parking lot

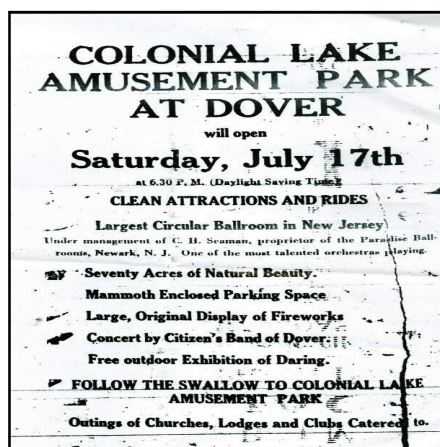
was so large that it took over a mile of fencing to enclose it. In addition to the amusement rides there were over 150 building lots for concession stands, fifty of which fronted the lake. A large picnic area was also offered to those families that desired to use it.

All throughout New Jersey novel guide signs read, "Follow the Swallow" for the purpose of directing patrons to the Colonial Lake Amusement Park. Large fireworks displays were also offered on a regular basis along with free outdoor acts together with band concerts on the plaza.

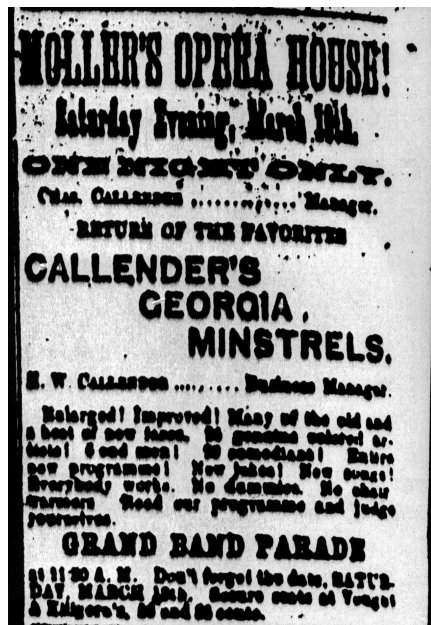
The park was owned by the Morris County Holding Corporation with John B. Bennett (owner of the Mansion House and other large real estate holdings) as president, John D'Agostino, vice-president, W. H. Hosking (former Dover mayor) treasurer, Harry Cook manager, organizer and operator

of the park, Harry F. Cook, secretary and director, Stephen C. Griffith Jr. Chairman of the Board was James J. Lyons (owner of the Dumont Hotel and the Lyons Theater in Madison). A. D. Hinsdale was the park's designer who developed other parks in the Midwest and also the popular Luna Park at Coney Island.

Two weeks after the grand opening, The Dover Advance wrote "The Colonial Lake Amusement Park near East Dover is attracting thousands of visitors and the Board of Directors are elated with the successful showing thus far. More attractions are to be added in the future and the park may become one of the biggest and most popular in the metropolitan area." What ever happened to Colonial Lake Amusement Park? Read about it in the next edition of Ye Ole Tye News



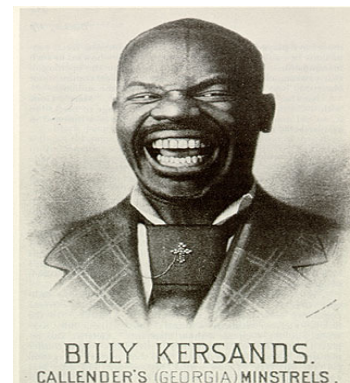
MOLLER'S OPERA HOUSE • 1870



DOVER-America's love for sentimental ballads, comic dialogue and dance interludes, founded on Negro life in the South in the 1800s was attributed to Thomas D. Rice, who copied the mannerisms of an elderly blackman in Baltimore in 1828 and adopted the blackface and banjo. At first a solo act, minstrelsy soon grew to four performers on violin, banjo, bones (a rhythm instrument) and tambourine. The shows were based on an imitation of the stereotypical black. The "essential" Negro qualities had become dated and lost after the end of slavery.

As early as the 1850s, black troupes, such as the Luca family, toured the Eastern states. These black-owned companies were popular throughout the Civil War years, but in the 1870s were taken over by white managers, such as the popular Callender's Georgia Minstrels, featuring the great comic Billy Kersands. (Cont. on Page 8)

Compliments of
Nancy & William Kattermann
Dover



Billy Kersands became well known for a dance, the "Virginia Essence," which sounds reminiscent of Michael Jackson's "Moonwalk." According to one viewer, Kersands "moves forward without appearing to move his feet at all, by manipulating his toes and heels rapidly, so that his body is propelled without changing the position of his

Hall of Fame (cont.)

Willard M. Hedden (1919), Gordon L. Harris (1926), George Baker (1929), Bryant {Bill} Casterline (1937), Armand D'Agostino, Esq. (1944), Frank Poulos (1944), S. Joseph Esposito (1950), Richard Mirshak (1950), Brigadier Gen. David H. Stem (1956), Dr. Stephen J. Zipko, PhD. (1966), Dr. Craig A. Schiffner, MD (1969), Roswell Bowlby (1897), John Spargo (1910), Alfred Toye (1925), Seth H. Ely (1923), Mary V. Toye (1925), Frank D'Auria (1937), William L. Lambert (1938), Stephen Thomson (1944), Rev. Alfred L. Fiorino, S.J. (1944),

Compliments of DOVER MOOSE LODGE

Willard Hedden Jr. (1946) Arch Nicholas (1946), Dominic Ciardi (1949), Honorable Mac D. Hunter (1952), Jacque MacKinnon (1957), Senator Shirley Kersey-Turner (1960), Stephen B. Richer, CTP (1964), Dr. Richard C. Benson (1969), Dr. Donald Schwarz (1973), Gloria Montealegre (1973), William Gannon (1975).



Dover' first "Flea" Marketplace operated in downtown Dover in 1848.

Playhouse Theater

This is the old Playhouse Theater located on S. Morris St. prior to being demolished during Dover's Urban Renewal. The theater opened in 1913 as a competing vaudeville playhouse to the Baker.

In later years the Playhouse became very popular with the kids with affordable prices and "fun" shows featuring serials and low budget movies. The Baker, meanwhile, operated more as an "upper class" motion picture theater featuring "first run" major motion pictures.

The only visible remains of the old Playhouse today (not seen in this picture) is the stone face of "Dionysus - The God of Tragic Art and Protector of the Theaters" which found its final resting place on the ground at Triangle Park at the foot of Prospect St.



Billy Ford—The “Father” of Dover’s Young Apprentices

by Charles Platt

DOVER-Billy Ford was always considered the “father” of Dover’s mechanics, machinists and workers in iron. He established Dover’s first blacksmith shop around 1825 and had a great many young apprentices whom he instructed in this kind of work. They made gunstocks, edge tools of every description and general blacksmithing. His shop was near the corner of Morris and Dickerson streets long before the railroad laid tracks in Dover.

On Mr. Ford’s property was a beautiful pond where traces of an early Indian settlement once stood. The pond became known as Billy Ford’s Pond and was the delight of the kids in town for swimming

in the summertime and ice skating in the winter.

When the Morris and Essex Railroad finally came to Dover in 1848, Billy Ford sold his property to the railroad company and moved his business to the corner of McFarlan and Sussex Streets. Here in 1850, he established his business called the Morris County Iron and Machine Shop. Billy Ford’s Pond meanwhile, became a railyard and watering site for the steam locomotives.

Mr. Ford’s iron processing plant grew from a small blacksmith and machine shop to an iron processing operation that used over 80 tons of coal supplied by the nearby Morris Canal to produce Pumps, Tools, Mining

Apparatus. The business soon expanded to occupy the north half of the block bounded by McFarlan, Sussex, Morris and Clinton streets. A large stone foundry building was constructed around 1868 on Morris Street (which still



stands today.)

The Ford House at the corner of McFarlan (Rt 46) and N. Sussex Street still stands today as a

Compliments of
Helen Heater, Dover

Compliments of
Joyce Lake, Dover

Compliments of
Rev. James & Loretta
Slattery
Dover

Ford’s Pond Poem

In our town on a warm Spring day
The children, busy with their play,
Flock to their favorite playmate fond,
Dearest of all...Billy Ford’s Pond.

Billy Ford knows many a game,
You may have heard of his wondrous fame,
“Robinson Crusoe,” “Digging for Pearls,”
Sailing rafts to terrify girls.

Fishing and swimming are the games Bill
can play,
And even others on a cold winter day.
Then grown folks with hockey club

vigorously skate
And worship old Bill for a winter playmate.

But in the summertime, sad to behold,
Poor old Bill’s fate is sad to be told;
For then his vacation he takes for months
always,
And drains far away till the colder days.

The reason is, Bill’s constitution so light,
Simply can’t stand the mosquitoes’ keen
bite;
But we hope sincerely that the town will
endeavor
To keep poor old Bill in their memory
forever.



Ford’s business was so successful in 1868
he needed to expand by constructing this
factory that still stands today on Morris St.

Compliments of
Brownwood Realty Co., Inc.
Dover

Fall 2003 Programs

Sept. 16th * 7:30 pm * Moose Lodge
BLACKWELL STREET HISTORY
PowerPoint slide program presented by Stan
Schoonmaker on the history of Blackwell St.
from 1826 to the present. No admission charge.
Refreshments will be served!

Sept. 21st * Noon * Flea Market
WM YOUNG ROOT BEER SOCIAL
In honor of Young’s attempt at Temperance in
Dover during the mid 1800s.
Root Beer Floats too!

Oct. 5 * Sunday * Dover Flea Market
CLASSIC & ANTIQUE CAR SHOW
plus

A return visit to the **Dover Speedway**
Added movies of actual racing
Call 973-366-0629 for details

Oct. 16th Tues. * Moose Lodge * 7”30 pm
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
All members invited. All Trustees &
Officers urged to attend.
ELECTION OF OFFICERS
PLANS FOR THE MUSEUM
Refreshments will be served.

Nov. 12th * 7 & 8 pm * St Clare’s Dover
Campus

THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY
On the 100th anniversary of this historic
movie, a lecture will be presented on its
history and significance also viewing the
actual movie. Photos & displays.
Refreshments served. RSVP only.

Dec. 16th * 7:30 pm
Annual Holiday Party
Bring a friend and enjoy a friendly get
together over great homemade holiday
snacks. Location to be announced.
Bring a holiday treat. No admission. charge.

In Memory of our Members

Marion Armitage
 Stephen Armitage
 Betty Bennett
 Leo Crosbie
 Kenneth Ebner
 Jack Gilbert
 Chauncey Hay
 Anne Page Janes
 Clayton Jenkins
 Samuel Johnson
 Dr. Paul Krikorian
 Charles Lindberg
 Robert Meeker
 Caryle Meyers
 Dr. Nathan Millman
 William Rawson

Victory Gardens

Do you remember the victory gardens of Dover? Throughout World War II, millions of such gardens produced abundant food for the folks at home and the soldiers abroad. Throughout N.J. citizens plowed backyards, vacant lots, parks, baseball fields, and schoolyards.

Evelyn Gilbert remembers such victory gardens in Dover, one being on Penn Ave. and Jordan Terr. E. Dover was noted for its abundance of tomatoes, pepper and onions. Fresh produce was sold on stands in front of Goodales. Do you remember the victory gardens? Send us your stories and memories for the next Newsletter. Victory Gardens, c/o D.A.H.S. PO Box 609, Dover, NJ 07802-0609. We'd like to hear from you.



Remember the Phoebe Snow? Marion Murray who played in “The Great Train Robbery” was a frequent visitor to Dover’s Mansion House Hotel. Read about it in the next newsletter. “When Phoebe Snow, Sets out to go, From New York City, To Buffalo, She travels white, Arrives clean and bright, On the Road of Anthracite.”

Circuit Riders

(cont.)

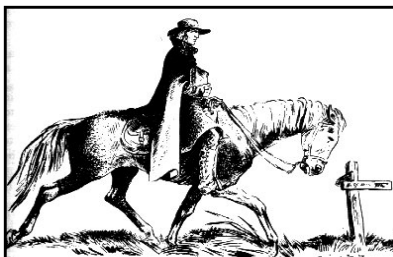
Before turning to preaching, many circuit riders had been blacksmiths, carpenters, shoemakers, hatters, tanners, millers, shopkeepers, school teachers, sailors and so on. Almost none of the first or second generation preachers had anything more than a common school education. Hellfire and brimstone sermons usually took place wherever meetings could be organized, usually outdoors. They traveled light, carrying their belongings and books in their saddlebags. The frequent circuit riders passing through the county put up with rain, sleet, hail, lame horses -- and superstitious residents.

One early circuit-rider who attempted to preach in Dover was Rev. Thomas Smith and his colleague, the Rev. Aaron Owens. On one occasion, Rev. Smith attempted to hold a meeting in an old house where he preached one sermon to a few elderly ladies. An attack was made on the life of Rev. Owens, when he was mobbed on the road and “treated most shamefully.” In December 1799 a gentleman of Dover invited Mr. Smith back to preach. Mr. Smith once more entered this little hamlet and was told there could be no preaching; any attempt of the kind would cause a riot and the house would probably be torn down. Rev. Smith told the people

of Dover, that they should see his face no more until they met at the judgment seat of Christ.

When Barnabas King was installed pastor of the church at Rockaway in 1805, his parish included Dover. He successfully arranged a preaching appointment in Dover once every four weeks. Through his influence, a Sabbath school was organized in 1816 just as the town began to show rapid growth.

In 1831, Dr. Hatfield of New York, assistant to Rev. King, began preaching frequently in Dover. The same year, the Morris Canal had just been completed and the following year Anson G. Phelps, Sr. a prominent businessman from New York moved in and established Dover’s first bank. Soon, Mr. Thomas B. Segur and his family moved from Utica, NY and he became Dover’s first bank cashier. Seeing all the drunkenness, Mr. Segur soon organized a temperance movement and eventually became known as New Jersey’s temperance leader. For many years Dover was known as “New Jersey’s Temperance Banner Town.”



In 1835, The Rev. John Ford of Parsippany and the Rev. Peter Kanouse, acting under the Presbytery of Newark formed the First Presbyterian Church of Dover. This was the first church organization of any denomination in the village of Dover. The upper floor of the Stone Academy was furnished with seats and a platform and here the Presbyterians held their services.

Meanwhile, the second church congregation to organize in Dover was the Methodists. On July 14, 1838, public notice was given that a board of trustees was being organized for the purpose of erecting a Methodist Meeting House in the village of Dover. The corner stone was laid in 1838 for the new church at the corner of McFarlan and Sussex Streets called the First Methodist Episcopal Church, this being Dover’s first church building. In 1841, the Presbyterians wanted a house of their own. On November 15, 1842 the new Presbyterian Church was dedicated at the foot of Prospect Street.

In 1849 the Episcopalians organized and held their services on the second floor of the Stone Academy until their church was constructed in 1871.

DOVER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dover Area Historical Society
PO Box 609
Dover, New Jersey 07802-0609

Phone: 973-366-0629

President—Betty Inglis
Vice President—Stan Schoonmaker
Recording Secretary—Joan Bocchino
Corresponding Secretary—Brenda Woodhull
Treasurer—Stu Inglis
Museum—George Laurie
President Emerita—Vivian Berg

Coming in the next issue of Ye Ole Tye
News—Dover's 10 most valued treasures.

BILLY KERSANDS—MOLLER OPERA HOUSE

Billy Kersands, was supposedly able to hide a billiard ball in one cheek and continue his monologue without the slightest inconvenience. He was also one of the Negroes unsurpassed in the art of creating jazz tunes, jigs, and unusual steps and dances.

Another well known personality that made an indelible mark on the American psyche



Located inside the historic 1869 Geo. Richards building



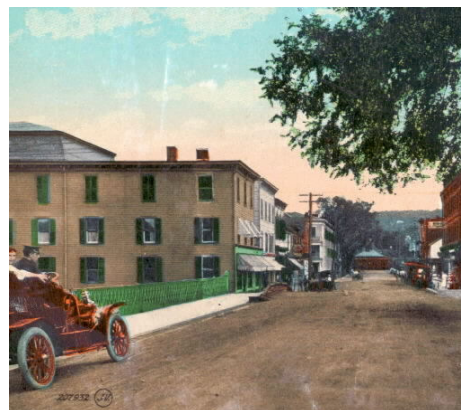
DOVER CADETS REUNION This 1947 photo shows the Dover Cadets on stage at the Baker. Plans are now underway for a gala reunion event of the famed Dover Cadets in 2004. Plan now on attending. For more information call Stan Schoonmaker at 973-366-2319.

real person. She owes her name to a minstrel song, "Old Aunt Jemima," popularized in 1870 by singer Billy Kersands.

The Moller Opera House and Saloon was perhaps Dover's first large establishment for major "live" entertainment in this busy mining and factory town. Owned and operated by Daniel Moller, the Moller Opera House was located along the busy Morris Canal on North Sussex Street "*next to the canal bridge.*" The music hall and saloon was constructed sometime between 1850 and 1860, long before the Baker Opera House and the Baker Theater ever existed. It has also been referred to as "Moller's Opera House and Symphony Hall."

Canal boatmen patronized Moller's during their weekend stay-overs in Dover and enjoyed the beverages and entertainment the playhouse had to offer. That entertainment at the time was in the form of burlesque and minstrel shows, the forerunners to vaudeville.

Early burlesque used spectacular scenery, beautiful and scantily clad women, music and comedy acts to attract large, predominantly male audiences. Minstrel shows relied mainly on the popular songs of the day. Workers from the nearby mines and factories made Moller's a very busy and popular establishment in its day.



Moller's the site of today's Goodale's