

Clayton Historic Preservation, Inc.

29 East Avenue, Clayton, N. J. 08312-0029
P. O. Box 29, Clayton, N. J. 08312-0029

Email:
Website:

CHP@ClaytonHistoric.org
www.ClaytonHistoric.org

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Winter in Clayton

Depending on your age, the Winter months means something different to us all. My three young grandchildren have visions of closed schools and of their days filled with buildings large snow forts, sledding and ice skating. Do you remember sledding down Blueberry Hill? Or ice skating on one of our many lakes or ponds? My grown children are more concerned with the slippery drive to work. And, I'm more concerned about rushing ahead of everyone to the grocery store to buy milk, bread and eggs. (I love French toast on a cold snowy day!). In the 1950s and '60s, my parents hurried along to place the cumbersome snow chains on the car tires and then make sure their order from the coal or oil man was on the way.

Things were a bit different for my grandparents and great grandparents. From the 1800s throughout the mid 1900s, fire wood had to be chopped all yearlong to be stored up for the winter; it was necessary for both heating our homes and for cooking. One hoped that all the fruits and vegetables that were put up in canning jars and crocks in the Spring and Summer would last throughout the Winter months. Life in Clayton on the Baptiste, (Roscoe) Cassidy, Deschler, Du Bois, Groff, Huck, Krimm (brothers) and Voss farms, along with all the others, were filled with days of endless chores which did not slow down in the winter months. The animals still had to be fed; Dairy farms such as the J. C. Dennis (Lakeview), Ferrell, Garwood and H. D. Newkirk farms had to milk the cows twice daily, and manage the milk for delivery to the towns. Ferrell Dairy delivered mostly to Glassboro. At the southeast corner of Pearl & Chestnut Streets, E. C. Coleman, and later Mr. Lacy who purchased the delivery business from him, bought the milk in large cans from Mr. North of Monroeville; then bottled and delivered to local residents. Anything that you needed to survive was made at the homestead. If you wanted meat, you slaughtered the livestock and smoked the meat. Ice was cut from the nearby lakes and placed in icehouses where you stored your meat and harvested crops. Some vegetables were stored in cool underground cellars; and some, like cabbages, were buried in trenches using hay between the heads.

Nostalgia will always win out and usually the first thought of winter will be sipping hot chocolate with marshmallows by an open fire; seeing one's breath on a clear, crisp winter's day; or thoughts of riding in an open one horse sleigh, the jingle bells signaling to walkers of the horse's silent approach on the snow. With fond feelings in mind, CHP brings to you some wonderful recollections from fellow CHP members. We are sure they will bring back pleasant memories of your childhood. To all our members, have a safe and warm Winter!~~~~~

ABCs of Clayton

Fun Facts & Photos of Clayton, Part IV

T.....Turner's Store. The TURNER

Family was one of Clayton's most active business families. In 1922, when Benjamin Turner held his grand opening, he invited the public to come in and browse by placing a large advertisement in the **Clayton Press**. For those who missed the advertisement, handbills were distributed throughout town to draw the public's attention to the new enterprise. Turner's store was located on Central Avenue (now Delsea Drive, Rte. #47), next to the Post Office which is now (2015) the store, Den of Antiquity.

A few years later, Russell and George **Turner** went into the automobile business as a Chrysler Plymouth Dealership at the south west corner of Delsea Drive and Academy Street, currently the Laundromat. Turner had the front three sections of the building and a SUNOCO gas station.



PHOTO ABOVE: Turner & Turner Chrysler Plymouth dealership. In the far right middle section, one can see Currington's Restaurant. Photo from CHP archives. *Continued on page 02*

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