

## *Friends of Dennis Township*

## *Old School House Museum*

# *Newsletter*

Dennisville UMC Church Parsonage,  
The Carroll House (below) was featured on 2016 Dennisville Historic Homeowners Association  
Christmas House Tour.



**Carroll House is a late example of the Gothic Revival style built with a 2 1/2 story frame, 3 bays wide and a tall cross gable in the center of the facade. The center front door has an original arched transom and 3 light sidelights. The door is sheltered by an original, 1 story porch with molded square columns topped with heavy scroll brackets.**

**According to the 1900 census, Herbert Carroll was a widowed merchant living in the house with 3 sons and a daughter.**

## Friends of Dennis Township Old School House Museum NEWSLETTER



DENNISVILLE METHODIST CHURCH 100 years ago (PHOTO from Dennis Township Museum)

Dennisville United Methodist Church and is a small country church located in the heart of the historic village of Dennisville, settled in the 1700's. Dennisville's congregation shares a traditional Bible-based service each Sunday. This congregation, with an average attendance of 27 helps to support 18 missions at the local, national and global level. The United Methodist Women has 18 very active members in missions and service. Dennisville is 'a small church, with a big heart. Rev Fred Marz is the pastor. His family lives in the parsonage (Carroll House).

## Friends of Dennis Township Old School House Museum NEWSLETTER

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Morgan, Abram N. 1,281,407 \*White \*Colored

Residence: Claremont, N. J.

\*Enlisted ~~FROM~~ \*N. G. ~~at~~ ~~at~~ Ocean City, NJ on Apr 13 1917

Place of birth: Claremont, N. J. Age or date of birth: 19.4/12 yrs

Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers:  
Co G 3 inf NJ NG to Oct 13/14; Co H 114 inf to death.

Grades, with date of appointment:  
Pvt; Pvt 1st June 18/18

Engagements: Bois de Ormont

Served overseas from: June 15/18 to death from to

\*Killed in action \*Date of Oct 12/18

Other wounds or injuries received in action:

Persons notified of death: Mrs. Mattie Morgan, Mother,  
Cape May Court House, N. J.

Remarks:

\*Strike out words not applicable. \*Dates of departure from and arrival in the U. S.

Shown above is documentation about Abram Morgan, a WWI Veteran who is buried at Calvary Baptist Cemetery in South Seaville. He was killed in action during the Battle of Argonne Forest on October 12, 1918. He was a Private with New Jersey 114<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. Below is a little information about that battle and the history of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division of which Morgan's regiment was a part.

The 29th Division was first constituted on paper 18 July 1917, three months after the American entry into World War I, in the U.S. Army National Guard. The division's infantry units were the 57th Infantry Brigade, made up of the 113th and 114th Infantry Regiments, both from New Jersey, and the 58th Infantry Brigade, made up of the 115th Infantry Regiment from Maryland and 116th Infantry Regiment from Virginia. Its artillery units were Maryland's 110th Artillery Regiment; Virginia's 111th Field Artillery Regiment; and New Jersey's 112th Artillery Regiment. As the division was composed of men from states that had units that fought for both the North and South during the Civil War, it was nicknamed the "Blue and Gray" division, after the blue uniforms of the Union and the gray uniforms of the Confederate armies during the American Civil War.<sup>1</sup> The division was actually organized on 25 August 1917 at Camp McClellan, Alabama

**Friends of Dennis Township Old School House Museum  
NEWSLETTER**

**Abram N Morgan grave marker at Calvary Baptist Cemetery**



**The stone marks the burial site for his parents, Charles H and Mattie Morgan.**



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### World War I

Morgan's division departed for the Western Front in June 1918 to join the American Expeditionary Force. The division's advance detachment reached Brest, France on June 8. In late September, the 29th received orders to join the U.S. First Army's Meuse-Argonne Offensive as part of the French XVII Corps. During its 21 days in combat, the 29th Division advanced seven kilometers, captured 2,148 prisoners, and knocked out over 250 machine guns or artillery pieces. Thirty percent of the division became casualties—170 officers and 5,691 enlisted men were killed/wounded. The Armistice with Germany was signed on November 11, 1918, ending hostilities between the Central Powers and the Allied Powers. The division returned to the United States in May 1919-It demobilized on 30 May at Camp Dix, New Jersey. It remained an active National Guard unit.



**Abram Morgan in uniform before the Battle of Argonne Forest. His is one of many markers at Calvary Baptist Cemetery honoring veterans from wars from the American Revolution through the modern era.**

## Friends of Dennis Township Old School House Museum NEWSLETTER



*Dennisville School*

### **Dennis Township School House Museum and History Center—**

The old Dennisville school house, on the corner of Petersburg Road at Hall Avenue, is now enjoying its third career. Its life began in 1872 with a real estate transaction. A parcel of land was purchased for \$250. The land designated as site for a new school. Two years later, the school began operating, a two story affair housing all grades through 8<sup>th</sup>. It served as a school house for nearly three-quarters of a century.

On April 15, 1948, a fire destroyed the second story. The building was repaired but as a single story structure. The Board of Education, needing additional space for a growing student population, arranged a property “swap” with the township. The result was the construction of the Academy Road School, which opened in 1952.

At this time, the old school house began its second career, as Dennis Township’s Municipal Hall. It served in that capacity for 42 years until 1994, at which time the present Municipal Complex was built.

But the old school house still had work to do. Township Committee gave permission to use the building as a museum. Local citizens worked hard, restoring the existing structure, gathering artifacts and photographs and other memorabilia detailing the area’s long, rich history. The old school house now serves Dennis Township as a resource where visitors can explore the area’s history and perhaps discover a bit of their own pasts in the process.

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### *Moments in Dennis Township History...*

Jan 1, 1989—Margaret Westhoven from South Seaville was elected as first woman to township committee of DT. She defeated Harry Creamer. She later was picked 1<sup>st</sup> female mayor.

June 26 1893—ELDORA—Rev Isaac Dawson opened canning factory. In its first year, 500,000 cans of tomatoes were processed. A year later Eldora Canning Factory had over 100 workers, shipped gallon cans of tomatoes from West Creek to England via Philadelphia. Dawson sold the plant in 1901 to Stevens Brothers who operated it until 1935.



September 9 1931—DR THEODORE WHEATON—died at 79. Operated a pharmacy in south Seaville before attending University of Pennsylvania Medical School and opening a practice. He eventually moved to Millville where he bought a glass company, renaming it Wheaton Glass which became one of the world's largest.

May 23 1801—Residents of Dennis Landing (now North Dennisville) bought one acre from Henry Ludlam to build a school on the north side of Dennisville. The Ludlam School operated for 156 yrs. Originally one room, a second room was added 1916. The school closed in 1957. The building still stands on Route 47.





Dennis Township Senior Citizens Association donated \$500 to the Friends of Dennis Township Old School House Museum at its May 11 meeting. Friends Treasurer Don Gooch (I) accepts the check from Association Treasurer Tom Champion at the front door to the historic museum in Dennisville.

The newly formed Friends of Dennis Township Old School House Museum, a non-governmental, non-profit community based organization, invites the public to its regular monthly meetings on the second Thursday each month at 5pm at the museum in Dennisville.

The mission of the friends is to develop and promote initiatives to encourage and sustain interest in the history of Dennis Township's eight hamlets in addition to supporting the museum located in Dennisville and interacting with historical groups throughout Cape May County.

Residents, school students, and businesses alike are invited to participate. For more information, check out the Friends website at [www.dennismusemfriends.org](http://www.dennismusemfriends.org).



