

Early Dallastown

Our small town of Dallastown dates back to a little over one hundred years. It has many interesting facts and history. In the next few paragraphs you will learn about Dallastown's early organizations, schools, newspaper, bands, the fire company. Dallastown was named after, and other interesting facts. Dallastown was named in honor of George M. Dallas from Philadelphia. He was the vice-president under the Polk Administration.

There were two Dallastown school buildings built on West Main Street. The second one was damaged by a fire and rebuilt into a two-story brick structure, then later replaced with a one-story, three-roomed building. A fourth room was added in 1890. In the spring of 1898 the first class in Dallastown High School graduated from this building. There were eleven students in this class.

The "Dallastown Advocate" was founded by Daniel K. Taylor in 1894, who has been the proprietor and editor since then. This is the only Dallastown newspaper.

There were many organizations in Dallastown during the late eighteen hundreds. One of them was the I.O.O.F. (Independent Order of Odd Fellows) which was founded on September 4, 1891.

The Dallastown baseball team was founded in the 1890's. Some of its great players included: Andy Thompson, Jimmy Landis, Chance Orwig, Curvin Dietz, Phil Riedel, Palmer Diehl. Martin Riedel was tragically killed by being hit with a pitched ball.

Mr. Oran Flinchbaugh organized the boy scouts in the late 1800's. The first

Dallastown Band was organized in 1861. Adam Kohl led the Cornet Band which was organized in 1862. Before World War II a German Band (led by Floyd Slenker) was organized. This band was very active in the town's public affairs. And finally one of the most important organizations; the Dallastown Fire Company. Many devoted citizens of Dallastown met on March 4, 1892 and established this life saving organization.

Did you know the first council meeting of Dallastown was held on September 22, 1866. Dallastown was built 655 feet above Sea Level. The first election was held on September 18, 1866. The first Chief Burgess was F. S. Heisler.

Now you know that Dallastown's Fire Company was established in 1892. that there were many great players on Dallastown's Baseball Team. one of them tragically killed. You know about the advocate. Dallastown's only newspaper. You know many other interesting facts about Dallastown. and there are still more to learn.

Dallastown 1900 to 1950

Take yourself back to the 1900's but stay in Dallastown. What do you see? Lots of telephones and cars driving everywhere? Not quite, actually there were very few telephones, and a lot more trolleys and buggies rather than cars. While coming up with this information three very kind gentlemen were interviewed, the following is the information that was gained.

“Most people took the trolley ... and even before that lots of people used horse and buggies,” Mr. Joe Rojahn one of my interviewees replied. Later on, Mr. Rojahn had mentioned that “... Not many cars were used because everywhere you went it was always so crowded, although there were still few cars used in Dallastown.”

Earlier Mr. Rojahn had mentioned that the streets were quite busy with people. “Today children like to hang out with their friends at the mall,” Mr. Bill Hess exclaimed. “Well, when we were younger downtown was a place where you would meet up and hang out with your friends.”

On the day William Jennings Bryan, a democrat who ran unsuccessfully for president three times, came to Dallastown the whole town became anxious. “Most of the town became very excited,” replied Mr. Hess. Mr. Hess also mentioned “... When the day came that William Jennings Bryan came to Dallastown to give his speech you could actually feel the electricity in the air.”

The next topic is the town's merchants. “Most of the stores we have today are the same as the ones we used to have,” Mr. Rojahn replied. He also mentioned that there were a few banks in Dallastown at that time. While Mr. Rojahn was on the subject of stores Mr.

Hess exclaimed that “ ... Back earlier there were at least two or three well kept stores, and today they are not as nicely kept even though the stores in the earlier 1900's were a bit smaller.”

Another thing that was quite surprising was when both Mr. Rojahn and Mr. Hess stated that the most important industry at that time was a cigar factory. “ Everyone bought cigars ... ,” replied Mr. Hess. Many of the other businesses are still here, maybe a few new companies, but most are the same.

Although the population in Dallastown has increased over the years, there were still many people living there between the years of 1900 and 1950. The different personalities and characters of these people made Dallastown an interesting place to live. If you could time travel back to this time period, you would be able to see the many differences and similarities that exist between then and now. For example the changes of a house, or a the different ways of transportation, maybe see the different ways of communication, or you could even find the different types of people who lived there. This could help you come to a better understanding of how people lived back in the “old days.”

Dallastown 1950 - Present

Dallastown was once a sleepy little town. But it has grown and spread throughout the years. A once small street is no longer just a street but has grown into a major community. This paper includes some of the most important, memorable, and exciting things to to ever happen in this town. It is not just a street, it is Dallastown.

“The most memorable event to occur in Dallastown since 1950 would have to be president Lyndon Johnson’s visit to the borough in September 1966. Johnson was invited to help commemorate Dallastowns 100th anniversary,” quotes Mr. Chris Reilly, former Dallastown Mayor.

“Most everything back in the 1950’s was farm land, but now everything is strip malls and grocery stores,” exclaimed Mr. Bill Hess, a Dallastown resident.

“Dallastown has dramatically changed since 1950. What was once a sleepy little village of Victorian homes and small shops has become a major York county thorough fare, due to route 74. Dallastown is also a much more residential community than it was fifty years ago due to the advent of Suburban shopping malls,” recalls Mr. Reilly.

“Most of the development of the small town happen in or around the 70’s, Dallastown grew from a small town to what it is today,” comments Mr. Don Delancy, a long time Dallastown resident.

“Dallastown in the 1950’s offered many small town activities for residents to enjoy. There was an annual fair that drew people from all around York County to Dallastown (the fair is no longer held). The Dallas Theater on Main Street was in its heyday, organized and sandlot baseball, and the many churches in town enjoyed a high degree or participation in religious activities,” explains Mr. Chris Reilly.

“Two of Dallastowns biggest political events were President Johnson's visit in 1966 and a visit by the political figure William Jennings Bryan, he was a democratic

president nominee in the 1890's," commented Mr. Hess.

"The two biggest political events to happen in Dallastown were President Johnson's visit in 66' and my being elected as the youngest mayor in Dallastown's history at twenty-six in 1989," proclaims Mr. Reilly.

"Back in the 50's if you asked how many people lived on a farm at least half of the people would have raised there hand, but theses days your lucky if you find one," quotes Mr. Delancy.

"One of the fun things I remember from the earlier days of Dallastown was a place where we hung out a lot, the post office, it was an old house that was converted. One room there was candy and soda for sale and the was another with a pool table, it was a fun place to be," explained Mr. Delancy.

"Another thing I think about when you say Dallastown in the past was the dollar. You could walk to the grocery store, even though they were all small, and you could bring a dollar or two and walk home with your arms filled with grocery's," recalled Mrs. Deborah Gobel. "Dallastown is changing in more ways than one. One of the biggest changes I have seen is the family unit, the house hold. This is not a physical change really but it is a mental change. It isn't just Dallastown but all over the country. Families aren't spending the time together that they used to. They aren't playing games together. They aren't sitting down to dinner, this isn't necessarily bad, just different. I think kids are trying to become more independent," replied Mrs. Gobel, a resident in Dallastown District.

"Back in the 50's and the 60's there was no fast food places. Until finally a Mc.Donald's opened, you would pay .12¢ for a hamburger and .15¢ for a cheese burger," quotes Mr. Hess.

"One of my worst experiences I have ever had with Dallastown was the 1994

snow storm that dumped about four feet of snow onto the borough. Of course it was no fault of the town but we literally had no place to put the snow once it had been plowed. As mayor, I was responsible for seeing that the streets and sidewalks were cleared. It was a tough time and one I never want to relive," tells Mr. Reilly. "Dallastown in the future will face many challenges. It is in danger of losing its small town character as society becomes more decentralized and people become more transient. Dallastown also has a small tax base due to its geographic limitations and must continue to find creative ways to provide quality services to residents, such as police and fire protection at a low cost. It is going to be a real struggle for Dallastown to maintain its reputation as a desired community to live in, but it can be done." explained Mr. Reilly.

Dallastown has a bright and colorful past, filled with memories and stories. This town has changed the lives of many and has become a bustling community. But can it uphold its small town feel, we all hope it can. Hopefully this special little town can have such an impact, on many generations to come.

Administration

Based on interviews with a former principal, and two former Dallastown superintendents, it is obvious that school operations have changed over the years. There has been change in the types of equipment used and the way that students are taught and disciplined. As the interviews demonstrate, school administration has evolved in the terms of these individuals.

When Mr. Clair Trout was asked what he worked on when he worked at the school, he responded, "I did a lot with the schedule. I started the summer, so that it was ready within the first hour of school. I also dealt with kids that teachers sent up to the office, and I was also in charge of everything that went on at the school, such as programs, shows, classes, ect.." He responded to the question, what type of machinery did you work with then? "We had very little machinery back then. What we did have consisted of a typewriter and duplicator. Computers were just being invented then." He explained how Dallastowns administration compares to other schools. "When I worked at the school it was top of the county at that time. When people would look for homes, realtors would recommend Dallastown. As far as I know we still have a good rating." Mr. Trout recalled the changes from when he worked there to now. "It changed for the worst. Back then students would never talk back to teachers and principals, there was a certain respect. If I worked there now, I'd be in jail. I believed in using the paddle once in a while, in fact I probably used it about four times when I was working there. The school created a punishment, like in school suspension called the rubber room. Students called it this because the walls of a mental facility are rubber and that is what the room looked like. The kids would go in there, and get double assignments to work on."

Dr. Neil Harvey said that the responsibilities of superintendent were, "The overall operation of the school district from fiscal matters, instruction, curriculum, cafeteria, transportation, board relationships, and community interactions to leadership. Also,

staffing and operating a central office building, preparing for, and reporting to a board of education's bi-monthly meetings, and providing a realistic vision and goal of direction of district for community." He also commented on the machinery that was used back then. "Many years ago secretaries used manual typewriters , then electric typewriters, electric for dictation, and finally computers for word processing. There was also overhead projectors, calculating machines, and tape recorders for dictation." Dallastown's administration comparison to other schools was, "Very favorable in York County and statewide board on test results, cost was per student per year for districts. Based on state reports administration ranked very favorably", spoke Dr. Harvey. He also thinks that, "I thinks that it would not be too much different now because I just retired about a year ago." He saw plenty of changes from when he first began, like, "change in technology, in classroom, and administrative utilization, more discipline problems, and definitely more violence. When I first began to work there, there were more fist fights, now the fights involve weapons. Also there is much more drug use at an earlier age. More at risk students, and services and classes for the students."

Dr. Grimm said, "my experiences while teaching and coaching directed my studies towards administration being exposed as a son of a successful coach and public school superintendent." He spoke about the responsibilities as chief school administrator, and said, " I provided direction for the board of education, and employed a nd supervised a quality staff. I also had to create a positive image in the eyes of the public, and was in charge of curricular activities. The machinery that was used was primarily by dictaphone to my secretary. We only used computers for maintaining records and personal data, student transcripts and board minutes." When asked how the Dallastown district compared to other districts he answered, "Our district grew from 3200 students to 5500. During my time as superintendent many schools were built and re-sized. With this are administrative team continued to grow. Our team grew and we made an effort to provide top quality leadership." He stated that, "I don't think that the difficulty would be too much more

today. Districts have been dealing with student disturbances in the past, so I'm confident that they are addressing the issues with appropriate measures today."

In conclusion, the interviews show that Dallastown has changed over the years. From the type of equipment that was used, from then to now. Computers have replaced typewriters in almost every room in the school. That was a huge change. Principals used to be able to paddle students, and now they can barely touch them. However, Dallastown can be proud that some things did not change, such as the fact that our school district is one of the best educational institutions anywhere. Good administration led by the individuals interviewed in this report played a big role in making this so.

School Board

Did you ever wonder how the school board was first picked, or where they met? How about what problems they talked about? Throughout the years, the school board has changed in many different areas. These include location, topics discussed, and other important subjects. The physical makeup of the school board as well as the in-depth and critical issues facing them have changed according to the time era. What has not changed is the philosophy of the school board member concerning their value of education and the safety of the children of this community.

“Issues that school board members talked about were building projects, such as Loganville Elementary, Dallastown Middle School, and Dallastown High School,” stated Mr. Robert Bruns, “also there were changes in the grading of the students’ work. Dividing into zones for equal representation was a meaningful problem discussed for a little bit,” confirmed Mr. Bruns. A minor issue was the budget of all of Dallastown Area School’s employees because the taxes didn’t change four to five years,” voiced Mr. Bill Hess who was a member for fifteen years. “More huge topics, now, are the quality of the education given to the pupils, making sure that there is enough personnel,” proclaims Mr. Earl Miller, “Bussing is another issue on the mind’s of the members.”

“There were many changes throughout the years of the school board such as, the building of the planetarium, the very first teacher strike in the year 1974 which lasted 2-3 days, and the renovation of the athletic field(track),” expressed Mr. Hess. Changes in the present are that the budget has went from \$8,000,000.00 to \$38,000,000.00 which included the salaries, operating the schools, bussing, and reconstruction,” uttered Mr. Miller, “Technology is also a discussed issue. Bussing was a very tough decision to make, but now we have the reconstruction of Loganville to think about,” stated Mrs. Bonnie Lepson. Changes also occurred in the discussion of the members. “There were no politics involved in the meetings, the president would lead the discussions, and if a member would

bring up a altercation, it wouldn't always be answered or explained at that meeting," said Mr. Bruns.

"The school board was chosen by being divided into three zones. Three members from each of those zones were elected, but scheduled so they don't all come in at the exact same time. A person wanting to be selected would have to get a signed petition. The terms used to be for four years, but it converted to two years now. These members were chosen from each of the three districts," responded Mr. Bruns.

"Being a woman on the board isn't all that different," explained Mrs. Lepson, "There was a lot of respect for each other and we would rely on each others' knowledge, but there are a lot of contrasted opinions. We, women, are not stereo typed," she clarified. There used to be two women, but now there are four. "The population of women members grew," stated Mr. Hess, "One of the first women , Mrs. Linda Davidson, became the president of the board later. The same thing happened with Mrs. Nancy Underwood."

The changes of the school board and the members are very vast, especially discussions. Also, the problems have altered a tad, but there are a few of the same that have always been problems. The budget has and is still a major concern of the board. The difference being it has greatly increased with enlarged enrollment and educational and technological demands. Meeting taxpayers expectations and at the same time insuring safety and the best education using funds available has and is a never ending challenge for the school board. Another similarity is the ever present issue of enrollment and the constant building expansions and updates. The most substantial area which has remained everlasting is the commitment and dedication of the school board. The school board was and is a very significant part of Dallastown.