

CLAYTON-SMYRNA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

TELEPHONE 653-6119
MAIN STREET
CLAYTON, DELAWARE 19938

Board of Directors

~~Mr. Howell Barnes~~, President **Mr. Howell Barnes**
~~Mr. George Wright~~, Vice-President **Mr. George Wright**
Mrs. ~~Mary L. Smith~~, Secretary **Mary L. Smith**
Mrs. ~~Jennie Dixon~~, Treasurer **Jennie Dixon**

Executive Director
Mrs. ~~Lena Mullins~~
Lena Mullins

HISTORY OF

THE CLAYTON-SMYRNA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

The Clayton-Smyrna Senior Center came into being on May 23, 1967, under the Sponsorship of the Clayton Century Club. The Century Club Building being used as in-kind contribution to secure State & matching Federal Funds for operational expenses. These Funds were distributed through the Governing body which was then the Commission of Aging, under the guiding hand of Dr. Hector Lemair.

Mrs Naomi Dunning was employed as Executive Director and Mary L. Smith as Program Director and Custodian. The program initiated in the beginning were: Ceramics, Chair Caneing, Leather Craft, dress making, painting by number, Cards, Darts, Bingo, and Bus trips.

Mrs Dunning resigned with in a few weeks and Mrs France Hitchens assumed the Directorship for another short time. Due to poor health Mrs Hitchens resigned.

In January of 1968 Mrs Lena Mullins was hired by the Board of Director to fill this position. Mrs Mullins has filled this position for five years and still is our current Director.

The initial Guide Lines for Programing are basically the same today, but have expanded each activity to meet the ever increasing member participation. and to keep in line with the Federal and State requirements.

We feel that our Center is a little unique in the fact that all of our different programs are taught by professionals

HISTORY OF CLAYTON

DELAWARE

COMPILED BY JOHN SHORTALL

1968

In 1854, there was only one house in Clayton, or rather the farm land that was to be known as Clayton. On that date, surveyors for the proposed railroad were busy running lines to determine the best route down the peninsula. The farm land and farm house was owned by Richard Tribbit, a nefarious slave trader at the time.

Mr. Tribbit gave land for the Railroad Depot and sold land for building lots. Previous to that time a little village existed about one quarter mile south, called Jimtown. It was a great stopping place for years for teams on their way to Smyrna Landing, to unload grain for shipment to points north by sail boats. There was a large grove and an old character "Aunt Hetty Johnson", who sold beer and cakes to the drivers.

In 1859, the Hotel Stokley and a store was built. The store being kept by Mr. Thomas B Lockwood and later owned by Abel Sevil. It was located on ground now occupied by the Atlantic filling station. Mr. Sevil later built a new store across the street and operated it under the name of A. Sevil & Sons for a number of years.

It was generally considered that Mr. Tribbit had a clear title for this land, but after his death the land was claimed by a Mr. William Wartenby of San Francisco, on the grounds that Tribbit on default of no heirs, but had a life interest and the reversion in fee was in him. The case was carried to the Supreme Court of the United States. Secretary of State Bayard appearing for Wartenby and Reverdy Johnson of Maryland for holders of the land. The case

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LILLIAN SMITH, DIRECTOR

September 29, 1977

MEMO TO: The Revenue Sharing Hearing Committee
Town of Smyrna

FROM: The Clayton-Smyrna Senior Center
Mrs. Lillian Smith, Director

The Clayton-Smyrna Independent Senior Center was organized in 1967. The purpose of this project since its inception has been to serve the elderly citizens of the community and to help them to maintain a satisfactory life style.

Our present facilities are very small and we can't meet the necessary needs of our present membership and the other elderly in the area who are in "dire" need of assistance.

This request being our initial request of Revenue Sharing Funds from the town, we respectfully request you consider an amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). The purpose of this request is to expand our present building and to meet the guidelines of Public Law 94-480 (Architectural Barrier Act). In doing so, we feel this grant would enable us to better serve our elderly now and in the coming years.

In closing on behalf of the Clayton-Smyrna Senior Center and the 1,300 elderly citizens of the area, we are indeed grateful for this opportunity to appear before this committee. It is our hope and prayer that our request will be considered on its merits. May we also take this opportunity to thank the town for bringing this hearing to our attention through your town staff member, Mrs. Connelly.



SPONSOR: Sen. Vaughn; Sen.
Cook; Reps. Clark,
B. Ennis

DELAWARE STATE SENATE

136TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 107

CONGRATULATING THE CLAYTON-SMYRNA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER OF CLAYTON
AS IT PREPARES TO CELEBRATE ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY.

1 WHEREAS, the Clayton-Smyrna Senior Citizens Center first
2 opened its doors on May 20, 1967, in a building owned and later
3 donated by the Clayton Century Club; and

4 WHEREAS, the Clayton-Smyrna Senior Citizens Center is preparing
5 to mark its 25th year of existence as Kent County's first senior
6 center by rededicating its building as the Lillian Smith Senior Center
7 in honor of the late Mary Lillian Smith, who served as director
8 of the center from 1974-1992; and

9 WHEREAS, the Clayton-Smyrna Senior Citizens Center provides
10 a variety of activities and services to an estimated 500 area
11 residents 60 years old and older each year; and

12 WHEREAS, activities of said senior center include recreational
13 and social programs, information and referrals, income tax
14 assistance, and as a satellite for the Nemours Foundation's
15 Prescription Program; and

16 WHEREAS, the Clayton-Smyrna Senior Citizens Center provides
17 needed services to the elderly in the Clayton-Smyrna area;

18 NOW THEREFORE:

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 136th General Assembly
20 of the State of Delaware that the Clayton-Smyrna Senior Citizens
21 Center of Clayton is hereby congratulated as it prepares to celebrate
22 the 25th Anniversary of its founding on May 20, 1967.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate and House members mourn
24 the death of the Center's late director, Mary Lillian Smith, in
25 whose name the Clayton-Smyrna Senior Citizens Center will be
26 rededicated to honor the memory of her 18 years of service to the

SD/JKR/jkr



State of Delaware

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 107

We hereby certify that the enclosed is the same act that was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the 136th General Assembly.

Bernard J. Brady Secretary of the Senate

John M. Hedrick Chief Clerk of the House

Certified With:

Devisé M. Coffman Bill Clerk of the Senate

Donna A. Snee Bill Clerk of the House