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COURT HOUSE GEORGETOWN
Site of "Hall of Governors"

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THE ARCHEOLOG

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Delaware Day Program in Georgetown, Delaware at the Sussex County Court House at two o'clock in the afternoon and in Laurel, Delaware at eight o'clock in the evening at the Laurel Public Library on Friday December 7, 1979 plus these writings about the Sussex County men who became governor of the First State, would not have been possible without the assistance of many people including the Sussex Society of Archeology and History, President Mr. Francis J. Lewis; the staff of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs at the Hall of Records in Dover, Mrs. Madeline Dunn Hite, Mrs. Gail Fooks, Mrs. Ann Baker Horsey, Mrs. Joan Larrivec, Mr. Lawrence C. Henry, Ms. Joanne Matteru, the Georgetown Historical Society, President Mrs. Bettie W. Evans; the staff of the Laurel Public Library, Mr. Meril L. Dunn Sr., Mr. Edward N. Fowler, Mr. Howard E. Hardesty II, Mrs. Margaret Hastings, Senator Roger A. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert B. Tharp, The Honorable Sherman W. Tribbitt, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Pedersen.

My appreciation and my thanks are sincerely expressed to all associated in any way with this project.

The two photographs of former governor Elbert N. Carvel and former governor Sherman W. Tribbitt at the dedication ceremony were taken by Steve Huenigmann, The County Post, Millsboro, Delaware. The early photograph of "Rosemont" or "The John Collins House" in Laurel was taken by Orlando Wooten of Salisbury, Maryland. The snapshots of the homes of the governors in Sussex County are from the collection of Madeline A. Dunn.



The Governor Hazzard house in Milton has been privately restored and features a shingled sheathed frame structure typical of Sussex County. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (Private)



The Causey Mansion in Milford was also the home of Governor Rogers. Governor Causey made extensive renovations and additions to the original brick house built in 1763. (Private)



The Laurel Public Library, 6 East Fourth Street, Laurel, Delaware 19956. Open Monday through Friday 11 A.M.-6 P.M. and Saturday 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.



The permanent exhibit in the Laurel Library commemorating the six men who became governor of the State who were associated with Laurel. Presented by the Laurel Historical Society.



The Governor Pennewell House was moved to it's present location on Route 13 South from it's original site in Greenwood where it obstructed the construction of the dual highway. (Private)



Governor Townsend's home in Selbyville is now known as the Townsend Memorial Building housing the Selbyville Public Library.

DELAWARE GOVERNORS FROM SUSSEX COUNTY

by Madeline Arnold Dunn

"The Hall of Governors" was dedicated on Delaware Day, December 7, 1979, at two o'clock in the afternoon at The Sussex County Court House, The Circle, Georgetown, Delaware. Portraits of the men from Sussex County who had achieved the honor of serving as governor of the first state are now on permanent display in the main corridor and a few elsewhere in the building. The pictures are on loan from The Delaware State Portrait Collection administered by The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Dover, Delaware. The project was sponsored by The Sussex Society of Archaeology and History and was conceived and developed by Mrs. Madeline Arnold Dunn, a member and officer of the society, with the assistance of Mrs. Ann Baker Horsey, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

The program was opened by Mr. Roger C. Fisher who sang the invocation. Greetings were given by Mr. Francis Lewis, President of The Sussex Society of Archaeology and History, who then introduced Mr. Joseph T. Conaway, Sussex County Administrator. Mr. Conaway conducted the program, introducing honored guests and later welcoming the descendants of the governors. The Honorable Sherman W. Tribbitt, Governor of Delaware from 1973 to 1977, addressed the group, as did The Honorable Elbert N. Carvel, Governor of Delaware from 1949 to 1953 and reelected to serve again from 1961 to 1965. Refreshments were served by members of The Georgetown Historical Society, Mrs. Bettie W. Evans, President.

On this same day at eight o'clock in the evening at the Laurel Public Library, The Laurel Historical Society presented the library for permanent exhibit six framed black and white pictures of the six men associated with Laurel who were elected to the office of governor of the state: Nathaniel Mitchell, 1805-1808; John Collins, 1821-1822; William B. Cooper, 1841-1845; William H. Ross, 1851-1855 (born in Laurel, died in Seaford), Joshua H. Marvil, 1895, and Elbert N. Carvel, 1949-1953 and 1961-1965.

Again Mr. Roger C. Fisher opened the program by singing the invocation. Mrs. Madeline Arnold Dunn, President of The Laurel Historical Society, welcomed those assembled and introduced Mr. George M. Warner, Vice President of the society. Mr. Warner conducted the program, introducing the descendants of the governors and the honored guests, including The Honorable Elbert N. Carvel, Senator Lee Littleton, Senator Roger A. Martin, Mr. Oliver E. Hill, Sussex County Councilman, and Mr. William B. Horner, Mayor of Laurel. Addresses were given by The Honorable Elbert N. Carvel and Representative William J. Gordy. The pictures were accepted by Mrs. Mildred Williams of The Laurel Public Library Commission, and Mrs. Ruth H. Mitchell, librarian.

Following is a listing of Delaware governors from Sussex County. Included are their political affiliations, their term of office, birth and death dates, the towns associated with them, and other brief remarks. Some of the governors left no pictures or likenesses of themselves. Where their existing portraits are exhibited is indicated. Because of continuous research, these writings are subject to revision.



Former Governor Tribbitt gave biographical accounts of the men whose portraits hang on the walls of the Sussex County Court House. A portrait of former Governor Carvel was exhibited on an easel.

GOVERNORS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF 1792

Daniel Rogers was acting governor from 1797 to 1799, succeeding Governor Gunning Bedford when he died in office. Both were members of The Federalist Party. Governor Rogers was born in Accomac, Virginia, on January 3, 1754, and died at his residence in Milford on February 2, 1806. He is buried on the farm property. He became associated with the house now known as The Causey Mansion in Milford and 600 acres of farmland when he married the widow of Levin Cropper, who built this house about 1760. It was designed by an English architect named Mitchell. It is said to be one of the first Georgian houses in the area. Governor Rogers was an intelligent farmer who also had interest in milling. He built The Brick Granary on Cedar Creek. There is no portrait or picture of Governor Rogers, but a monument was erected by The State Legislature in 1917 honoring him.

David Hall was the first Democrat to be elected governor and served from 1802-1805. He was born on January 4, 1752, in Lewes and died in Lewes on September 18, 1817. He is buried there in the graveyard of The Presbyterian Church. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1773. As a distinguished patriot, he served as a member of The Council of Safety for Sussex County. When the Delaware militia was organized in 1775, he commanded one of the three Sussex County battalions under General John Dagworthy. Later, under Colonel John Haslet for service with The Continental Army. In 1777, when a new Delaware Regiment was organized, Governor Hall was elected its colonel. He was severely wounded at The Battle of Germantown and taken back to Lewes to recover. After the war, he was an active member in The Delaware State Society of Cincinnati, which was an organization of army officers who served under George Washington. After his term of governor, he was appointed an associate judge in the state courts, serving from 1813 to 1817. There is a crayon drawing of David Hall by Ellen L. Burton Wendell, hanging in The Hall of Governors, Sussex County Court House, Georgetown. Another portrait of Governor Hall hangs in the Zwaanendael Museum, Lewes.

Nathaniel Mitchell was a member of The Federalist Party serving as governor from 1805-1808. He was born in Laurel in 1753, son of James Mitchell and Margaret Dagworthy Mitchell. Mrs. Mitchell was the sister of General John Dagworthy, a hero of The Revolutionary War. Governor Mitchell died in Laurel on February 21, 1813, age 61 years as recorded on his tombstone in the graveyard at Old Christ Church, Broad Creek, about three miles east of Laurel. Historians record his death as February 21, 1814. He and his family were communicants of this church and occupied pew #38. At the age of 22, he joined General Dagworthy's battalion of Delaware Militia and was commissioned as adjutant. During the Revolutionary War, he served with great distinction and was eventually captured by the British, held prisoner, and paroled after The Battle of Yorktown in 1781. He was a member of The Delaware State of Cincinnati. In 1797, he was given the rank of Brigadier General in The Delaware Militia. From 1786-1788, he was a member of The Continental Congress; in 1792 he was Privy Councillor; in 1800--a Federalist Elector; from 1788-1805 Prothontary of



Governor Hall's house in Lewes was built of cypress shingles in 1790. The interior includes paneled walls with fire places, molded cornices and chair rails. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (Private)



Governor Rodney's house was built of cypress shingles in 1800. For many years the newspaper "The Breakwater Light" was printed in the rear of the house. It is located in the Historic District of Lewes. (Private)



Governor Tunnell's house is currently being restored. It is located in the Historic District of Lewes. (Private)



The home of Governor Stockley in Georgetown. (Private)

Sussex County. He was elected to The State General Assembly in 1808 and to The State Senate in 1810. He lived in a house in Laurel known as "Rosemont" or "The Collins House" built about the middle of the eighteenth century. It stands on high ground overlooking the mill dam built about 1800 by Governor Mitchell to operate a flour and grist mill. There are no portraits of Governor Mitchell, but a monument was erected at his gravesite on July 4, 1976 by The Laurel Historical Society. Later, a plaque was placed there by The Nathaniel Mitchell Chapter of The Daughters of The American Revolution.

Joseph Haslet, a Democrat, was elected governor and served from 1811-1814 and was reelected serving in 1823. He died in June 1823 while in office. His birth date is unknown. As a young person, he became an apprentice to Ziba Ferris, a watchmaker in Wilmington but did not follow this occupation. Instead, he engaged in farming in Cedar Creek Hundred where he lived. He served with distinction as governor upholding the principles of liberty and independence for which his father, Colonel John Haslet, Commander of The First Delaware Regiment, gave his life at The Battle of Princeton January 3, 1777. There are no portraits of Governor Haslet. In 1917, The State Legislature erected a monument in his honor.

Daniel Rodney, a Federalist, was elected governor serving from 1814-1817. He was born in Lewes on September 10, 1764 and died there on September 2, 1846. He is buried in St. Peters Churchyard in Lewes. His education was limited; he preferred to spend his youth aboard sailing vessels. Before he was 21 years old, he commanded one. During The Revolutionary War, he was twice captured from merchant ships by the British. Later he established himself as a merchant in Lewes. From 1793-1806 he was an associate justice of The Court of Common Pleas. He was in Lewes in April 1813 when the British bombarded the town and took part in its defense. In 1822, he defeated his cousin, Caesar A. Rodney, for a seat in Congress. In 1826, he was appointed to The U.S. Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Nicholas Van Dyke. There are no portraits of Governor Rodney.

John Collins, a Democrat, was elected governor serving from 1821 to 1822; he died while in office. He was born in Nanticoke Hundred on March 1, 1776, and died in Wilmington on April 11, 1822. He is buried at the Collins family gravesites at Collins' Mill Pont, Sussex County. At the death of his father, he inherited one third of a mill and forge near Coverdale Crossroads in Sussex County and substantial acreage. Later, he erected a charcoal forge on Gravelly Branch. John Collins was president of The Delaware Senate in 1816. He lived in Laurel at the time of his election as governor. It is said that his daughter-in-law Mrs. Theophilus Collins, lived at the house known as "Rosemont" in Laurel until her death in 1902. However, three generations of Governor Collins' family have called this old Nathaniel Mitchell House home. Therefore, "Rosemont" is sometimes referred to as "The Collins House." There are no pictures of Governor Collins, but in 1974 The State Legislature erected an appropriate stone to his memory. It is in the Collins family plot in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Laurel.

Caleb Rodney was Speaker of The Senate when Governor Collins died and served as acting governor from 1822-1823. He was born in 1767 and died in 1840 and is buried in St. Peter's Churchyard in Lewes. He was a brother to Governor Daniel Rodney. He resided in a house on Second Street in Lewes. Very little is known about Caleb Rodney. There is no picture of him.

Samuel Paynter Jr., a Federalist, was elected governor and served from 1824-1827. He was born in September 1768 at the old homestead at Paynter's Drawbridge near Lewes. He died in Lewes on November 2, 1845 and is buried at St. Peter's in Lewes. He was a successful Sussex County merchant and served as a member of The State House of Representatives from 1796-1799. In 1807, 1808, 1811, and 1822, he was a member of The State Senate and was State Treasurer from 1808-1813. He was appointed the Associate Justice of The State Supreme Court from 1818-1824. After his term of office as governor, he was elected on the Democratic ticket to The State House of Representatives in 1844. An oil painting of Governor Paynter by Ellen L. B. Wendell (attributed) is hanging in The Hall of Governors, Sussex County Court House in Georgetown. A crayon drawing of him is also hanging in "Woodburn," The Governor's House in Dover.

Charles Polk, a Federalist, was first elected governor serving from 1827-1830. Later, after the death of Governor Bennett, he became the acting governor from 1836-1837. This was then under the revised state constitution of 1831. He was born near Bridgeville on November 14, 1788; he died near Milford on October 27, 1857. He was an agriculturist, a land owner, and statesman serving in The State House of Representatives 1813-1815, 1817-1818, 1823-1824. He was State Senator in 1824-1826, 1832-1840 and Speaker of The Senate in 1826. After his terms as governor, he was the Register of Wills of Kent County 1843-1847 and Collector of The Port of Wilmington 1850-1853. An oil painting of Governor Polk by William A. Hoffstatter is hanging in The Hall of Governors, Sussex County Court House in Georgetown.

David Hazzard, a Democrat, was elected governor serving from 1830-1833. He was born on May 18, 1781, at Broadkiln Neck, Sussex County. He died in Milton on July 8, 1864. In the War of 1812, he served in the Navy as an ensign in Captain Peter Wright's Company. He was justice of the peace for some years and prominent in religious circles. In 1834, he was State Senator, 1844-1847 Associate Judge, 1852 a member of The State Constitutional Convention. A pastel portrait of Governor Hazzard by an unknown artist now hangs in The Jury Room, second floor of The Sussex County Court House in Georgetown.

GOVERNORS UNDER THE AMENDED CONSTITUTION OF 1831

William Barkley Cooper was a member of the Whig party and was elected governor serving from 1841-1845. He was born on December 1, 1771, near Broad Creek Bridge, Laurel. He died April 27, 1849, at his Laurel home and was buried at the Methodist Protestant Cemetery

near the railroad track in Laurel. His mother, Comfort Townsend Cooper, was the daughter of Barkley Townsend, who, when the Nanticoke Indian Reservation Land was abandoned, purchased in 1768, one hundred and thirty-three acres of "Bachelor's Delight" which was a tract of land on the south side of Broad Creek. It is now the present site of Laurel. Governor Cooper was an educated man and a brilliant conversationalist. In 1798, he was Justice of the Peace for Sussex County; in 1807, he was an ensign in the Ninth Regiment of the Third Brigade Company; 1808 sheriff of Sussex County; 1814 Captain, Troop of Horse to the Third Brigade; 1815-1816 State Representative; and in 1817 Judge of The Court of Common Pleas. He married three times. Although the attic and second floor of his mansion in Laurel was destroyed by fire, the lower part of the structure was salvaged, repaired, and renovated as a one-story and attic house and is now a private home. There is no portrait of Governor Cooper, but in 1980 The State Legislature honored him with a memorial stone placed in the Methodist Protestant Cemetery in Laurel. This was a project of The Laurel Historical Society.

Joseph Maull belonged to the Whig party and was acting governor in 1846 after the death of Governor Stockton. Governor Maull died in office serving from March 1846 to May 3, 1846. He is buried in St. Peter's Churchyard in Lewes. He was born in Pilot Town, Lewes, on September 6, 1781, and died at his home in Milton on May 3, 1846. Governor Maull was a doctor and, as a member of the medical profession, practiced in Sussex County. He was a member of The State Senate in 1820, 1838, 1842-1846. There is a silhouette by an unknown artist on exhibit in the Governor's House, "Woodburn," in Dover.

William Tharp, a Democrat, was elected governor and served from 1847-1851. He was born near Farmington on November 27, 1803, and died in Milford, where he lived, on January 1, 1865. He is buried there in the churchyard of Christ Episcopal Church. He was an agriculturist and landowner in Kent County and listed as a taxable of Northwest Fork Hundred, Sussex County. He was State Senator in 1838. He was the father of a large family and a man universally respected and honored in many ways by many people. Mrs. Ethel P. B. Leach has painted a portrait in oils of Governor Tharp which hangs in The Hall of Governors, Sussex County Court House, Georgetown.

William Henry Harrison Ross, age 36, was the youngest man ever elected to the office of Governor of Delaware. He was a Democrat and served 1851-1855. He was born in Laurel on June 2, 1814, and died at his home in Seaford on June 30, 1887. He is buried in the churchyard of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Seaford. He was well educated and traveled extensively. He first worked with his father in a mercantile and commission house in Laurel. Later, he became interested in a mill and a tannery. He purchased property in Seaford and built his home there. In his day, he was recognized as a leading farmer in Sussex County. He was the senior partner in the firm of W. M. Ross & Co., importers and manufacturers of fertilizer and agricultural supplies. In 1846, he was elected Captain of a company of cavalry raised in the vicinity of Laurel and Seaford. They furnished their

own horses and equipment. The troop was disbanded at the close of The Mexican War in 1849. He promoted the growth of the railroad on The Delmarva Peninsula and was the founder of the first agricultural society in 1849. A pastel portrait of Governor Ross by J. Paul Brown hangs in the Hall of Governors in the Sussex County Court House in Georgetown. A black and white photograph of this portrait hangs in The Ross Mansion on the outskirts of Seaford. This building is owned and operated as a house museum by The Seaford Historical Society and is listed on The National Register of Historic Places.

Peter Foster Causey, a member of the American party, was elected governor serving 1855-1859. He was born near Bridgeville on January 11, 1801, and died in Milford on February 15, 1871. He is buried on the farm property in Milford. He was a powerful man physically being six feet in height and weighing over two hundred pounds. He had a prosperous career engaging in the mercantile business, conducting a farm, operating a saw mill, a tannery, and a flouring mill. About 1820 he was extensively engaged in mining ore on his lands in Nanticoke Hundred. From 1830-1834, he was a member of The State House of Representatives, 1837-1840 aide-de-camp to Governor C. P. Comeges, and in 1840 presidential elector. In 1855, the house formerly belonging to Governor Daniel Rogers in Milford became his home. Under his direction, the house was altered and added to and became Greek Revival in its appearance. Since then, it is known as the Causey Mansion. An oil painting of Governor Causey by Robert Street is hanging in the Hall of Governors, Sussex County Court House, Georgetown. Another portrait of Governor Causey, a lithograph attributed to Ellen L. B. Wendell, hangs in Legislative Hall in Dover.

William Burton, a Democrat, was elected governor serving 1859-1863. He was born on October 16, 1789, and died on August 5, 1866. He is buried in Milford in the churchyard of Christ Episcopal Church. He spent his boyhood on his father's farm in Sussex County. He studied medicine in the office of Dr. Sudler in Milford and graduated from the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania. He began his medical practice in Lewes but moved to Milford, where he settled. He lived in a farmhouse located on his property on the outskirts of Milford. He was not only a beloved doctor but also a successful farmer. In 1827 he was Brigadier-general of The Kent County Militia and in 1830 served as sheriff of Kent County. For many years, he was the senior warden of Christ Church in Milford. There are no portraits of Governor Burton in the state collection.

William Cannon was a member of the Union party and elected governor serving 1863-1865. He was born in Bridgeville on March 15, 1809; he died while in office on March 1, 1865, in Bridgeville and is buried in Bridgeville Cemetery. In 1825 he joined the M. E. Church and was a prominent and ardent member holding office as class leader until his death. He was a merchant and orchardist. He was a member of The State House of Representatives 1844-1848; State Treasurer 1849-1851. As governor he advised The State Legislature in 1864 to take measures for the emancipation of the slaves in Delaware. His death was caused by over-exertion in assisting to extinguish a fire in Bridgeville where he lived. An oil painting of



The Governor Ponder House in Milton is a good example of the Second Empire Style of Architecture. A highly decorated Mansard roof is featured. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is now the William M. Short Funeral Home.



Governor Ross Mansion in Seaford is an excellent example of Italian Villa Style of Architecture. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is owned and administered as a house museum by the Seaford Historical Society.



Former Governor Elbert N. Carvel and former Governor Sherman W. Tribbitt attend the dedication of the Hall of Governors at the Sussex County Court House, December 7, 1979.

Governor Cannon by Clawson S. Hammitt is hanging in The Law Library, Second Floor, Sussex County Court House, Georgetown. Another portrait of Governor Cannon is exhibited at The Hall of Records in Dover.

James Ponder, a Democrat, was elected governor, serving 1871-1875. He was born in Milton on October 31, 1819, and died there at his residence on November 5, 1897. He is buried in the Methodist Episcopal Cemetery in Milton. He was in the mercantile business in Milton, mill owner, extensive landowner, owned several vessels, and was successful in the shipping business. He was a member of The State House of Representatives 1856-57, State Senator 1864-1866, Speaker of The Delaware Senate 1867-1869. An oil painting of Governor Ponder by Marjorie Virdin is hanging in The Hall of Governors, Sussex County Court House, Georgetown. Another portrait of Governor Ponder, which is a crayon rendering, is hanging in the office of Legislative Hall in Dover.

Charles Clarke Stockley, a Democrat, was elected governor serving 1883-1887. He was born in Sussex County on November 6, 1819, and died in Georgetown, where he lived, on April 21, 1901. He is buried at the graveyard of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Georgetown. From 1839 to 1846 he taught school in Sussex County. Later, he was a railroad director and the president of Farmer's Bank in Georgetown. He was Treasurer of Sussex County 1852-53, Sheriff of Sussex County 1856-1858, State Senator 1872-1874, Speaker of State Senate 1875-1877. After his term as governor, he was Register of Wills of Sussex County 1891-1896. A pastel portrait attributed to Ellen L. B. Wendell is hanging in The Superior Court Room, Second Floor, Sussex County Court House, Georgetown.

Joshua Hopkins Marvil, a member of the Republican party, was elected governor and served in 1895. He was born in Little Creek Hundred on September 3, 1825, and died suddenly on April 8, 1895, after being in office only three months. He is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Laurel. His father was drowned in 1834, and until he was twenty years old, he helped his mother maintain the farm where they lived. Later, he engaged in shipbuilding and in his twenty-eighth year established a shop for the manufacture of agricultural instruments, which he carried on until 1865. He began the basket and crate business in 1870 which grew rapidly with his inventions and improvements. It later became The Marvil Package Company in Laurel. An oil painting of Governor Marvil by an unknown artist hangs in The Hall of Governors, Sussex County Court House in Georgetown.

William Tharp Watson, a Democrat, was acting governor 1895-1897. He was born in Milford on June 22, 1849, and died on April 14, 1917. He is buried in the Odd Fellow's Cemetery in Milford. He attended public schools in Milford and graduated from Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. He was employed briefly by a business concern in Philadelphia, followed the sea for several years, and then gave his attention to land holdings and farms inherited by his mother and sister. He was the grandson of Governor Tharp. He was also associated with commercial and financial organizations. He was State



The former home of Governor Marvil once stood at the intersection of Townsend and West Streets in Laurel. It was moved to its present site in the latter part of the last century. (Private)



The Laurel home of Governor Carvel. (Private)



Governor Cooper's house in Laurel was once a Victorian Mansion. The attic and second floor were destroyed by a 19th century fire. It has been remodeled and is used now as a private home.



Governor Mitchell's house "Rosemont" or "The John Collins House" as it is today in Laurel. (Private)

Representative 1884, State Senator 1892-1895. A drawing over a photograph of Governor Watson by J. Paul Brown hangs in The Hall of Governors, Sussex County Court House, Georgetown.

Ebe Walter Tunnell was a member of the Democratic party and elected governor 1897-1901. He was born on December 31, 1844, near Blackwater, Baltimore Hundred, in Sussex County. He died in Lewes on December 13, 1917, and is buried there in the Presbyterian Cemetery. He engaged in the mercantile business with his father in Blackwater. He took up residence in Lewes in 1873 and became associated with Dr. D. L. Mustard in the drug business. He was a member of The State House of Representatives 1870, Clerk of the Peace of Sussex County 1886-1891. He never married. An oil painting of Governor Tunnell by Clawson S. Hammitt is hanging in The Law Library, Second Floor, Sussex County Court House, Georgetown.

GOVERNORS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF 1897

Simeon Selby Pennewill was a Republican, elected governor 1909-1913. He was born in Greenwood on July 23, 1867, and died in Dover on September 9, 1935. He is buried in Bridgeville. He was interested in educational matters and active in agricultural circles. He was a large orchard owner. He was president of the Board of Trustees for State College for Colored Students and a member of The State Senate 1899-1907. An oil painting of Governor Pennewill by Robert Hinckley hangs in Dover, Legislative Hall, Second Floor.

John Gillis Townsend Jr. was a member of the Republican party and elected governor 1917-1921. He was born on a farm near Bishopville, Worcester County, Maryland, on May 31, 1871, and died in Delaware on April 10, 1964. He lived in Selbyville and is buried in the Selbyville Cemetery on Route 54. He served in World War I and organized a full regiment of National Guard for Delaware. He was the first to develop the strawberry sundae and discovered soybean fertilizer. He was a farmer, lumberman, canner, orchardist, and banker. He opened the Baltimore Trust Co. in Selbyville and was a director of The Farmer's Bank of Delaware. He was a member of The State Legislature 1901-1903, a member of the staffs of Governors Lea, Pennewill, and Miller. After his term as governor, he was United States Senator from Delaware 1929-1941. An oil painting of Governor Townsend by Clawson S. Hammitt is hanging in The Hall of Governors, Sussex County Court House, Georgetown. Another portrait of Governor Townsend, an oil painting by Bjorg Egeli, hangs in the lobby of The Townsend Building in Dover, which was named in honor of John G. Townsend Jr.

Elbert Nostrand Carvel, a Democrat, was elected governor 1949-1953 and reelected 1961-1965. He was born on February 9, 1910, in Shelter Island, New York, and is currently residing in Laurel. He was six years old when his family moved to Baltimore, Maryland. There, he attended Garrett Heights Elementary School and graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 1928. After studying law, he received

his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Baltimore. He was employed as sales engineer with the Consolidated Gas and Electric Light and Power Company for five years. On December 17, 1932, Elbert Nostrand Carvel married Ann Hall Valliant of Centreville, Maryland. In 1936, he moved to Laurel, Delaware, where he became general manager, treasurer, and director of the Valliant Fertilizer Company. In 1945, he became president of the firm and in 1972 became chairman of the board. He is also Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Milford Fertilizer Company, Vice-President of the Laurel Grain Company, and Chairman of the Board of Fischer Enterprises. He is also a farmer. He served as a trustee of the University of Delaware as well as of the University of Baltimore and has served with many other civic and business organizations. He has been active in the affairs of the Episcopal Church in Delaware. Mr. Carvel became interested in politics in 1942 after serving on a Federal Grand Jury investigating corrupt election practices of the 1940 national election in Delaware. He was elected Lieutenant Governor at the age of 34 and served from 1945 to 1949. An oil painting of Governor Carvel by Bjorg Egeli hangs in Legislative Hall in Dover; another portrait by the same artist hangs in the Carvel Building, Delaware State Hospital; and a third portrait of Governor Carvel by Lawrence Wheeler hangs in the Governor Carvel State Office Building in Wilmington recently dedicated to him.



A rare photograph of "Rosemont" or "The John Collins House" before twentieth century renovations. It was built in Laurel in 1764 and was the home of Governor Nathaniel Mitchell. (Private)

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