

BY THE PEOPLE

Historical Society recalls Nov. 1941 dedication of Dundalk Post Office

The Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society has provided the following information regarding the establishment of the Dundalk Post Office in honor of the 100th anniversary of the development of Old Dundalk.

The following text was first printed in the Dundalk Post Office Dedication program upon the opening of the current Dundalk Post Office, at 44 Shipping Place in the Dundalk Village Shopping Center, on Nov. 22, 1941.

Dedication Dundalk Post Office Saturday, Nov. 22, 1941 Dundalk Our Town

Fifty-two years ago, a beautiful shore line clear tidewater, teeming with fish, crabs and wild fowl, etc. Attractive well kept farms and orchards.

Mode of transportation, the horse.

1889 — four streets, two blocks long were laid out, two houses now standing (located on Willow Spring Road), were built entirely from timber salvaged from Colgate Creek, washed down by the Johnstown Flood of 1889.

1891 — three twin houses and four single houses were built, board sidewalks were installed on one side of each street. Two or three house a year were built from then to 1917.

At that time the town consisted of sixty-two houses, one church, school, fire engine house, two stores, post office and telephone exchange. In that year there were built 832 houses.

Prior to 1896, it was necessary to take a ferry and cross Colgate Creek (this cost five cents), to connect with the trolley at Riverview.

1896 — the Jerk Water Electric Line was built across Colgate Creek; residents were carried across free.

The electric line, known as the Sparrows Point Line, was completed and put in service May 2, 1903.

At this time transportation was the horse, two electric lines and steam road.



COURTESY DUNDALK-PATAPSCO NECK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
An image of the Dundalk Post Office as it appeared upon its opening in November 1941.

Communication

The first telephone service-exchange and twenty phones-opened July 1, 1912, named the St. Helena Exchange.

The name was changed to Patapsco in May 1919.

The name was changed again on Dec. 19, 1921, to its present name, Dundalk.

Public school opened its doors for the first time Monday, Sept. 8, 1898, located in the basement of a church, had no desks and used the chairs belonging to the Sunday School.

In 1900, a one-room building was built and two rooms added later. This building is now the I.O.O.F Hall (Odd Fellows).

The first school had less enrollment than one room of the present school.

By 1920, the two stucco buildings on Shipway had to be used.

1926 — first unit of present building was built — 16 rooms.

In 1930, eighteen rooms and the auditorium were added.

Elementary enrollment at present, one thousand and twelve. Junior high department enrollment at present, five hundred thirty.

We are now a modern, beautiful, industrial community with a population of twenty-two thousand and still growing; with all the conveniences and services of any metropolitan city in the U.S.A.

This is not a complete history and interesting facts are left out, owing to lack of space.

The evolution of our postal service

Prior to 1895, it was necessary to go to Baltimore or Sparrows Point to get your mail.

In that year, the St. Helena Post Office was established in a house, now known as 6506 Baltimore Ave., a Mr. Bowen being the first post master.

In 1897, it was moved to the General Store of Mrs. Spencer at the corner of Ralls Avenue and Baltimore Avenue. She became the post mistress, a job she held until the building burned down in 1908.

Mr. Ewing became the post master in that year. The location was moved to Baltimore Avenue and Willow Spring Road and remained there until 1912.

Mr. Kelly became the post master in that year, moving to the former location at Ralls Avenue and Baltimore Avenue, where a new store building had been erected. It remained there until Nov. 1, 1920, when it was moved to the Dunleer Building at Shipping Place and the name changed to Dundalk. Up to this time, it was necessary to go to the post office to get your mail. Carrier service was started as of that date.

The location had not been changed until today, when it is officially moved in this beautiful new building, located at 44 Shipping Place, of which you will find a picture on the cover of the program.

Today we are honoring those who were instrumental in bringing it into being.