

## I REMEMBER WHEN. . .



Sunday afternoons in the 1940s found me in the Churchville General Store pasting rationing stamps into books to be turned in to the Rationing Board so my grandfather, Leroy K. Lennon, could replenish his stock of rationed commodities such as gasoline, kerosene, sugar, butter, meat and more. Many items were rationed during WWII because they were needed to support our armed forces.

The North and Southampton Dutch Reformed Church put the church in Churchville; but Jesse J. Finney put the general store in Churchville. The village was originally known as Smoketown, probably because of the prevalence of local Dutch men smoking their traditional long stemmed pipes. After 1816, when the church was completed, the village gradually became known as Churchville. Historian J.H. Battle reported that the village around the church consisted of only twelve homes in 1871. Farmland surrounded the little village. However, with the advent of the train coming through in 1878, Churchville began to grow and Mr. Finney, a retired farmer, built a general store in 1883.

By the turn of the century, Frank and Marion Heston were the owners. Frank Heston can be seen standing on the steps of the store in this 1908 photo. My grandfather began working for the Hestons in 1901 when he was seventeen years old. He purchased the business and the property in 1921. His son, Victor L. Lennon, was proprietor from the late 40s to the early 80s. Gordon Stott was the owner briefly, before Jin Man Kim and Eun Sil Kim bought it and it became the Churchville Deli as seen in a recent photo.

If you want a hoagie, stop in at the Deli at 123 Bustleton Pike in Churchville. If you want to learn more about Northampton Township history, stop in at the Archives at the Northampton Township Library. Township history awaits you there.

***Marion Doan Fenton-Kane***