

A compilation of the 100th, 75th & 100th Anniversary Books plus stories from the diary of A.K. Seaman and the 100th Anniversary Book of Kutztown. 1871-1908

By Sandra Stitzer

1871- Jacob and Henry Bushong, Jacob Spang and Wilson Kauffman, operating as Bushong and Company bought the Moselem Furnace. On land they owned near the railroad tracks, they built wharves on the north side to ship the ore to Reading.

1872- Win. S. Merkel replaced Charles Melcher at Schaefer, Merkel & Company. He built the famous grain separator.

1873- Schaeffer, Merkel & Co. built the Reliance Turbine Water Wheel. The wheel was designed by an employee of the company named Adam Haag.

- The Union Hotel on Main Street became Dewees Hotel. George Dewees was the proprietor.
- Cox Brothers Cotton Factory burned on May 5, 1873.
- Chief Burgess John Swartz ordered Fleetwood incorporated in a Borough on October 4, 1873. Mr. Swartz was the First Chief Burgess. Amos Melot motioned Charles Messersmith to procure a seal for the Borough. The first election was held on October 31, 1873. George D. Schaeffer was appointed judge while Daniel Melot and Samuel Dumn were named Inspectors. Daniel Koch was president of the Council, Jacob S. Kelchner, secretary; Edwin M. Shollenberger, treasurer; Jonas Weaver and Amos Melot Council Members; Conrad Hill, high constable. The first justices of the peace were George D. Schaeffer and Samuel Dumn. The group had many meetings to establish Ordinances.
- Lewis Wanner built a white Victorian home across Washington and Richmond Streets on the northeast corner.
- The "Jumbo" washing machine was built and patented by Moses Folk, James Hill, and Samuel Dumn at the Moses Folk Carriage Works. They were mostly made of wood with a handle that moved back and forth by muscle power across the top. The lids were hinged, allowing the housewife to place the wash into the slotted cradle. A plug in the side allowed the suds to be drained. The invention of the automatic washer came in the 1930's.

1874- Feb. 26, 1874, the Chief Burgess and Councilmen were inducted into Office.

- Teachers' salaries were \$ 35.00 per month.
- Coal was \$ 4.84 /ton
- There was a dollar fine for throwing ashes into the streets.
- Peter H. Gehris became the first Tax Collector.
- Sept. 3, 1874 The Kendall Brothers surveyed the 300 acres in the Borough. The streets and alleys were named. Their fee was \$6.00 per ten-hour day. The boys who helped the surveyors were paid \$.75 per day.
- When the Borough was being organized a new one-room schoolhouse was erected on the corner of North Franklin Street and Myrtle Alley.
- In 1874 Rev. S. Lambert conducted meetings in the brick chapel on north Richmond Street. Rev. William Gamman, one of the founders of the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church of Pennsylvania, was pastor from 1878

to 1880. The term Mennonite comes from the name of a man born in Holland in 1496. His name was Menno Simons. He was a student of Latin, Greek and the Scriptures. During the Reformation he lived a life of poverty, constantly being threatened with imprisonment, persecution and death. Still he remained loyal to his spiritual convictions, service to his fellow men, and peace with God. Because of his commitment to his Lord, Jesus Christ, he had many followers who became known as Mennonites. In 1901, they held tent meetings on a vacant lot on Elm Street where the first church was located. The present church was erected in 1950 and a three-story education annex was added in 1964.

- Reading had a street railway with horse drawn carts.

1877- The first school house was built by the Borough on Arch Street. Christian Schlegel had donated the ground on which Herbein's School was built for school purposes. The land where the Stone Lane School stood was given by the grandfather of George Stitzel. Mrs. A.P. Merkel was a master teacher at the Stone Lane School. The Arch Street School was built and had four rooms. The cost to build the school was \$ 6,000. This building was dedicated on October 27, 1877, as the Fleetwood Grammar School. From 1877 to 1883 the Sunday Schools met on the 2nd floor. This also proved to be too small and in the late 1890's a new brick structure was built. The first school house in Coxtown was a one room structure on the south side of East Main Street just opposite the entrance to the Fleetwood Cemetery.

- Small Pox prevails in the borough. Those families that have the disease are ordered to place on the outside of their front doors a red piece of flannel six inches square and it is to remain there till they are free from small pox.
- On Jan.23, 1878 Council rented the old brick school house for storing the Neversink Hand Fire Engine for \$ 11.25 per year. The fire engine was purchased for \$ 100.00. New leather hose was ordered from a firm in New York at a cost of 60 cents per foot with couplings. Fifty feet of hose was ordered at a cost of thirty dollars.

1879- J. F. Hill worked for Moses Folk from 1869 to 1885. During this year, he worked to change the chassis on the Hill Car.

- In 1879, Henry W. Spange introduced the telephone to Reading.

1880- On Feb. 24, 1880 Washington Camp No. 103 Patriotic Sons of America was re-organized and met on the third floor of the Reifsnnyder Store at Main and Franklin Streets.

- The Fleetwood Seventh Day Adventist Religion had its beginning in 1880 when a Fleetwood resident, Mr. Amos Snyder returned from California where he learned the beliefs. For the next four years he held meetings in tents and schoolrooms. The religion was organized in 1884 and continued to hold their services in members' homes. In 1917 the new Church at 109 East Locust Street was erected. The Fleetwood Church is one of the oldest in Pennsylvania.
- Jonas Weaver passed away on June 9, 1880.

1881- Postal Money Order Service was added to the duties of the Post Office.

- Amos Melot operated a saloon on the first floor of a building on the northeast corner of Main and Richmond, directly across from the Daniel Melot store. Amos died on June 19, 1881 of Consumption. His sons, Morris and Augustus took turns running the business after their father's death. Sometime later George Helfrich bought out the Melots and opened a restaurant. It was the site of the first American Store. Henry Kraber bought the building and again operated a tavern and restaurant. John Bucks took over the business on December 1, 1950 and renamed it "The Grand Central Taproom".
- John Keller, a tailor by trade lived in one of the house down from the hotel on Richmond Street. He operated a pretzel bakery and also baked bread for people. On the southwest corner of Washington and Richmond Streets, Daniel F. Kelchner built a Victorian Red Brick Home.

- March 15, 1881 The Fleetwood Mutual Aid Society was formed. The annual dues were \$1.00 and it insured people up to \$1,000.

1882- The American House Hotel was built by the Reifsnnyder Brothers and operated by Jacob No 11. It was located near the corner of Richmond and Locust Streets along the railroad tracks. This hotel accommodated people arriving and departing on the trains. In 1925 Fisher Body tore this building to expand their business. Later it was sold to Berman Brothers and leased to the Jersey Sub Depot, which stored government materials in the building during WWII. Then sold to Frank C. Snedaker, of Philadelphia, a cabinetmaker. Some of his employees left and started Quaker Maid Kitchens. In the late 50's it was sold to Garden State Tanning for their leather business.

1883- Frank S. Kutz bought out Adam S. Schaeffer's shares in the Messersmith store. Other partners in the store were Lewis and Daniel Schaeffer and C.A. Messersmith.

- At a public meeting in August 1883, a movement was begun to build a chapel in the community. George Sholl donated a plot of ground on North Franklin Street and a brick structure costing \$ 7,000 was erected. The cornerstone was laid on Sept. 28, 1883 and the building was dedicated in October of 1884. By 1911, the Sunday School had grown so large that a two-story annex was added. On Sept. 25, 1921, St. Paul's Union Church was given absolute rights to all matters concerning the chapel. In 1936 a renovation project has begun. A new organ was installed and the Choir loft lowered and the chancel entirely refurbished. Oct. 24, 1954, actions by both churches were taken to build their own churches. An auction was held Sept. 15, 1958, to dispose of items from both churches because the building was to be sold. In the summer of 1959 the chapel was demolished and a Post Office was built.

1884- The little red brick schoolhouse next to Mertz and Kalbach Store was rented to the Fire Company.

- Schoolhouse lot was sold to St. Paul's Union Chapel for \$ 60. In Oct. of 1884, St. Paul's Union Chapel on Franklin Street was dedicated.
- The Ringing Rocks Cornet Band of Fleetwood built an attachment in front of the old brick schoolhouse to hold a fair.

1885- James Hill was warned by the City Council to keep his horseless carriage off the streets. He would drive the vehicle on the streets and scare the townsfolk and animals. The car was stored away in his garage for the next 15 years. In 1900 James saw an automobile called a Reo and studied the engine. He then constructed a two-cylinder engine for his invention, which proved to be very successful.

- Albert Kline opened the first hardware store at 38 West Main Street. Warren Kline later started a Tinsmith business in his fathers store.
- The mill pick factory grew so large they had to open another forge. It was later sold to Walter H. Noll for a garage and a new car showroom.
- A pair of handcuffs and a constable badge were purchased at a cost of \$3.50.
- Cleaver and Moyer built a creamery on the southeast corner of Richmond and Poplar Streets. It was run by steam. Daniel F. Kelchner, who had several other creameries in the area including the one at Moselem Springs, acquired the business. Butter was manufactured at the creamery. Mr. Kelchner added a hosiery mill, which employed over 100 people, in the rear of the building. This business was sold in the 1930's to Joseph Gilardone, Sr., who established a men's hosiery embroidery plant there. A Philadelphia concern operating under the name of Fleetwood Embroidery Mills, Incorporated became the next owners. After ten years in operation, the business closed and is now the property of the cookie factory. On the corner next to the tracks stood a stone building erected by William Reifsnnyder. He operated a stone sawmill, which cut the stones into various shapes. The building was later a pattern shop for Schaeffer, Merkel & Co. It was later purchased by the borough and used as

the Town Hall. Council Chambers and a lockup were on the first floor. The second floor had many community events. The bell from the old Meeting House hung in the belfry and is now located in a church in Reading. C.A. Wanner later purchased the Town Hall and used it for offices. Across the railroad tracks was a lumber mill owned by Schaeffer, Merkel & Company.

- George B. Schaeffer entered the firm of Schaeffer, Wanner & Co. He was elected Sheriff of Berks County on November 2, 1886 and served for a term of 3 years. He remained with the company till he retired and sold his interest to his sons Wester and Llewellyn.
- Moses Folk's son Ollie died on July 2, 1885 of lockjaw.

1885- The Fleetwood Eagle Roller Mill was built by Lewis Wanner, Joel, William and Henry Schaeffer. This was an important labor saving device. The wheat when ground was much whiter in color. The mill was one of the best equipped in the area and was operating day and night. The brands of flour made were Purity and White Rose. On April 5—" the firm of Wanner Schaeffer dissolved. The name of the new firm was Schaeffer, Wanner & Co. They carried a complete stock of lumber, a large supply of coal and grain.

1887- The first undertaker and furniture maker was Joseph Reifsnnyder. Later Joseph Schlegel and E.M. Mill went into the same businesses.

- The borough of Lenhartsville was incorporated in 1887, but the town bore the name 100 years earlier. Located in Greenwich Township along the Maiden creek, the borough was named for the Lenhart family, who settled in the area in 1752. The village gained prominence as a resort in the old days because of the abundance of pure drinking water derived from the mountain springs.

1888- The old Evangelical Church burnt and E.M. Mill bought the property and built a planing mill.

1889- A new and bigger Evangelical Church, was built on West Washington Street. It is a Gothic Style, 2 1/2 story brick edifice. The cornerstone of the old meeting house rests in the foundation of the new structure. Through the merger of the Evangelical Church and the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, the name became Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1946. In 1968 the church joined with the Methodist Church and became Emmanuel United Methodist Church.

- A passenger train was stalled in deep snow east of town. Every available man in town who could use a shovel helped to clear the tracks.
- Frank S. Kutz and Charles W. Kutz bought several more shares, C.A. Messersmith and Daniel S. Schaeffer, in the Messersmith Stand. C.A. Messersmith passed away May 18, 1889.
- Street Lamps were placed in the Borough for the convenience of the community. Twenty-four were purchased at \$3.41 a piece.
- The Fleetwood Water Company was permitted to lay cast iron water pipes upon the streets for the purpose of supplying water and to set up a suitable number of fire hydrants.
- A bid was received to fill and clean the street lamps twenty times per month at a cost of \$5.00 per month.
- Schaeffer, Merkel & Company made the lampposts for \$43.84.

1890- By 1890 the population of the town had grown to 1800. Bacon and Eggs were 25 cents, French fries were a nickel, pies were 5 cents a piece, milk was 5 cents a glass, a pound of butter was 20 cents, a dozen of eggs was 14 cents, 50 pounds of flour was \$1.40.

- March 18, 1890, Moses Folk died at the age of 47.

1891- The Fleetwood Water Company was formed. They supplied water from the surrounding hills to the residents of town. Later the borough bought the Water Company.

- The Kutz Brothers started a hosiery mill business in a small building next to the Messersmith Stand.
- E.M. Mill started his Furniture and Undertaking Business where the Liquor Store had been located. It is now a part of Concern.

1892- First high school class to be graduated was that of 1892.

- Philip Schaeffer inventor of threshing machine died on April 14, 1892.

1893- On October 11, 1893 The Knights of Golden Eagle Fleetwood Castle #374 was formed.

- Two acres of land next to St. Paul's Union Church were purchased for a cemetery.
- Fleetwood citizens first sponsored fresh Air Children during the summer of 1893.
- Daniel Melot passed away January 30, 1893.

1894- St. Paul's Union Cemetery was dedicated on May 5, 1894.

- Gottlieb Diemand founded Knights of the Mystic Chain Fleetwood Castle # 153.
- The amount of taxes collected for the year was \$ 1002.18.

1895- Pantry and White Rose flour were marketed by Schaeffer, Wanner & Company

- On the corner of Laurel and Main Streets, Staffert and Collins planned to build a silk mill on land purchased from the Mary Messersmith Estate. The structure was built in 1895. People in the community frowned upon the idea of women working in the factories. The Chapel Congregation prepared an oyster supper for the public in this building so it could be inspected. Subsequently, after a while several female employees were hired.

1896- M.G. Collins began operations at the Pennsylvania Silk Mill on East Main Street In 1902 the building was sold to York Silk Manufacturing and closed shortly afterward. In 1911 the Fleetwood Silk Company was organized. Fleetwood Silk was in operation till 1937 and then was operated by Dankel and Soprano. It remained vacant a few years. It was leased from W.C. Strause to a group of men who manufactured refrigerated cases for various use and was known as The Pinnacle Corporation.

1897- Charles F. Hill's monument business grew too large that he moved from the lot next to his home to a new lot located near the P. & R. railroad tracks on James Dumn land. His sons Lewis and Fred were in the business with him.

- The Kutz Brothers, Charles & Frank, bought out all the shares that had been owned by Lewis Schaeffer in the Messersmith stand. They had the old frame building torn down.
- Council decided that the lamps were to burn every dark night till 3:00 am.
- The Kutztown National Bank was organized.

1898- The Kutz Brothers erected a new 3-story brick structure at the southwest corner of Main & Franklin, which was later to become the First National Bank building. The first floor housed their new store. The hosiery business was moved to the second and third floors. The demand for hosiery grew so large the business was manufacturing 500 dozen pairs per day. The Brothers sold the stock in the store to David Brown and Charles Kieffer so they could devote all their time to the

hosiery business. The mill was known as The Clover Leaf Knitting Mill. In 1913 the Kutz Brothers partnership was dissolved and Frank S. Kutz became the sole owner of the building. When David Brown died, Kieffer and Mertz took over the store. Forced to move in 1919 because the building was sold, they moved across the street on the northeast corner in the Cyrus Reifsnnyder building. After Charles Kieffer died, the firm became known as Mertz and Kalbach.

- A Board of Trade was organized to stimulate the further growth of Fleetwood. The meetings were held at Town Hall on South Richmond Street. The name was changed to the Neighborhood Association then to the Chamber of Commerce.
- Any person riding a bicycle on the pavement was fined \$ 1.00 for each offense.

1899- Schaeffer, Merkel & Co. was sold to Mr. Rummel.

- George Heydt, who lived at the West End of Poplar Street, claimed to have started the first dairy.

1900- Augustus P. Merkel and Allen K. Seaman founded the Fleetwood Machine Works, a repair business on the northeast corner of Franklin & Washington Streets. They did general repairs for the Fleetwood machines that were made by Schaeffer, Merkel and Company.

- March 18, 1900- George B. Schaeffer manager of Schaeffer, Wanner & Co. proprietors of the Eagle Roller Mill, bought Triumph Flour Roller and Coal Siding from the Dumn Brothers for \$17,000. He withdrew from the firm on April 11. When he retired he sold his shares to his sons. The firm was sold to F.M. Brown's in 1947.
- On April 10, 1900 William S. Merkel of Schaeffer, Merkel & Co. died at 8:00 in the morning of dropsy and heart failure. He was 54 years old.
- About 3 miles east of town, the Keystone Ochre Company mined ochre, a color base for paint, in the early 1900's.
- On Sunday morning April 28, 1900 William B. Melot died in the home on Main Street of his mother Melinda. He was a saddler by trade and conducted the baseball factory. He held a patent for inventing seamless baseballs.
- On May 9th David Hoover, who operated a saddle and harness shop on Main Street reported that business was so brisk he had to hire another man to complete all the orders. Mr. Hoover started his saddle and harness shop in a 3 story brick building on the northwest corner of Main and Pearl Alley. His residence was also located here at 31-33 West Main. He was a dealer in related items such as horse blankets, buggy whips, fly nets, etc.
- On May 13, 1900, Nathaniel H. Frey Proprietor of the Fleetwood House passed away. He was 48 years old.

1901- Mennonite Church was established on Elm Street.

- The Schuylkill Valley Telephone and Telegraph Company erected poles and strung wires along Foundry Alley.
- Edwin M. Shollenberger died on March 3, 1901. He was a veteran of the Civil War and had been an organist choir director for St. Paul's Reformed congregation at the Union Church.
- Many children have died from Measles during this year.
- On April 3, a second meeting of a group of concerned citizens was held in the office of Schaeffer, Wanner & Co. to form a stock company to start the Fleetwood Foundry and Machine Works.
- Peter S. Yoder was elected lamplighter for the town but remained on duty for only a week when he resigned.

- On April 11, 1901 the Fleetwood Water Company put a new fire plug in front of the primary school building.
- During this year the salaries of teachers were as follows: High School \$ 65.00 per month, Grammar \$ 40.00 per month, Intermediate \$ 35.00 per month, Secondary \$ 32.00 per month, and Primary \$ 31.00 per month.
- On April 25, 1901 Folk Brothers Carriage Works made a fine rubber tire carriage for Charles A. Wanner.
- Noll & Kelchner had a butcher shop in town along with W.H. Zacharis and Oscar Delp. Samuel Frey had a butcher shop in the Fleetwood House.
- The first annual commencement of Fleetwood High School Class of 1901 was held at St. Paul's Chapel June 1, 1901.
- July 1901 Daniel F. Kelchner added the manufacturing of hosiery in the rear of the Creamery building on South Richmond Street.
- On July 18, 1901 Fleetwood Borough Council rented a small frame building opposite the Kutz building to house the Hose Carriage so it would be more centrally located in case of Fire.
- St. Paul's Sunday School and the United Evangelical Sunday School had a joint excursion to Dorney Park on August 3, 1901.
- I.M. Diehl and Wilson Schlegel had a Tinsmith shop on Franklin Street.
- On May 14, 1901 Walter Deisher, a High School pupil, broke his collar bone at recess. He was carried to the home of Henry Schlegel. Dr. A.N. Fretz was summoned and he set the fracture. September 27, 1901 M.B. Melot had the exterior of the hotel painted.

1902- The trolley line was built through town. In 1900 the trolley line was established between Allentown and Kutztown and by the year 1902 continued into Reading through Fleetwood. It took an hour and a half to travel from Reading to Kutztown and another hour and a half to continue from Kutztown to Allentown. The ride from Kutztown to Reading cost about thirty cents and took you from the station on the east side of town up the hill to the college. From there it made a left turn and continued past the brick yard and stone quarry into Lyons and continued on to Fleetwood, Walnuttown, Blandon, Temple and then to Reading.

- Pennsylvania Silk was sold to York Silk Manufacturing Company.
- There was a typhoid epidemic in town.
- On April 16, 1902 Daniel Rothermel became proprietor of the Fleetwood Shirt Factory.
- George B. Schaeffer, Joel Schaeffer and the Wanner estate sold their interests in the Schaeffer, Wanner Company to Weston and Llewellyn Schaeffer, Charles Wanner and John Kauffman.
- Schlegel, Adam and Company dealt in coal, grain and lumber. They started the firm by buying property from Sigman Schlegel and Judge Stitzel, who had bought it from George Scholl. The business was known as Scholl and Schaeffer. The partnership of Schlegel, Adam Company was dissolved upon the death of Calvin Adam in 1926 and Robert Schlegel sold his interests to Frank Mertz and A.R. Hoffman. When Frank Mertz died in 1931, Mr. Hoffman became the sole owner. He renovated the building and added cement, paints and hardware supplies and discontinued the feed and grain. Since the death of Ambrose R. Hoffman in 1958, James B. and Anna L. Herbein continued the firm of A.R. Hoffman. Upon the death of Mr. Herbein their children Jim and Linda ran the business. Upon Linda's death, Jim became the sole proprietor.
- The gasoline lamps were taken down and the old coal oil lamps were put back up.

1903- C.A. Wanner Hosiery Mill moved to Fleetwood. They built a frame building along the railroad tracks on South Richmond Street opposite Town Hall and conducted their business there.

- Seaman & Merkel erected a two-story building for a machine shop on the corner of Franklin & Locust Streets.
- Allen K. Seaman purchased a 1903 Oldsmobile; the first factory built automobile in Fleetwood, and the 47k" to pay the dollar registration fee in Berks County.
- Kemp's Grove name was changed to Kutztown Park.

1904- The Down Tool Works was formed by William R. Down. They manufactured high-speed drills.

- There were several disastrous fires one of which in 1904 destroyed one of the Schaeffer, Merkel & Company buildings in 1904. A three-story frame building paralleling the Reading Company Railroad tracks was saved.
- October 29, 1904, the Yuma Tribe 438 Improved Order of Redmen was organized at the Union House. There place of meeting was the Lodge Hall.
- An agreement was made with the Keystone Electric Light Heat and Power Company to light the borough. The old coal oil lamps and posts were sold for \$2.00 each.
- Since 1904 there has always been a grocery store at the corner of Washington Street and Coal Alley. John Fenstermacher bought the lot for \$400.00 and erected a store and livery stable. When he died in 1908, Oscar Heffner, Walter Herbein, and Harry Rapp followed in the store business. On August 13, 1925, Robert Wentzel purchased the store and in 1928 he sold the property to Wellington C. Strause for \$ 6,800. The present owner Albright Strause, began working for his father in 1933 when he was only 15 years old. The store is still in operation in 2001.

1905- The former saw mill across from C.A. Wanner Hosiery Mill was converted into a town hall. In 1916 it was sold to C.A. Wanner for offices.

- The store business which was located on the first floor of the Kutz building at the southwest corner of Main and Franklin was sold to David Brown and Charles Kieffer and then later to Kieffer and Clayton Mertz.
- James F. Hill developed Gould Couplings used on railroad cars.
- A baseball diamond was laid out and bleachers erected in a meadow north of the railroad along the dam site. The first game took place on May 30, 1905.
- Reading Metal Body was organized to make automobile bodies. The business started in the old frame warehouse along the railroad tracks that was built by Schaeffer & Merkel and saved from the fire of 1904. The company employed about 125 men. In 1909 Reading Metal Body Company was sold to Garford Motor Metal Body Company, Elyria, Ohio.
- Electric was introduced into Fleetwood and lines were strung on poles that supported the trolley wires for the Allentown and Reading Traction Company. Electric was used after kerosene for street lighting. 1100 volts were supplied from Keystone Electric Light, Heat and Power Company of Kutztown.
- David Moyer, employed by D.F. Kelchner Creamery, opened an ice cream parlor in his home on South Richmond Street.
- The first year the Kutztown Fair was held.

1906- A.P. Merkel bought out the interests of Mr. Seaman in the Fleetwood Machine Shop. As sole owner, he added plumbing and steam fitting to the business. He made improvements to the Fleetwood Grain Separator, which was made by his father. He made a few of these machines but was burned out on June 5, 1917.

- The Building and Loan Association was organized on December 10, 1906 and chartered on January 31, 1907. This organization assisted in financing the erection or purchase of not less than 75 homes. Daniel F. Kelchner was elected the President and Charles Madiera the Vice-President. The Board of Directors consisted of many influential men of town including Charles F. Hill, Frank S. Kutz, Dr. A.N. Fretz, and Augustus P. Merkel to name a

few. The Solicitor was Harry D. Schaeffer who later became a Judge.

- An ordinance was passed to limit the speed of the steam engines to 10 mph and the trolley to 6 mph.
- In June hail stones as large as hens' eggs ruined crops, killed birds and shredded trees.
- The first public laundry, manually operated, opened at the northwest corner of Franklin and Myrtle Alley. Hannah Hill and her daughter Mary ran back and forth to the stove exchanging each cooling flatiron for another.

1907- The railroad lines changed from single to double track.

- Charles A. Folk passed away on January 12, 1907. He was the brother of Moses Folk and for many years had assisted him at the Carriage Works.
- The Fleetwood National Bank was organized in June of 1907. The first meeting was held in the Old Town Hall on Richmond Street. A charter was granted on November 7, 1907 and one month later the bank was open for business. The bank began operations in the rear of the Kutz brothers building at Main and Franklin. This part of the building would later house the post office. Deposits on the opening day were a little more than \$ 20,000. For 12 years the Bank leased the space from the Kutz Brothers. A site had been acquired on the southeast corner of Main & Franklin prior to the termination of the 10 year lease but no building was ever erected because of the unsettled conditions of WW I. After the end of the war, however, it was decided to make provisions for larger quarters. The bank directors realized that the desired standard of service could no longer be maintained in such a small crowded place. Then in 1919 they purchased the building from Frank S. Kutz. Extensive renovations took place over a two-year period. The Bank moved into their new home on Aug. 20, 1921.
- The Fleetwood Lodge Hall was built on East Main Street. The Knights of Golden Eagle and the Knights of Mystic Chain built it. On the first floor a harness and shoe repair shop was located. The second floor was an apartment. The third floor was the headquarters for the following groups: P.O.S.A., Knights of the Golden Eagle, Knights of Pythias, Knights of the Mystic Chain, Fleetwood Grange Yuma Tribe, The Maccabees and the Orioles.
- The Mae A. Stump Funeral Home, 117 West Main Street, Fleetwood, was founded in 1907 by Curtin D. Stump. The first location of the funeral borne was at 19 West Main Street and was later moved to 40 West Main Street where he continued as a funeral director and had a furniture business. He died in 1913 at the age of 30. His youngest brother James W. Stump carried on the business. Mr. Stump acquired a Victor dealership after he discontinued the furniture business. In August of 1929, Mr. Stump purchased the Edwin Kutz property at 117 West Main Street, which dates back to the early 1800's and was a portion of the tract owned by Daniel Wanner, operator of the gristmill at the West End of Main Street. The house was built of stone and had 16" thick walls. The house was enlarged and has 23 rooms of which 12 are used as funeral home facilities. During the early years, funerals were conducted from private homes with continued services from the church. Preparation and embalming were done in the individual's home, seldom in a funeral director's facilities. Some families still insisted on preserving by ice until the day of the funeral, being skeptical of the practice of embalming with chemicals. On the day of the funeral relatives would arrive by horse and carriage long before noon. This made it necessary to prepare a meal before and after the funeral. Caterers were oft times used if meals were to be served in a hotel if the family did not assume this obligation. A door badge as it was called, made of ribbon, was placed on the front door, white for children, gray for young adults and black for the elderly. The family of the deceased on their sleeves sometimes wore bands of black ribbon and they dressed in black for a long time. The hearse was horse-drawn and also varied in color, similar to the door badge, signifying the age of the deceased. It was handsomely carved and draped inside to cover in part the glass panels on the side and back. Tires covering the high carriage wheels were made of hard rubber. There were kerosene lamps on either side of the driver's seat. The horses were black and well matched. In the winter months, sleighs were also used for transportation. With the new funeral accommodations offered to the public, the trend of procedure started to change by the 1930's. Mr. Stump's daughter Mae graduated from Reading Hospital School of Nursing and went to Eckels College of Mortuary Science in Philadelphia and graduated in 1937. She received her funeral director's license in January of 1940. Her husband Hugo C.A. Weber held a funeral directors license. They established a funeral home in Kempton. In October of 1956 they returned to Fleetwood. When Mr. Stump died on Nov. 18, 1957, his daughter Mae and son-in-law, Hugo succeeded him in the business. Their son David runs the business today.

1908- The first addition was made to the schoolhouse on Arch Street.

- Kutztown Volunteer Fire Company was organized.