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*2023-2024*  
*Annual Appeal*

**P. O. Box 102**  
**Laurel, DE 19956**

[laureldehistoricalsociety.org](http://laureldehistoricalsociety.org)

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Fresh on the ashes of the Great Fire of 1899, electricity came to Laurel in the late summer of 1900, when the Delaware Electric Company leased the mills of E. W. Twilley & Co. at the site of their keg factory on what was then known as Twilley's Lake. Emanuel Twilley, of course, was the builder of the 1878 Gothic Revival cottage currently under restoration at our Hitchens Homestead on today's Records' Pond.

In this early photo, donated by his granddaughter Jean Lowe Smith, Laurelite Ike Joseph is seen with a horse-drawn wagon fitted out as the fore-runner to today's modern bucket truck. This is how they kept the lights on all over town. Today, over a century later, Joseph's granddaughter Doris Dayton, great-grandsons Brian Dayton and Robert Smith, and great-granddaughter Wendy Dolby are among the 342 members of the Laurel Historical Society who, too, work to keep the lights on. They help us foot the ongoing bills necessary to keep our organization up, running, and moving ahead.

Our job is to educate, preserve, and to protect: it's a responsibility we don't take lightly. Laurel's heritage is not something we can take ownership of, but, rather, is something entrusted to us to safeguard for future generations. We cannot save or do it all, yet we can highlight the best for our children and others to follow. As we all know, this comes with a price tag. Anything worthwhile does.

So, jump on the wagon. Volunteer your time, participate in our programs and activities, encourage your friends and family to visit us and learn, or simply contribute to our cause. Your donation helps us keep the lights on . . . so we can continue to enlighten you by celebrating Laurel, its history, and its people.



# *Our 2022-2023 Donors*

**RECORDS' POND: \$10,000+**

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*Thank you!*

**TRUSSUM POND: \$500 - \$999**

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CATEGORY	LEVEL	SELECT YOUR LEVEL OF SUPPORT
Records' Pond	\$10,000+	_____
Trap Pond	\$5,000 - \$9,999	_____
Chipman's Pond	\$1,000 - \$4,999	_____
Trussum Pond	\$500 - \$999	_____
Portsville Pond	\$250 - \$499	_____
Horsey's Pond	\$100 - \$249	_____
Tussock Pond	\$25 - \$99	_____

We appreciate your support! Please mail your 2023-2024 donation to the address shown above, or donate via our website at [laureldehistoricalsociety.org](http://laureldehistoricalsociety.org).