

**History of the
ALICE S. FELTS FEDERATED CLUB, INC. (1958)
Gouldtown, New Jersey
1912-1987**

On October 25, 1912, a group of sixteen women met at the home of Mrs. Alice Steward Felts for the purpose of pledging themselves to become members of the National Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. They were organized by the National Vice-President, Mrs. Mary B. Gilbert of Buffalo, New York.

These women saw the need of such an organization in this community for the purposes of religion, community welfare, civic and social services, and Women's Suffrage.

They named themselves after their founder - The Alice S. Felts Federated Club.

This group of women became very active in all community work. Their membership grew throughout all of Cumberland County.

The Charter Members were:

Mrs. Alice S. Felts whose idea it was to organize such a club. She was the first President and worked diligently for years preparing a firm foundation.

Mrs. Beatrice Saxton, *First Vice-President*
Mrs. Lottie V. Pierce, *Second Vice-President*
Mrs. Clara Steward, *Recording Secretary*
Mrs. Marie Purnell, *Corresponding Secretary*
Mrs. Minola Custis, *Financial Secretary*
Mrs. Nancy Wright, *Assistant Recording Secretary*
Mrs. Emma Durisoe, *Treasurer*
Mrs. Sarah Hubbard, *Chaplain*

Mrs. Eva Stokes Mrs. Grace Gould
Mrs. Alice Tudos Mrs. Elizabeth Steward
Mrs. Elizabeth Gould Miss Margaret Felts
Miss Lizzie Steward

1912-1920

Our women worked hard for Women's Suffrage. They had a strong conviction that women should have the same rights as men.

October 29, 1915

The Alice S. Felts Federated Club was one of thirty Colored Women's Clubs from throughout the state who sent representatives to the St. Paul's A.M.E. Zion Church for the purpose of organizing the New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. Mrs. Beatrice Saxton, our President, spoke at this gathering. Her topic was "The Necessity of Organization." Mrs. Saxton was, therefore, one of the organizers of the State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

1918

Our women worked enthusiastically during World War I. Their activities included Red Cross work, Victory Gardens, and Sewing Bees making kits for soldiers at Camp Dix and Camp Mead. They made many visits to these camps to cheer the soldiers and offer support.

1920-1922

Classes were held teaching women how to vote. There were clean-up campaigns. Included in these were planting flowers and painting some of the homes of the needy.

1925

Our Junior Club, The Omega Girls, was organized at the home of Mrs. Carrie Pierce. She was their advisor for many years.

1934

We were awarded the cup for the most outstanding work of Colored Women's Clubs done in the state that year. Our Club's growth was so great, that Mrs. Omega Mason, our District Vice-President, organized the Mary Waring Club of Millville and the Mary Bethune Club of Bridgeton from some of the ladies in our organization.

1933-1958

We worked with the Migrant Workers of Port Norris.

1953

We received a plaque for outstanding work.

1954 and 1955

We were given a Certificate of Award for outstanding community service.

1945-1958

We were affiliated with the Philadelphia Fellowship Commission and received awards for many years of service.

1955

Our Club was the first to break down the color barrier in some of public places. These included the Cumberland Hotel in Bridgeton, our theaters and public eating places.

Other Activities of our Club during the years have been teas, lawn socials, picnics, bus outings, Christmas parties and other social activities. We have given a helping hand to the sick and bereaved. We have remembered the needy at Christmas and Thanksgiving.

Some of our prominent guests were Mr. Booker T. Washington, Rev. Dr. Solomon Porter Hood, Dr. Paul Collins, Mrs. Mary Talbert, Miss Sadie Ellsworth, Miss Madeline Layton, Mrs. Ida Brown, Rev. Mrs. Florence Randolph, Mrs. Sarah Collins, Mrs. Grace Valentine, Mrs. Omega Mason, Mrs. Pearl Harris, Mrs. Ann Hedgement, Attorney Benjamin Dyatt, and others whose memories we will always cherish.

Highlights of our club at various times during our history:

1. Scholarships yearly for high school graduates desiring to attend college.
2. Help in fund raising campaigns - Red Cross, N.A.A.C.P., Cancer Drives, Heart Fund, Polio, United Fund and Heart and Lung Association.
3. Donations to local hospitals.
4. Contribution of books by Negro authors to our city and school libraries.
5. Purchase of piano for Trinity A.M.E. Church, Gouldtown.

Carrie Gould Wright
Granddaughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Gould