

12 Catherine Street - Home of Benjamin Franklin and Rosella Thomas

Benjamin Franklin Thomas was born in 1847, on a Monroe Township farm, in Madison County, near London, Ohio. He was the son of Alexander and Rebecca Thomas. Mother **Rebecca (Fisher) Thomas** was born in 1812, in Pennsylvania.

In 1868, 21 year old **B. F. Thomas** moved to Delaware, Ohio to secure a job as a blacksmith and as a wagon repairman. In the same year, **B. F. Thomas** and Stewart Crawford were a co-founders of the **Crawford Brass Band**.

In the 1870s, **B. F. Thomas** married **Henrietta Rosella**. **Henrietta Rosella Thomas** was born a slave, in 1843, in Louisville, Kentucky. They were blessed with three children. The children were **Susie**, **Walter** and **William Thomas**. They all attended **The South School**.

In 1880, the **Thomas** family resided at 12 Catherine Street, in Delaware.

In 1886, **B. F. Thomas** was promoted as foreman for the **Delaware Wagon Work Company**, located at 73 West William Street, in Delaware, Ohio

In 1898, **Thomas** owned and operated the **B. F. Thomas Carriage & Wagon Repair Shop**, located at 152 East Winter Street, in Delaware, Ohio.

Wife died in 1890, in Delaware, Ohio. **B. F. Thomas** died in 1913, in Delaware, Ohio. **Thomas**, wife and his mother were all buried in the Highland Section, at the Oak Grove Cemetery