

## HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY OF FLETCHER

The village of Fletcher began in 1856 when Dr. George Fletcher built a two room house for his bride. George Fletcher was the son of John Fletcher who had eighteen (18) children and all married and stayed in the Fletcher area. The house that Dr. George Fletcher built was located near the intersection of the Old Plank Road (now U.S. Highway 25) and Howard Gap Road.

As Dr. George Fletcher's family grew so did his house until he had a four (4) story home. Here Dr. Fletcher housed not only his family but also guests who were traveling through the area. This house became known as the Fletcher Inn. Since he now ran an inn, Dr. Fletcher also built a blacksmith shop, store and tannery to provide supplies and services to his guests and neighbors. Over the years other people and families settled in the area. Some of them also started businesses.

(2) Schools were started as early as the 1850s and continued until they were merged into the Fletcher High School in 1927. In 1960 Henderson County consolidated their schools into two and Fletcher School became an Elementary School.

In 1879 the railroad came through the Fletcher Community and built a station in the village. At that time the railroad was known as the Richmond and Danville Railroad, now presently known as the <sup>Virginia</sup> Southern Railroad and the station was part of what is presently known as Fletcher Feed and Seed Company. The railroad company named its station "Fletcher". In 1886 the U.S. Postal Service moved the local Post Office from Shufordsville, near what is presently known as Arden, to Fletcher and officially changed the name to Fletcher.

Since the beginning of Fletcher, many businesses have come into the area such as Moland Drysdale Brick, Cranston Print Works, Fletcher Motor Company, and in the 1970s the Cane Creek Industrial Park was created and nationally known firms have located in the park.

In the 1950s businessmen in the area saw the need for an organized fire department. The Fletcher Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1953 through the efforts of these businessmen and has now become one of the best equipped and manned fire departments in the western part of the state.

The Fletcher Plaza Shopping Center came in the 1960s and the Branch of the Henderson County Library in the 1970s.