

## **Beebe Medical Foundation's Foundation House**

The house at 902 Savannah Road in Lewes, Delaware, was built in the early 1940's for Dr. Richard Beebe and his family. The doctor, along with his brother James, had founded the first private hospital in the state outside of the City of Wilmington in 1916. Appropriately enough, it was in Lewes – The First Town in the First State. From a tiny four-room hospital with just enough space for an operating room and two patient rooms with a total of three beds, slowly grew Beebe Medical Center.

Dr. Richard Beebe's home was originally located on the hospital grounds. Over the years after the physician's death it was used to house various Beebe departments. In the summer of 1993 it was moved down the street to its present location on the corner of Savannah Road and Sussex Drive. Moving it through Blockhouse Pond Park and across the school land saved thousands of dollars, since overhead wiring on the main road did not have to be moved.

The house now contains the Beebe Medical Foundation and its staff of six. Committee meetings are held in the Board Room, previously the doctor's living room, with its feature fireplace surround, believed to have been constructed from stones salvaged from the old Lewes lighthouse, which fell in the early twenties. A portrait photograph of Dr. Richard Beebe hangs in the living room where he seems to watch over the fundraising endeavors of the Foundation, helping to ensure that Beebe will always be here for the increasing number of residents and visitors to our community.