**Betty Thomas Felder**

Betty Thomas Felder was born in Toledo, Ohio, the oldest of three children. Her family moved to Dayton, Ohio in 1944 when her father accepted a position as Executive Director of the Linden Community Center.

Betty is a graduate of the University of Dayton and began her teaching career as the first African American teacher in the Mad River Township Public Schools followed by three years teaching in the Dayton Public Schools.

Betty and her husband James Felder moved to Yellow Springs in January of 1962 where she became active in the community in a variety of ways:

* Co-founded Goes Play School along with Therese Greene in 1963;
* Taught primary grades in the Yellow Spring Public Schools at Mills Lawn Elementary School for 18 years and served as Assistant Principal for 2 years;
* Recipient in 1995 of Howard L. Post Excellence in Education Award from the Greene County Board of Education;
* Named Teacher Emeritus in 2002 for service to the students of Mills Lawn School;
* Board member at Yellows Springs Community Federal Credit Union;
* Served on Yellow Springs Library Commission
* Volunteered at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Dayton (now closed) teaching mothers of new babies how to massage their infants;
* Co-chair of Strawberry and Apple festivals at Yellow Springs Presbyterian Church;
* Member of art Committee at Yellow Springs Senior Center;

The Felders have two sons, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. They are among the original residents of the Omar Circle housing development that attracted many African American residents in the late 1950s.

*Betty Thomas Felder*