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**HISTORY AND DIRECTORY**  
—OF—  
**NEWTON AND RANSOM TOWNSHIPS,**  
**LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

Including a History of the Wyoming Valley, and a  
Brief History of Pennsylvania and Lackawanna  
County. ❁ ❁ Also many Biographical Sketches.

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COMPILED BY

**J. B. STEPHENS**

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**PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED**

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**1754 - 1912**

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MONTROSE, PA.

J. B. STEPHENS, PUBLISHER,

1912



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# INTRODUCTION

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One custom of the Indians is worthy of perpetuation by all civilized people. Each tribe, through their chiefs and aged sachems, carefully related to the children all the history and achievements of their deceased ancestors. Every brave and warrior knew that his deeds of skill, endurance and valor would be carefully related to his children and descendants as long as the tribe existed. The custom fostered a spirit of patriotism and loyalty which has been the marvel of civilized man.

The printed page now takes the place of tradition and camp fire lore of tribal genealogy. This book is designed to present in accurate detail and connected order the story of the families and citizens of these townships from pioneer days to the present time. The hardships, self-denials, ideals, ambitions and achievements of these people are worthy of the pages of a book to be owned and frequently perused by their descendants.

Surely and rapidly the sons and daughters of the great and brave pioneers, who entered the wilderness and cleared the unbroken forest, are passing to their graves. Only a few remain who can relate the incidents of the early days of settlement, so that an actual necessity exists for the collection and preservation of events without delay, before all the early settlers are called to their reward.

In gathering the material for this book information has been sought from every available source. Many of the facts herein recorded have been saved from oblivion by being rescued from the memories of those who will soon pass away. Several old histories, with pages yellow with age, have been consulted. These have long been out of print and only a few copies can now be found, which are carefully preserved in the reference rooms of the libraries in the different cities of this locality.

Owing to the failing memory of some, and the fact that others were but partially informed on matters I wished to record, their statements were often contradictory. In such cases a third version, and sometimes a fourth, were needed to furnish a solution, and, when this was not obtainable, the disputed points have been omitted. I have been very careful to publish no statement that was not founded on facts and came from a reliable source, and believe that the common saying, "history abounds with false facts," will not prove true in this case.

First of all, the compiler and publisher de-

sires to acknowledge his appreciation to all who have aided financially by subscribing to this work and placing generous orders for space and cuts several months in advance of publication, thus making it a grand success. Also to acknowledge the kindness and courtesy with which his efforts to obtain the information recorded herein have been almost unanimously met. Every home in each township has been visited for information, which in nearly every instance, was cheerfully given.

I desire to acknowledge with thanks my indebtedness to James F. Day, editor of the *Wyoming Democrat*, published at Tunkhannock, and other publishers for free access to the files of their papers; to Rev. Horace E. Hayden, Librarian and Corresponding Secretary of the Wyoming Historical Society, Wilkes-Barre, for the use of several cuts of the early forts and historical places and buildings of Wyoming Valley, and for much useful knowledge and data furnished from the large and valuable store of historical matter that has been collected by the Society; to Edson W. Safford, Esq., of Montrose, for the article, "Upper Susquehanna Valley;" to the Prothonotary and Recorder of both, Luzerne and Lackawanna counties, for assistance in examining their records.

Among other persons visited and to whom I am indebted for information are D. W. Richards for articles furnished and valuable information pertaining to the early church history of Newton; to P. K. Richards of West Pittston, for the article, "Milwaukie Sixty Years Ago;" to L. B. Ayers, Mrs. Elizabeth Roloson, A. S. Collum, George W. Beemer, Adam Thompson, Alvy Krouse and many others for valuable information pertaining to the early settlement of the two townships.

More than two years have been spent compiling and publishing this work. The publisher has not spared any effort to make the book worthy of the people. Able and experienced writers and historians have contributed to the work.

The labor of writing and compiling this volume has been greater than I expected, but of this I have no regret, believing the people of these townships will appreciate the effort.

The work is much larger and better than first planned, but this I know will meet the approval of a generous and progressive community.

J. B. STEPHENS.



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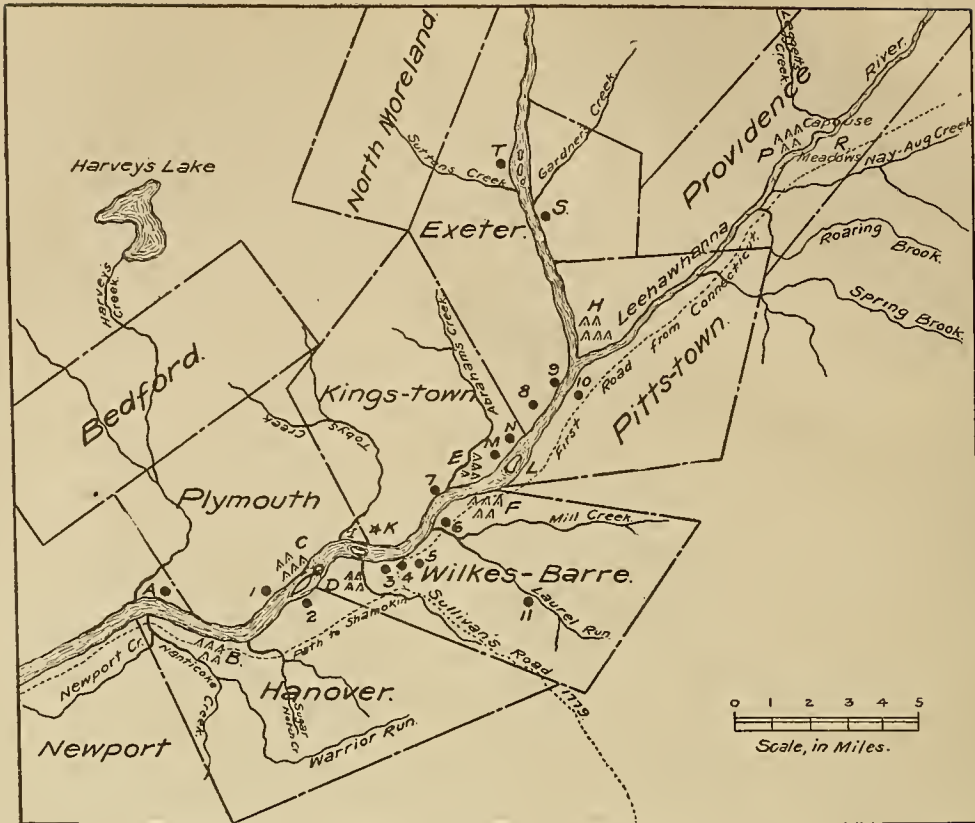
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Rosenkrans, Levi ....	143, 144	Stine, Abraham ....	222		





MAP OF WYOMING VALLEY IN THE EARLY DAYS

The above map shows the location of the first five original townships laid out in the Wyoming Valley in 1768 by the Susquehanna Company (Wilkes-Barre or Wyoming, Hanover, Plymouth, Kings-town and Pittstown) and the position of the Forts, Indian villages, and other historical places of the early days and settlement of Wyoming. The Forts are indicated on the Map with figures, and the Indian villages, battle fields, islands, etc., are marked with letters as follows:

(1), marks the site of Shawnee Fort, where a garrison composed of old men, with the women and children of the neighborhood were stationed before and during the Wyoming Massacre; (2), Stewart's Block-house; (3), Fort Durkee; (4), Fort Wyoming; (5), Wilkes-Barre Fort; (6), Ogden's Fort, and later the site of Mill Creek Fort. The first settlement in Wyoming Valley was made here; (7), Forty Fort; (8), Wintermool's Fort. The Wyoming Massacre was near this spot; (9) Jenkins' Fort; (10), Pittston Fort; (11), Fort Defense. (A), Plunkett's Battle, Dec. 24, 1775;

(B), Nanticoke Indian village; (C), Shawanese Indian village; (D), Indian village of Maughwauwame (Wyoming); (E), Mohican Indian village; (F), Wanamese Indian village (Jacob's Plains); (H), Delaware Indian village, Asserughney; (I), Fish Island; (K), Kingston; (L), Monocacy Island; (M), Wyoming Monument; (N), Queen Esther's Rock; (O), Fuller's Island, the largest island in the Susquehanna in the Wyoming Valley. As early as 1787 it contained about fifty acres. Later it was known as Richards' Island. (P), Monsey Indian village; (R), Indian burying ground; (S), where John Gardner settled in 1769 in what is now Ransom township; (T), place where John Gardner was captured by Indians, July 1, 1778.

The townships contained 16,000 acres each. The name Wilkes-Barre, in the early days was written with but one capital and without a hyphen.

See "Indian History of Wyoming Valley," page 17-18; "Frontier Forts," page 37-46, and "Wyoming Massacre," page 46-55.

## CHAPTER ONE

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### THE FIRST SETTLERS AND EARLY HISTORY

The first European settlement in Pennsylvania of which there is positive knowledge, was made by the Swedes in 1643, when Governor Printz, the third governor of New Sweden, settled on the Island of Tinicum, now Tinicum township, Delaware county, a few miles below Philadelphia, for a place of residence and defense. He called it New Gottenberg. Here the governor erected a handsome brick mansion, bringing the brick from Sweden. This building stood for more than one hundred and fifty years, when it was destroyed by fire.

The first marriage between Europeans in Pennsylvania was in 1644, when Governor Printz's daughter was married.

The first church was built on Tinicum island, and was dedicated in 1646.

The Swedes established the first court in the State at Upland, Delaware county, which furnished the first case of marriage disagreement in Pennsylvania in 1661; the first criminal was convicted and whipped in 1669; the first highway laid out in 1677; the first guardian appointed; the first lunatic committed and the first jury impaneled in 1678.

The Swedes were a religious people. They are proudly remembered in Delaware, Philadelphia, Bucks and Montgomery counties, as the first white men to cultivate the virgin soil.

The first permanent English settlement in Pennsylvania was made in Bucks county by Quakers in 1674, when Governor Andros, the Duke of York's deputy in America, made numerous grants of land in the territory soon to become "Penn's Woods."

#### PENN'S CHARTER

In 1680, William Penn petitioned King Charles II. for a grant of land in America. The king was willing at once to grant the request, because he could in this way pay the debt he owed Penn, which was 16,000 pounds due Penn's father as an officer in the British navy. Some of the king's counsellors objected, claiming that it would be ridiculous to send people to promote the interests of the British nation in a new colony, who would neither fight nor would have nothing to do with gin and gunpow-

der in dealing with the Indians.

Nevertheless on the 4th day of March, 1681, William Penn was granted a charter, making him proprietor and governor of the province of Pennsylvania. The following year he secured a grant from the Duke of York for the region forming the present State of Delaware. The two colonies were so joined till the Revolution of 1776.

Penn's charter hangs in a frame in the State Library at Harrisburg. It consists of three sheets of parchment (sheep's skin prepared for writing upon). At the top of the first page is a picture of the king. The writing is all underscored in red ink.

Penn desired to have the new province named *New Wales*, but the king insisted on calling it *Pennsylvania*, in honor to Penn's father. Penn did not approve of the name, thinking the prefix *Penn* would appear like vanity on his part, instead of showing respect for his father. He next proposed the name *Sylvania*, but the king would not compromise.

Penn drew up a form of government and a code of laws, and sent his cousin, William Markham, to take possession of the colony and act as deputy governor. The code of laws prepared by Penn was exalted in aim and comprehensive in scope; yet with few exceptions, its details were marvelously practical, and if Penn had not the genius of the ruler, he had, as few have had, the genius of the legislator.

Markham arrived in Delaware Bay about July 1, 1681. Later in the year, three ships sailed for Pennsylvania, two from London and one from Bristol. Several sessions of court were held at Upland while Markham had charge of the colony. The first entry was a case of assault and battery, and was dated September 13, 1681.

Markham was joined by three commissioners soon after his arrival, to form an alliance of peace with the Indians, and to consult with them about the sale of land. The first purchase was made July 15, 1682. This tract extended along the Delaware river as far north as the mouth of the Neshaminy (near Bristol, in Bucks county), and eastward to the Blue mountains. For this vast tract the Indians received the following:



"350 fathoms of Wampum, 20 white Blankits, 20 ffathoms of Strawed waters, 60 ffathoms of Duffields, 20 Kettles, 4 whereof large, 20 gunns, 20 Coates, 40 shirts, 40 payre of Stockings, 40 Howes, 40 Axes, 2 Barrels of Powder, 200 Barres of Lead, 200 Knives, 200 small Glasses, 12 Payres of Shoes, 40 Copper Boxes, 40 Tobacco Tonngs, 2 small Barrels of Pipes, 40 payre of Scissors, 40 Combs, 24 pounds Red Lead, 100 Aules, 2 handfulls of fish-hooks, 2 handfulls of Needles, 40 pounds of Shott, 10 Bundles of Beads, 10 small Saws, 12 Drawing Knives, 4 anchers of Tobacco, 2 anchers of Rumme, 2 anchers of Syder, 2 anchers of Beere and 300 Gilders."

Markham received a letter from Penn, for the Indians, which he read to them, as follows:

"I have great love and regard for you, and desire to win and gain your love and friendship by a kind, just and peaceable life; and the people I send are of the same mind, and shall in all things behave themselves accordingly."

#### PENN'S ARRIVAL

Penn, after making every arrangement for his departure, bade his wife and children an affectionate good-bye. With about one hundred other passengers, mostly Quakers who had been his friends and neighbors in Sussex, England, he sailed September 1, 1682, on the ship *Welcome*. About thirty died of small-pox, and were buried in the sea. Otherwise the voyage was uneventful. After six weeks they came in sight of land on the coast of New Jersey, near Egg Harbor. They landed at New Castle, Delaware, October 27.

Two days later Penn went to Upland to call the first general assembly. Upland was the home of most of the immigrants from England who had preceded the *Welcome*. The Dutch and Swedes received him with great joy. Penn changed the name of Upland to *Chester*, in honor of his friend Pearson, a companion on the *Welcome*, who had lived in Chester, England.

#### PENN'S TREATY

Early in November, Penn, with a few others, traveled from Chester, up the Delaware in an open boat. His motive was to publicly meet the Indians and confirm the Treaty, which Markham and his associates had previously made. When he arrived at Shackamaxon, the Indians had already filled the woods as far as the eye could see. The chiefs arranged themselves in the form of a half-moon, and Penn addressed them with the following words:

"We meet on the broad pathway of good faith and good will; no advantage shall be taken on either side, but all shall be openness and love. I will not call you children, for parents chide their children too severely; nor brother only, for brothers differ. The friendship between me and you I will not compare to a chain; for that the rains might rust or the falling tree might break. We

are the same as if one man's body were to be divided into two parts; we are all one flesh and blood."

"After receiving some presents from Penn, the Indians gave the belt of Wampum and solemnly pledged themselves to live in love with him and his children as long as the sun and moon should endure." As Voltaire said, "This was the only treaty between these people and the Christians that was made without an oath, and that was never broken."

#### THE FAMOUS ELM

The Elm Tree under which the treaty was made became celebrated in after years. It stood until 1810, when a storm blew it down. It was found to have been two hundred and eighty-three years old. In 1827, a large monument was erected upon its site, which is now surrounded by a beautiful park in Kensington. At one time during the Revolutionary War, the British were camping near this Elm Tree, which was much respected by General Simcoe. While his soldiers were cutting down trees for firewood, he placed a guard beneath its spreading branches to protect it from their blows.

Penn had several conferences with the Indians, and for many years afterward he was kindly remembered by them. Not a drop of Quaker blood was shed by them while he lived.

Penn, by the industry and high character of the Society of Friends, by cultivating peace with the Indians, and encouraging immigration, founded a flourishing State, which long before the Revolution became the seat of learning, wealth and refinement.

#### THE CONSTITUTION

The first constitution of Pennsylvania was framed in 1776. Eight representatives were appointed from each county, who met for the first time July 15, and chose Benjamin Franklin president, and George Ross vice-president. After a session of over two months, a constitution was completed September 28. It went into effect at once, without being submitted to the people for ratification.

Under the first constitution the members of the General Assembly were elected annually, and consisted of only one house. The laws enacted were called the Acts of Assembly, the same as our present laws. The population of Pennsylvania was about 300,000 at that time.

The first constitution of Pennsylvania was not changed till 1790, when an upper house was created, and the Assembly deprived of the sole right to make laws. The veto power was given to the Governor.

The constitution was again changed in 1838. Under the constitution of 1790 the colored man

could vote, but the constitution as amended in 1838 deprived him of this privilege. Only white freemen having paid a state or county tax were entitled to the right of suffrage. Governors were allowed but two terms of three years each in any nine years.

The constitution of Pennsylvania was revised the third time in 1873, when the number of senators and representatives were increased. The judges and certain other officers were to be elected by the people instead of being appointed by the Governor. The office of Lieutenant-Governor was created, and biennial sessions of the Legislature. The right of suffrage was restored to the colored man.

#### THE STATE CAPITOL

The State Capitol was first located in Philadelphia. It was moved to Lancaster the first Monday of November, 1799. It was moved to Harrisburg (Harris' Ferry) in 1812. John Harris gave four acres and William McClay appropriated ten acres, in addition, for the government buildings. The corner-stone of the capitol was laid May 31, 1819. The building was completed in 1821, and first occupied January 3, 1822. Before the new building was completed the sessions of the Legislature were held in the old Dauphin county court house. The capitol was destroyed by fire on Tuesday afternoon, February 2, 1897. Many valuable books and records were destroyed.

A new Capitol building was authorized to be erected at a cost not to exceed \$550,000. The corner-stone was laid on the 10th of August, 1898. The building was occupied by the Legislature January 3, 1899.

After the fire, the Legislature held its sessions in the Grace M. E. Church, of Harrisburg.

#### WILLIAM PENN,

founder of the State of Pennsylvania, born in London, October 13, 1644. He received a good education, which was completed at Christ Church, Oxford. He disappointed his father's (Sir William Penn) expectations by turning Quaker, and was disowned by him. Sir William afterward relented, and sent his son abroad. Young Penn visited France and Italy, returning to his native country in 1664.

He spent two years in the study of law at Lincoln's Inn, and was then sent to Ireland to manage his father's estate; but, happening to hear a discourse at Cork, by Thomas Loe, a leading Quaker, he reverted to his former opinions, and traveled to propagate his new faith. He was arrested for preaching, and sent to prison; but was released through the interest of his father. After his return to England, he was sent to the Tower, on account of a book

which he had written; and while there he composed his principal work entitled "No Cross, No Crown," intended to show the benefit of suffering. On his release, he resumed his former labors, and was apprehended, with some others, and tried for preaching at a conventicle in Gracechurch Street. Penn himself, had been tried for preaching to "an unlawful, seditious and riotous assembly." The first verdict was, "Guilty of speaking in Gracechurch Street." This verdict was brought in repeatedly, in spite of threats from the judge that he would starve the jury if they did not say "Guilty," or "Not Guilty." Finally the verdict of "Not Guilty" was rendered, whereupon the judge fined each of the jurors forty marks (about \$129.60) and imprisonment till paid, because they had followed their own judgment rather than the good advice given them by him. Penn also was fined for having his hat on in the presence of the court.

Admiral Penn was reconciled to his son before his death, and left him all his property. Penn continued firm in his attachment to the Society of Friends, and, in 1677, went on a mission to Holland and Germany, with Fox and Barclay.

Penn had three motives for planting a colony in the New World, namely: "First, he would get payment for the debt of 16,000 pounds (nearly \$80,000) due his father as an officer of the British navy; secondly, he would find a place for his brethren, the Quakers, or Friends, where they would not be openly insulted in the streets, dragged from their meeting-houses to loathsome jails, and robbed of the last bed or cow to pay the fines for not attending the established church; and thirdly, he would satisfy the desire which the glowing account of the brethren in West Jersey had created in him. The second of these motives was by far the strongest."

Penn and his people enjoyed neither religious nor civil liberty in England. "In Europe, church and state, as a rule, are not separate. In most countries, a certain church, called the established church, or state church, is a part of the government."

During the reign of James II. Penn was frequently at the king's palace, yet for no selfish reasons. James II. had always been his father's friend, and he had always been glad and prompt to help Penn himself. Penn, therefore, entered the palace that he might aid the king and give him wise counsels.

The overthrow of James was in more than one respect a misfortune for Penn. In the spring of 1690 he was arrested on the charge of holding treasonable correspondence with the de-throned monarch. The absurdity of the charge



being absolutely evident, Penn was set at liberty. Yet, though his conduct continued to be blameless, he was, by an order in council, stripped, March 14, 1692, of his title to the Pennsylvania government, which was restored two years later.

In 1701 he returned to England, and being encumbered with debts, endeavored to negotiate the sale of Pennsylvania to the crown for \$60,000. This negotiation was interrupted in 1712, through his being attacked by an apoplectic fit, which, happening twice afterward within a year, greatly impaired his mental faculties. He lived six years longer, but with a constitution much shattered and quite unfitted for any serious employment. Penn died July 29, 1718. He was buried in the village of Jordan, Buckinghamshire, near London.

Of Penn's mother very little is known, except that she was a Dutch woman, the daughter of John Jasper, a merchant of Rotterdam. Her son has left no description of her. There is no portrait, no anecdotes or sayings, nothing that would reveal her character. Very likely she was a plain, ordinary person. Penn showed few if any Dutch traits.

Penn's father, Sir William Penn, was an English admiral who greatly distinguished himself against the Dutch in the 17th century. Born in Bristol in 1621, a son of John; entered the navy at an early age, and was captain at the age of twenty-three. After the accession of King Charles II. to the throne in 1660, he was elevated to the rank of knight, and died in Essex in 1670.

#### SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

The organization, commonly called Quakers, was founded in the middle of the 17th century by George Fox. They are distinguished from other Christian bodies by the special stress they lay on the immediate teaching and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and their belief that no one should be paid or appointed by human authority for the exercise of the gift of the ministry. In obedience to this belief they hold their meetings without any prearranged service or sermon, and sometimes in total silence. The Friends believe that the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are to be taken spiritually, and not in an outward form.

Their protests against the use of oaths and against the exaction of tithes and church rates caused them much suffering and frequent imprisonment during the first fifty years of their existence. The simplified dress which Friends adopted from conviction over two hundred years ago became stereotyped into a uniform. This dress has generally been given up, as have the "testimony" against music and singing in its

rigid application, and the peculiarities of speech, such as the use of "thee" and "thou" instead of "you" (though many of the Friends retain this custom among themselves), and the avoidance of all titles of courtesy.

Of late years there has been a very decided evangelical movement among Friends, under the influence of which the quietism is dying out. As a result of this change the influence of the Society beyond its own borders, through home and foreign missions and Sunday Schools, has developed to a remarkable extent.

There is in the United States a numerous body of Friends called Hicksites (from their founder, Elias Hicks), who separated from the orthodox community. The Hicksites allowed more freedom of opinion in matters pertaining to their religious belief.

GEORGE FOX, the founder of the Society of Friends; born in Drayton, in Leicestershire, England, in July, 1624. When twenty years of age, and for some two or three years afterward, Fox describes himself as having been in a very distressed state of mind, from which the various professors and clergymen to whom he applied for counsel were unable to relieve him. From this condition he was at length delivered by that which he regarded the voice of God in his soul, directing him to Christ as alone able "to speak to his condition." Very soon after this he commenced his public ministrations at Dukinfield, Manchester, and the neighborhood. From the first his preaching made many converts and excited much opposition. He was first imprisoned in 1648 for opposing a preacher on a point of doctrine. In 1650 he was imprisoned at Derby under a false charge of blasphemy. One of the committing justices, Bennet, acted with great violence on this occasion, and it was he, who on Fox's bidding him, "tremble at the word of the Lord," first applied to Fox and his followers the name of "Quakers." Fox died in London, January 13, 1690.

There are nearly 120,000 members of the different branches of Friends in the United States, having about 1,100 churches and 1,500 ministers.

#### PHILADELPHIA

The first city in the State, was laid out and named in 1682, by William Penn. Philadelphia signifies "*brotherly love*." It was built at the junction of the Delaware and the Schuylkill rivers, and is the best planned city in the United States, there being no other city in which a stranger can so easily find his way. With few exceptions, the streets cross each other at right angles. The first nine original streets running east and west were all named after the various kinds of trees in the forest

around, as Vine, Spruce, Pine, Sassafras, Willow, Chestnut, Walnut, etc. There were also twenty-three streets running north and south.

Many of the settlers, during the first winter, lived in caves dug in the high bluff on the river-front between Vine and Walnut streets. The next year, in 1683, nearly one hundred houses were erected, which were inhabited by more than five hundred persons. Two years later six hundred houses were built upon ground which was covered with forest three years before. Penn furnished the general plan for the construction of the houses, viz., size 18x30 feet, partitioned in the middle, covered and lined with clapboards and the intervening space filled with earth. The ground floor was of clay and the upper of wood. The roof was also of clapboards.

Some of the settlers who were financially able had brought with them houses in the flat, tools, implements, furniture, food, clothing, etc., to last them for several months. The poorer classes were compelled to erect small huts, made from freshly cut timber. Philadelphia continued to grow, and in 1700 over two thousand homes had been erected.

Philadelphia is the largest city in Pennsylvania and the third largest in the United States. It has an area of 132 square miles; extending north and south about twenty-two miles, and is from five to ten miles in width. Population in 1890, 1,046,964; 1900, 1,293,697; 1910, 1,549,008.

Philadelphia was incorporated in 1691, but its charter was not received till 1701. The city was active in resisting British aggression in 1763 and 1764. The first Continental Congress met here September 5, 1774, and the second May 10, 1775. George Washington was appointed General and Commander-in-Chief of the American Army in the State House on June 15, 1775. Here also the Declaration of Independence was adopted July 4, and proclaimed July 8, 1776. The city was occupied by the British from September, 1777 to June, 1778. A battle was fought at Germantown on October 4, 1777. In the summer of 1787 delegates from the various States met in the State House, and framed the Constitution. The State House was commenced in 1732 and the building completed in 1741.

Among the attractions of the city is Fairmount park, one of the largest public parks in the world. It extends more than seven miles on both banks of the Schuylkill river, and more than six miles on both banks of Wissahickon creek, giving it an area of over 3,000 acres, traversed by 32½ miles of driveways. In 1876 the Centennial Exposition was held here. Memorial Hall, erected at a cost of \$1,500,000,

which was used for the art gallery of the Exposition, now contains a permanent industrial and art collection. Here, also, is the Horticultural Building filled with tropical plants, and surrounded by thirty-five acres of ground devoted to horticulture.

In the heart of the city, at the intersection of Market and Broad streets, stands the City Hall, on a piece of ground which was formerly Penn Square. This great structure, usually called the Public Building, is said to be the largest building in the United States. The corner-stone was laid July 4, 1874, the same day that ground was broken for the Centennial Exposition buildings. It is built of white marble and granite, in the renaissance style; is 486½ feet long by 470 wide; contains 520 rooms, and including a court yard 200 feet square in the center, covers an area of nearly four and one-half acres, having a floor space of nearly fifteen acres. The central tower rises to a height of 547¼ feet, which is surmounted by a colossal statue of William Penn, 37 feet high and facing northeast in the direction of the famous "Treaty Elm," is the highest in the world. The total cost of the building was over \$22,000,000.

The city owns a water works system which cost about \$35,000,000. The reservoirs have a storage capacity of 1,417,966,400 gallons, and the water is distributed through 1,338 miles of mains. There are in all 1,494 miles of streets, of which 1,067 are paved. The sewer system covers 844 miles. The city is lighted by electricity at a cost of \$929,667 per annum. The annual cost of the police department is \$2,951,242, and that of the fire department, \$1,072,378. The annual death rate averages 19.38 per 1000. The cost of maintaining the city government in 1900 was \$27,732,208. Street car lines (nearly all electric) traverse the principal streets and extend to the various suburbs.

#### THE LANCASTER TURNPIKE

The first turnpike in the United States was built between Philadelphia and Lancaster, which was the beginning of the chief highway to the West. The Lancaster turnpike was begun in 1790. It was extended until it reached Pittsburg in 1806. "It went through Chester and Lancaster counties, crossed the Susquehanna at Wright's Ferry, passed through York, Carlisle, Shippensburg and Bedford, thence across the Alleghenies to Pittsburg—the metropolis of the West after the Revolution. On this historic road thousands of emigrants traveled in the summer months to Pittsburg."

#### THE FIRST DEFENDERS OF THE UNION

On April 15, 1865, the day after the evacua-



tion of Fort Sumter, President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to serve for three months, Pennsylvania's quota being 14,000. Governor Curtin telegraphed the call all over the State. The news created wild excitement. The Keystone State has the distinction of sending the first five companies to the front, which now wear the proud badge of the "First Defenders." They were the *Ringgold Light Artillery*, of Reading; the *Logan Guards*, of Lewistown; the *Washington Artillery* and the *National Light Infantry* of Pottsville and the *Allen Rifles* of Allentown, making a total of 530 soldiers.

The Ringgold company was the first to reach Harrisburg, only one day after the President's call. The "First Defenders" were attacked by a mob in the streets of Baltimore, "but they never wavered under the constant fire of bricks, clubs, stones and earth. They reached Washington at seven o'clock on the evening of the 18th, where they defended the National Capitol."

#### GOVERNORS OF PENNSYLVANIA

The following is a list of the governors of the colony, province and State of Pennsylvania, with the year of the appointment or election of each:

##### Under the Swedes

Peter Minuit .....	1638
Peter Hollandare .....	1641
John Printz .....	1643
John Pappegoya .....	1653
John Claudius Rysingh .....	1654

##### Under the Dutch

Peter Stuyvesant (Deryck Schmidt, pro tem) .....	1655
John Paul Jaquet .....	1655
Jacob Alrichs .....	1657
Alexander D. Hinyossa .....	1659
William Beekman .....	1662
Alexander D. Hinyossa .....	1663
Anthony Colve (Peter Alrichs' deputy) .....	1663

##### Under the Duke of York

Colonel Richard Nichols (Robert Carr, deputy) .....	1664
Colonel Francis Lovelace .....	1667

##### Under the English

Sir Edmund Andross .....	1674
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##### Under the Proprietary Government

(Under the proprietary government, when there was no deputy governor the president of the council acted as such.)

William Markham, Deputy .....	1681
William Penn, Proprietor and Governor .....	1682
Thomas Lloyd, President .....	1684
John Blackwell, Deputy Governor .....	1688
Benjamin Fletcher, Governor .....	1693
William Markham, Governor .....	1695
William Penn, Governor .....	1699
Andrew Hamiltou, Deputy Governor .....	1701
Edward Shippen, President .....	1703
John Evans, Deputy Governor .....	1704
Charles Gookin, Deputy Governor .....	1709
Sir William Keith, Deputy Governor .....	1717
Patrick Gordon, Deputy Governor .....	1726
James Logan, President .....	1736

George Thomas, Deputy Governor .....	1738
Anthony Palmer, President .....	1747
James Hamilton, Deputy Governor .....	1748
Robert H. Morris, Deputy Governor .....	1754
William Denny, Deputy Governor .....	1756
James Hamilton, Deputy Governor .....	1759
John Penn, Governor .....	1763
James Hamilton, President .....	1771
Richard Penn, Governor .....	1771
John Penn, Governor .....	1773

The proprietary government ended by the Constitution of 1776. The representatives of the Penn family were paid for the surrender of their rights, and a government by the people established.

#### STATE GOVERNORS

##### Under the Constitution of 1776

Thomas Wharton, President (died in office 1778) .....	1777
George Bryan, Acting .....	
Joseph Reed, President .....	1778
William Moore, President .....	1781
John Dickinson, President .....	1782
Benjamin Franklin, President .....	1785
Thomas Mifflin, President .....	1788

From 1790, under the new State constitution, the executive officer has been termed governor instead of president. General Mifflin was the last president of the State under the old, and the first governor elected under the new constitution.

##### Under the Constitution of 1790

Thomas Mifflin .....	Dec. 21, 1790—Dec. 17, 1799
Thomas McKean .....	Dec. 17, 1799—Dec. 20, 1808
Simon Snyder .....	Dec. 20, 1808—Dec. 16, 1817
William Findlay .....	Dec. 16, 1817—Dec. 19, 1820
Joseph Heister .....	Dec. 19, 1820—Dec. 16, 1823
J. A. Shulse .....	Dec. 16, 1823—Dec. 15, 1829
George Wolfe .....	Dec. 15, 1829—Dec. 15, 1835
Joseph Ritner .....	Dec. 15, 1835—Dec. 15, 1839

##### Under the Constitution of 1838

D. R. Porter .....	Jan. 15, 1839—Jan. 21, 1845
Francis R. Shunk .....	Jan. 21, 1845—July 9, 1848
(Resigned July 9, 1848)	
Wm. F. Johnson, Acting July, 1848 .....	Jan. 20, 1852
William Bigler .....	Jan. 20, 1852—Jan. 16, 1855
James Pollock .....	Jan. 16, 1855—Jan. 19, 1858
William F. Packer .....	Jan. 19, 1858—Jan. 15, 1861
Andrew G. Curtin .....	Jan. 15, 1861—Jan. 15, 1867
John W. Geary .....	Jan. 15, 1867—Jan. 21, 1873

##### Under the Constitution of 1873

John F. Hartrauft .....	Jan. 21, 1873—Jan. 18, 1879
Henry M. Hoyt .....	Jan. 18, 1879—Jan. 16, 1883
Robert E. Pattison .....	Jan. 16, 1883—Jan. 18, 1887
James A. Beaver .....	Jan. 18, 1887—Jan. 20, 1891
Robert E. Pattison .....	Jan. 20, 1891—Jan. 15, 1895
Daniel H. Hastings .....	Jan. 15, 1895—Jan. 14, 1899
William A. Stone .....	Jan. 17, 1899—Jan. 20, 1903
Sam'l W. Pennypacker .....	Jan. 20, 1903—Jan. 21, 1907
Edwin S. Stuart .....	Jan. 21, 1907—Jan. 16, 1911
John K. Tener .....	Jan. 16, 1911—

#### POPULATION OF PENNSYLVANIA SINCE THE FIRST CENSUS IN 1790

1790 .....	434,373	1860 .....	2,906,215
1800 .....	602,265	1870 .....	3,521,951
1810 .....	810,091	1880 .....	4,282,891
1820 .....	1,049,458	1890 .....	5,258,014
1830 .....	1,348,233	1900 .....	6,302,115
1840 .....	1,724,033	1910 .....	7,665,111
1850 .....	2,311,786		

## UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Postal Service is the regulation of Communication between different parts of a country, or different countries, including especially the forwarding and delivering of letters, newspapers and small packages, and the establishment of a registry system for the transfer of money and the transaction of other financial business. In some countries the use of the telephone and the telegraph forms a part of the postal service.

The word "*post*" has its particular application from the posts, or stages, at which on the roads of the Roman empire, couriers were maintained for the purpose of conveying news and dispatches.

The beginning of a postal service in the United States dates from 1639, when the house of Richard Fairbanks in Boston was employed for the receipt and delivery of letters for or from beyond the seas. He was allowed for every letter a penny, and was obliged to answer all miscarriages through his own neglect. In 1672 the government of New York colony established a "post to go monthly from New York to Boston;" in 1702 it was changed to once in every two weeks. A general post-office was established and erected in Virginia in 1692, and in Philadelphia in 1693. A deputy postmaster-general for America was appointed in 1692; and by Act of Parliament in 1710 he was directed to keep his principal office in New York, "and other chief offices in some convenient place or places in other of Her Majesty's provinces or colonies in America." A monopoly was established which included also the transport of travelers, and a tariff was fixed. The system, however, proved a failure, till 1753, when Benjamin Franklin became post-master-general. When he was removed from office in 1774, the net revenue exceeded \$15,000. In 1757, Franklin received \$1,000 salary as postmaster-general.

In 1789, when the post-office was transferred to the new federal government, the number of offices in the thirteen States was only about seventy-five. In 1846, was the negotiation of a postal treaty with England. Postage stamps were introduced in 1847, stamped envelopes in 1852, and the system of registering letters in 1855. The free-delivery and the traveling post-office systems were established in 1863. The money order system was introduced in 1864 and postal cards in 1873, and, between the last two dates stamped newspaper wrappers and envelopes bearing request for the return of the enclosed letter to the writer in case of non-delivery. The Universal Postal Service was formed in 1873, and ten years later the issue of "postal notes" payable to bearer. The special-delivery system was established in 1885,

after which letters bearing an extra 10-cent stamp are delivered by special messenger immediately on arrival.

At the present time the postal establishment of the United States is the greatest business concern in the world. It handles more pieces, employs more men, spends more money, brings more revenue, uses more agencies, reaches more homes, involves more details and touches more interests than any other human organization, public or private, governmental or corporate. Though the postal service of England, France and Germany, includes the telegraph, the postal business of the United States surpasses the service of any of these countries.

The free delivery system in cities serves about 33,000,000 patrons at a cost of 50 cents a year each.

The receipts of the Post-office Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909, were \$203,562,383, as compared with the fiscal year previous, of receipts of \$191,478,663.

THE RURAL FREE DELIVERY SERVICE is a late adjunct to the postal service, but notwithstanding its youth, it promises to out grow some of the older branches of the department. It was established under President McKinley in 1897. That year forty-four routes were put in operation. The service has grown to such an extent that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909, 40,628 rural routes were in operation, and the expenditures for the year on account of the rural service were \$35,661,034. Compared with the previous year there was an increase of 1351 routes and \$1,289,095 in expenses. The rural carriers handled in 1909 approximately 2,723,262,000 pieces of mail and the average monthly number of pieces handled per route was 5608. The rapid growth of the rural service has no precedent in the history of the postal establishment. It has grown from 82 routes in 1897 to 40,628 in 1909, a period of twelve years, with an increase in annual expenditures from \$1480 to \$35,661,034. The loss to the Post-office Department from rural delivery reaches nearly \$28,000,000 a year.

## HISTORICAL FACTS

The first mill in Pennsylvania was erected on Chester creek, near Philadelphia, about 1682, by Richard Townsend. He brought it ready framed from London. It served for the grinding of corn and the sawing of boards.

In 1685, three years after Penn's landing, a printing press was running in Philadelphia. One of the earliest publications was an almanac, printed in the year 1685.

William Bradford brought from England a



printing outfit, including paper and ink, which was used for printing Friends' books.

The first newspaper in Pennsylvania was started in Philadelphia, December 22, 1719. It was named *The American Weekly Mercury*, which was the third paper in the colonies. The other two were published in Boston, namely, *Publick Occurrences both Foreign and Domestic*, first published September 25, 1690, by Benjamin Harris; and *The Boston Newsletter*, appearing in 1702. The second newspaper in Pennsylvania was the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, published in 1729 by Benjamin Franklin.

Christoph Saur, published a German paper in Germantown prior to 1740 and later, which circulated among the Germans from New York to Georgia. He published the first magazine in America. About 1743 he printed the German Bible, and about forty years later an English Bible was printed. Saur made his own type, paper and ink and bound his own books.

The first daily newspaper was the *Pennsylvania Packet*, published by John Dunlap in 1784, and afterwards called the *Daily Advertiser*.

In 1775 there were only thirty-four newspapers in the United States, with a total weekly circulation of 5,000 copies.

The first bank in America was established in Philadelphia in 1780.

In 1803, there were twenty-five banks in the United States, with an aggregate capital of \$26,707,000.

The first post office in Pennsylvania was established by Penn. at Philadelphia, in 1683; but the first general post office was established ten years later. In 1717, there was a settled post route from Virginia and Maryland to Philadelphia and to all northern colonies.

The Mennonites of Germantown were the first people in America to suggest the abolition of slavery. This was in 1688, when they sent a petition to the yearly meeting of the Friends, which stated, "that it was not Christian-like to buy and keep negroes."

The first paper mill in America was built in 1690, on a branch of the Wissahickon, by William Rittenhuysen, a minister from Holland.

The first public library in the State was projected in 1731 by Benjamin Franklin, and was incorporated in 1742.

Large numbers of Germans came to Pennsylvania, and by 1750 they numbered about 90,000 people, settling entire counties. They naturally had their own language and customs.

Stephen Girard was the richest man in the United States before the War of 1812, being worth \$10,000,000. Among other bequests he left \$2,000,000 for the erection and maintenance in Philadelphia, of a college for male white orphans. He was born near Bordeaux, France, May 24, 1750 and died in Philadelphia, December 26, 1831.

By order of Congress, Peter Miller, one of the best learned men at his time, translated the Declaration of Independence into seven languages.

In colonial days governors, congressmen, lawmakers, and even presidents and framers of the constitution were farmers.

The first militia law in the State was prepared by Benjamin Franklin, and was passed in 1775. A volunteer company of about five hundred men was soon organized. Franklin was made commander. He became so popular as a soldier that he was promoted to colonel.

The Susquehanna valley was first settled by John Harris, father of John Harris, Jr., the founder of Harrisburg. He came from England, and in 1705 got permission as a licensed trader to trade with the Indians along the Susquehanna river and Conois creek.

Harrisburg was founded by John Harris, Jr. in 1785; was incorporated as a borough in 1791; became the State capital in 1812; and received its charter as a city in 1860. The city is well laid out, lighted with electricity, and surrounded by magnificent scenery. The State capitol buildings are located in the midst of a beautiful park of ten acres on a gentle rise of ground. The State Library comprises 118,000 volumes.

The first penny paper was issued in New York by Benjamin H. Day. It was called the *Sun*, and immediately acquired a large circulation. It was at first less than a foot square.

In 1849, the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society was organized, and the first State Fair held in the following year at Harrisburg. Since then societies have been organized in every county in the Commonwealth.

In 1827 a railroad, nine miles in length, the longest then in existence in America, was constructed from Mauch Chunk to some coal mines. Only two had preceded this—one, with a wooden track, at a stone quarry in the county of Delaware, Pennsylvania, and another, having a length of three miles, at a quarry in Quincy, Mass. Since that time the railroad system of this country has developed to its present magnitude.

## CHAPTER TWO

### INDIAN HISTORY OF WYOMING VALLEY

Wyoming is a valley brimming full of history. Between its eastern and western slopes some of the most stirring scenes of frontier warfare and struggle were enacted. For more than half a century the valley has developed and expanded, and with this growth the old landmarks and their histories are gradually becoming destroyed and forgotten.

It is our purpose here to portray a few of the many interesting scenes of the early days.

A few years over a century ago large and powerful tribes of Indians inhabited the valley.

The Iroquois is the name given to the alliance of the five tribes of Indians: *Mohawks*, *Onedias*, *Onondagas*, *Cayugas* and *Senecas*, which were called the Five Nations. The *Tuscaroras*, the sixth and last tribe to join the league, about one hundred years after its formation, after which they were called the Six Nations. The alliance of the five tribes was proposed by the *Mohawks*. It has been said that the Iroquois were the most enterprising, as well as the most warlike people in America.

"The Six Nations had great power in the territory of Pennsylvania, until they sold to the white people. The fishing and hunting grounds in these wilds were unequaled. The shad, the bass and the trout, the bear, the stately elk, and herds of deer gave them business, food and clothing, and with their variety of corn dishes, their fare was good and wholesome. Their councils were numerous, where they repeated their legends, and handed down the traditions of former ages, to be again repeated to those who should come after them. At these councils their women were not only allowed to be present, but their opinions were consulted in war debates; and strange to say of heathen, their women often acted as mediators, and when they advised to lay down the hatchet, their arguments often prevailed."—*Early Times on the Susquehanna*.

The Wyoming valley, before purchased and settled by the Connecticut Susquehanna Company, was claimed by the Iroquois, but was occupied by the Delaware or *Lenni Lenape* Indians. Their Indian name signifies *the original people*. "Nearly forty tribes acknowledged them as 'great grandfathers.'" They consisted of several tribes, three of which were the most important, namely: the Turtle, Turkey and Wolf. The first two lived between the Atlantic ocean and the Blue mountains. The last named occupied the mountainous country west of the Blue mountains, including both branches of the Susquehanna.

The Delawares were once a powerful tribe, but had been subdued by the Iroquois, by whom

they were made vassals early in the 18th century, and were compelled to vacate the country along the Delaware, east of the Blue Ridge, and move to the Wyoming valley.

The Nanticokes and the Shawanese occupied the lower end of the valley, the former on the east side of the Susquehanna and the latter on the opposite side. Later the Nanticokes moved up the river and the Shawanese to Ohio.

When the Moravian missionaries first visited Wyoming Valley in 1742, its Indian residents were Delawares, Monseys, Shawanese, Nanticokes, Mohicans and Wanamense, all of whom were vassals of the Iroquois by virtue of conquest. They were practically prisoners. They could not change their abode without consent, and they were liable to be sent elsewhere whenever their imperious masters demanded. Probably the reason Wyoming was chosen as the abiding place of these vassal people, was that it lay on the great Iroquois highway between the north and the south, where they could be kept under constant supervision of their masters.

The earliest to occupy Wyoming Valley, so far as appears, were the Shawanese, whom Conrad Weiser found there in 1737, who were foes of the English. By permission of John Penn they had first located in Wyoming in 1701. Reichel believes that "they were placed at Wyoming by the Six Nations, who were confident that they could place no custodian more reliable than the ferocious Shawanese in charge of that lovely valley, which they designed to keep for themselves and their children forever." In 1728, when about 500 in number, the Six Nations had ordered them to move to the Ohio, and their empty cabins at Wyoming were taken by another contingent of the Shawanese, who were transferred from near Lancaster. They had for their leader *Kakowatchie* (or *Gachawatschiqua*), and it was these Shawanese whom Zinzendorf (the Moravian missionary) found at Wyoming in 1742. Beside their village where Plymouth stands, the Shawanese had another between Plymouth and Kingston, back of what is called Ross Hill, present Blindtown. There were also Shawanese villages at Fishing Creek and Brier Creek.

The Delawares called themselves *Lenni Lenape*, signifying "original people." The Monseys (or Minsies) and the Wanamense belonged to them. The Delawares had their council fires at Minisink, near the Delaware Water Gap, fifty miles southeast of Wilkes-Barre, and their hunting grounds extended from Easton, Pa., to the sea. They had a village near Scranton as early as 1728. They were vassals of the Iroquois, by whom they were ordered away



from the Forks of the Delaware (the name then given to the lands lying within the confluence of the Delaware and Lehigh rivers; at that time the Lehigh was called the west branch of the Delaware) and given the option of locating either at Shamokin or at Wyoming. Nearly all went to Wyoming, but some chose Shamokin. So it happened that they had become occupants of the valley of the Susquehanna in the same year that Zinzendorf and his followers first visited the region in 1742.

The leader of the Delawares was *Teedyuscung*, who was born about 1700 near Trenton, N. J., a locality in which his ancestors had been seated from time immemorial. They were gradually pushed northwardly by the settlements, and about 1730 located in Pennsylvania above the confluence of the Delaware and Lehigh rivers, and finding no white men, they wandered wherever they found good hunting or fishing. But in a very few years the wilderness in the Forks began to be encroached upon by Scotch-Irish immigrants.

The Delaware Indians had been defrauded of their hunting grounds in the Forks by means of such unscrupulous measures as the "walking purchase of 1737," and it was only by appealing to their masters, the Six Nations, to expel them, that the Penns could obtain possession. The Six Nations treated them in the most insulting manner, and aroused in the breasts of the Delawares an animosity that never slumbered. Then the Delawares removed to the Susquehanna Valley. They built a town just below Wilkes-Barre.

At Nescopeck, thirty miles below Wilkes-Barre, was an important Delaware town, on the east bank of the Susquehanna.

On the same stream, a little above the mouth of the Lackawanna, was the Delaware town of Asserughney, under the chieftainship of *Kindassowa*. They came here about 1728. There was also a Delaware village at Tunkhannock and another at Wyalusing.

The Wanamense, (or Wanamie tribe of the Delawares, whose chief was named Jacob), came from the Forks of the Delaware in 1842, and occupied the level, elevated land about two miles north of Wilkes-Barre, near the Borough of Parsons, in Plains township. This they named Jacob's Plains, in honor of their chief, but upon the formation of the township, Nov. 10, 1851, the old chief's name was left off.

The Monseys occupied the Lackawanna Valley, and their chief was Capouse, from whom "Capouse Meadows" (now Providence) was named. They had their village on the west side of the Lackawanna, where Providence is now located. They came here sometime before 1730. Hollister says in his History: "The domestic habits of the Monsey tribe when not en-

gaged in warfare were extremely simple and lazy. Patches of open land or 'Indian clearings' early were found in the valley, where onions, cantaloupes, beans and corn, and their favorite weed, tobacco, were half cultivated by the obedient squaw." Their burying ground was located on the east bank of the Lackawanna, above the mouth of Nay Aug Creek. The Monseys accompanied the Delawares to Ohio, and subsequently were merged in the latter tribe.

The Mohicans came with the Delawares in 1742 and built a village on the east bank of Abraham's creek, near its confluence with the Susquehanna. Their chief's name was Abraham, from whom the creek received its name. Rising in Dallas township, it crosses Kingston township, runs through Wyoming borough, and flows into the Susquehanna at Forty Fort.

The Nanticokes had their village on the west bank of Nanticoke creek, near the river, where the borough of the same name is now located. The Nanticokes were a dependency of the Iroquois, living along Chesapeake Bay. Their name in the several languages signified tidewater or sea-shore people. They passed up to Wyoming in 1748, either under the orders of the Iroquois or by their permission. Zeisberger says they were adverse to the Gospel, and surpassed all other Indians in their heathenism and sorcery. However, several became Moravian converts. The entire population of the Nanticoke village removed to the Province of New York in May, 1753, and from there to Ohio.

Smallpox and ardent spirits carried off the greater part of the Nanticokes, so that in 1785 (then in Ohio) there were scarcely fifty of them. They sided with the British, and ultimately settled in Canada, alongside the Shawanese, who had invited them.

The Indians occupied the valley in greater or less numbers until 1763, when, after the death of their chief, Teedyuscung, they departed. However, a few of them continued to visit the fertile plains of Wyoming for some years later, as shown by references in the diary of the Moravian Indian village at Wyalusing. (1765-1772). A little before the abandonment of the Wyalusing mission by the Moravians in 1772, the Connecticut migration had set in, and with it disappeared all Indians from the valley of the Susquehanna.

#### THEIR TRUE CHARACTER.

"The Indians of our country have ever been looked upon with interest by every lover of history. They have justly been charged with savage cruelties, such as make the blood chill, when called to mind. But when we look upon them as natives of the soil, and we the invaders when we consider how all nations are affected

by intrusion and oppression, and what excesses of barbarity the most civilized nations have allowed and practiced; we might do well to extend charity to the less cultivated and refined, who have not had the advantages with which we have been favored.

"Those who have taken an interest in them, and studied their character, instructing them in civilization and Christianity, claim that many of them make the most humane, sensible and reliable men.

"The original Indians were not beasts of prey, but have become such by provocation. In portraying the character of the Indians of Pennsylvania we will go back to the time when it had not yet become changed by associating with the Europeans. They were very hospitable, and expected hospitality in return. Courtesy was a distinct trait in their character. A "good morning, father," "grandfather," "uncle," and so on, down to a small grandchild, was the common form of address. Even the children saluted one another affectionately and respectfully. Quarrels were avoided. Fighting, they said, is only for dogs and beasts. It was a rare thing to hear of murders among them in the days before the settlement of Pennsylvania. This we know from the testimony of reliable and well-informed Indians, who helped to build the first houses in Philadelphia." Columbus, the first white man to know the red men, pays them this high compliment: "They love their neighbors as themselves."

"The character of the Indians was greatly changed after the white men came to this country. They were the original inhabitants of the Western Hemisphere. They were driven from their hunting grounds, their camps were broken up, and they suffered cruel treatment from the white men who settled in this country. One of the early missionaries among the Indians said: "Often I have listened to these descriptions of their hard sufferings, until I felt ashamed of being a white man." It is not surprising that the Indians are cruel and avengeful.

#### THEIR MODE OF LIFE.

"The Indians had no code of laws, except a few unwritten rules of justice and courtesy, which were enforced by the chiefs and their counsellors. The wampum, or Indian money, necessary to carry an order of the chief into effect, was freely given. Important transactions were ratified by strings and belts of wampum. Black wampum signified war; white, peace, friendship, good-will. The pipe of peace, which was made of black or red stone, had to be whitened before it was used for such a purpose. To keep treaties fresh in the memory, the chiefs met occasionally at some chosen spot

in the forest and rehearsed them. Thus, between the years 1770 and 1780, the Delawares could relate very minutely what had passed between William Penn and their forefathers. On such occasions, the Indians sat around a chest, took out one string or belt after another, handed it to every person present, and repeated the words spoken at its delivery."

#### NO SCHOOLS

"The Indians had no schools. The parents taught the children. The first lessons were about the Great Spirit and about the duties to parents and elders. Reading and writing were unknown arts to them. The Iroquois and Delawares understood a little counting. The position of the sun served to show the time of day; and the stages of the corn, the season of the year. The marriage tie was weak, and polygamy was permitted. The children followed the mother in case of separation. The name, as a rule, was given by the father, who generally selected that of some animal. Other names were frequently added. Thus, one who wore torn or patched shoes was called *Bad Shoes*; one who had large eyes, *Great Eye*. To the white men the Indians gave suggestive names of their own. When the Delawares had learned the meaning of Penn's name, they at once called him *Miquon*, feather or quill. The Iroquois called him *Onas*, for the same reason. Ingenious compounds were invented. Thus, the name for Philadelphia was *Quequenaku*, 'the grove of the long pine trees.'"

#### OCCUPATIONS

"Hunting was considered the most honorable occupation. The Delawares early trained their boys to run so fast as to overtake a deer, and to shoot small fishes with their bows and arrows. The oyster, the land-tortoise and the locust were also in demand for food. Vegetables of various kinds were raised; but maize, (corn) aside from meat and fish, was the chief food. They planted it after the hazelnut was in bloom, as a precaution against frost. The shoulder-blade of a deer or a tortoise shell was used to hoe—a work that fell to the women."

The Indians considered it disgraceful for a man to work, and labor was principally confined to the squaws. An Indian would go three or four miles to shoot a deer or bear, which he would carry on his shoulders until perhaps within a mile or less from home, where he would leave his game and proceed to the wigwam. His wife would then go for the prize and carry it into camp. The Indian thought this perfectly proper.

#### INDIAN AMUSEMENTS

"Dancing and singing were the Indian's



amusements, though he indulged in them for other purposes. This grotesque performance ended in a disagreeable yell, which resembled the mewing of the cat-bird at the close of its pretty song. The war dance was to terrify, not to please. It was performed around a painted post, and the dancers went through all the motions and actions of the battle. After a victory, a dance of thanksgiving was in order. It was religious in its nature."—*History of Pennsylvania*.

#### A GLIMPSE OF AN INDIAN VILLAGE

It is late afternoon of a hazy day in October in the small Indian village of Maughwauwame, or Wyoming, on the banks of the winding Susquehanna. Here and there among the great forest trees stand peaked wigwams of white deer-skin fantastically painted with the symbols of the tribe. Groups of children are merrily playing along the banks of the river; at one place an imaginary battle is being fought between young braves decorated with feathers, berry-juice and daubs of gayly colored paint. The little Indian girls are busily keeping "wigwam" with small wooden images for children. Further up the river the older boys are having a diving and swimming contest.

Already the sun is setting in the west; a soft, grey mist is slowly rising from the river and from the deep forests where it is gradually blotting out the gray autumn foliage. Soon, thin columns of smoke, twisting upwards from the wigwams to meet the thickening mist, warn the young Delawares that it is nearly time for the evening meal and for their fathers to return from the hunt. The little girls hurry home to help their mothers and the boys eagerly await the arrival of the great men of the tribe. In a very short time they appear; some of the younger braves have pheasants and quail slung over their shoulders and here and there the beautiful bronze plumage of the wild turkey is conspicuous. Last of all, the older warriors emerge from the fast-gathering gloom of the forest. Proudly one of their number bears a young deer on his back. A small stream of blood is trickling from the breast of the animal, where a poisoned arrow has pierced his heart.

Joyfully, but in a subdued manner, the women and children welcome the warriors. After the game has been sufficiently admired, and the prowess of the hunters praised, the families withdraw to their wigwams. Soon the Indian village is hidden in darkness, with the exception of a bright fire which has been kindled, where, later the warriors will assemble to talk of the hunt and to make plans for the coming winter. Darker and darker it grows; the tepees become uncertain silhouettes against the western sky: the council fire is dead save for an occasional

ember fanned to a glow by the night breeze; *Maughwauwame* is asleep.

#### FIRST HOUSES BUILT IN WYOMING VALLEY

Teedyuscung, the King of the Delawares, wished to settle down with his tribe in the Wyoming valley. He sent a petition to the Assembly and asked that a settlement be given them in the valley and protection by the Government. They did not wish a fort, but simply some houses so that they might have a home where all would be peace and where men might be sent to teach them and their posterity the doctrines of the Christian religion.

The Assembly petitioned the Governor and recommended that a favorable answer be given. He consented to this, and held a meeting with a council selected for that purpose, as to the best way to build the houses and the choice of men to send to do the work. It was decided that Captain Hughes with Shippen and Galbraith should take charge of the building of the houses.

These men, with a guard of about one hundred and fifty members of the provincial troops, set out for Wyoming in October, 1757. Teedyuscung and some of his warriors accompanied them. When they arrived in the valley, the chief pointed out the spot which he had selected for the building of the houses. This site was within the precincts of the Tenth Ward of the present city of Wilkes-Barre. Work was begun and, by the middle of November, when the first snows whitened the ground, two houses were finished and six more were started. Teedyuscung then told the company, that as long as he did not intend to spend the winter there, they could leave their work as it was until the spring and go back to Philadelphia. Advantage was taken at once of this permission.

When spring came, Shippen and some others could not accompany the Indians to Wyoming. Henry Pawling was therefore appointed to aid Hughes in carrying out the Governor's orders. This time they were joined by the Delaware chief and about one hundred Indians. They followed the old Indian trail over the mountains to the Winding River and the valley of Wyoming.

In the midst of their labor one of the white men was killed by some strange Indians from the North, thus adding fear to the many trials of the little band. Finally, the houses were finished. They were simple log huts, most of them fourteen by twenty feet, while one, presumably for the chief, was sixteen by twenty-four feet. These had been erected for the Indians by the proprietary government of Pennsylvania at an expense of eighteen hundred Spanish milled dollars.



These houses were built of squared logs and dove-tailed. Eleven were built at this time, but there must have been more erected later, for "on the night of April 19, 1763, the dwelling of Teedyuscung and twenty others around it were set on fire by a party of Iroquois who had visited the valley under the guise of friendship, and the chief, under the influence of liquor, perished in the flames. This was an act of savage vengeance for the death of an Iroquois warrior at the hand of Teedyuscung in 1758."

Thus the little settlement known as *Maughwauwame* was established June 7, 1758, by a tribe of Delaware Indians under the leadership of Teedyuscung.

#### THE GRASSHOPPER WAR

"While the warriors of the Delawares were engaged upon the mountains in a hunting expedition, a number of squaws from Maughwauwame, were gathering wild fruits along the margin of the river, about a mile below their village, near the line between Wilkes-Barre and Hanover townships, where they found a number of Shawanese squaws and their children, who had crossed the river in their canoes upon the same business. A child belonging to the Shawanese, having captured a large grasshopper, a quarrel arose among the children for the possession of it, in which their mothers soon took a part. The Delaware squaws contending that the Shawanese had no privileges upon that side of the river, the quarrel soon became general; but the Delawares, being the most numerous, soon drove the Shawanese to their canoes and to their own bank, a few having been killed upon both sides. Upon the return of the warriors, both tribes prepared for battle to revenge the wrongs which they considered their wives had sustained.

"The Shawanese, upon crossing the river, found the Delawares ready to receive them and oppose their landing. A dreadful conflict took place between the Shawanese in their canoes and the Delawares on the bank. At length, after great numbers had been killed, the Shawanese effected a landing, and a battle took place about a mile below Maughwauwame, in which many hundred warriors are said to have been killed on both sides; but the Shawanese were so much weakened in landing that they were not able to sustain the conflict, and after the loss of about half their tribe, the remainder were forced to flee to their own side of the river, shortly after which they abandoned their town and removed to Ohio."—*Chapman's History of Wyoming*.

#### JOHN SERGEANT.

John Seargeant, the first Christian missionary to the Wyoming valley, was the son of Jona-

than Sergeant, whose earlier home had been in New England, but who, at the time of the birth of his son, was living in Newark, New Jersey. John was educated in the best schools of the day, and in 1729, at the early age of nineteen years, was graduated from Yale College. For some years after he remained there as a tutor, but was at the same time pursuing his theological studies. It is said that he was one of the most successful tutors that the college has ever known. Later he declared: "I feel I have been called to become a missionary to the Indians. I would rather be that than have the best parish England can offer."

A mission had been established in Stockbridge, Mass., which was meeting with great success, and Mr. Sergeant became a teacher there.

In June, 1741, accompanied by several Stockbridge Indians, this young man came to Wyoming in order to teach the Gospel to the Indian tribes, the Mohegans and the Shawanese, who lived in the valley. They were kindly received and well treated, but the Indians did not seem to be very enthusiastic about the doctrine which was being preached to them. Mr. Sergeant preached one sermon in which he called them brothers, and offered to instruct them in the principles of Christianity. This they refused, because of a promise, that "they never would receive Christianity from the English." This they had made to the Senecas, from whom they had bought their land. Another reason for refusing the doctrine was the way in which the white traders had acted toward their squaws. Finally, discouraged and down-hearted, he returned to Massachusetts. Still he had hope that some day a way would be opened by which the Indians would become converted to Christianity. He died at Stockbridge in July, 1749, believing that some day, some more successful man would accomplish the fulfillment of his plans.

#### THE FIRST MASSACRE OF THE WHITES IN WYOMING.

That Saturday, October 15, 1763, which dawned so bright and clear in the Wyoming valley and set amid bloodshed and conflagration, is, perhaps, not so well known as that day of the great massacre of 1778, but, nevertheless, it shows only too well the cruelty and treachery of the redmen. The settlers at Mill Creek, profiting by the fair weather, were busily engaged in their various occupations, unprepared for danger. Some were at work in the saw-mill, others were on the flats caring for their crops; some were felling trees along the edges of the forest, now glorious in its gay autumnal colors, others were erecting more log-cabins which were necessary for the comfort and accommodation



of the rapidly growing colony. The women were performing their simple household duties in their rough homes, while the children were merrily playing around the block-house.

It was near the hour of noon in this happy, peaceful settlement, when suddenly the blood-curdling warwhoop of Indians rang through the depths of the surrounding forest, striking fear and dread into hearts of old and young. "Captain Bull," the son of Teedyuscung, to avenge his father's death (caused by the burning of the Indian village, *Maughwauwame*, by the Iroquois Indians, on the night of April 19, 1763, which was charged upon the settlers), swooped down on the terrified people, with one hundred and thirty-five brave warriors. Bloodshed and destruction resulted. Some of the panic-stricken inhabitants, having no time to flee, were quickly scalped and murdered. Eighteen or twenty persons lost their lives in this way and many others were taken prisoners. One man is said to have escaped the keen eyes of the Indians by hiding in the tall grass, being almost the only one who was at work on the open flats, who survived the dreadful massacre.

The settlers who were at the mill, the block-house and some of the more remote cabins, hearing the cries and gunshots on the flats near the river, fled, without provisions or sufficient clothing, through the woods to the mountains on the east. As they looked back at the valley during their ascent, they saw the savages plundering their former peaceful homes and driving their cattle away. When darkness fell, the merciless red man set fire to the cabins and soon the weary fugitives beheld the sky lighted with the flames of their own dwellings. The settlers, almost starved and chilled with the keen autumn winds, were forced to flee through the forest, over rivers and morasses, sixty miles to the nearest settlement on the Delaware and thence back to their friends in Connecticut. Many, in spite of the dangers they encountered and the hardships they were forced to endure, accomplished this journey in safety, while others, lost in the swamps and worn out with want and fatigue, died alone in the desolate wilderness.

#### FRANCES SLOCUM

"The Lost Sister of Wyoming."

The history of Frances Slocum, the child of Jonathan and Ruth (Tripp) Slocum of Wilkes-Barre, has been for nearly one hundred and thirty-five years one of the most pathetic and fascinating romances of American history.

Frances was captured by the Delaware Indians when nearly five years of age, November 2, 1778, near the south-west corner of North Pennsylvania avenue and East North street, where the North Street School is located. After

fifty-nine years of ceaseless searching by her brothers and relatives, she was found September 22, 1837, living near Peru, Indiana, the widow of a Miami Indian chief and the mother of two married daughters. Her Indian name was *Ma-con-a-quah*.

Her relatives endeavored to persuade her to return to the home of her birth, but she would not consent. She said she had become accustomed to the Indian habits and method of living, and at her advanced age did not care to leave her daughters and Indian friends and return to the East.



FRANCES SLOCUM

Made from a portrait painted from life in 1839, when 66 years of age.

(Courtesy of Wyoming Historical Society)

On December 16th, about six weeks after her capture, her father, with Isaac Tripp (Mrs. Slocum's father) and William, a youth, were foddering cattle from a stack near the fort when they were fired upon by the Indians. Mr. Slocum was shot dead; Mr. Tripp was speared and tomahawked, and both were scalped; William, wounded by a ball in the heel, escaped and gave the alarm. Thus in a very short time Mrs. Slocum lost her child, husband and father at the hands of the cruel and merciless savages. Mrs. Slocum died May 6, 1807, aged 72 years.

No monument has ever been erected to the memory of Frances Slocum in the Wyoming Valley where she was born. But a very handsome one was placed over her remains near Re-

serve, Indiana, where she died March 9, 1847. This monument was erected in 1900, by a committee of thirteen descendants of Jonathan Slocum. In the family of her father's descendants various interesting relics of her person, her home, and her history are preserved with great care and reverence.

On the 2nd day of November, 1906, the spot of her capture was marked by the erection of a bronze tablet on the wall of the North Street Public School in Wilkes-Barre, the school-house being within a few feet of the actual spot where Frances Slocum was captured. At the same time another, a larger tablet, was erected on the wall of the Wyoming Historical Society building. These tablets were erected by the same committee that erected the monument.

#### SULLIVAN'S CAMPAIGN

After the Wyoming Massacre, Gen. Washington placed Gen. Sullivan, the hero of Long Island and Chad's Ford, in command of a large force of regulars with a full equipment of artillery and cavalry, to make an invasion of the Indian strongholds. A similar force, from the vicinity of the Mohawk valley, under General James Clinton was ordered to co-operate.

Early in the summer of 1779 three thousand men under Gen. Sullivan assembled in the upper Susquehanna valley, in the lately deserted region, and moved up the river, clearing a road through the vast original forest sufficient to move heavy artillery and army supplies. "Sullivan's road" is still traced along the river, es-

pecially at Wilkes-Barre and Meshoppen.

While on the way, Sullivan was joined by Gen. Clinton's force who had come by the way of Otsego Lake and the Susquehanna. The united forces amounted to about five thousand men, of which Sullivan had general command. At just what point on the river this union of forces took place is not known, but probably at Chenango Point, now Binghamton, N. Y.

The Indians and their allies, the Tories, had received information of the intended invasion, and appeared in arms to oppose them. They were much inferior in force, however, being about fifteen hundred Indians and two hundred Tories. A battle took place at Newtown on the 29th of August, in which the enemy was easily defeated.

Sullivan then pushed forward into the heart of the Indian country, penetrating as far as the Genesee river, laying everything waste, setting fire to deserted dwellings, destroying corn fields, orchards, gardens, everything that could give sustenance to a Tory or a savage; the design being to exterminate the Indians and starve them out of the country.

The latter retreated before him with their families, and, at length took refuge under the protection of the British Garrison at Niagara. Having completed his purpose Sullivan returned to Easton, in Pennsylvania. The thanks of Congress was voted to him and his army.

As has been stated, the expedition was the result of Washington's broad generalship, and forever cleared the Wyoming and Mohawk valleys of hostile Indian tribes.

## CHAPTER THREE

### THE WYOMING VALLEY

The name Wyoming is a corruption of the Indian name *Maughwauwame*, composed of the words *maughwau*, large, and *wame*, plains. The name, then signifies *The Large Plains*. The early settlers, finding it difficult to pronounce the word correctly, spoke it, *Wauwaumie*, then *Wiawume*, then *Wiomie*, and finally *Wyoming*, which name the valley has borne for over one hundred and fifty years. "This is, of course, the *original* Wyoming—all other localities, places and objects in North America which bear the same name having derived it either primarily or secondarily from that of the fair vale 'on Susquehanna's side.'" This beautiful and historic valley of Wyoming is a long oval or elliptical basin, some sixteen miles in length, with an average breadth of three miles, situated in north-eastern Pennsylvania on ei-

ther side of the winding Susquehanna. "On both sides of the river, for nearly this whole distance, lie rich and fertile alluvial bottomlands, forming plains, or flats; at some points narrow and restricted in breadth, but at others stretching out towards the hills or mountains for at least a mile. These flats contain several thousand acres, nearly all of which are well cultivated, and have been for more than a hundred years."

While the Wyoming Valley in its limited meaning, now gives a name to a valley unsurpassed for its beautiful scenery and the romance of its history, it was formerly used in a more enlarged sense, and included all the country purchased by the Susquehanna Company from the Iroquois Indians (Six Nations) July 11, 1754.



## THE SUSQUEHANNA COMPANY

In 1753 an association was formed in Connecticut, called the *Susquehanna Company*, for the purpose of forming a settlement in the fertile and beautiful valley of Wyoming, and during the same year agents were sent to explore the country and to establish a friendly intercourse with the Indian tribes that should be found in possession of it. They found the valley occupied by the Delaware Indians, but was claimed by the Six Nations.

Soon after the agents of the Susquehanna Company arrived, "Indian scouts and interpreters carried the news to Philadelphia, and alarmed the Proprietary Government of Pennsylvania, which also claimed this wild tract yet unlocked by any Indian treaty, grant, or title to *any* party. Daniel Broadhead and William Parsons, two justices of the peace in Northampton county, on the war-path from Connecticut to Wyoming Valley, were instructed by Pennsylvania to watch all persons and parties going hither, either to explore or begin a settlement."—*Hollister's History*, p 71.

In fact, no inland point within the province was watched with greater care or devotion for many years, than was Wyoming. James Hamilton, who was Governor of Pennsylvania under the Proprietaries, having been informed of the intentions of the Susquehanna Company, it not being kept a secret, immediately adopted measures to defeat the plans of this company, and endeavor to purchase the land for the use of the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania.

"It should be understood by the general reader, that all lands claimed by the English in America were sold or granted to one or more persons with an understanding that the right or rather the necessity still existed of repurchasing the same territory of the Indian tribes having ownership, before it could safely be occupied by the whites. Thus a portion of the land granted to William Penn by King Charles II. March 11, 1681, was repurchased by him of the native tribes, in a manner so explicit and satisfactory to them, that ever afterwards his intercourse with all the aborigines was marked by a constant and unvarying friendship, unknown in modern times."—*Hollister's History*.

The Attorney General of Pennsylvania, to whom the matter had been referred, decided that "the Wyoming valley had not yet been purchased from the Six Nations, but had been reserved, and used by them for their hunting grounds." John and Richard Penn, Isaac Norris and Benjamin Franklin were appointed by Governor Hamilton as commissioners, who were sent to Albany in June, 1754, to meet the great council of the Six Nations, which had assembled

there to meet the delegates sent from Connecticut to represent the Susquehanna Company, who were William Pitkin, Roger Wolcott and Elisha Williams.

The agents or delegates of the Susquehanna Company were sent to purchase this much coveted valley from the Indians if possible, and Governor Hamilton and his agents devised every known scheme to thwart the Connecticut enterprise, holding several private councils with the chiefs of the Six Nations, and endeavoring to purchase the same land themselves. Notwithstanding this opposition, strengthened as it was by the influence of Sir William Johnson, the purchase was made by the agents of the Susquehanna Company, July 11, 1754.

The sum paid was two thousand pounds of current money of the province of New York, and the tract purchased extended about seventy miles south from New York State line, and from a parallel line ten miles east of the Susquehanna river, and extending westward about 120 miles.

This purchase included the whole valley of Wyoming, and the country westward to the sources of the Alleghany river, which included the territory now known as Luzerne, Wyoming, Sullivan, Bradford, Tioga, Lycoming, Potter and Clinton counties, and portions of Clearfield, Centre, Union, Montour, Columbia, Lackawanna and Susquehanna counties.

## THE DELAWARE COMPANY

Another association was later formed in Connecticut called the "*Delaware Company*," which purchased all the land of the Indians, lying east of the Susquehanna Company tract to the Delaware river. This company commenced a settlement on the Delaware river at a place called Coshutunk (Cochecton, Sullivan county, N. Y.), in 1757, which was the first settlement founded by the people of Connecticut within the territory claimed by them west of New York.

In 1758 the Susquehanna Company again made preparations for making a settlement in Wyoming, but the unsettled condition of the frontier seemed to render it inexpedient, if not hazardous, for those intending to settle, to venture so far into the wilderness at that time.

## FIRST SETTLEMENT IN THE WYOMING VALLEY

In 1760 the cabin of no white man had broken the Wyoming forest. The first settlement in this picturesque valley was made in August, 1762, when about two hundred of the Susquehanna Company came from Connecticut, and settled upon the eastern shore of the beautiful Susquehanna river, in Plains township (then called Jacob's Plains), just above

the mouth of a small stream, celebrated afar by the name of Mill Creek (formerly Beaver brook), just north of the present boundary of the city of Wilkes-Barre. Here they erected a village of rude log cabins, at a sufficient distance from the Indian towns, Wyoming (*Maughwauwame*) and Shawanese, located on the flats just below the present city of Wilkes-Barre, to prevent any immediate collision of their agricultural interests.

The greater part of the valley was yet covered with forest, excepting for short distances surrounding the Indian towns, where the trees had been cut away in the slow progress of Indian husbandry. But the new colonists set themselves vigorously at work. They felled the timber and erected a sufficient number of log houses and cabins for their accommodation, and before the arrival of winter, had cleared and sown large fields of wheat and rye upon lands covered with forest trees in August. Having now made so favorable beginning, they concealed their rude agricultural implements in the ground and returned in November to their families in Connecticut for the winter. Early the next spring they returned to their Wyoming settlement with their families, and others, bringing some live stock, furniture, provisions, etc., but little meditating the dreadful fate which awaited them.

The summer of 1763 had been favorable for the pioneers. Their various crops on the fertile plains had proved abundant, and they were looking forward with hope to scenes of prosperity and happiness. They extended their settlement to the west side of the river, which is now Forty Fort.

#### INDIAN TROUBLES

On the night of April 19, 1763, a number of the Iroquois came among the Delaware Indians in the garb of friendship, and fired the dwelling of Teedyuscung, which was consumed, and the venerable Delaware chieftain perished in the flames. The culprits charged the crime upon the colonists, and the aggrieved Delawares resolved to avenge themselves. On the 15th of October they fell upon the unsuspecting pioneers in the fields, killed twenty or thirty of them, took several prisoners, and drove off their live stock. The following are a few of the number killed: Rev. William Marsh, Thomas Marsh, Timothy Hollister, Timothy Hollister, Jr., Nathan Terry, Wright Smith, Daniel Baldwin and wife, Jesse Wiggins, Zeruah Whitney, and Isaac Hollister. Among the prisoners were a Mr. Shepherd and Daniel Baldwin's son. The survivors who were not captured fled to the mountains, while the savages burned their houses. The fugitives, destitute of every preparation for a journey, had no alternative but

to strike out into the wilderness for a trip of two hundred and fifty miles to their old homes in New England. For several succeeding years the history of the Susquehanna Company settlement is a blank.

#### THE FORTY PIONEERS.

Early in the year 1769, the Susquehanna Company decided to again take possession of the valley. They called a meeting in January at Hartford, and regulations for the government of the colony were drawn up, and a committee appointed to carry them into effect. This committee consisted of Isaac Tripp, Benjamin Follet, John Jenkins, William Buck and Benjamin Shoemaker. The association, in order to strengthen their claims, and to expand their settlements now appropriated five townships, each five miles square, and divided into forty shares, as free gifts to the first forty settlers in each township. An appropriation of two hundred pounds (nearly \$600.00) was made for the purchase of agricultural implements. The names of the five original townships laid out in the valley were "Wilkes-Barre," "Hanover," "Plymouth," "Kings-town" and "Pitts-town."

In January forty pioneers were sent by the Susquehanna Company to the Wyoming valley, so long the object of their keen desire, to be followed by about two hundred more in the spring. On the 8th day of February, 1769, they arrived at the place where they had made a settlement in 1763, where they found Ogden and his men in possession. The forty pioneers not willing to use any force to regain possession, erected a fort on the west side of the river, opposite Fort Ogden, which was called *Fort Forty*, in honor to the forty sturdy pioneers, and several years later was changed to Forty Fort.

#### THE YANKEES IMPRISONED.

Stewart and Ogden had but ten men in their blockhouse, who despatched a messenger to Governor Penn, requesting assistance. But after waiting a sufficient length of time without receiving reinforcements, decided to recourse to stratagem to accomplish what they could not effect by power. The Yankees were outwitted by the Ogden party, who under the pretext of a desire to consult and arrange their difficulties, three of the leaders of the Connecticut party, viz.: Isaac Tripp, Vine Elderkin and Benjamin Follet were induced to enter the garrison, where they were arrested by John Jennings, who was sheriff of Northampton county, and carried to Easton jail, seventy miles away. The prisoners were accompanied to Easton by the whole of both parties, where they were promptly released on bail, and returned to Wyoming. In March Jennings made another effort to arrest the Yan-



kees, and with a *posse* of the county, together with several magistrates, again marched upon Wyoming in an imposing array. The doors to the blockhouse, which had been hastily prepared by the Connecticut people, for defense, were broken by Jennings, who succeeded in arresting thirty-one persons, all of whom, excepting a few who escaped while marching through a swamp, were taken to Easton, and cast into prison as before. They were again released on bail, just in time to be accompanied to their Wyoming cabins by the two hundred recruits who were arriving from Connecticut.

Soon after the arrival of the two hundred Yankees, they moved to the east side of the river, nearly two miles below, and constructed a fort near the bend in the river (below the bridge at Wilkes-Barre), which they named Fort Durkee, in honor of its commander. Near the fort they erected about thirty log houses, with loopholes through which to fire if they were attacked. Jennings and Ogden again raised forces and on the 24th of May marched to Fort Durkee, but the works of the settlers appeared too strong to justify an attack by so small a number of men, and they returned to Easton and reported to the Governor that their numbers were insufficient to dispossess the Connecticut boys, who now numbered three hundred able-bodied men. The Yankees were left for a short period without being molested, and during this interval commissioned Colonel Dyer and Major Elderkin to proceed to Philadelphia and endeavor to effect a compromise on the question, but Governor Penn refused to negotiate, and an armed force, under the command of Colonel Francis, was sent to Wyoming with orders to demand a surrender of the fort and garrison. The summons was not obeyed and the Colonel, like Sheriff Jennings had done before, retreated after surveying the works, and presented the facts to the Governor.

#### THE YANKEES FORCED TO RETURN TO CONNECTICUT

Early in September, Sheriff Jennings with a large force of men, well supplied with small arms, a four-pounder and an abundant supply of ammunition, after being carefully instructed by Governor Penn, to avoid, if possible, the shedding of blood, dashed upon the garrison with two hundred men, and took Colonel Durkee and several others prisoners, and drove off their cattle and horses found grazing in the fields. The settlers were weakened, and becoming discouraged because of the arrest of their leader and loss of their property, they agreed to surrender the fort and adjoining buildings, and that all should return to Connecticut except seventeen and their families, who were to be al-

lowed to remain and harvest the crops upon the ground. The articles of capitulation drawn out in due form, were faithfully carried out by the settlers, but Ogden, regardless of a solemn pledge to respect the rights of property, plundered the settlement as soon as the settlers had departed for Connecticut, leaving the seventeen and their families alone. All their live stock was seized and driven away, and their houses were stripped, depriving the few remaining of food and necessary clothing, who were compelled to wend their way back to Connecticut. Thus the year 1769 closed with the Pennsylvanians in possession of the valley.

#### THE FIRST BLOOD SHED

"At last this fair valley was to be made the scene of civil war; and in contending for the rich prize, the blood of one white man was to be spilled by the hand of another white man. The parties had exhausted their diplomatic skill; each had sent deputations to the mother country, and in turn obtained the most respectable legal decisions in their favor. Nothing seemed left to them but to maintain their claims by force."

#### THE PENNSYLVANIANS EXPELLED

In February, 1770, the Connecticut boys, together with a number of men from Lancaster in Pennsylvania, who were also share holders of the Susquehanna Company, again appeared in this valley of beauty and trouble, and dispossessed the Pennsylvanians. The Yankees were led by Lazarus Stewart from Lancaster, and they were all well armed, and Fort Durkee, garrisoned by only eight or ten men, was easily taken. Ogden was away at the time, and the Yankees proceeded to his house and captured a piece of ordinance. After hearing of the return of the Yankees, Ogden hastened back to Wyoming, accompanied by about fifty men, by whom he garrisoned his own house, which was a strong blockhouse. On the 28th of February, the Yankees with fifty men marched to Ogden's stockade and attempted to take him prisoner. Ogden had a deputy sheriff with him, who, at the head of several men rushed out to arrest the assailants, which resulted in a skirmish, during which several of the Connecticut people were wounded and one killed. Finding that Ogden's men could fire upon them from his house, without exposing themselves to danger, the Connecticut people retreated.

Colonel Durkee had returned from Philadelphia where he had been imprisoned since he was captured the September before. Three breastworks were rapidly constructed, from which the Yankees again commenced firing, which was briskly returned. After several

days of firing on both sides, the Ogden party surrendered upon terms similar to those which had been granted to the Connecticut party the season before. Ogden had no crops to harvest or land to protect, but the agreement was that he and all his party should leave the valley, excepting six men, who were to remain to guard his house and preserve his property. After Ogden and his men had left the valley, the Yankees seized his property and burned his house, remembering the mischief which he had done the people from Connecticut the season before. Settlers came again, crops were planted, and during the summer the Yankees were not disturbed.

#### THE YANKEES AGAIN IMPRISONED

After the expulsion of Captain Ogden and his men from the valley in the spring of 1770, Governor Penn called on General Gage to furnish regular troops to reinstate him in possession of the valley. General Gage quite properly declined to allow the use of the king's troops in a mere dispute concerning the title to property, and Governor Penn was compelled to raise forces by his personal exertions, which he finally succeeded in doing. In September his forces numbering 140, under Captain Ogden, marched to the valley. They entered the valley by an unusual route, divided in detachments and surprised the Yankees while at work, capturing a portion, and put the others to flight. At night they made a sudden assault on the fort, which was confusedly filled with men, women and children; and after killing a few made prisoners of the rest, and soon afterwards sent them to prison at Easton except a few who were taken to Philadelphia. The Pennsylvanians then plundered the settlement and withdrew, leaving a small garrison in Fort Durkee.

#### THE PENNAMITES SURPRISED

In the following December this garrison was surprised and the fort retaken by the Connecticut Company led by Captain Lazarus Stewart. "Although the Pennamites were in possession of Fort Durkee and were the sole occupants of Wyoming Valley, and John Durkee, Zebulon Butler and other New Englanders were being restrained of their liberty by the Pennsylvania authorities, the Susquehanna Company was not yet defeated. On the 18th of December, 1770, at Fort Durkee,

When all the doors were fastened,  
And all the windows shut,  
There was yet one little window,  
And that one was forgot."

"Without the slightest warning the sleeping

garrison—too confidently secure, even, to keep a sentinel on duty—was aroused about three o'clock in the morning by a 'Huzza for King George!' and Captain Lazarus Stewart, with twenty-eight men, took possession of the fort 'in behalf of the colony of Connecticut.' Six of the Pennamite garrison, leaping nearly naked from the parapet of the fort, escaped to the mountains, while the others were as unceremoniously expelled—after their firearms had been taken from them—as had been the previous Yankee occupants."

#### CAPTAIN OGDEN RETURNS TO THE VALLEY

A month later, or in January, 1771, Captain Ogden again appeared in the valley with the Sheriff of Northampton county and a *posse* for the arrest of Captain Stewart. "This '*posse*' consisting fully of one hundred well-armed and equipped men, arrived in Wyoming Valley Jan. 18, 1771, and immediately began the erection of a strong wooden fort, subsequently called Fort Wyoming." Captain Lazarus Stewart still commanded at Fort Durkee, which was garrisoned with about forty or fifty men and a few women and children. "Ogden demanded the surrender of Fort Durkee. Stewart replied that he had taken possession in the name and behalf of the Colony of Connecticut, in whose jurisdiction they were, and by that authority he would defend it."

The fort was finally fired on by Captain Ogden, which was returned, killing Nathan Ogden, his brother, and wounding several of his men. During that night the fort was evacuated by Captain Stewart, and the next day was occupied by Captain Ogden. For six months the valley remained in the possession of the Pennsylvanians, during which time their number was increased to eighty-three persons including women and children. Fort Wyoming was enlarged and strengthened, and all the Pennamites dwelt therein.

During this time the Yankees were not idle, for in March, April and June, 1771, largely-attended meetings of the company's shareholders were held at Windham, Conn., and plans were made for retaking possession of their settlement at Wyoming. Over one hundred men (nearly every one a shareholder in the company, and had been at Wyoming at some time previously) were enrolled to proceed to the much-coveted valley. Each man was well armed and equipped. They were under the command of Captain Zebulon Butler and Capt. Lazarus Stewart.

#### CAPTAIN OGDEN'S BOLD ESCAPE.

On July 6th of the same year Captain Zebulon Butler and Lazarus Stewart, with the brave



Connecticut men, entered the valley and at once took measures to regain possession. They besieged Fort Wyoming, which had been built and occupied by Captain Ogden, about sixty rods above Fort Durkee. Notwithstanding the close and vigilant investment of the fort by the besiegers, whose number was constantly being increased by recruits from Connecticut, Captain Ogden by a bold and cunning stratagem escaped alone and went to Philadelphia for assistance, instructing his troops in any event to retain the post until his return.

"His plan was executed with equal courage and skill. On the night of July 12th he made up a light bundle to float upon the surface of the river upon which he secured his hat. Connecting this bundle with his body with a cord of several yards in length, he dropped gently into the stream and floated down with the current, and the bundle, which presented much the most conspicuous object, being intended to draw the bullets should it be discovered. It was soon discovered by the sentinels, and a brisk fire directed upon it from three redoubts. But as it appeared to hold the even tenor of its way without interruption from the bullets, the firing ceased, and the bundle and its owner escaped—the latter untouched, but the former and less sensitive object pierced with several bullets."—*Colonel Stone's History*, p 176.

Ogden arrived at Philadelphia without delay, and presented the situation of the Wyoming affairs to the Honorable James Hamilton, President of the Council, who was again the executive officer of the Pennsylvanians during the absence of Governor John Penn, who had retired from the colony for a time. A detachment of one hundred men was ordered to be raised to be divided into two companies, one under the command of Captain Joseph Morris, and the other by Captain John Dick. They were to march to the scene of action by different routes, and at different times. Great difficulty was experienced in raising the men as before, and Captain Dick, who was to raise the first detachment, was compelled to advance with only thirty-six men, encumbered by pack horses and provisions for the relief of the besieged.

#### THE PENNAMITES FIRED UPON

The Yankees were aware of Ogden's escape and movements, and every needful preparation for the arrival of Capt. Dick and his men, who were suddenly fired upon as they were approaching the fort, and sixteen of the men, together with the entire stock of provisions were captured by the Connecticut forces on the 30th day of July. Ogden, with twenty of the men succeeded in entering the fort. The Yankees, elated by their success, kept up a daily firing whenever any person of the garrison appeared

in view, until the 11th of August, when Captain Butler sent a flag to the Pennsylvanians, demanding a surrender, but they had contrived to send another messenger to Philadelphia, with an account of Dick's misfortune, and requesting more assistance. The Government was endeavoring to send another body of one hundred men, with more supplies, which gave the besieged new courage, and they refused the summons. Consequently the Connecticut forces resumed firing until August 14th, when the garrison surrendered, having been for several days upon short allowance, and being disappointed in not receiving the promised reinforcements, and their provisions had become entirely exhausted. Captain Amos Ogden was severely wounded, also several others of the garrison were killed and wounded. A detachment of sixty men under Captain Ledlie had arrived within ten miles of the fort at the time of the surrender.

The Pennsylvania forces left the valley, and during the remainder of the summer and autumn the Connecticut settlers increased largely and made ample preparations for defense, but during the succeeding four years they were not disturbed, and were left in the quiet possession of the valley.

At no period until 1772, were there more than three hundred Connecticut men in the valley at one time.

#### THE FIRST CIVIL GOVERNMENT

"By the rapid increase of the population, it soon became necessary that some form of civil government should be adopted, and the inhabitants of the valley proceeded to elect a government of their own, which, without doubt, was the most thoroughly democratic (supreme power vested in the people collectively) that has ever existed elsewhere among civilized men. They laid out townships, founded settlements, erected fortifications, levied and collected taxes, passed laws for the direction of civil suits, and for the punishment of crimes and misdemeanors, established a militia, and provided for the general welfare of the colony."

December 24, 1775, the valley was again a scene of civil war, when Colonel Plunkett, under orders of Governor John Penn, with seven hundred men, well armed and furnished with supplies, made an attack upon the Connecticut settlers, but they found the vigilant Yankees posted in an advantageous position and protected by breastworks, and though inferior in numbers they gave Colonel Plunkett and his forces a warm reception with a loss of some killed and several wounded, after which they returned to their homes.

The Revolutionary War having broken out on the 19th of April, 1775, the contest for the

possession of the valley was suspended until after the surrender of Cornwallis, October 19, 1781.

Nearly three hundred men from the valley enlisted for service in the Revolutionary War, two companies being organized in the vicinity of Wilkes-Barre and sent on the first call. It was this drain upon the new settlement that left it so unprotected at the time of the Wyoming Massacre by Indians and Tories on the memorable 3d of July, 1778.

#### THE FIRST PENNAMITE WAR

The Pennamite Wars comprised the struggles of the Yankees to retain possession of the Wyoming lands which had been purchased by the Susquehanna Company from the Indians in 1754; but which were claimed also by the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania, who were bent upon securing the recognition of their own claim, or the ejection of the settlers.

"The first Pennamite War extended over a period of three years—from February, 1769 to September, 1771; during which the 'Yankees' had been expelled five times, but as often renewed the contest, and with ultimate victory. The close of 1771 found the Susquehanna Company in full possession. In 1772, Wilkes-Barre was laid out near Fort Wyoming, which the settlers had taken under Col. Durkee, who had command in 1769."—*Miss Blackman's History of Susquehanna County.*

In January, 1769, Amos Ogden, John Jennings, and Charles Stewart leased of the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania 100 acres of land, and came on and took possession of the improvements made by the Connecticut settlers who were driven away by the Indians in 1763. Ogden and his party had leased the land for seven years, on condition that they should establish a trading-house for the accommodation of the Indians, and adopt the necessary measures for defending themselves, and those who might settle under their lease. They built a blockhouse near the mouth of Mill Creek, which was called Fort Ogden.

The Connecticut people returned in the spring of 1769, and from that time till the final adjustment of the difficulties between the Susquehanna Company and the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania, there was an almost continuous series of victories and defeats for each claimant.

"It must not be supposed that peaceful measures were not first resorted to by the settlers, before pitting themselves against a superior force. In May, 1769, Col. Dyer and Major Elderkin went to Philadelphia and submitted to Benjamin Chew, agent for the Proprietaries—a proposition to have the matter in dispute between

the Susquehanna Company and the Proprietaries, referred either to a court of law or to referees to be mutually chosen by the parties, and in either case the decision to be conclusive. But Pennsylvania would in no wise recognize the Connecticut claim. Thirteen years later such a court *was* convened; but, had the first proposition been acted upon, how much bloodshed and misery would have been avoided."—*Miss Blackman's History.*

#### THE PROPRIETARY GOVERNMENT ENDS

In September, 1776, the Proprietary Government of Pennsylvania was superseded by that of the State.

#### THE SECOND PENNAMITE WAR

Soon afterward magistrates and troops were sent into the valley, and measures were taken to dispossess the settlers of their lands and improvements. The settlers claimed that only the jurisdiction of the territory had been decided by the decree at Trenton, and that the titles of individuals to the soil were not affected thereby. The conduct of the soldiers and magistrates was from the first exceedingly arrogant and oppressive, and as time went on the people came to regard endurance as no longer a virtue, and resolved on forcible resistance. Upon this they were treated as insurgents, and on the 12th of May, 1784, they were plundered of their property, and one hundred and fifty families were driven from the valley. Such was the cruelty with which they were treated that the sympathies and indignation of the people in other parts of the State were aroused, and soon the soldiers were discharged, and the settlers invited to return. Many of the discharged soldiers lingered in the valley, living by plunder, and on the 20th of July a party of them attacked some of the settlers, killing two and wounding several. This was followed by hostilities toward the Yankees, which were resisted by them. In the course of the summer and autumn several engagements took place between the settlers and the military forces which were sent against them, in which several were killed and wounded. The people of the State became very weary of this contest, and their sympathies became more actively enlisted in behalf of the Yankees.

By the middle of October the hostile force in the valley numbered only forty men, and so unpopular, and even disgusting had the proceedings against the settlers become, that not a recruit could be induced to join them. On the approach of winter the commander of these forces, finding himself unable to procure either supplies or recruits, discharged his men and abandoned the valley. Thus (in 1784) ended



the second Pennamite War, which fortunately lasted only about one year, and also ended the last military demonstration against the people of Wyoming, which resulted in the restoration to the Yankees of the lands from which they had been cruelly driven during the spring of that year.

#### PEACE RESTORED.

During the succeeding two years the people were prosperous and happy, and the population rapidly increased by the influx of immigrants, not only to the valley but to the circumjacent regions, Col. John Franklin being the leading spirit among them; while on the other side, Colonel Timothy Pickering had been appointed by Pennsylvania to introduce her laws and support her claims in Wyoming. Colonel Pickering had executed with fidelity and approbation, the office of Quartermaster-General of the army, and was a native of Massachusetts, and after the peace he had settled at Philadelphia.

The County of Luzerne was erected from Northumberland in 1786, and Colonel Pickering was appointed Prothonotary, Clerk of the Peace, Clerk of the Orphans' Court, Register and Recorder for the county. The people were

satisfied with the government, and a more kindly feeling was springing up between the inhabitants of the valley and the citizens elsewhere.

We copy the following from "Miss Blackman's History of Susquehanna County," which gives the dates of both, the Connecticut and Pennsylvania claims for ownership of the land in dispute:

#### CONNECTICUT.

- 1662. Charter from Charles II.
- 1754. Purchase from the Indians.
- 1762. Settlement at Wyoming.

#### PENNSYLVANIA.

- 1681. Charter from Charles II.
- 1768. Purchase from the Indians.
- 1769. Settlement at Wyoming.

There is no dispute as to the above facts and figures; and, to the casual reader, nothing more would seem necessary to make clear the validity of the Connecticut claim. To explain how Pennsylvania claimed to prove her right to the land above the Blue Mountains, a few more dates must be given:

#### CONNECTICUT.

1662. Pre-emption rights with charter, the grant extending "from the Narragansett river to the South Sea."

1753. Formation of the "Connecticut Susquehanna Company" (and soon after, of the Connecticut Delaware Company), with a view to purchase the Indian title.

1775. The Assembly of Connecticut "manifest their ready acquiescence" in the purchase made by the Susquehanna Company, and "gave their consent for an application to His Majesty to erect them into a new colony." Surveyors sent out, but obliged to return because the Indians were at war with the French against the English.

1769. Second settlement at Wyoming, by people of Connecticut, which, after varying success, at last became permanent.

1782. The Decree of Trenton had reference solely to jurisdiction, and not to right of soil, which had passed from the government of Connecticut to the Susquehanna and Delaware Companies.

#### PENNSYLVANIA.

1681. Charter to William Penn not given until "the eastern bounds of New York had been decided to be the western bounds of Connecticut, which restored the land beyond those settlements westward, to the Crown, and laid them open to a new grant."

1736. Deed of the Indians which conveyed to Thomas and Richard Penn the then proprietaries of Pennsylvania, the right of pre-emption of and in all the lands not before sold by them to the said proprietaries within the limits of their charter. "Said lands bounded on the north by the beginning of the 43 degrees of north latitude," or where the figures 42 are marked on the map.

1779. By an act of Legislature, the right of soil and estate of the late Proprietaries of Pennsylvania was vested in the Commonwealth.

1782. The Decree of Trenton in favor of Pennsylvania.

The publisher has endeavored to give an unprejudiced account of the controversy between the Susquehanna Company of Connecticut and

the Pennsylvanians, and leave it for the reader to judge for himself, which side was in the wrong, or the one most at fault.

"On the 3rd day of November, 1781, only fifteen days after the surrender of Cornwallis, the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania sent a petition to Congress, requesting a decision on the question of jurisdiction of the land in dispute. Arrangements to this effect were made, and one year later, November 12, 1782, a court composed of five commissioners convened at Trenton, who, after a sitting of forty-one judicial days, in which the parties, represented by their counsel (four gentlemen on behalf of Pennsylvania, and three agents from Connecticut), had proceeded with their pleas, they gave their decision that the territory in dispute belongs to the State of Pennsylvania, and that Connecticut has no right to the lands in controversy."—*Blackman's History of Susquehanna County*.

The Yankees endured many hardships and privations during the years intervening between 1762 and 1784. They were three times driven back to Connecticut, through the wilderness, a distance of over two hundred miles, but they were undaunted, and each time returned with renewed courage. Every New England settler was driven from the valley five different times within twelve years, to find a home in the vacant wilderness with their perishing children and wives, and during this time nearly every

male member was carried to the Easton jail, where they were fed on bread and water. They were charged with no crime that could be sustained and were released to return to their desolated homes.

Today the "Angel of Peace" hovers over this beautiful valley of Wyoming, and one can hardly realize that a few years over a century ago the soil was reddened by the blood of the slain, and long strings of scalps were dripping from the belts of the Indians, and their tomahawks stained with the blood of innocent children and women, and the brave men who fought to protect their homes. Now the forest is cleared, the dweller in wigwams has bid a long farewell to this region so full of song and beauty, beautiful homes have been built where once the log cabin of the early settlers stood, and the fertile fields are producing bountiful crops.

Wyoming valley, taken as a whole, compensates the tourist in the highest degree for the trouble of visiting it. The grand beauty of the old Susquehanna river and the sparkling current of its blue waters nowhere along its entire course appears to better advantage than here, where on the broad acres of Wyoming, humanity wears a smile nowhere more sweet or lovely.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### THE PIONEER SETTLERS

#### HOW THEY CAME, SETTLED AND DEVELOPED THE RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY

The first settlement of the Wyoming valley was commenced, as elsewhere stated, under the auspices of the Susquehanna Company in 1762, near the mouth of Mill Creek in Luzerne county. Then about two hundred, mostly from Connecticut, came and began their preparations for homes in this region, which was then sixty miles distant from any settlement of civilized people. They were not the effeminate sons of wealthy parents, who had been reared in the lap of luxury. From their infancy they had by precept and example been taught the industry and economy which had enabled their fathers to thrive among the rocks and hills of their native country. They were the hardy, active and ambitious sons of New Englanders, and in the exercise of the independent, self-reliant spirit which they had inherited from their sires, they left their paternal roofs and sought homes in this valley, far away in the untamed wilderness of what was then the West.

#### HOW THEY CAME

A few brought with them their wives and children, and came with oxen and carts, bringing a few indispensable articles of household furniture and driving domestic animals. Most of them, however, came on foot, with knapsacks on their backs, rifles on their shoulders, and axes in their hands. Thus equipped they bade adieu for a time to the loved ones at home, and turned their faces westward to make for themselves homes and fortunes.

For a time they followed the trail of emigrants who had settled in other regions, but finally they abandoned this, left the borders of civilization and struck into the forest. They followed Indian trails through forests and swamps, and climbed over mountains, camping in squads along the roads by night, till at length they reached the valley, and having selected their locations commenced preparations for the future. Shanties for temporary shelter were constructed, clearings were begun and preparations made for the erection of rude log



houses for the shelter of those whom they were to bring with them on their return the next year.

While this work was in progress they subsisted largely on the game with which the surrounding forests abounded, and the fish which were taken in great numbers from the river. Their neighbors were making similar preparations at different points in the valley, and with these they often exchanged visits, to talk of home and to discuss their plans for the future, to anticipate the pleasure which they would derive from such visits the next year, when they would be accompanied by their partners who were to share their fortunes and their privations.

They frequently "changed works" in order to accomplish some of their various tasks with greater facility, and to dissipate the sense of loneliness which haunted them as they pursued their solitary labors. In this way they occasionally hired, from those who had brought teams, a yoke of oxen, with which to draw to their building sites the logs which they had cut for their houses, and to "log up" the timber which they desired to burn on their clearings. Thus passed their first summer in the valley. By night they lay in their shanties on their beds of boughs and dreamed of the homes they had left, or of the future homes which their fancies pictured; or in their waking intervals listened to the distant howling of the wolf on the mountain side, and the nearer hooting of the owl. Day after day they toiled on, sustained and cheered by their hopes of future happiness with their chosen companions and children in the midst of the surroundings which they were creating.

#### THEY RETURN TO CONNECTICUT FOR THE WINTER

By early autumn their rude houses were erected, and partially prepared for their reception on their return. Small areas had been burned off, and here they "brushed in" their first wheat. Larger areas had been cut over and made ready for burning and planting the next spring. When these preparations were completed they deposited in places of safety their axes and few other implements, and with light hearts turned their faces toward their paternal mansions. Thus terminated the first summer with many a pioneer in the Wyoming valley. As he journeyed homeward the sky above him was brighter, and the songs of the birds in the forest through which he passed were more melodious than ever before, for he was returning to the haunts of his early life from the scenes of his prospective manhood.

In due time he arrived among the scenes of

his childhood and wended his way to the old home where parents, brothers and sisters welcomed him warmly, and listened with eager attention to the story of his experience in the wilderness. He received a still more hearty welcome from another, who during his long absence had not ceased to think of him by day and dream of him by night. She listened to the recital of his doings with a deeper interest, for to her and him they were matters of equal importance.

A wedding soon occurred, and the last winter of the pair in their native State was a season of busy preparation for removal to their western home, interspersed with social gatherings and merry-makings among the scenes and companions of their childhood. They sat down to their last Thanksgiving dinner with their parents, brothers and sisters; attended their last Christmas and New Year's festivals with their former playmates and school fellows, and on the approach of spring bade all these scenes and friends a tearful adieu, and departed for their new home, followed by the good wishes of their friends, and the benedictions and prayers of their parents.

#### THEIR RUDE OUTFIT

Their outfit consisted of a yoke of oxen and a cart, loaded with a few utensils and necessary articles of household furniture. They brought with them a cow or two and a few sheep, the latter to serve as the nucleus of a flock, which, if spared by the wolves, was to furnish wool for their future clothing. Thus equipped they pursued their toilsome journey till at length their destination was reached, and they entered at once on the realities of pioneer life.

Their house was made tenable by the few preparations which pioneers found necessary for their comfort, though open holes in the walls at first served as windows and one in the roof for a chimney, and a blanket was the door. A small spot was prepared for the garden seeds which they had brought, their corn field was burned off and planted in due season, and a large area prepared for other wheat and corn fields. In this the labor of the husband was lightened by the presence and encouraging smiles, and sometimes by the assistance of his young wife. In their solitude they were sustained by their buoyant hopes of the future, and they ever after referred to this summer as the happiest period of their lives.

Their wheat fields gave good returns. The few acres which they cleared and planted with corn yielded abundantly, and early in the winter they secured a sufficient supply of venison. Their wheat and corn were ground in a "pioneer mill"—a mortar hollowed in a stump or in the end of a log. A hovel had been constructed of

logs, and roofed with brush or straw, for the protection of their animals against the inclemency of the weather and the attacks of wild beasts. No hay was provided for the cattle, but from day to day trees were cut on ground that was to be cleared the next summer, and they lived on the brouse which these afforded. A couple of pigs and a few fowls were fed each morning at the door of the house with corn from the wife's folded apron. Thus passed their first winter in the woods. The sound of the husband's ax echoed through the forest during the day, and the wife plied "her evening care" in the cheerful glow of the "blazing hearth" at night. Their simple fare and active exercise in the open air gave them robust health, and though their surroundings were quite different from those in the midst of which they had been reared, this was the home which they had made for themselves, and they were happy in the enjoyment of it.

During the summer other settlers had come in, some singly, others in companies, with their families; and neighbors were more numerous and less distant, and the monotony of their life was varied by occasional exchanges of evening visits among these. This social intercourse among the pioneers had none of the bad features which characterized that of later times. There were among them no conventionalities, no unmeaning expressions of civility, no unkind criticism of each others' dress or surroundings, no rivalries and jealousies, and no hypocritical manifestations of interest in each others welfare. Each rejoiced with his neighbor in his prosperity or sympathized with him in his adversity. These visits were anticipated with pleasure and remembered without regret.

#### PROSPERITY OF THE PIONEERS

The happy life which the pioneers had commenced was darkened by many shadows, but notwithstanding these interruptions a few years brought evidence of increasing prosperity. The clearing had been enlarged, and a portion of it fenced. A stick chimney, plastered with mud, filled the hole in the roof; glass had taken the place of greased paper in the window; a plank door swung on wooden hinges where formerly hung the blanket, and some flowering shrubbery was growing at the side of it. A more capacious and comfortable stable had been erected for the animals. A "worm" rail fence appeared around the house and garden, and a log bridge had been built across the stream which ran near the house. Near the edge of the clearing the crackling fire was consuming the trees that the men of a logging bee were piling together for that purpose. The corn, potatoes, pumpkins, etc., which had been planted among the

stumps had attained sufficient growth to be visible from some distance. A calf frolicked at the side of its mother, and a litter of grunting young porkers asserted their right to life, liberty, etc. Every thing wore an air of thrift. The solitude of the wife was enlivened by the prattle of her children, and their playful caresses sweetened the labor and lessened the fatigue of the husband and father.

The tide of immigration, the first wave of which had borne them hither, continued with increasing flow. Settlers came more rapidly, the smoke from their hearths curled upward at shorter intervals, and clearings encroached more and more on the surrounding wilderness. The hissing and rushing of the whirlwinds of flame were oftener heard as the trees that had been felled and had become dry were consumed. Small fields of waving corn, and here and there a verdant meadow were to be seen. The "music" of numerous cow bells was heard and "drowsy tinklings lulled the distant folds" where sheep were herded to protect them from the wolves at night. The hum of spinning wheels might be heard in almost every house, and the merry laughter and shouts of frolicsome children resounded as they gamboled through the woods.

#### IMPROVEMENTS MADE A FEW YEARS LATER

The lapse of time brought with it many changes. The old log cabin, which had survived the winds of several winters, had come to be only the wing of a new house, that had been built of squared logs, covered with a shingled roof, lighted by glazed windows, and closed by a paneled door. A lawn appeared in front, tastefully ornamented with flowers, and fruit trees were growing on the former site of the garden. An apiary stood on the margin of the lawn, which was bounded by a straight fence, where the busy bees were carrying stores of honey. A commodious frame barn had been built to replace the old log barn, and where forests once stood were fields of waving grain. Beyond the grove of sugar maples could be seen the log school-house where, "in her noisy mansion skilled to rule, the comely mistress taught her little school."

The stream that ran by was spanned by a newer bridge, and the ding-donging of a saw-mill that had been built on its bank could be heard in the distance. Horses had taken the place of the oxen that had for many years constituted the pioneer's only team. The landscape has greatly changed.

#### THE PIONEER'S WAYS AND MEANS OF LIVING

Over a century has passed since the first settlement was made in this region, and changing



circumstances have brought with them such changes in many of the customs of the people that one of the present generation can form only an imperfect conception of what some of those customs were, and the hardships endured by the pioneers.

The rude implements and appliances that were in use when the country was new were inventions which grew out of the necessities of the times, and were adapted to the circumstances in which people found themselves. Time wore on, and those circumstances gave place to others. Inventions followed these changes; but in many cases, as in those of the cast iron plow, the grain-cradle and the horse-rake, the inventors only lived to see their improved implements scoffed at and derided a few years later. Thus have people always done, and thus they will to a greater or less extent continue to do.

The first settlers in this region came when the primitive forest was growing not only here, but in the country through which they had passed for many miles. The first roads, which were simply widened Indian trails, were then barely passable. Of course they could bring with them only those articles of household furniture or those agricultural implements that were indispensable.

#### THE PIONEER'S LOG CABIN

The first work of the pioneer was to prepare a house, or dwelling place for his family. There were no mills for the manufacture of lumber, and the first houses were necessarily built of logs, fastened by notching at the corners, and the cracks filled up with mud. They were usually from fifteen to eighteen feet square, and about seven feet in height, or high enough to just clear the head of a tall man. Often no floor was at first laid. A fire place was prepared at one end by erecting a back of stones, laid in mud instead of mortar, and a hole was left in the bark or slab roof for the escape of the smoke. A chimney of sticks plastered with mud was afterward erected in this opening. A space of width suitable for a door was cut on one side, and this was closed first by hanging up a blanket, and afterward by a door made with split plank and hung on wooden hinges. This door was fastened by a wooden latch that could be raised from the outside by a string, which was passed through a hole above it. When the latch string was "pulled in" the door was effectually fastened. The expression used of a hospitable man—"his latch string is always out"—had its origin from this primitive method of fastening a log house door. A hole was usually cut in each side of this house to let in light, and when glazed sash could not be procured, greased paper was used to keep out the blasts and snows of autumn and winter.

#### THE PIONEER'S FURNITURE

Holes were bored at the proper height in the logs at one corner of the room, and into these the ends of poles were fitted, the opposite ends where they crossed being supported by a crotch, or a block of the proper height. Across these poles others were laid, and these were covered by a thick mattress of hemlock or other boughs, over which blankets were spread. Thus were pioneer bedsteads constructed; and on such a bed many a pioneer couple reposed as sweetly as though "sunk in beds of down." In the absence of chairs rude seats were made with an ax and auger by boring holes in "puncheons" or planks split from basswood logs and hewn smooth on one side. Tables were often made in the same way, and after a time a floor was constructed of these "puncheons," with a bare space in lieu of a hearth about the fire place. A few necessary pieces of crockery, or sometimes wooden trenchers, were kept on rude shelves till, after a few years, lumber could be procured of which to make a cupboard.

A dinner pot, a dish kettle, a frying pan and a bake kettle constituted the entire stock of iron ware. The bake kettle—a utensil that is now never seen—was a shallow vessel with legs some six inches in length, so that it could be set over coals on the hearth. It had a cover with the edges turned up so that coals could be heaped on it. This was used at first for all the baking of many a pioneer family. The fire-place had instead of the iron crane with which it was afterward furnished, a transverse pole, called a lug pole, laid across two others so that it could be moved backwards and forwards at a sufficient height to prevent burning. On this at first hooks cut from beech saplings, or limbs, were fastened by withes (flexible twigs), but after blacksmiths' shops were established these were replaced by "trammels" or hooks so constructed that their length could be adjusted.

This room, thus furnished, served all the purposes of kitchen, drawing-room, sitting-room, parlor and bed-room; and not unfrequently workshop also, for temporary benches were erected, and sleds, ox yokes, and many other farming utensils were made and repaired there during stormy days or evenings. The light for such evening work was furnished by the blazing fire of pine knots which had been gathered and stored away for the purpose, or sometimes by a "slut," which was made by placing a rag for a wick in a dish of "coon's oil," or the fat of some other wild animal.

#### THE PIONEER'S CLOTHING

Here also, as time went on, were heard the raking of the hand cards and the whirl of the spinning wheel; for in those days the cloth for



both the summer and winter clothing of the family was homemade, and all the technicalities of the process from picking the wool to "taking out the piece," were as familiar to every member of the family as any household word.

At first, before the establishment of cloth dressing mills, the dyeing or coloring, even of all the woolen cloth, was done by the pioneer wives; and after clothieries made their appearance everything except "fulled cloth" was colored at home. The properties and the proper method for compounding for different colors of Nicaragua or Nic. wood, logwood, fustic, indigo, madder, copperas, alum, vitriol, etc., as well as all the various indigenous barks and plants were known to every housewife. The old dye tub, which is still remembered by the older inhabitants had its place at the side of every hearth, where it was frequently used as a seat for children in cases of emergency, or when the increase of the family was more rapid than that of chairs. Peter Parley (Mr. Goodrich) called it "the institution of the dye tub, which, when the night had waned and the family had retired, frequently became the anxious seat of the lover, who was permitted to carry on his courtship, the object of his addresses sitting demurely in the opposite corner."

The flax brake, swingling knife and board, and hatchel are never seen now, and one of the present generation would be utterly unable to guess their uses were they shown to him. Then the pulling and rotting and all the details of dressing flax were known to every child; and the process of spinning the flax and tow, weaving and bleaching the different qualities of cloth, and making the thread for all the family sewing, was a part of the education of every girl. Wild nettles were at first used instead of the flax that was afterwards cultivated. The process of rotting, dressing, etc., was the same as in the case of the flax. Then cotton cloth was not manufactured in this country, and it was practically beyond the reach of most farmers. Woolen goods, other than those of domestic manufacture, were seldom seen. A "broad-cloth coat" was an evidence either of unpardonable vanity or of unusual prosperity. Even the skins of animals were thus utilized for clothing. Fawn skin vests, doeskin coats and buckskin breeches were not uncommon.

#### HOW THE PIONEERS PREPARED THEIR FOOD.

It is hardly necessary to speak of the ordinary food of the first settlers, such as hasty puddings, johnny cake, or corn pones, the meal for which was ground in a pioneer mill or a wooden mortar; or of the dainties, such as shortcakes, mixed with the lye of cob ashes and baked in ashes on the hearth, that were set before company. The

simple and substantial diet of the people then was adopted because circumstances would permit no other. They were too poor to pamper their children with sweetmeats, or to stimulate them with tea and coffee; and the incidental result was a degree of robust health such as the children in later times do not acquire.

It must not be inferred that all the settlers in this region were subjected to severe privations. The kind of fare spoken of was not looked upon as hard, for it was the best the country then afforded. There were instances where people were compelled to resort to wild roots or greens for a dinner, but these were perhaps as rare as are cases of extreme destitution now. The condition of the country was such that these habits and methods of living were necessary, and they were not regarded as hardships.

#### PIONEER FARMING

The agriculture of those times, if agriculture it may be termed, was such as is never seen now. Very few at the present day have witnessed the process of preparing the virgin soil for the first crop. The timber was often girdled in advance, so that when felled, as it often was, in what were termed windrows, much of it would burn as it lay, being partially or wholly dried, by kindling the fire at the windward end of these rows. After the first burn some of the remaining fragments were "niggered" into pieces that could be easily moved, and the whole was drawn together with oxen and "logged up" for the final burning. Many in the neighborhood usually joined in this work, and the "logging bees," or "logging frolics," were at the same time occasions when work was done and social intercourse enjoyed. When the burning was completed and the ashes collected, the ground was sometimes made ready for the seed by harrowing with a three-cornered harrow, which was often hewed from a crotched tree, with either large wooden pins set at intervals, or very large and strong iron teeth. Such a harrow was drawn over the ground among the stumps to fit the soil for its first crop when the roots were not sufficiently decayed to permit the use of a plow. In using this primitive harrow in these clearings the driver found it necessary to keep always at a respectful distance, for it often bounded from side to side in a manner not compatible with safety at close quarters. In cases where plowing could be done the old bull plow was used. This was an uncouth implement, with wrought iron share and a wooden moldboard, such as is now scarcely ever seen, even among relics of the past. In rare cases a wooden plow, hewn out of a crotched tree, was used.



## THEIR CROPS YIELDED ABUNDANTLY

The wheat sown or corn planted in ground prepared in this rude way often gave good returns, such was the fertility of the soil before it was exhausted by repeated cropping. When the crop was grown and ripened, it was cut with sickles, a handful at a time. Sickles may occasionally be seen at the present day; but there are few who ever saw them used. For harvesting grain among the stumps of the first clearings the sickle was best adapted of all instruments, and no other was known; but when these stumps had decayed, and the grain cradle had been introduced, many looked upon it as a pernicious invention, claiming that by the use of which more than sufficient grain would be wasted to pay for the labor of harvesting, and some insisted that more could be harvested in the same time with the sickle—so strongly are people attached to old customs.

The grain was first threshed with the flail on the ground, and partially separated from the chaff by pouring it from a height in the wind and afterwards dextrously manipulating it in a "corn fan," a description of which would be quite difficult. For many years after barns were erected on all farms the flail and the feet of horses were the only threshing machines, but fanning-mills superseded the old corn fan.

Hay was cut with the old fashioned scythe, which has changed but very little, and the hand rake only, was used to gather it. Among the stumps and stones in early times these were the most available tools, but their use continued long after improved implements were available, and after such implements had been invented.

In those days the conveyance most in use was the ox-cart. It was made available for almost everything, from hauling manure to going to meeting or to balls and weddings. Its use was thus universal because it was, like the other tools spoken of, adapted to existing conditions. The rough and stumpy roads almost forbade the use of four-wheeled conveyances.

It seems hardly necessary to call attention to the wagons, plows, harrows, threshing machines, harvesters, mowers, wheel rakes, etc. of the present day, and contrast them with the awkward and uncouth implements of former times; but if this is done the adaptation of these to their existing circumstances should be remembered, and the additional fact should be borne in mind that the improved tools of the present day would not then have been available.

## HOW BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED

During some years after the first settlement of this region trade was carried on in a manner quite different from the way in which it is now conducted. Now all produce has a cash market

and a cash value; and all the necessities or superfluities that are purchased are reckoned according to the same standard. Then there was not sufficient money in the country to be made the medium of exchange, and trade was carried on almost wholly by what was termed barter. By reason of this nearly exclusive exchange trade, mercantile establishments were quite unlike those of the present time. Then every store was a commercial microcosm. In it was kept everything that the inhabitants required. As one who lived in those times says: "Every merchant kept dry goods, groceries, crockery, glassware, hardware, dye stuffs, iron, nails, paints, oil, window glass, school books, stationery, rum, brandy, gin, whiskey, drugs and medicines, ending with a string of etceteras, or every other article usually kept in a country store. Things were sometimes curiously grouped; as, for example, silks and irons, laces and fish, pins and crowbars, pork and tea, molasses and tar, cotton yarn and log chains, wheel heads and hoes, cards and pitchforks, scythes and fur hats." In exchange for these the pioneer merchants received almost every article of country produce. Coarse grain was converted into spirits at his distillery, or that of some one in the vicinity, for distilleries sprung up early. Pork was "packed," and other kinds of produce were received for goods and sent by teams over the turnpike to Easton, and thus to Philadelphia, where they were exchanged for the goods that were brought back by the same route; and so the barter trade was kept up. Some heavy articles, such as iron, salt, etc., were brought up by boats on the river. Expensive methods of transportation necessarily rendered the price of goods high and that of produce low, and this condition of things continued till better facilities for transportation cheapened merchandise and increased the price of produce.

Gradually since that time has trade changed till it has reached a cash basis, and along with this change has come another important one—the "division of business." Now dry goods, groceries, hardware, books, drugs, liquors, etc., are separate branches of business, and produce dealing is separated from all of them.

## PIONEER FACTORIES

A no less marked contrast is to be seen in the manufactures of those articles and the present. Then almost every article and utensil that was used was either home made or manufactured at the shops which sprung up to supply the wants of the early settlers. Then, as has been stated, the cloth in which every one was clad was of domestic manufacture. The spinning wheel and the loom were portions of the furniture of almost every house, and clothieries, or wool-carding or cloth-dressing establishments,

were as common as grist-mills. Almost every hamlet had its tailor's shop, where the knight of the shears cut the clothing for the people in the vicinity, and, to avoid the responsibility of misfits, warranted "to fit if properly made up." This clothing was made up by tailoresses, or, as the tailors sometimes termed them "she tailors." The trade of a tailoress was reckoned a very good one; for she received for her skilled labor two shillings (as currency was then talked) per day; while the price of housework help was only four shillings per week.

Shoemaker shops were abundant also, though there were traveling shoemakers who "whipped the cat," as going from house to house with their "kits" was termed. After the establishment of tanneries the people were in the habit of having the hides of their slaughtered animals tanned on shares, and the leather thus obtained was worked up by these circulating disciples of St. Crispin.

The ubiquitous tailor shop has disappeared, and only here and there is to be seen a solitary cobbler's sign. Every village has its shoe and clothing stores.

Very early it was a portion of the blacksmith business to make the nails that were required where wooden pins could not be used. Now an old fashioned wrought nail is a curious relic of the past; and even the rivets, bolts and horse-shoe nails that were formerly made upon every anvil, are now made by machinery, and furnished more cheaply and better than they can be hammered out by the village blacksmith.

So of almost everything. Where carpenters formerly took lumber "in the rough" and did all the work of building a house, now houses

are almost "ready made," for little is required but to put together the parts that are made by machinery.

The wheelbarrows, carts and wagons, and even the cradles and coffins, that were formerly made in the shops that sprang up when the country was first settled are now made by machinery, and sold at rates far lower than those at which handmade work can be afforded, and the old hand manufactories have gone to decay or degenerated into simple repair shops.

### WILD ANIMALS

In early times wild animals, especially bears and wolves, and to some extent panthers, were sources of great annoyance. It is not known that any person ever became a victim to the rapacity of these animals, but instances are recorded of terrible frights. Many swine that were permitted to roam and feed in the woods were killed by bears, and great care was necessary to protect sheep against wolves. For years the slumbers of people were interrupted and night was made hideous by the howling of the latter.

It is recorded that during twelve years following 1808 the aggregate bounty paid for the scalps of panthers in Luzerne county was \$1,822, and during the same time \$2,872 for those of wolves. Of course during the years that preceded that time these animals were more abundant. The howl of the wolf and the screech of the panther are not now heard in this region. Occasionally a bear is captured in the mountains, but the time is not far distant when bruin will no more be seen here.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### THE FRONTIER FORTS

(See Page 7 For Map, Showing Location of Forts, Indian Villages, Etc.)

This is part of an article written by Sheldon Reynolds, M. A., a short time before his death, February 8, 1895. He was president of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society of Wilkes-Barre. Mr. Reynolds died after a long illness, during which this article was written. How well the work was done the article speaks for itself, and no one could know from its perusal that the hand which wrote it could at the last scarce clasp a pen, and that the calm and judicial tone which pervades the account of the early trials and hardships of our forefathers was the expression of one whose life was fast ebbing away and who felt himself urged by the most pressing necessity to complete a work which he knew too well to delay at all would be to leave unended. Mr. Reynold's ancestors came from Litchfield, Conn., and were among the first settlers in the Wyoming Valley.

Nothing can be found showing that these several fortifications were ever subject to attack in any warfare with the Indians; though they undoubtedly fall within the sense of the designation "forts erected as a defense against the Indians, etc." In the years 1772 and 1773 a general feeling of alarm and apprehension pervaded the Wyoming settlement. The people lived in forts; they went about their daily work with arms in their hands, they strictly enforced the law in respect to military duty, and required guard mount in each township. This condition of affairs was probably owing to two causes: The isolated and exposed position of the settle-



ment made it liable to attack and at the same time deprived it of the hope of assistance from any quarter. The warlike Six Nations were their neighbors on the north, and, although they professed to be friendly, the knowledge of their treacherous character and the recollection of the massacre in 1763, the act of Indians claiming to be friendly, were still fresh in the minds of the settlers. Secondly, the likelihood of a renewal of the hostilities with the Proprietary government was nowise remote. The withdrawal of their men from the disputed territory since August, 1771, held out no assurance of future inactivity. The settlers were liable to attacks from either source without warning, and they made the best disposition of the means at hand for their protection.

At a meeting of the settlers in November, 1772, it was ordered that every man who holds a settling right shall provide himself with a good firelock and ammunition according to the laws of Connecticut, "by the first Monday of December next, and then to appear complete in arms, at ye fort, in Wilkes-Barre, at twelve o'clock on said day for drilling as ye law directs." It was further provided that each township shall elect a muster officer and inspector and they shall choose two sergeants and a clerk. The inhabitants shall meet every fourteen days armed and equipped, and in case of alarms or appearance of an enemy, they shall stand for defense of the town without further orders. In October, 1772, it was ordered "that every man of the settlers shall do their duty both for guarding and scouting, or lose their settling right." The requirement of keeping guard night and day in the fortified places applied to all the townships, under the penalty, in case of failure or neglect, of losing their settling rights. It was in force in 1772 and 1773, and probably longer. At this time a stockade was built in Plymouth (the location not known), a block-house in Hanover, and the fort in Kingston, known as Forty Fort was put in a state of repair. In addition to these nearly every dwelling was loop-holed and made a place of defense. A community so well prepared and alert probably escaped an open attack by the Indians solely by reason of their readiness to repel it.

#### FORT DURKEE

In April, 1769, soon after their arrival in the disputed territory, the Connecticut people set about the building of a fort for their better protection. They chose a site now within the limits of the city of Wilkes-Barre, on the river bank between the present streets, South and Ross. Here they built of hewn logs a strong block-house surrounded by a rampart (an elevation or mound of earth) and intrenchment. It was

protected on two sides by natural barriers; having on one side the Susquehanna river, and on the other, the southwest side, a morass with a brook flowing through it and emptying into the river near by the fort at a place called Fish's Eddy. The size of the enclosure is not known, but it was probably of one-half an acre in extent, as any place of shelter in time of danger of less space would be of little use. The fort was looked upon as a strong military defense, both from its manner of construction and the natural advantages of its position. Near to it were built also twenty or more log-houses, each provided with loop-holes through which to deliver the fire in case of sudden attack. It was named Fort Durkee in honor of Capt. John Durkee, one of the leaders of the Yankee forces, and who had seen service in the late war with France, and afterwards, as a colonel of the Connecticut line on the continental establishment, served with merit throughout the Revolutionary War. While this fort was erected as a defense against the Indians, and doubtless served that purpose, there is no evidence that it ever sustained an attack from that quarter. It was, however, one of the strong-holds that played a very important part in the contest with the Proprietary government over the disputed jurisdiction and title to the Wyoming lands, known as the first Pennamite war, beginning in 1769 and continuing two years. Shortly after this period the name of the fort disappears from the records. Whether it was dismantled or suffered to fall into decay is not known. Miner's History of Wyoming, page 265, makes a last reference to it in these words: "The whole army (General Sullivan's) was encamped on the river flats below Wilkes-Barre, a portion of them occupying old Fort Durkee." (This was June 23, 1779.)

If the fort was at that time in a condition to serve any useful purpose, it is difficult to understand why the people of the town were at such pains to build in 1776 a fort for their protection on the Public Square, inasmuch as Durkee was a much stronger place and quite as convenient, or how a work of this importance escaped destruction at the hands of the enemy after the battle of Wyoming. The brook mentioned above as forming one of the safeguards of the fort, has long since disappeared. One branch of it had its rise near the place known as the Five Points, and the other branch in the Court House Square; the later flowed in a southerly direction, emptying into a marsh at a point near the Lehigh Valley railroad. The stream leaving the marsh crossed Main street near Wood street, and took a northerly course to Academy and River streets, where it was spanned by a bridge, thence it flowed into the river at Fish's Eddy. There has been some question



in respect to the location of this fort. Hon. Charles Miner, whose recollection of events happening prior to the beginning of this century was clear, says in his History of Wyoming, page 126, that Durkee was located sixty rods southwest of Fort Wyoming, and that the remains of the latter were in a tolerable state of preservation in the year 1800. The site of Fort Wyoming is well known and the distance of sixty rods in the direction indicated, fixes the location of Durkee as given above.

#### MILL CREEK FORT

This fort was situated on the river bank on the north side of the stream of the same name, which now forms the northern boundary line

along the inner walls of the fort which provided sufficient room for all who came. The community continued to occupy the fort as a dwelling place for a considerable period, and until the alarm, from whatever source it came, had subsided.

This place was the scene of the first settlement by the Connecticut people, as well as of the tragedy of October 15th, 1763. The improvements of the first settlers, consisting of a log-house and a few small cabins, were erected here. Upon their return in the year 1769, they made their way thither in hopes of finding a place of shelter and defense. The improvements, however, had fallen into the hands of the Pennamites who were secured in a strongly



THE PRESENT SITE OF FORT WYOMING, RIVER COMMON, WILKES-BARRE, PA.

of the city of Wilkes-Barre. It was built in the year 1772, after the cessation of hostilities between the Connecticut settlers and the Pennamites. It occupied the site of the Pennamite stronghold known as Ogden's Fort, named in honor of Captain Ogden, which had been captured and burned in 1770. The position was a strong one, standing on the high bank of the river, protected on two sides by the river and the creek. It was designed to guard and control the mills upon that stream, as well as to furnish a safe retreat to the people of the neighborhood. The necessity of the times seems to have been pressing, for we are informed that the settlers in and about Wilkes-Barre moved into the fort the same year, taking their household goods and other personal effects along with them. Huts were erected

fortified block-house, known as Ogden's Fort, and prepared to resist any steps looking to a settlement. This historic spot was covered in part by a culm heap of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company. The tracks of the Lehigh Valley railroad cross it in one direction, while a bridge of the Wilkes-Barre and Eastern spans it in another. The pumping station and mains of the Wilkes-Barre Water Company and the mains of an oil pipe line complete the occupation.

#### FORT WYOMING

This fort was located in the present city of Wilkes-Barre, on the river common, about eight rods southwest of the junction of Northampton and River streets. It was built in January, 1771, by Captain Amos Ogden, the able leader



of the Proprietary forces, and one hundred men under his command. The purpose of its erection was the reduction of Fort Durkee, the stronghold of the Yankees, and like Durkee it became an important factor in carrying forward to an issue the controversy alluded to. In 1771 it fell into the hands of the Connecticut people. It was not built, as is apparent from the statement just made, as a defense against the Indians, but seems to have been used for that purpose in 1772 and 1773 and later. It was this fort doubtless that is mentioned in the records of those years, as "the fort in Wilkes-Barre" where constant guard was required to be kept. After this time, it passes out of notice; no account has come down to us of the manner of its destruction or other disposition. It is reasonable to suppose that it was not standing in 1776, as the people would have made use of it instead of building a fort in that time of need. This fort gave its name to a successor built on the same site in 1778, and which became an important post during the period of the war.

On the 4th of August, 1778, a month after the battle, Colonel Zebulon Butler, ordered to the command of this post by the Board of War, returned to Wyoming with Captain Spaulding's Company, being the two Independent Westmoreland Companies now reduced to seventy-eight officers and men, and Captain Smith's militia of thirty-four officers and men, and finding the Wilkes-Barre fort destroyed, and no other defensive work capable of sheltering his men, and the region still invested by Indians, immediately took measures to maintain his position. He took possession of a log-house on what is now South Main street, near the Pickering or Ross house and set up around it a strong paling built of posts set into the ground about three feet and standing ten or twelve feet high, provided with loop-holes for firing. This served as quarters for the small force until they could rebuild Fort Wyoming. The presence of this company in the valley gave some sense of security to the returning fugitives, a number of whom joined the soldiers in the work of building the fort.

The fort was built of logs, on the site of the old Fort Wyoming on the river bank. Two parallel walls seven feet high and four feet apart were placed horizontally and framed to each other at proper distances; the space between the two was filled with well tamped earth. The walls were protected by a ditch, and beyond the ditch tops of trees with branches carefully sharpened were set in the ground, forming a kind of *Cheval-de-frise*. Within the inclosure a low platform was erected along the walls on all sides, standing upon which the men were

able to fire their guns over the top. A single four-pound gun was mounted in the works and in order to insure its greatest efficiency in time of need, openings were made in each of the walls, thus enabling the defenders by changing the location of the piece to turn its fire in any direction. The walls were rounded at the corners so as to flank on all sides, and a gate opened toward the west. Access to a copious spring at the margin of the river was had by a protected way; the inclosure contained about half an acre of land, and barracks were provided for the garrison. The fort was enlarged and strengthened afterwards. The garrison was increased as appears (Sept. 1, 1778) by Captain Bush and company of eighty-five men and Lieutenant Gore's company of eight, and was thereby enabled to send a company of men, the Wyoming Volunteers, to the West Branch to reinforce the battalions under Colonel Hartley, of the Pennsylvania line, in his expedition to Sheshequin, in September, 1778, to destroy the Indian settlement, which had served as a base of supplies for the savages in their frequent attacks on Wyoming. The expedition having accomplished its purpose, returned to Sunbury by way of Wyoming, when the garrison was increased by the Wyoming Company and a small detail from Col. Hartley's regiment, making in all about one hundred and forty men on Oct. 3, 1778. Included in this number were the remnants of a company under Lieutenant Gore, and Captain Smith's militia. This expedition marched three hundred miles in two weeks, devastated Queen Esther's country, and defeated the Indians in several skirmishes.

#### WILKES-BARRE FORT

Wilkes-Barre Fort was located in the southwest corner of the Public Square, Wilkes-Barre. (occupied the ground covered in part by the old court house which was torn down in 1909, after the completion of the new edifice of justice, erected on the river common. The stone recently erected in the public square to mark the four points of the compass stands upon the site of this fort.) This fort was built in pursuance of the vote of the town meeting of August 24, 1776, but it was not finished until 1778. The court house and jail of Westmoreland county were also located here, and this place seems to have been selected for the building of the fort with the view of protecting these buildings by enclosing them within its walls. The walls were of a double row of logs set upright in a trench, in the same manner as those of Forty Fort were constructed, and reached to the height of sixteen feet above the ground. The structure contained an area of about one-half an acre, and was in the form of a parallelo-



gram, with flanking towers at the angles, and was provided with a single gateway opening toward the river, northwest. The sides were pierced with loop-holes to enable the garrison to deliver its fire without exposure; and one four-pound gun was mounted on the rampart, but, inasmuch as there happened to be no suitable ammunition, it served as an alarm gun only. Barracks or huts were built along the walls within the works, which, together with the room afforded by the public buildings, were sufficient to shelter the occupants. The work was surrounded by a ditch. The water supply was taken from a spring either within the enclosure or near at hand.

A large number of women and children were crowded into this shelter on the eve of the battle, with but a handful of men for their protection. The necessity of a large garrison was not so pressing in this case, perhaps, as in some others, owing to the muster of the militia at Forty Fort, three miles north, on the opposite side of the river, and directly in the line of the advance movement of the enemy. A few of the survivors of the battle made their escape to the Wilkes-Barre fort, bringing word of the battle. During the night plans were made for flight; and on the morning of the 4th many of the occupants of the fort set out, empty handed, on their long and perilous journey through the wilderness. On the same day the savages were in possession of the fort. There seems to have been no formal surrender, as the articles of capitulation of Forty Fort included this also. During the day the fort was abandoned, and a band of savages seeking plunder entered it and set it on fire, reducing to ashes both the fort and public buildings.

#### WINTERMOOT'S FORT

This fort was situated in Exeter township, between Wyoming avenue, in the present borough of Exeter, (Sturmerville) and the Susquehanna, about eight rods from the river. It consisted of a stockade surrounding a dwelling house, and was built prior to the time of holding the town meeting in August, 1776, by the Wintermoots, a numerous family who had lived in that neighborhood for some time. They had fallen under the suspicion of their neighbors by reason of various circumstances, which led to the belief that the family were Tories and in communication with the enemy. The building of the fort had not been sanctioned by any one in authority and this circumstance deepened the distrust with which they were looked upon; though no facts were at hand that might confirm the suspicion or serve as grounds to support charges against them. This state of affairs, however, was enough to put the inhabitants on

their guard, and led to the town meeting of August, 1776, which required that all forts should be located by the committee, in order that thereafter, no one who was under suspicion should be permitted to build a fort. The fort was under command of Lieutenant Elisha Scovell, and at the approach of the enemy it sheltered a few families of the neighborhood. At the command to surrender a feeble show of resistance was made, but all serious efforts of defense were opposed by the Wintermoots who said that Major John Butler, the commander of the enemy, would find a welcome there.

On the evening of July 1, the enemy encamped on the mountain nearly opposite this fort and within two miles of it. Parties of the enemy passed in and out of the fort during the night; the next morning the gates were thrown open and possession given up. It is probable that the enemy here learned the number and disposition of our forces, our defensive works, locations and the quantity of plunder that would fall to the lot of the savage ally. This fort became the headquarters of Major Butler. The capitulation was made on the following terms:

“Wintermoot's Fort, July 1, 1778.

“ART. 1st. That Lieutenant Elisha Scovell surrender the fort, with all the stores, arms and ammunition that are in said fort, as well public as private, to Major John Butler.

2d. That the garrison shall not bear arms during the present contest, and Major Butler promises that the men, women and children shall not be hurt, either by Indians or rangers.”

On the 3d of July at about the time our troops were forming their line of battle, the fort was set on fire and consumed. No motive has been assigned for the act; wheher it was by design or accident is not known. It seems probable that Major Butler studied to have it appear that the Wintermoots were looked upon by him as belonging to our side; it might be of service to them in the future. This view would account for the unnecessary formality of articles of capitulation in the surrender of their fort and also for its destruction. The Wintermoots joined the enemy and in their company withdrew from the valley a few days later, and received the reward due them for this treachery.

Colonel Zebulon Butler, in his report of the battle refers to this fort in the following words: “In the meantime (July 1-3) the enemy had got possession of two forts, one of which we had reason to believe was designed for them, though they burnt both.” All the authorities concur in the belief that the Wintermoots were in secret communication with the enemy, and that the fort was built with the ultimate pur-

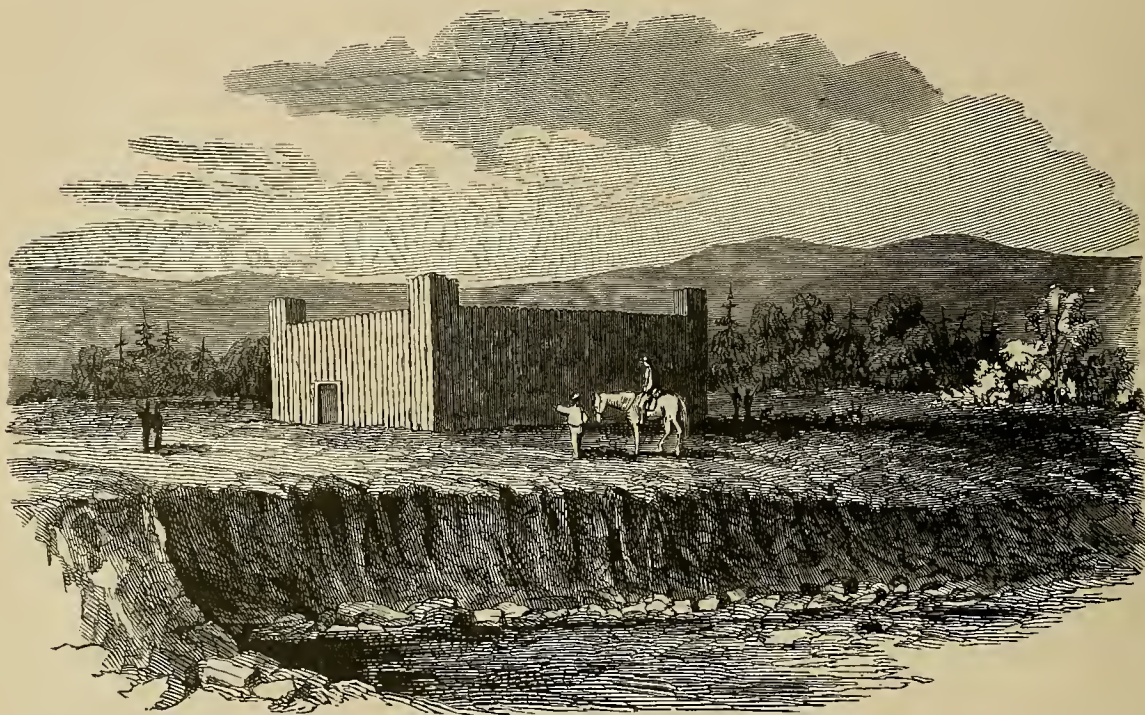


pose of giving it up to them and to aid and abet their cause.

#### FORTY FORT

The site of this stronghold is in the borough of the same name on the southerly side of the line of the junction of River street with Fort street. Standing on the high western bank of the Susquehanna it was admirably situated to command the river at this point. It derived its name from the forty pioneers who, having been sent forward from Connecticut in 1769 by the Susquehanna Company to take possession of the

mensions. Opinions differ as to its size, the better authority seems to be that it enclosed an acre or more of ground; indeed, excavations made a few years ago disclosed the remains of the timbers in place, extending in one direction two hundred and twenty feet, indicating in connection with other circumstances an inclosure of at least an acre. The walls of this fort were of logs, the material generally used in such defenses. These were set upright in a trench five feet in depth, extending twelve feet above the surface of the ground, and were sharpened at the tops. The joints or crevices between the



FORTY FORT, 1778

Drawn by Judge Dana from description.

Courtesy of Wyoming Historical Society

land in its behalf, were rewarded for their services by a grant of the township of Kingston, and from this circumstance known likewise as the township of the Forty, and the Forty town, within which the fort was located. The building of the fort was begun in the year 1770, and served as a place of security in time of danger and alarm. At a later period it seems to have been partly destroyed, or at least left in a condition not fitted for guarding as the law at the time required, for we learn that in 1772 and 1773 the Kingston men were ordered to mount guard in the fort at Wilkes-Barre until they shall build fortifications of their own. (*From Westmoreland Records.*) In 1777, under direction of the committee it was partly rebuilt, adding much to the strength, as well as its di-

upright logs were protected by another tier of logs planted and secured in like manner, thus forming a double wall. Barracks or huts were built along the walls within the fort for the shelter of the occupants. The roof of these buildings served as a platform from which the garrison could defend the works, and the space in the centre, surrounded by the barracks, was used as a parade. The inclosure was rectangular in shape, having a gateway opening towards the north and another towards the south, and small sentry towers at the four corners rising a few feet above the walls. A cold flowing spring at the margin of the river, below the structure, supplied water to the fort. Access to the spring was rendered safe by means of a sunken passageway, having the top protect-

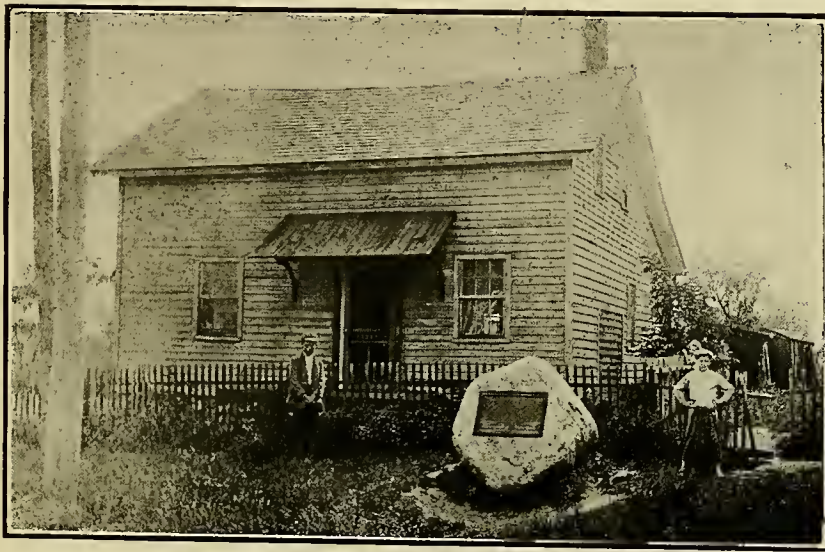


ed by timber work, leading down from the fort. A water supply was always one of the controlling influences in the location of a work of this character. This was true in the case of the several forts in Wyoming; some contained within their walls running water, others had springs near at hand as in the present instance.

During the last days of June, 1778, when it became known that the enemy in great force was approaching Wyoming, the inhabitants generally sought the protection afforded by the several forts. Probably the largest number gathered at Forty Fort, owing to its larger dimensions and promise of greater security. Here nearly four hundred, made up of six companies of militia, the train bands, and old men and

the encroachment of the current. Through the laps of years a large part of the bluff has been washed away, and a considerable part of the site is now the river's bed.

The structure was a stockade built around and in connection with the dwelling house of John Jenkins, (a Yankee) hence its name. The stockade part was built in the usual manner by planting upright timbers in a trench of proper depth; these uprights were sharpened at the tops, and in this case, owing to their small size doubtless, "were fastened together by pins of wood and stiffened with two rows of timbers put on horizontally and pinned to the uprights inside, thus stiffening and uniting the whole into a substantial structure."



RIVER AND FORT STREETS, FORTY FORT.  
Showing the Location of the Old Fort.

boys, "chiefly the undisciplined, the youthful, and the aged, spared by inefficiency from the distant ranks of the Republic."

This fort was not demolished, and a few years later was put in repair and garrisoned for a short time.

#### JENKINS' FORT

This site was fixed by the committee before mentioned under resolution of the town meeting of August, 1776, and the building was begun soon after that date. Being in the neighborhood of Wintermoot's Fort it was looked upon as a counter-check to that structure—and this may have been the reason it was speedily finished. It was situated in Exeter township, within the present limits of the borough of West Pittston, near the Pittston Ferry bridge. Standing upon the top of the high bank, and overlooking the river, the place was subject to

Several families were gathered within this inclosure on the evening of July 1st for the protection it seemed to promise. Immediately after the surrender of Wintermoot's Fort a detachment of the enemy under command of Captain Caldwell of the Royal Greens was sent to reduce the place. The garrison consisted of but eight available men, and no effectual resistance being possible, surrendered the fort under the following terms:

Fort Jenkins, July 1, 1778.

"Between Major John Butler, on behalf of his Majesty King George the Third, and John Jenkins.

"ART. 1st. That the fort with all the stores, arms and ammunition be delivered up immediately.

"2d. That Major John Butler shall preserve to them, entire, the lives of the men, women and



children."

Like Wintermoot's Fort, it was burned during the battle two days later.

#### PITTSTON FORT

Pittston Fort was situated in the township of the same name on the east bank of the Susquehanna river, now within the limits of the city of Pittston, between Main street and the river. It is nearly opposite the site of Jenkins' Fort. The original defensive works that occupied this space were built under the authority of the proprietors.

At a meeting of the proprietors and settlers, held in Wilkes-Barre, May 20, 1772, it was voted: "That ye Proprietors belonging to ye Town of Pittston have ye liberty to go into their Town, and there to forty-fie and keep in a body near together, and Guard by themselves until further notice from this Committee." (from *Westmoreland Records*.) In accordance with this vote the proprietors of the township laid out the lot mentioned, for the purpose of a fort. Each proprietor seems to have had the right of building a house upon the lot suited for his defense in case of attack, and following a general plan in respect to size and location, which, when completed would form a fortification of quite large dimensions, and that might withstand the assaults of a large force. The fort was composed of thirty-five houses of uniform size, built of logs, the houses "standing in the form of a pyramid or triangle, the base of which was formed by the river; each one being placed three feet within the other, on the upper side, so that the rear of every successive house could be defended from the preceeding one. There was a space between the houses which formed the base and those which formed the sides of the pyramid, with a large gateway which was flanked with pickets at each end. The houses on the upper side faced toward the river, and those on the river side faced toward the hill or the inclosed area. Those that were next to the river were constructed so as to guard against an attack from the Indians creeping along the bank. The house at the apex of the triangle was situated on the highest ground and overlooked not only the fort but the river and surrounding country. On the top of this house was a promenade for sentries. The houses were so constructed as to communicate from the one to the other in the upper story. Along the north corner there was a stream of water from which the inhabitants of the fort received their supply."—*Proc. & Coll. Wyoming Hist. and Geolog. Society*, 11, 78.

There is some doubt as to the time the fort was finished in accordance with this plan. It was begun in 1772 as before stated; in 1774

several of its houses were finished. The triangle, however, was not completed until 1779, or perhaps later. It is certain the fort was finished in the manner described soon after 1779, and remained in use a number of years. In 1778 the people of the neighborhood were sheltered in three block-houses surrounded by a stockade built in the usual way—this being a portion only of the fort with the stockade added as a temporary defense. By this disposition it would be capable of being defended by a smaller garrison, and also furnish enough room during the emergency.

All the families living in Pittston and its neighborhood were assembled within this enclosure during the battle of Wyoming. The garrison consisted of about forty men under the command of Captain Jeremiah Blanchard, and comprised one of the companies of the 24th regiment that did not take part in the battle. The responsibility of protecting the women and children under their charge outweighed every other consideration. It is said also that Major Butler immediately upon his arrival gave orders for the collection and guarding of all craft upon the river thereabouts, making communication with the opposite bank impossible. From their station in the fort the people could see the enemy on the other side, and were witnesses to the battle and flight from the field, as well as to the unspeakable methods of torture practiced on the prisoners the night following the battle.

On the 4th of July the fort was surrendered on the same terms granted to the other forts, and assurance of the safety of the lives of the occupants. The Indians placed a mark of black paint on the faces of the prisoners, in order that they might be known and saved from harm, as the savages asserted; and telling them further, in case they went outside the fort, each should carry a piece of white cloth for like purpose. The scenes that were enacted at Forty Fort were repeated here; the savages plundered the people of all they possessed. As soon as possible after the surrender most of the inmates of the fort fled to the settlement on the Delaware, and made their way thence to their former homes in New England. A few, however, as happened at Forty Fort, detained by sickness or other causes, remained in the fort two weeks after the battle, subject to the constant terror and molestation of the hordes of savages that infested every place. After the fort was deserted it was partly burnt by the vagrant Indians; but within two years thereafter it was restored and the plan before described was carried out, making an extensive and strong defensive work. The houses of the forts being the dwellings of the proprietors, the garrison therefore comprised



most of the inhabitants of the township. The fort remained standing until some years after the close of the war, when the buildings were removed and the fort lot became a common, and was used for several years as a public parade.

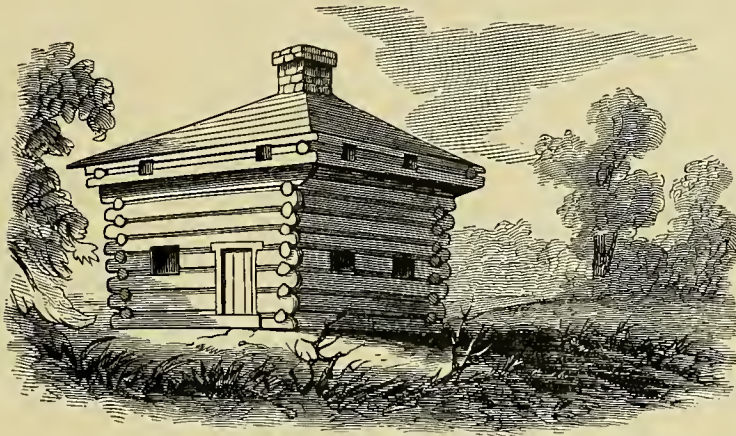
#### THE REDOUBT

This was the name given to a rocky spur that projected at right angles across the river common from the main hill about ten rods above Union street, near the new court house (in Wilkes-Barre). Its precipitous sides reached nearly to the edge of the river bank. Standing some seventy feet above the water it was a prominent land-mark, and an advantageous position in the local military operations. On the occasion of siege of Fort Wyoming in 1771 a gun was mounted here by the Yankees; and

of the rest of the common and down to the city grade. The name, however, has always adhered to it, and although no vestige of the eminence remains, the "Redoubt" is a familiar name that still marks the spot.

#### STEWART'S BLOCK HOUSE

The Stewart block-house was situated in Hanover township, a few rods from the bank of the Susquehanna river, on a slight rise of ground, on lot No. 3, First Division. It was built by Captain Lazarus Stewart in the year 1771, and is said to have been the first building in the township. It was built of logs and was one and a half stories high. It contained four rooms on the first and ample space in the floor above for convenience of its defenders. The part above the second floor projected beyond the



STEWART'S BLOCKHOUSE

(Courtesy of Wyoming Historical Society)

though no execution seems to have been done, the practice was doubtless of benefit. Again, in 1784, during the second Pennamite war, a like use was made of the eminence by the Connecticut people. They took possession of the Redoubt, which lay between the fort and the grist mills on Mill Creek that were also in the hands of the Pennamites, and thereby cut off the supplies of the fort. However well the Redoubt was situated for the uses mentioned, its location in respect to the march of modern improvements was quite unfortunate; it seems to have been planted directly in its path. The North Branch canal, by a sweeping turn at this point, sheared off of the rocky faces of the barrier. The extension of River street cut a deep channel through it in another direction, severing it from the main hill. The Lehigh Valley railroad, successor to the canal, to obtain room for its tracks, took off another portion, and the city deported the remainder, bringing it to the level

walls of the first story; this overshoot, as it was called, enabled the occupants of the house to protect the walls from assault of an attacking party, in a manner as effective as from flanking towers. A number of families were gathered there on the 3d and 4th of July, 1778. After the battle, they, in common with all the inhabitants, departed from the valley. This block-house was occupied by the people of Hanover upon their return, and afterward, until peace was proclaimed. It afforded a safe retreat for the families of the place in time of alarm. A band of Indians made an attack upon it in June, 1781. The house was defended with great spirit, the women taking an active part in the defense. The attacking party was repulsed with some loss and were pursued by a detachment sent from the fort at Wilkes-Barre.

There was another block-house in this township, some distance south of Stewart's on lot seventeen or eighteen, occupied as a dwelling



by Roswell Franklin. Its exact location is not known. It was several times the object of attack by the savages, and in April, 1782, Franklin's wife and several of the younger children were carried away.

A third block-house was situated in the present limits of Plains township, called Rosencran's block-house. On the approach of the enemy prior to the battle of Wyoming, the inhabitants of the neighborhood gathered at this house. Owing to the weakness of the work and the lack of means of defense, it was deemed unsafe to remain there, and the people sought other places of refuge, part of them crossed the river to Forty Fort and others went to Wilkes-Barre Fort.

#### THE NUMBER OCCUPYING THE FORTS

There is no record of the number of the people who were gathered within the forts and block-houses. One intelligent witness who was in Forty Fort, says of that place "the settlers generally moved into the fort, it was crowded full." From the circumstances it is reasonable to conclude that the other forts were also crowded full.

The population of the valley may be ascertained by taking the original list of taxables in the central townships for 1777, and multiplying by six. This figure is selected in making the calculations, because of its general use at that day for similar estimates under like conditions.

Kingston had 92 taxable, multiplied by six is	552
Wilkes-Barre had 99 taxables, by six is.....	594
Pittston (and Exeter) had 99 taxable, by six is	594
Plymouth had 113 taxable, by six is.....	678
Hanover had 82 taxables, by six is.....	492

A total of .....2,910

Deducting 200 absent in the Continental Army, and nearly 300 engaged in the Wyoming Massacre, we have over 2,400 non-combatants in the valley.

Much of the greater part of the residents of Plymouth, and probably all of Hanover sought shelter in their own block-houses. All the others, more than 1,400 gathered into the three forts at Wilkes-Barre, Forty Fort and Pittston. Of these, from the evidence adduced, it is believed there were 700 in Forty Fort, 400 in Wilkes-Barre and 300 in Pittston.

In ascertaining the number of fugitives after the disaster, it is necessary to include the people in the outlying townships, Capouse, Huntington and Salem, who seemed so far removed from danger that they did not seek the forts, but joined in the exodus, thus swelling the total to over 3,000. Most of the fugitives turning from the desolated valley plunged into the wilderness, wandering in the marshes as chance or fear directed, without clothing, or food or guide, seeking their way to the Delaware and thence to Connecticut. So great a number perished from hunger and exhaustion, that these swamps have since been called the "Shades of Death."

## CHAPTER SIX

### THE WYOMING MASSACRE

The year 1778 brought great distrust and fear to the frontiers generally, but particularly to Wyoming. The defeat and surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga (Oct. 17, 1777) had left the British without sufficient available force in America to carry on a regular campaign for that year, and, as the war was to be continued, the only resource left to the British government and her commanders, was to employ the Indians and Tories almost exclusively, in carrying on a war of desolation on the frontier. This was their declared policy, and it was at once suspected and feared that Wyoming would be among the first to be attacked, for none were so hated and exposed as the people on the Susquehanna. They had been among the first to declare against British usurpations, and had been the most active and earnest in supplying men and means to support that declaration.

As early as May, 1778, it was expected from

the appearance of Indian scouts in the vicinity that an attack on the Wyoming valley was meditated, and these suspicions were confirmed when, on the 2nd of June, Lieutenant John Jenkins, who was captured by the Tories a few months before, and turned over to the Indians, who had taken him to Niagara and afterward to Montreal, where he escaped and returned. He informed the settlers that the plan had been formed at Niagara to invade the frontier. At about the same time an Indian spy who came into the settlement was made drunk, and while in that condition revealed the fact that an attack on the valley was soon to be made.

In the later part of June it became known that the forces of the enemy were concentrating at Newtown and Tioga, preparatory to a descent on the valley. These forces consisted of about 400 British and Tories, under Major John Butler, and 400 or 500 Indians, largely com-

posed of Senecas. They descended the Susquehanna and landed not far from the mouth of Bowman's creek, where they remained until they were joined by about 200 more Senecas, who had been to the west branch of the Susquehanna river. They left their large boats here and passed with the smaller ones down to the "Three Islands," fifteen miles above the valley. They marched thence to the mouth of Sutton's creek (Corey creek), where they encamped by a spring.

#### INDIAN AND TORY HOSTILITIES

During the month of June several acts of hostility by the Indians and Tories occurred. On the 5th there was an alarm from Indians and six Tories coming in the neighborhood of Tunkhannock, and taking Elisha Wilcox, Pierce and some others prisoners, and robbing and plundering the inhabitants of the neighborhood.

News of this incursion was brought to the Valley on the night of the 6th, and on the 7th, although Sunday, the inhabitants completed and strengthened their fortifications. On the 7th there was an alarm from Shawnee. On the 12th William Crooks and Asa Budd went up the river to a place some two miles above Tunkhannock, on the west side of the river, formerly occupied by a Tory named John Secord, one of the committee of inspection appointed Aug. 8, 1875, who had been absent at Niagara since the fall before. Crooks was fired upon by a party of Indians and killed. On the 17th, a party of six men, from Jenkins' Fort, in two canoes, went up the river to observe the movements of the enemy. The party in the forward canoe landed about six miles below Tunkhannock, on the west side of the river, opposite LaGrange, or Osterhout, and ascended the bank. They saw an armed force of Indians and Tories running toward them. They gave the alarm, returned to their canoe, and endeavored to get behind an island to escape the fire of the enemy, which was being poured in upon them. The canoe, in which were Miner Robbins, Joel Phelps and Stephen Jenkins, was fired upon and Robbins killed and Phelps wounded. Jenkins escaped unhurt, although his paddle was shot through and shivered to pieces in his hands. In the party that fired upon the canoe was Elijah Phelps, the brother of Joel and brother-in-law of Robbins. Captain Hewitt, with a second party, went up the river on the 26th, and returned on the 30th of June with news that there was a large party of Indians and Tories up the river.

Unfortunately, Captain Hewitt did not return to Jenkins' Fort to warn the occupants of the impending danger until after the Hard-

ings and Hadsalls had left the fort that morning and gone up the river to their work. In this group were Benjamin Harding, Stukley Harding, Stephen Harding, Jr., John Gardner and a boy named Rogers (about eleven years of age), James Hadsall and his sons, James and John (the later a boy), with his sons-in-law, Ebenezer Reynolds and Daniel Carr, together with Daniel Wallen and a negro, named Quocko (twelve in all), went up the river about five or six miles (above Sutton's creek), to their work, some of them, particularly Benjamin and Stukley Harding, taking their guns. The Hardings, with Gardner and the boy Rogers, worked in the cornfield of Stephen Harding, Jr., the Hadsalls and the others, part in Hadsall's cornfield, on an island, part in his tanyard, close at hand, on the main land.

"Towards evening, Michael Showers, or Shores, and Jacob Anguish, or Ankers, two well-known Tories, came to Stephen Harding's cornfield, and told them they might call in their sentries and they would stand guard for them. Suspecting them of treachery, and that danger threatened, Stephen went at once to get the horses and make for home. When the Tories saw what Stephen was doing, they left to give information to the Indians and Tories, who were not far off in a large body."

"When Stephen returned with the horses, he saw that his brothers had quit work and passed down the river. On the way down was a deep, narrow ravine, through which a small brook found its way to the river. In this ravine, a body of Indians and Tories had concealed themselves, waiting their coming. This spot is in the neighborhood of the Baptist church, between that and the river. As the party was passing this point, the savages fired upon them, wounding both Benjamin and Stukley Harding. They returned the fire, and then quite a contest ensued. The Indians rushed upon them with spears and tomahawks. They resisted until they were pierced through with spears and hacked and cut to pieces with the tomahawks. John Gardner was taken prisoner. Having no gun, he took no part in the fight. In the meantime, a party of Indians had captured the elder James Hadsall, Carr and the negro, at the tannery, which was situated just above the mouth of Sutton's creek.

"Those on the island came off in their canoes, and as they were ascending the bank, a party of savages, lying in wait, fired upon them, shooting James Hadsall down and wounding Reynolds, who fled with Wallen, to the woods. John Hadsall, the boy, remained behind fastening the canoe. Upon hearing the firing he plunged into a thicket of willows and drift that overhung the waters near by. The Indians, missing one from the party in the canoe, went



to the river to search for him. One of them walked out on a log just over where he was hid, but did not discover him. He could see the Indian's eyes as he peered about to find him. After night set in, he ventured out of his hiding place, and made his way back to the fort, arriving after midnight. He was the first to arrive and bring news of the fate of his companions to their waiting, anxious friends.

"The elder Hadsall, Gardner, Carr and the negro were taken up Sutton's creek about a mile or two, to what is known as the Bailey farm, where the enemy were camping for the night. Here Hadsall and the negro were put to death by the most insulting, lingering and excruciating tortures, giving a most delightful evening's entertainment to Major Butler and his demoniac crew; the Indians and Tories being the actors in the horrible drama, the Tories in particular displaying a lively relish in the performance of their several parts."

Stephen Harding, Jr., with the boy Rogers, Reynolds and Wallen, fled through the woods, and after wandering all night, succeeded in reaching the fort next morning. Reynolds took his wife and children, departed, and has never been heard from. Carr returned after a captivity of seven years.

His wife, supposing him to be dead and thinking she had waited a proper time, had engaged herself to be married to another man, and was preparing for the wedding. One day she heard some one come into the house; she went to see who it was, and met her husband face to face. She was so overcome she fainted. Of course the new match was never completed.

Major John Butler and his army of Tories and Indians, then entered the head of the valley, and took possession of Fort Wintermoot without opposition.

While the settlers were marching on that day (July 1st), under the command of Colonel Zebulon Butler, of the Continental army, and Colonel Denison and Lieutenant-Colonel Dorrance, to bring down the bodies of their slain neighbors, the enemy were marching toward the valley on the northwestern side of the mountain, on the eastern side of which they encamped, in full view of the valley.

#### WOMEN AND CHILDREN GATHERED TO PLACES OF SAFETY

On the morning of the 2nd, Fort Wintermoot was opened to the enemy by its Tory occupants, and on the evening of the same day the garrison of Fort Jenkins capitulated. The day was spent by the settlers in gathering the women, children and aged in places of safety, mostly in Forty Fort, which was about four miles below Fort Wintermoot, and in making preparations for defense.

"Colonel Zebulon Butler, who was at that time an officer of the Continental army, knowing the perilous condition of the people, and desirous to give his personal aid in any way possible, had obtained leave to visit the valley, and now, by common consent, assumed the command of the little army. The whole consisted of two hundred and thirty (230) enrolled men, and seventy (70) old people, boys, civil magistrates, and other volunteers; the whole embracing six companies, which were mustered at Forty Fort, where the families of the settlers on the east side of the river had taken refuge. "Indian Butler," as he was called, summoned the Connecticut people to surrender Forty Fort and the valley. A council of war was called on the 3rd of July, and though it was the opinion of Colonel Butler, Colonel Denison and Lieutenant-Colonel Dorrance, and others, that a "little delay would be best," in hopes of the arrival of re-inforcements, which was thought might be on the way, yet a large majority were for marching at once upon the enemy and giving them battle.

"Colonel Butler mounted his horse, saying, "I tell you we go into great danger, but I can go as far as any of you," and "the column, consisting of about three hundred men, old men and boys, marched from the fort," at about three o'clock in the afternoon, with drums beating and colors flying. The devoted little band marched up the plain, with the river on the right and a marsh upon the left, until they reached Fort Wintermoot, which was on fire—fired to make the impression upon the minds of the patriots that the enemy was retiring from the valley."—*Peck's History of Wyoming.*

#### FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1778

This is a small portion of the historical address delivered by Steuben Jenkins, at the Wyoming Monument, July 3, 1878 on the one hundredth anniversary of the Battle and Massacre of Wyoming:

"Let us look at the position of affairs as they existed on the 3rd of July, 1778.

"The upper part of the Valley, on the west side of the river, was in the hands of the enemy, numbering 1,100 men, well armed and equipped, thirsting for conquest and blood. So complete and effective was their possession, that no person had been able to pass their lines to give information of either their numbers, position or purpose.

"Jenkins' Fort, on the Susquehanna, just above the west end of the Pittston Ferry Bridge, was in their possession, having capitulated the day before, but possession had not been taken until this morning.

"Wintermoot Fort, situate on the bank of the plain, about a mile and a half below and about half a mile from the river, had been in their possession all the day before, and was used as their headquarters.



"Forty Fort, some four miles further down the river, situate on the west bank of the Susquehanna river, was the largest and strongest fort in the valley. Thither had fled all the people on the west side of the river, on the 1st and 2nd, and this was to be the gathering point of the patriot band. The Wilkes-Barre and Pittston Forts were the gathering points for the people in their immediate neighborhood.

"The forces such as they were, were distributed throughout the Valley somewhat as follows:

"The Kingston company, commanded by Captain Aboliah Buck, numbering about forty men, was at Forty Fort.

"The Shawnee company, commanded by Captain Asaph Whittlesey, numbering about forty-four men, was at Forty Fort.

"The Hanover company, commanded by Captain Wm. McKarrachen, numbering about thirty, was at home in Hanover.

"The upper Wilkes-Barre company, commanded by Captain Rezin Geer, numbering about thirty men, was at Wilkes-Barre.

"The lower Wilkes-Barre company, commanded by Captain James Bidlack, Jr., numbering about thirty-eight men, was at Wilkes-Barre.

"The Pittston company, commanded by Captain Jeremiah Blanchard, numbering about forty men, was at Pittston Fort.

"The Huntington and Salem company, commanded by Captain John Franklin, numbering about thirty-five men, was at home.

"These were the militia, or train-bands, of the settlement, and included all who were able to bear arms, without regard to age. Old men and boys were enrolled in them.

"Then there was Captain Detrick Hewitt's company, formed and kept together under the resolution of Congress, passed March 16, 1778. This company enlisted to serve for one year, unless sooner discharged by Congress, and that the said company find their own arms, accoutrements and blankets.

"Besides these, there were a number who were not enrolled in any of the companies, numbering about one hundred; and in addition, there were a number in the Valley who had been driven from the settlements up the river. Making altogether in the Valley, a force of men of all ages and boys, numbering about four hundred.

"Colonel Zebulon Butler was at Wilkes-Barre, putting everything in that neighborhood in a defensible position, and awaiting developments.

"On the 2nd, Colonel Denison had sent a messenger express to Captain John Franklin and Lieutenant Stoddard Bowen, to hurry forward to the scene of danger, with their Huntington and Salem company, without delay.

"Such was the situation, when, on the morning of Friday, the 3rd of July, Major John Butler sent a flag to Forty Fort, demanding an unconditional surrender of that fort, the public stores, and Captain Hewitt's company, with a promise that he would, when in possession, give them good terms of capitulation, and with a threat that in case of refusal, he would move upon them at once in full force. The demand was refused by Colonel Denison, then in command, but the refusal was accompanied with a suggestion that he would like time and opportunity to consult with Colonel Zebulon

Butler and other officers, who were not then present. The flag was born by Daniel Ingersoll, a prisoner, taken at Wintermoot Fort, who was accompanied by a Tory and an Indian, to serve both as guards and spies. They returned, bearing the refusal of surrender, and it was supposed that upon their return and report to Major John Butler, he would immediately march upon them.

"A messenger was forthwith despatched to Col. Butler, at Wilkes-Barre, informing him of the situation, and requesting his immediate presence with all the available force at command.

"Colonel Butler at once ordered the two Wilkes-Barre companies and the Hanover company, to march directly to Forty Fort. They promptly responded, and at one o'clock they were all at the place of rendezvous. Information had been sent to other parts of the Valley, for every man to hasten to Forty Fort, as an attack was hourly expected.

"Immediately upon Colonel Butler's arrival, a consultation of the officers was held, in which the situation was fully discussed. It was decided not to surrender, but to hold the fort at all hazards.

"For the purpose of securing, by delays in negotiations, sufficient time to permit the arrival of Franklin and Spalding's companies, and possibly Clingan's, a flag was sent to Major Butler, for a conference with him, upon the subject of his demand of the morning. At the same time scouts were sent out to make reconnoissance, and learn, if possible, the strength and situation of the enemy, and watch his movements. In fact, such scouts had been out all the morning. The flag had not proceeded half way to Major Butler's camp, when it was fired upon by prowling Indians and Tories, probably out as spies, and compelled to return. After consultation, another flag was sent out. It was also fired upon and compelled to return.

"The scouts sent out returned with the news that they had not been able to get near enough to the British camp to ascertain more than that they were still occupying the neighborhood of Wintermoot Fort, and that the Indians were prowling about in every direction, many of them moving down the Valley, capturing horses and cattle which were roaming about in the woods.

"Other scouts were sent out, and it was resolved to try another flag. This had not proceeded far, when it was fired upon and compelled to return. Scouts that had been out returned with reports that the enemy were moving down toward the fort, and that their number was not greater than that in the fort.

"It was at once resolved to go out and meet them, and, if possible, beat and drive them back, at least stay their progress of destruction down the Valley.

"Accordingly, the force gathered at Forty Fort, numbering about four hundred, including old men and boys, marched out, at about three o'clock in the afternoon, to defend their homes and harvests against the invaders, leaving the fort with a few old men and young boys, women and children, many of them sick, under the command of Lieutenant John Jenkins. They marched from the fort in martial array, with the Stars and Stripes at their head to the tune of 'St. Patrick's Day In the Morning,' played on the fife by a true son of Erin, and drums beating, and proceeded as far as Abraham's creek, at the point where the road now crosses it at the stone bridge, a little over a mile from the fort. Here on the hill a halt was made, and the party properly disposed to resist an attack.

"The position was well chosen. The creek at this point makes a complete elbow, round a hill



which rises, abruptly, about twenty feet above the stream, largely protecting their right and front, while a branch of the stream and a marsh, on the left, covered that part of their force, and their rear was open for retreat to the fort, should that become necessary. The position was well calculated to be successfully held against a largely superior force, at least it gave them a great advantage in case of an attack upon them.

"From this point a flag was again sent out, and other scouts, and their return awaited. This flag was also fired upon and returned. Scouts that had been previously sent out, had, by great skill and energy, succeeded in making a reconnoissance of the enemy, by passing along the foot of the mountains on the west of the Valley; but on their return, when in Western Wyoming, near the present site of Shoemaker's Mills, were shot, one fatally; the other slightly wounded, made his way back to headquarters. The information brought was to the effect that the enemy were in commotion, but what their design or which way they were moving, could not be told, but the supposition was they were preparing to leave the Valley. All the information gained was too indefinite and too slight to be of any use in judging of either the number or design of the enemy. All was doubt and uncertainty.

"Speculation and discussion now began to arise as to the intent of the enemy. The march upon Forty Fort, which had been threatened by Major Butler in the morning, unless a surrender was made, had not taken place. What did it mean? Had the threat any meaning, or was it mere braggadocio? It was suggested that the invading force had been over estimated by the timid; that if Major Butler had the overwhelming force pretended, he would, long ere this, have put his threat in execution, instead of breaking camp and leaving the Valley, as now appeared most probable. In the heat of the discussion, scouts returned reporting that the enemy were burning all the settlements above, and collecting all the cattle within their reach, and, from appearances, it was supposed they would not risk an immediate attack on Forty Fort, at least, did not intend to do so, but would burn, plunder and destroy all the upper settlements, probably cross the river to Pittston, take possession of that fort, destroy that and the neighboring settlements, massacre the people or make them prisoners, and then return back with their booty from whence they came. \* \* \*

"At this point in the debate, Lieutenant Timothy Pierce arrived with information that the company of Spalding was on its way, and would probably arrive on Sunday, for their assistance. This news did not, however, calm the troubled waters. It was contended that Sunday would be too late. That the enemy by that time could prowl through the Valley, rob and burn their homes, kill or take captive the women and children, drive off their horses and cattle, and destroy their harvests, while they like base cowards, were standing by with arms in their hands, without making an attempt to prevent it. \* \* \*

"The discussion became heated and personal. Charges of cowardice were made by Captain Lazarus Stewart, then a private in Captain McKarrachen's Hanover company, against all who opposed advancing, particularly against Colonel Butler, the principal commander, who was against an advance, and he threatened to report him as such to headquarters. Stewart was ordered under arrest by Colonel Denison.

"The Hanover company became mutinous. Captain McKarrachen resigned, and the company im-

mediately elected Stewart in his place. They now threatened a revolt, unless a march should be immediately made against the enemy.

"Colonel Denison, a cool and quiet man, who had taken little or no part in the discussion, as yet, urged the propriety of careful and considerate action, and the impropriety and danger of hasty and inconsiderate action. That it would be far better to wait until more was known of the number and movements of the enemy, and in the meantime, Spalding's and Franklin's companies would arrive, the latter certainly. But, these suggestions did not meet the feelings and views of the men generally. They had been warmed up by the fiery words of Captain Stewart.

"When it was decided to advance and attack the enemy, Colonel Butler discharged Captain Stewart from arrest, saying: 'We will march and meet the enemy, if he is to be found, and I will show the men that I dare lead where they dare follow.'

"The order to march was immediately given, and they proceeded cautiously on their way as far as the hill, just below the monument, where another halt was made. \* \* \* After a short time they moved on toward Wintermoot Fort, making another halt about a mile below the fort, on the plain. Here the companies lined up.

"Yellow and pitch-pine trees, with scrub-oaks about breast high, were everywhere over the plain. There were very few trees of any size. The Indians were accustomed to burn the plain over every year, to make pasture for deer and other game, and thus destroyed the growth of trees of large size.

"After the settlers had formed their line of battle, they marched, in single line as formed, nearly a mile, and to within forty or fifty rods of Wintermoot Fort, their right still resting on the hill, and their left extending about 1600 feet toward the marsh, and to within 400 feet of it, where they halted and sent forward scouts for further reconnoissance. On the advance of the scouts, Indians would pop up, fire at them and flee, some in one direction, some in another.

"The line at this point was counted off into odds and evens, from right to left. The advance was made by the odds marching forward five steps and halting, and then the evens marching ten steps and halting, and so on, alternately, each division or section marching ten steps, halting, firing and loading, while the other was going through the same exercise, until more than half the distance to what finally became the field of battle had been gone over.

"As they advanced in this manner, a number of Indians, here and there over the field, would arise, deliver their fire and flee before them. The fire would be returned and our people would continue to advance. Soon a squad of British arose, delivered their fire and fell back. Our commander cries out, 'See! the British retreat! Stand firm and the day is ours!' They continued to advance and soon another squad of British arose, delivered their fire and fell back. Again the cry, 'The British retreat! The day is ours!'

"Our men had now arrived at a point just opposite Wintermoot Fort, on their right, and on the edge, in front, of the only cleared space on the plain, which was an open field of three or four acres. They continued their advance slowly and cautiously, when they soon found the British in full force in front, standing up to the work, though apparently yielding ground. The firing now became general along the lines on both sides. Our people felt they were gaining ground and driving the enemy before them."



## PREPARING FOR BATTLE

"Colonel Zebulon Butler, on approaching the enemy, sent forward Captains Ransom and Durkee, Lieutenants Ross and Wells, as officers whose skill he most relied on, to select the spot, and mark off the ground on which to form the order of battle. On coming up, the column deployed to the left, and under those officers every company took its station, and then advanced in line to the proper position, where it halted, the right resting on the steep bank noted, the left extending across the gravel flat to a morass, thick with timber and brush, that separated the bottom-land from the mountain. Yellow and pitch-pine trees, with oak shrubs, were scattered all over the plain. On the American right was Captain Bidlack's company. Next was Captain Hewitt's, Daniel Gore being one of his lieutenants. On the extreme left was Captain Whittlesey's. Colonel Butler, supported by Major John Garret, commanded the right wing. Colonel Denison, supported by Lieutenant-Colonel George Dorrance, commanded the left. Such was the ground, and such the order of battle. Everything was judiciously disposed, and constructed in a strictly military and prudent manner. Captains Durkee and Ransom, as experienced officers, in whom great confidence was placed, were stationed, Durkee with Bidlack on the right wing, Ransom with Whittlesey on the left. Colonel Butler made a very brief address just before he ordered the column to deploy: 'Men, yonder is the enemy. The fate of the Hardings tells us what we have to expect if defeated. We come out to fight, not only for liberty, but for life itself, and, what is dearer, to preserve our homes from conflagration, our women and children from the tomahawk. Stand firm the first shock, and the Indians will give way. Every man to his duty.'

"The column had marched up the road running near the bank on which our right rested. On its display, as Denison led off his men, he repeated the expression of Colonel Butler, 'Be firm; every thing depends on resisting the first shock.'

## THE BATTLE BEGINS

"About four in the afternoon the battle began; Colonel Zebulon Butler ordered his men to fire, and at each discharge to advance a step. Along the whole line the discharges were rapid and steady. It was evident that on the more open ground the Yankees were doing most execution. As our men advanced pouring in their platoon fires with great vivacity, the British line gave way, in spite of all their officers' efforts to prevent it. The Indian flanking party on our right kept up from their hiding-

places a galling fire. Lieutenant Daniel Gore received a ball through the left arm. 'Captain Durkee,' said he, 'look sharp for the Indians in those bushes.' Captain Durkee stepped to the bank to look, preparatory to making a charge and dislodging them, when he fell.

"On the British Butler's right his Indian warriors were sharply engaged. They seemed to be divided into six bands, for a yell would be raised at one end of their line, taken up, and carried through six distinct bodies appearing at each time to repeat the cry. As the battle waxed warmer, that fearful yell was renewed again and again with more and more spirit. It appeared to be at once their animating shout and their signal of communication. As several fell near Colonel Dorrance, one of his men gave way: 'Stand to your work sir,' said he firmly, but coolly, and the soldier resumed his place.

"For half an hour a hot fire had been given and sustained, when the vastly superior numbers of the enemy began to develop their power. The Indians had thrown into the swamps a large force, which now completely outflanked our left. It was impossible it should be otherwise: that wing was thrown into confusion. Colonel Denison gave orders that the company of Whittlesey should wheel back, so as to form an angle with the main line, and thus present his front, instead of flank, to the enemy. The difficulty of performing evolutions by the bravest militia on the field under a hot fire is well known. On the attempt, the savages rushed in with horrid yells. Some had mistaken the order to fall back as one to retreat, and that word, that fatal word, ran along the line. Utter confusion now prevailed on the left. Seeing the disorder, and his own men beginning to give way, Colonel Z. Butler threw himself between the fires of the opposing ranks and rode up and down the line in the most reckless exposure. 'Don't leave me, my children, and the victory is ours.' But it was too late.

"Every captain that led a company into action was slain, and in every instance fell on or near the line. As was said of Bidlack, so of Hewitt, Whittlesey, and the others: 'they died at the head of their men.' They fought bravely; every man and officer did his duty; but they were overpowered by threefold their force. In point of numbers the enemy was overwhelmingly superior."—*Miner's History*.

## A DREADFUL HOUR

It was a dreadful hour. The few old men who were left in the fort, and the women and children, lined the bank of the river with throbbing hearts, listening to the noise of the battle; and as the firing became more scattering, and advanced down the plain towards the



fort, the fearful reality of a defeat was but too plainly indicated. "The boys are beat—they are retreating—they will be all cut to pieces," exclaimed one who had been pacing the bank, and catching every indication borne upon the breeze from the scene of action.

A portion of the numerous, strange, and fearful scenes which followed the battle are upon record, for which we must refer the reader to the historians. Mr. Miner says, "About one hundred and sixty of the Connecticut people were killed that day, and one hundred and forty escaped. The loss of the enemy was never known; probably from forty to eighty fell." According to the best information which we have been able to gain, more than two hundred of the patriots fell in this fearful conflict, while about sixty of the British and Indians were slain. Many were first made prisoners, and then massacred in the most cruel and barbarous manner by the savages. Colonels Butler and Denison, being mounted, first came to Forty Fort, and confirmed the apprehensions of the poor defenseless people, then waiting in a most fearful state of anxiety and suspense. They sat down by a table in Thomas Bennett's cabin, and adjusted the terms of capitulation which were to be proposed to the enemy. Colonel Butler then crossed over to Wilkes-Barre, and the next day, throwing a feather-bed across his horse, and seating his wife upon the animal behind him, left the valley. He was a brave officer, and having distinguished himself in several gallant enterprises in the Revolutionary struggle, had reason enough for not wishing to be made a prisoner of war. At nightfall the fugitives came into the fort, exhausted with the toils and terrors of the day. But oh, how many husbands and sons came not! The sadness of that night will never be adequately sketched.

The people in the fort at Wilkes-Barre, on the east side of the river, early on the 4th, commenced their fight, but in such haste as not to furnish themselves with provisions for a long and toilsome journey through the wilderness. A large number of women and children, with a few men, took the old war-path toward the Delaware, some perishing on the way through fatigue and hunger in a dense pine forest which has ever since been called "The Shades of Death." The few regular soldiers who had escaped, knowing that they, if taken, would be doomed to exemplary punishment, made a hasty escape, under the orders of Colonel Butler.

On the evening of the fatal 3rd, Captain John Franklin arrived at Forty Fort, with a company of militia from Huntington and Salem, which gave a little strength to the remnant which were left. On the morning of the

4th, Major John Butler summoned Colonel Denison to surrender Forty Fort, inviting him to head-quarters to agree upon the terms. After some negotiations, the following articles of capitulation were duly executed:

#### CAPITULATION AGREEMENT

Westmoreland, July 4, 1778.

"CAPITULATION AGREEMENT made and completed between John Butler, in behalf of his Majesty King George the Third, and Colonel Nathan Denison of the United States of America:

"Art. 1. It is agreed that the settlement lay down their arms, and their garrison be demolished.

"Art. 2. That the inhabitants are to occupy their farms peaceably, and the lives of the inhabitants be preserved entire and unhurt.

"Art. 3. That the Continental stores are to be given up.

"Art. 4. That Major Butler will use his utmost influence that the private property of the inhabitants shall be preserved entire to them.

"Art. 5. That the prisoners in Forty Fort be delivered up, and that Samuel Finch, now in Major Butler's possession be delivered up, also.

"Art. 6. That the property taken from the people called Tories be made good; and that they remain in peaceable possession of their farms, and unmolested in a free trade throughout the settlement.

"Art. 7. That the inhabitants, which Colonel Denison capitulated for, together with himself, do not take up arms during the contest.

(Signed) John Butler,  
Nathan Denison.

#### INDIANS PLUNDER THE FORT

"Accordingly, on the 5th of July, the gates of the fort were thrown open, and Butler, at the head of his rangers, and a Seneca chief by the name of G—n, at the head of the Indians, marched in. The arms of the men were stacked, and given as a present by Butler to the Indians, with these words: "See what a present the Yankees have made you." The Indians went about sneakingly peeping into the doors of the cabins, but for that day molested no one. On the next day, however, they began to plunder the people. Colonel Denison remained in Mr. Bennet's cabin, a place formerly occupied as a horse-shed. When Butler came into the fort, Colonel Denison sent for him, and remonstrated with him upon the conduct of the Indians, alleging that it was a breach of a most solemn engagement. Butler said, "My men

shall not molest the people; I will put a stop to it." But he was no sooner gone than the plundering was resumed. Colonel Denison again sent for Butler, and again he came into the shed and gave assurances that "the plundering should cease." Toward night a company of Indians came in, some of them drunk, and commenced ransacking the houses and rifling them of their movables. Colonel Denison had another conversation with Butler, who now said, "To tell the truth, I can do nothing with them." Colonel Denison chided with him severely, but, waving his hand, he repeated the same words, and finally left the fort no more to return."—*Peck's History of Wyoming*.

#### QUEEN ESTHER'S ROCK

On the evening of the battle, (July 3, 1778) sixteen of the prisoners taken on the field of battle and in the flight, under promise of quarter, were collected together by their savage captors around a rock, near the brow of the hill, about a half mile above the monument, and a little more than a mile from the field of action. The rock at that time was about two feet high on its eastern front, with a surface of four or five feet square, running back to a level with the ground and beneath it at its western extremity. It is now surrounded by an iron fence.

The prisoners were arranged in a ring around this rock, and were surrounded with a body of about two hundred savages, under the leadership and inspiration of Queen Esther, a fury in the form of woman, who assumed the office of executioner. The victims, one at a time, were taken from the devoted circle and led to the east front of the rock, where they were made to sit down. They were then taken by the hair and their heads pulled back on the rock, when the bloody Queen Esther, with a death-maul would dash out their brains. The savages, as each victim was in this manner immolated, would dance around in a ring, holding each others' hands, shouting and hallooing, closing with the death-whoop. In this manner fourteen of the party had been put to death. The fury of the savage Queen increased with the work of blood.

Seeing there was no other way or hope of deliverance, Lebbens Hammond, one of the prisoners, in a fit of desperation, with a sudden spring, broke through the circle of Indians and fled toward the mountain. Rifles cracked! Tomahawks flew! Indians yelled! But Hammond held on his course for about fifty rods, when he stumbled and fell, but sprang up again. Stopping for a moment to listen, he found his pursuers on each side of him, or a little ahead, running and yelling like demons. He stepped behind a large pine tree to take breath, when, reflecting that his pursurers be-

ing already ahead of him, he would gain nothing by going on in that direction, he turned and ran for the river in such a course as to avoid the party around the fatal rock, and yet to keep an eye on them. He passed by without being seen, went down and plunged into the high grass in the swampy ground at the foot of the hill, where he remained concealed for about two hours, watching the movements and listening to the yells of his savage pursuers. He finally crawled out of his concealment, cautiously made his way to the river, and thence down to the fort.

#### BUTLER AND HIS INDIANS LEAVE THE VALLEY

"Indian Butler" soon made his exit from the valley. The following is a picture of the departure:

"With Butler a large portion of the Indians withdrew, and their march presented a picture at once melancholy and ludicrous. Squaws, to a considerable number, brought up the rear, a belt of scalps stretched on small hoops around the waist for a girdle, having on, some four, some six, and even more, dresses of chints or silk, one over the other; being mounted astride on horses (of course all stolen), and on their heads three, four, or five bonnets, one within another, worn wrong side before,"—*Miner's History*, p. 237.

#### BURYING THE SLAIN.

From *Peck's History of Wyoming*

"Colonel Zebulon Butler returned to the Valley in August (after the massacre), but no attempt was made to gather up the remains of those who fell upon the battle-field until October. On the 21st of October he issued an order "that there be a party, consisting of a lieutenant, two sergeants, two corporals, and twenty-five men, to parade to-morrow morning, with arms, as a guard to those who will go to bury the remains of the men who were killed at the late battle at and near the place called Wintermoot's Fort." On that day the settlers, who had returned to the valley, assembled and proceeded, protected by the military escort provided by Colonel Butler, to perform the melancholy duty of interring what remained of their comrades, relations and neighbors in as decent a manner as possible. The late General William Ross, who was present, informed Professor Silliman, when he was in the valley in 1829, that, 'owing to the intense heat of the weather, and probably the dryness of the air, the bodies were shriveled, dried, and inoffensive, but, with a single exception, their features could not be recognized.'

"The bodies were taken up with pitchforks and carried upon a cart to the place of sepulture, where they were buried in a common grave."

#### FINDING AND OPENING THE GRAVE AFTER FIFTY YEARS

From *Peck's History of Wyoming*

"Strange as it may seem, the grave of the patriots who fell in the fatal 'Indian battle' was for years wholly lost. It was known to be located not far



from the main road, in a field belonging to Fisher Gay, Esq. This had long been cultivated, the plow and the scythe alternately passing over the remains of the relatives and friends of nearly every leading family in the valley, and yet there was none to rise up and claim for Wyoming's heroes the respect accorded in all civilized countries to the ashes of the common dead. Public sentiment was finally directed to the subject, and there was an awakening of the feelings of virtuous shame for a delinquency so strange and unnatural. A suitable monument over the bones of the patriotic band finally came to be talked of as a matter of decency, to say nothing of the gratitude to which their memory was entitled. So early as 1809, Hon. Charles Miner published several essays upon the subject in a Wilkes-Barre paper, but it was not until 1832 that anything like a decided movement was made to carry out the project.

"Several leading citizens of the valley becoming deeply interested in the question of the proposed monument, the first thing which it was thought necessary to settle was the precise spot where the bones of the patriots lay. The ground was originally owned by 'the widow Lee,' and she subsequently married Philip Jackson, long after her death a resident at Forty Fort. Jackson remembered the mound which indicated the place of interment, and was employed to identify it. But little effort was necessary to effect the object. The common grave, where were mingled together the bones of brothers and neighbors, officers and common soldiers, in close contact, was opened in the presence of several of the citizens residing in the vicinity.

"Some of the most interesting specimens of the remains were deposited in a box, and were kept for examination by curious visitors, until most of them finally disappeared. We saw them before any of them had been conveyed by sacrilegious hands to parts unknown. The skulls exhibited the marks of the tomahawks and scalping-knife. Some of them had been broken in with the head or spike of the tomahawk, and others chipped with the edge by a glancing stroke. One had been broken in with the rim of the pipe of a smoking-tomahawk. We can imagine with what gusto the murderous wretch tasted the fumes of 'the weed' taken in from the bowl of his favorite smoking hatchet while it was yet stained with the blood of his victim. One skull was perforated by a bullet, and a thigh-bone had a bullet hole in the centre, which was made without effecting a lateral fracture, leaving the bone entirely sound with the exception of the smooth perforation.

"What awful associations did these memorials of the fatal 3d of July, 1778, bring up! \* \* \* These sacred relics were now objects of universal curiosity and no ordinary veneration, and increased the tendency of the public mind in the direction of the monument which had been commenced. The time for action had come, and a meeting of a number of the early settlers of Wyoming Valley, who had relatives and acquaintances in the Wyoming massacre, and other citizens of Luzerne county, convened at the house of Major O. Helme, in Kingston, on the 16th day of June, 1832, to take into consideration the subject of erecting a monument to the memory of those who fell in that disastrous conflict. General William Ross was appointed chairman, and Charles D. Shoemaker secretary. After the object of the meeting had been stated by the chair, the following persons were appointed a committee to draft resolutions: John Carey, Colonel Benjamin Dorrance, Rev. Benjamin Bidlack, Colonel George P. Ransom, Calvin Wad-

hams, John Gore, Sen., Anderson Dana, Sen., Joseph Wright and Benjamin Reynolds.

"One of the resolutions proposed and passed was, 'That we request the citizens of the valley to meet at the house of F. Gay, in Kingston, on the 3d of July next, at ten o'clock, for the purpose of adopting such measures as may be thought necessary to insure the erection of the monument.' It was also 'Resolved, That we invite our fellow-citizens to unite with us in paying a tribute of respect to the remains of those patriots on that day, it being the anniversary of the day of their massacre, by visiting the spot where rest their ashes.'

"The committee immediately arranged the following program for the proposed meeting:

"The procession will be formed at twelve o'clock, in the following order:

"Those who may be present who were in the battle.

"The soldiers of the Revolution.

"The connections and descendants of those who fell in the battle.

"The orator of the day and the committee of superintendence.

"The early settlers who were not in the battle.

"The citizens.

"The procession will march in silence, or with suitable music, to the place where those who were massacred were interred."

### THE MEETING OF JULY 3, 1832.

From Peck's History of Wyoming.

"The meeting was one of great public interest, and, as might be expected, a vast concourse of people attended. Rev. James May of the Protestant Episcopal Church, was the orator. Associated with him in the services were Rev. Nicholas Murray, of the Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Charles Nash, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, then all pastors in the borough of Wilkes-Barre. The oration of Mr. May and the remarks of Mr. Murray were published in the papers, and are now before us.

### REV. JAMES MAY'S ADDRESS

Mr. May's address consisted of a brief sketch of the objects of the meeting, the battle, and the consequences which followed. Toward its close we take the following beautiful paragraphs:

"When upward of fifty years have gone, we are in quiet possession of this valley. The sun in his daily journey looks upon few spots on which the Creator has combined more of the materials necessary for earthly happiness. No object of price in general can be gained without painstaking and sacrifice. The independence of our common country was not secured without a long and toilsome struggle. This valley, so rich in soil, so lovely in scenery, could not be possessed securely till the sacrifice was made, and that, too, of blood. The hands that more than half a century ago first struck the axe into the forests that had for ages shadowed these plains, lie mingled with the dust. The troubles of those times, when the Indians descended upon this valley, were borne by heads that are pillowed beneath the soil. See, fellow-citizens, the sacrifice which was made by the first civilized tenants of this valley. The grave containing their bones is uncovered before you. You see for yourself the marks of the tomahawk and scalping-knife



on the heads which are here uncovered, after having rested for more than fifty years. Peace be in this grave—sacred be the memory of them that sleep here.

"A few who were themselves sharers in the toils and difficulties of those times yet survive, and are here this day to bear witness for us. Venerable citizens we respect you for your years; we honor you for the part you bore in the doings and sufferings of those days; we love and cherish the principles of liberty which animated you; we owe you a debt of gratitude for the happy inheritance which you did your part to preserve unimpaired for your children. You have passed within the lines of the second half century since you opened a grave here for your brothers whom the Indians slaughtered on these plains. This valley, which you saw as it was when but a frontier, you survive to see in the midst of a population of many hundreds of thousands overspreading the country beyond you. But on this day, and where you now are, you can not but think of what you once saw in this place. We would stand aside while you look into this grave, and see the bones of your brothers, which fifty years ago you assisted in sadly laying here. We would not intrude while, as you stand beside these bones, you think how you stood beside your friends when they lived. For your sakes we are glad that this day has come. We rejoice to think that you may yet see a stone raised here, on which the names of those you laid in this spot shall be engraven"

A PORTION OF THE REMARKS MADE BY  
REV. NICHOLAS MURRAY

"You see these bleached heads and bending forms around me. These worthies have come down to us from the last century, and are the companions of the heroes to whose manly frames these moulder-

ing bones belonged. Could the breath of life be breathed into these bones—could they rise in the possession of living energy; they would find, even among this small remnant, a few brothers and sons. As the gentleman on my right was narrating the incidents of the horrible massacre, I saw the tear stealing down the furrowed cheeks of these fathers of our community. That tear told me that they felt—that they deeply felt; and methinks that there is not a heart in this vast converse that does not sympathize with them. They desire that a monument should be erected over the common grave of their fathers, and brothers, and companions. And do you not sympathize with them? I know you do. I feel persuaded that you are anxious to place a liberal subscription on this paper before you retire from this place. You court the honor of contributing to the erection of the Wyoming Monument. My great fear is that we shall not all have the privilege of giving. I would therefore caution the rich not to indulge their patriotic feelings too freely, lest the poor should be debarred. We all want to have our stone in the Wyoming Monument."

The necessary amount was not raised, and the subscription was so small that the enterprise rested for seven years. In 1839, an able committee was sent to Harford to solicit aid from the Legislature of Connecticut, to the amount of three thousand dollars, to aid in the erection of the proposed monument. Two years later another petition and another committee were sent, and for a time they thought they would succeed. The lower house voted the appropriation by a large majority, but the Senate did not agree. The amount was never granted.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### THE WYOMING MONUMENT

A meeting was convened at the house of James Scovel, in Exeter township, on the 25th of November, 1809, to adopt measures for erecting a monument to the memory of those who perished in the battle and massacre of Wyoming on the 3d of July, 1778. A committee was appointed for each township in the county to collect funds. In about two months only \$300 was collected, and here ended the matter for upwards of twenty-two years.

In June, 1832, the bones of the victims of the battle and massacre were discovered in one common grave, on the farm of Fisher Gay. On the 3d of July, the same year a meeting was held on the monument ground, and among the resolutions adopted was one thanking Fisher Gay "for his liberality in bestowing the ground necessary for the erection of a monument, and for his attention at the meeting." July 3d, 1833, the corner stone of the monument was laid by Elisha Blackman, a veteran, who was

in the battle. A box was deposited in the stone by Samuel Carey, another survivor of the engagement. It contained a history of the early settlement of the valley, an account of the battle, a list of the names of those who fell in the engagement, a copy of the official report of the battle by Colonel Z. Butler, a copy of the address delivered at the laying of the corner stone, by Chester Butler; the muster roll of a company commanded by Captain Samuel Ransom, made out September 17, 1777; copies of the addresses made by the Rev. James May and the Rev. Nicholas Murray at a former meeting; a piece of each denomination of United States coin; a copy of President Jackson's proclamation to the people of the United States in reference to the hostile attitude of South Carolina towards the Federal Government, and a copy of each newspaper then published in the county. The bones of the slain were deposited in the ground, and prayer offered by Rev. John Dorrance.



In 1839 and 1841 the general assembly of Connecticut refused an appropriation of \$3,000 to complete the monument. In 1841, patriotic ladies of Luzerne formed a society called the Luzerne Monumental Association. Mrs. C. Butler was made president, Mrs. Hollenback and Mrs. Carey, vice-presidents, Mrs. Harrison Wright, treasurer, and Mrs. R. D. Carey, secretary. They obtained donations at home and abroad, held a fair at Wilkes-Barre and raised a fund of \$2,508. In order to raise funds the ladies spread a monumental dinner in Kingston on the 24th of June, 1841. It was largely attended and the association realized a handsome return. Rev. T. P. Hunt, Colonel H. B. Wright and Dr. T. W. Miner delivered appropriate addresses. But the most united and general effort to secure the money needed to complete the monument was made at the fair held in Wilkes-Barre on the 1st, 2d and 3d of July following. By this fair the ladies obtained \$2,200. This sum was expended, and a monument sixty-two and a half feet in height was raised.

In 1856 Fisher Gay sold his farm to Payne Pettebone. The deed contained provisions securing the monumental site to the association. Mr. Pettebone sold the property to Moses Woodward, and he to Mr. Kesler and others, and their several deeds reiterated the same provisions.

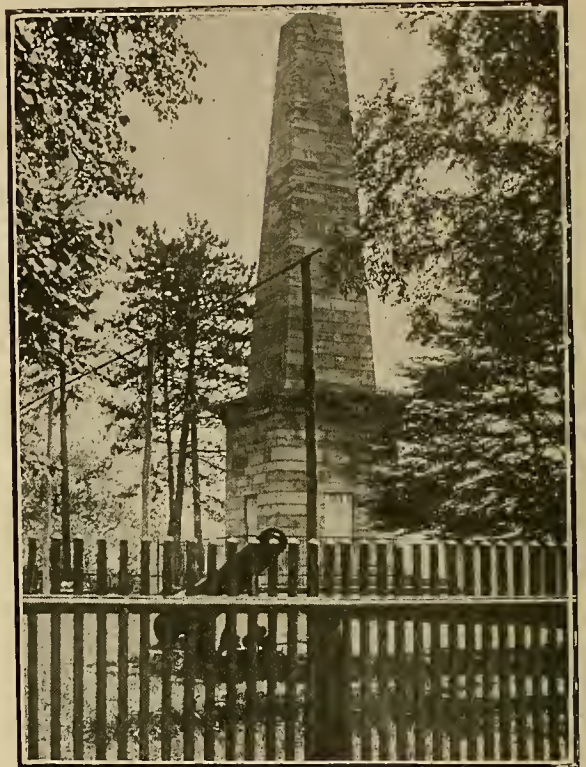
At a meeting of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, January 16, 1864, Payne Pettebone, Hon. W. S. Ross and Colonel Charles Dorrance were named as a committee to collect funds for enclosing and improving the monumental grounds, which contains one-half acre of land. The fence was built and trees planted in the Spring of 1864 by the Wyoming Monumental Association, which was incorporated by an Act approved April 3, 1860.

The monument proper cost about \$6,500. Including grounds, fencing, trees and shrubbery the cost was about \$8,000.

The monument is a plain obelisk, of the dark gray stone of the valley, cut on the face and laid in blocks of from twelve to fifteen inches in thickness, and of convenient lengths.

It is sixty-two and one-half feet in height from the surface of the ground, rectangular in form, and of proper proportions to render it graceful and of architectural propriety, with four equal sides. The base rises three steps from the foundation. Within this is a chamber containing the bones of the victims of the massacre, as far as they could be recovered. Resting on the base is a square die with a tablet of marble set into each face.

The monument was erected over a mile south of the battle field, near the present southern boundary of Wyoming borough, on the east side of the road leading into Forty Fort.



WYOMING MONUMENT.

The north-west or front tablet of the monument contains the following appropriate inscription by Edward G. Mallery, great grandson of Colonel Butler:

"Near this spot was fought, on the afternoon of Friday, the 3d of July, 1778, the battle of Wyoming; in which a small body of patriotic Americans, chiefly the undisciplined, the youthful and the aged, spared, by inefficiency, from the distant ranks of the republic, led by Colonel Zebulon Butler and Colonel Nathan Denison, with a courage that deserved success, boldly met and bravely fought a combined British, Tory and Indian force of thrice their number. Numerical superiority alone gave success to the invader, and wide-spread havoc, desolation and ruin marked his savage and bloody footsteps through the valley. This monument, commemorative of these events and of the actors in them, has been erected over the bones of the slain by their descendants and others who gratefully appreciate the services and sacrifices of their patriotic ancestors."

The tablets on the south-west and north-east sides contain the names of the slain as far as was known at the time of the building; a few since have been added to the list which is now as follows:

## SLAIN IN BATTLE

*"Dulce et decorum est patria mori"*

## FIELD OFFICERS

Lieu. Col. George Dorrance  
Major Jonathan Waite Garrett.

## CAPTAINS

James Bidlack, Jr.	William McKarrachen
Aholiab Buck	Samuel Ransom
Robert Durkee	Lazarus Stewart
Rezin Geer	James Wigdon
Dethick Hewitt	Asaph Whittlesey

## LIEUTENANTS

A. Atherton	Timothy Pierce
Aaron Gaylord	Stoddart Bowen
Perrin Ross	Elijah Shoemaker
Lazarus Stewart, Jr.	Asa Stevens
Flavius Waterman	James Wells

## ENSIGNS

Jeremiah Bigord	Asa Gore
Silas Gore	Titus Hinman
Jonathan Otis	William White

## PRIVATES

Jabez Atherton	Joshua Landon
Christopher Avery Ackke	Daniel Lawrence
A. Benedict	William Lawrence
Jabez Beers	Francis Ledyard
Samuel Bigford	James Lock
David Bixby	Conrad Lowe
Elias Bixby	Jacob Lowe
John Boyd	William Lester
John Brown	C. McCartee
Thomas Brown	Nicholas Manville
William Buck	Nero Matthewson
Joseph Budd	Alexander McMillan
Amos Bullock	Job Marshall
Asa Bullock	Andrew Millard
Henry Bush	John Murphy
Eson Bockway	Robert McIntire
John Caldwell	Joseph Ogden
Josiah Carman	Abel Palmer
Joseph Cary	Silas Parker
Joel Church	William Parker
William Cofferrin	John Pierce
James Cofferrin	Henry Pencil
Samuel Cole	Noah Pettebone, Jr.
Isaac Campbell	Jeremiah Ross, Jr.
—Campbell	Elisha Richards
Robert Comstock	William Reynolds
Kingsley Comstock	Elias Roberts
Brothers {	Timothy Rose
Cook	Abram Shaw
Cook	James Shaw
Cook	Joseph Shaw
Christopher Courtright	Constant Searle
John Courtright	Abel Seeley
Anson Corey	Levi Spencer
Jenks Corey	Jabez Darling
Rufus Corey	Darius Spofford
Joseph Crocker	James Spencer
D. Denton	Joseph Staples
Anderson Dana	Reuben Staples
Conrad Davenport	Rufus Stevens
George Downing	James Stevenson
James Devine	Nailer Sweed
Levi Dunn	Gamaliel Truesdale
William Dunn	Ichabod Tuttle
—Ducher	Abram Vangorder
Benjamin Finch	Joseph Jennings
Daniel Finch	Henry Johnson
John Finch	John Van Wie
Elisha Fish	

Cornelius Fitchett  
Eliphalet Follett  
Thomas Faxon  
John Franklin  
Stephen Fuller  
Thomas Fuller  
George Gore  
—Gardner  
—Green

Benjamin Hatch  
William Hammon  
Silas Harvey  
Samuel Hutchinson  
Cyprian Hebard  
Levi Hicks  
John Hutchins  
James Hopkins  
Nathaniel Howard  
Zipporah Hibbard  
Elijah Inman  
Israel Inman  
Samuel Jackson

Lieutenant Boyd, killed at Forty Fort, after the Battle.

Elihu Waters  
Jonathan Weeks  
Bartholomew Weeks  
Philip Weeks  
Peter Wheeler  
Stephen Whiton  
Eben Wilcox  
Elihu Williams, Jr.  
Rufus Williams  
Aaron Stark  
Daniel Stark  
Josiah Spencer  
Eson Wilcox  
John Williams  
John Ward  
John Wilson  
Parker Wilson  
William Woodring  
Aziba Williams  
—Wade  
Ozias Yale  
Gershom Prince (colored)

On the south-east side over the door leading to the vault is a slab containing a list of the survivors as follows:

## COLONELS

Zebulon Butler	Nathan Denison
----------------	----------------

## LIEUTENANTS

Daniel Gore	Timothy Howe
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## ENSIGNS

Daniel Downing	Matthias Hollenback
----------------	---------------------

## SERGEANTS

Jabez Fish	Phineas Spafford	Gates
------------	------------------	-------

## PRIVATES

John Abbott	Elisha Harris
Gideon Baldwin	Ebenezer Heberd
Zera Beach	William Heberd
Rufus Bennett	Richard Inman
Solomon Bennett	David Inman
Elisha Blackman	John Jamison
Nathan Carey	Henry Lickers
Samuel Carey	Joseph Morse
George Cooper	Thomas Neill
Joseph Elliott	Josiah Pell
Samuel Finch	Phineas Peirce
Roswell Franklin	Abraham Pike
Hugh Forsman	John N. Skinner
Thomas Fuller	Giles Slocum
John Garrett	Walter Spencer
Samuel Gore	Edward Spencer
Lemuel Gustin	Amos Stafford
James Green	Roger Searle
Lebbeus Hammond	Cherrick Westbrook
Jacob Haldron	Eleazer West

Daniel Washburn

## PRISONERS TAKEN FROM WYOMING

John Gardner	Daniel Wallen
Daniel Carr	Daniel Rosencrans
Samuel Carey	Elisha Wilcox

—Pierce

## KILLED ON APPROACH TO WYOMING

William Crooks	James Hadsall
Miner Robbins	James Hadsall, Jr.
Benjamin Harding	Wm. Martin
Stukeley Harding	—Quocko (colored)



Above the die is a projecting cornice of some two feet in thickness, the whole supporting the obelisk proper which tapers upwards, terminating in one solid cap-stone in the form of a flattened pyramid at the apex.

The monument contains the names of one

hundred and seventy killed, seven prisoners and eight who were killed before the battle, making a total of one hundred and eighty-five. It was impossible to get a complete list, because many fell in line of battle at the last moment, not having time to enroll. The monument, also, contains the names of the fifty survivors.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### EARLY IMPROVEMENTS IN WYOMING

#### THE FIRST MILLS IN WYOMING

As mentioned elsewhere, the first settlement by white people in the Wyoming Valley was begun in 1762, at Mill Creek. The number of settlers was small, and before they could do much more than clear some land for cultivat-

ration. "Males and females alike were found grinding at these hominy mills. They could be heard pounding night and day, in all directions in Wilkes-Barre."

In 1769 the New England settlers returned to the valley. In a petition to the Connecticut



HOMINY BLOCK OR CORN POUNDER

A Type of the First Mills Used in Wyoming Valley. (Courtesy of Wyoming

Society)

ing, and erect necessary log huts for dwellings, they were all either massacred by the Indians, carried away into captivity, or driven back to their old homes in New England.

No attempt was made by these settlers to erect a grist-mill. In the absence of such a mill a corn-pounder or hominy block was used. This was a section of a tree trunk, with one end hollowed out like a bowl. In this bowl the corn was placed, and then pounded with a pestle hung upon a spring-pole, as shown in the illus-

Assembly, dated at Wilkes-Barre, August 29, 1769, and signed by a number of settlers, it set forth that they had been at great expense "erecting houses, mills, and other necessary buildings." In the *New York Journal* of December 28, 1769, there was published an account of the troubles at Wyoming between the Pennamites and Yankees, and reference was made to the capture of Major John Durkee while "going from the block-house to view some mills they were erecting." At a town-meeting held in

Wilkes-Barre in September, 1771, Captain Warner was appointed to live in the block-house near the mills, "in order to guard ye mills;" and he was granted liberty to select nine men to assist him as guards.

These mills—or, more properly, this mill, for there was but one structure—was the mill erected on Mill Creek by the New England settlers in the autumn of 1769, and it was, without doubt, a saw-mill. No steps had been taken, up to the autumn of 1771 towards the erection in Wyoming of a grist-mill. According to Miner's "History of Wyoming" (Appendix, page 47) there were no grist-mills in Wyoming

grinds, and for other grain two quarts out of each bushel; except malt, out of which one quart." Should the miller presume to take or receive greater toll, he was liable to a penalty of ten shillings for each conviction. The miller was also allowed for bolting, one pint out of each bushel he should bolt. It was also provided by statute that "one miller to each grist-mill" be exempted from liability to do duty in the militia of the Colony.

#### THE CHAPMAN GRIST-MILL

Early in 1772 a grant was made to Nathan Chapman (who is said to have come from Goshen, N. Y.), by the proprietors of Wilkes-Barre township, of a site of forty acres of land at Mill Creek; thirty acres on the north side of the creek and ten on the south side, just east of the road (known later as the "middle road," and now as the continuation of Main street) running from Wilkes-Barre to Pittston. The same year a grist-mill and a saw-mill were built by Mr. Chapman on the north side of the creek. This was the first grist-mill erected in Wyoming. It was a log structure with one run of stones. These were run by a slow-moving but powerful over-shot waterwheel. The mill irons were brought by Matthias Hollenback in his boat up the Susquehanna river from Wright's Ferry, and Charles Miner says the voyage "was rendered memorable by the loss of Lazarus Young, who was drowned on the way up."

Chapman ran his grist-mill from 1772 till October 24, 1774, when he sold the mill, forty acres of land, dwelling-house, etc., to Adonijah Stanburrough (who came from Orange county, New York) for £400. Stanburrough ran the grist-mill until some time after the Revolutionary War had begun, when, being a Loyalist or Tory, he was forced by the inhabitants to leave Wyoming. Before going away he placed the Mill Creek property in charge of his father, Josiah Stanburrough, then in the valley, and who was not a Tory. Adonijah having failed to pay Chapman the consideration money for the property, the latter sold the same November 16, 1777, to Josiah the father, who was in possession.

The mill was destroyed by the invading enemy in July, 1778. About 1781 or '82 new mills were built on the Mill Creek site by Josiah Stanburrough. The new grist-mill was taken possession of by the Pennamites in the autumn of 1783 and given to a man friendly to the Pennsylvania cause. Repossession of the mill was gained by the Yankees a few months later, but May 1, 1784, it was again "taken by force from the inhabitants by the soldiers with large clubs." Soon thereafter the settlers took possession of the mill by force, and "kept it



MORTAR AND PESTLE USED IN FORTY FORT  
IN 1778.

Now in Wyoming Historical Building, Wilkes-Barre

in 1771. "For bread the settlers used pounded corn. Dr. Sprague, who kept a boarding-house, would take his horse, with as much wheat as he could carry, and go out to the Delaware (to Coshutunk) and get it ground. Seventy or eighty miles was no trifling distance. The flour was kept for cakes and to be used only on extraordinary occasions."

By 1772 the settlers were in full and complete possession of Wyoming Valley, and then one of the first matters of general interest that was acted upon in townmeeting was with reference to the erection of a grist-mill.

During the period that Wyoming was under the jurisdiction of Connecticut, and the laws of that Province and State prevailed and were enforced here, the statute relating to grist-mills provided that each miller in the Colony or the owner of a grist-mill, "shall be allowed three quarts out of each bushel of Indian corn he



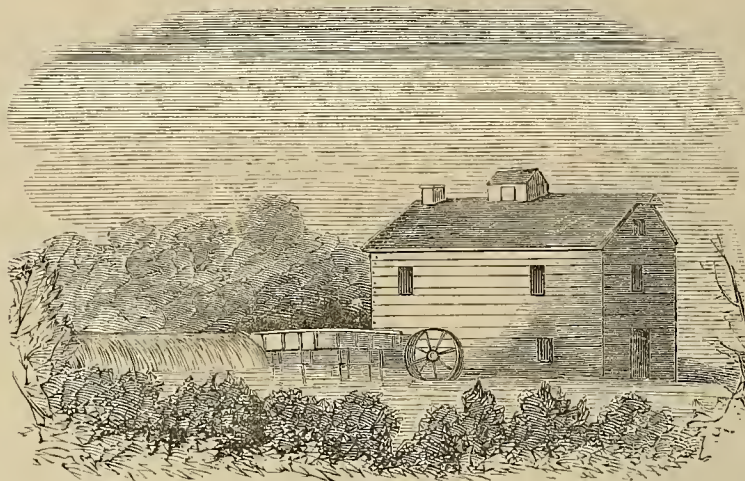
running night and day to provide flour for themselves for future emergencies, as well as for their present wants." (*Miner's History*, page 348.)

After that Josiah Stanburrough continued to run the mill until February, 1787, when, for £300 (about \$1,000)\* he conveyed the whole property to his daughter Elizabeth, wife of John Hollenback of Wilkes-Barre. Early in the last century the old mills were removed, and a new grist-mill was erected by Mrs. Hollenback on the south side of the creek. John Hollenback had died in 1797. Upon the death of Mrs. Hollenback in 1808 or 1809 the grist-mill became the property of her son, Matthias,

site, and in 1848 E. A. Coray having become the owner of the site, erected a third mill, which is still standing, but has not been in use for the last few years.

#### POST OFFICE AND MAIL FACILITIES

In 1777 a post route was established between Hartford, Conn. and the Wyoming valley, Wilkes-Barre being the chief settlement. Previous to that date what little mail passed between that point and the outside world had been carried by private messengers. The post-rider was Prince Bryant, who made the trip once in two weeks. During the period of the continued struggle between Pennsylvania and



THE SUTTON MILL, 1776.

(Courtesy of Wyoming Historical Society)

Jr. In 1860 or '61 the mill was converted into a distillery, and two years later the building was turned into a dwelling-house. The building was destroyed by fire about 1885.

#### SUTTON'S MILL

In 1776 James Sutton, in partnership with James Hadsall, put up the first grist-mill in the upper end of Exeter township. It was located on the north side of Sutton's creek (now Coray's creek) near its confluence with the Susquehanna river. Hadsall was murdered, and the mill was destroyed by the Indians and Tories just before the massacre of 1778, and the mill irons were carried away, except the crank, which is now preserved in the collections of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, Wilkes-Barre, as a relic of one of the earliest mills in the Wyoming Valley.

Several years later Samuel Sutton, a son of James, built a second grist-mill on the same

Connecticut for supremacy over Wyoming regular mail communication was interrupted, and messages were carried to and fro by men employed by the settlers for that purpose.

A post office was established at Wilkes-Barre in 1794, with Lord Butler as postmaster, at the corner of River and Northampton streets. It was not until the organization of Luzerne county in 1786, that provision was made for a weekly mail between Wilkes-Barre and Easton. Clark Behee was the post-rider in 1797 (but we have no proof that he was the first over the route), during which year weekly mails were carried from Wilkes-Barre to Berwick, via Nanticoke, Newport and Nescopeck, the return route being via Huntington and Plymouth. At this time Wilkes-Barre was the only regularly established post-town in the county, and mail for residents of the townships mentioned was left at certain houses within their limits chosen by the postmaster at Wilkes-Barre.

\*A "£" in Connecticut currency was equal to \$3.33.

Barre and Great Bend in 1798, and another between Wilkes-Barre and Owego, N. Y. The mails were received by the former route once a fortnight and by the latter once a week. Both were sustained by private contributions chiefly, if not entirely, like those of the early settlers before the Revolutionary War. It is said that subscribers to newspapers had to pay at the rate of \$2 a year to the mail carrier for the privilege of receiving them. In 1800 Jonathan Hancock was a post-rider between Wilkes-Barre and Berwick. In 1803 Charles Mowery and a man named Peck carried the mails on foot between Wilkes-Barre and Tioga, N. Y., making the trip once in two weeks. In 1810 there were only two post offices in the valley, Wilkes-Barre and Kingston. In 1811 four

#### SUSQUEHANNA RIVER ARK

A hundred years ago the only method they had of transporting in the Wyoming Valley was by the old-fashioned Susquehanna River Ark, which was floated down the river loaded with all sorts of things. They used arks for transporting common produce of all kinds—hay, grain, apples, potatoes, coal, etc. These arks were about eighty or ninety feet long, thirty or forty feet wide, and four feet deep. They were made of rough timber at the place where the shipment started, and after they had reached their destination and were unloaded, the lumber was sold for whatever price they could get for it. In this way, for over twenty years, the coal trade of the valley continued until the canals were built.



A SUSQUEHANNA RIVER ARK, 1808

(Courtesy of Wyoming Historical Society)

were established, viz.: at Pittston, Nescopeck, Abington and Providence. The Providence office was located in Slocum Hollow, and Benj. Slocum appointed postmaster. In 1824 another was established in Blakely, and the same year the office at Slocum Hollow was moved to Providence, and John Vaughn appointed postmaster, and William Merrifield commissioned postmaster of a new office at Hyde Park. The mail was carried once a week on horseback by Zephaniah Knapp, from Easton to Bethany, via. Wilkes-Barre and Providence. Later four and six-horse stage routes were established, and with the first railroad came added mail facilities, which have increased from year to year.

As can be seen from the illustration, they were floated down the river by two men, who occupied the small hut erected upon the top of the ark.

#### NORTH BRANCH CANAL

The North Branch Canal was commenced in 1828 and by 1830 completed to Nanticoke. The first boat was the "Wyoming," built at Shickshinny. This was the first canal boat coming to Luzerne county. The second boat, the "Luzerne," came in 1831. This was built on the bank opposite Wilkes-Barre, and that year made a successful trip to Philadelphia and return to Nanticoke dam. In 1834 the canal



was completed as far as Lackawanna. The boats were kept busy from the Lackawanna to Philadelphia from the day of its opening. It was the great outlet for the vast wealth rapidly developing in the valley. After 1834 the progress of the canal was slow. In 1856, twenty-two years after its completion through the valley, the entire line was completed to Elmira. Here it connected with the New York canal.

The North Branch division of the canal, from Northumberland to Elmira, cost the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania \$4,658,491.12. Ground was first broken July 4, 1828, at Berwick. A great multitude assembled. The State officials were present, colors were flying and cannons booming. "Nathan Beach held the plow, and the yoke of red oxen were owned and driven by Alexander Jameson."

"July 14, 1858, S. T. Lippincott left Pittston with five boats of coal and reached Elmira, and from there by New York canals to Buffalo, thence by steamboat to Cleveland, which he reached August 8, the first cargo of coal that ever passed beyond the mountains from Luzerne county."

In 1858, only two years after its completion, the State sold the canal to the Sunbury & Erie Railroad company. This was the beginning of the end.

Abram May was captain of the first canal-boat running between Pittston and Falls. He was a descendant of Cornelius Jacobus May who came to this country with the Puritans in 1620, and who was governor of the Mayflower colony.

#### THE LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD.

This great road was incorporated in 1846, under the name of the Delaware, Lehigh, Schuylkill and Susquehanna Railroad. A bare organization of officers of the contemplated road existed from 1846 until 1851. Up to this time only \$444,37½ had been expended for both surveying the route and building a fraction of a mile of the road merely for the protection of its charter.

October 31, 1851, Asa Packer, who was born in Connecticut in 1805, became the purchaser of a large amount of the stock which had been subscribed, and commenced efforts to get additional stock subscribed and the road constructed.

Robert H. Sayre was appointed chief engineer for the construction of the road, September 13, 1852. On January 7, 1853, the name of the company was changed by Act of Assembly to the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company, and on the 10th of the month James M. Porter was re-elected president, and John N. Hutchinson, secretary and treasurer.

On February 12, 1853, a contract with Judge Asa Packer for the construction of the road was signed. But a formal agreement was made on the 27th of November, 1852, and Judge Packer immediately commenced on the deep rock cut at Easton. Judge Packer made some of the hardest cuts, and by sub-letting part of the work to other contractors who worked at other places, the work was completed in September, 1855, trains running over it between Easton and Mauch Chunk. In 1865 measures were adopted to extend the road to White Haven, and in 1867 it was extended to Wilkes-Barre. An excursion was run from Tunkhannock to Laceyville, July 4, 1869, and by the end of the year the road was finished as far as the New York State line. The second track was laid about 1883.



*Jesse Fell*

JESSE FELL'S SILHOUETTE

This Silhouette of Judge Fell, the only likeness extant, is given by the courtesy of Oscar J. Harvey, Esq., from his "History of Lodge No. 61, F. and A. M., Wilkes-Barre."

#### FIRST NEWSPAPER IN WYOMING

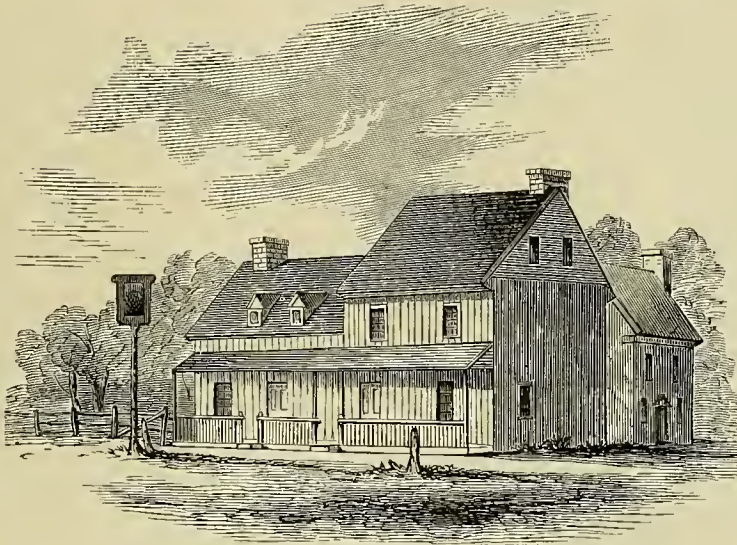
In 1795, two young men, whose names are unknown, came to Wilkes-Barre from Philadelphia with a small press and a few cases of type.

They printed *The Herald of the Times*, which was the first newspaper published in Luzerne county. Prior to this date, all notices, advertisements, etc., were posted up on the town sign-posts, the first of which was erected in Wilkes-Barre, in 1774. At the second town meeting, held April 11th and 12th, 1774, it was voted "that for ye present ye tree that now stands northerly from Captain Butler's house shall be ye town sign-post. This house stood on the corner of Northampton and River streets in the town-plot, and the tree stood on the river bank. Without a newspaper, these sign-posts were very important. It was enacted that a sign-post be established in each town, on which notices of public sales, stray animals taken up, and other notices, should be posted to render them legal.

### JESSE FELL

Jesse Fell, whose parents were members of the Society of Friends, or Quakers, was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, April 16, 1751, and died at Wilkes-Barre August 11, 1830. With his wife and four children he settled in Wilkes-Barre in the latter part of 1785, and kept an inn at the north-east corner of the present Northampton and Washington streets. For many years after his death the building—then considered modernized—was known as the "Old Fell House."

Jesse Fell was Sheriff of Luzerne county from October, 1789 till January, 1792, when he was appointed and commissioned Lieutenant of county to succeed Col. Zebulon Butler. In this office he served till April, 1793, when he was



JESSE FELL'S INN, WILKES-BARRE  
Corner of Washington and Northampton Streets  
(Courtesy of Wyoming Historical Society)

After a short period *The Herald of the Times* was sold to Thomas Wright, and published by Josiah Wright under the name of the *Wilkes-Barre Gazette*. The first number was dated Nov. 29, 1797. *The Gazette* was a well-edited paper, size 10x16 inches. It was sustained by about 300 subscribers, at \$2 per annum. In 1801 it ceased to be published.

Asher Miner established *The Luzerne Federalist*, at Wilkes-Barre, Jan. 5, 1801. The press on which it was printed was brought from Norwich, Conn., on a sled, by Charles Miner and S. Howard. In 1809, it was purchased by Steuben Butler and Sidney Tracy. They enlarged the paper in 1811, and changed its name to *The Gleaner*. In a few months Mr. Tracy withdrew and was succeeded by Charles Miner. *The Gleaner* was discontinued in 1818.

commissioned Brigade Inspector of the "Luzerne Militia Brigade." In February, 1798, he was commissioned by Governor Mifflin one of the Associate Judges of the Courts of Luzerne County, and this office he filled with dignity and credit for a period of thirty-two and a half years, terminated only by his death. In 1806 he was elected the first Burgess of the borough of Wilkes-Barre. Subsequently he served five consecutive terms as Burgess, from May, 1814 to May, 1819. He was a member of the Town Council for many years, and served as its President from May, 1809 to May, 1810; May, 1811 to May, 1814 and May, 1820 to May, 1823. He held various other offices of trust and importance in the community.

Jesse Fell was the first person to burn anthracite coal in a grate for fuel. This was on Feb.



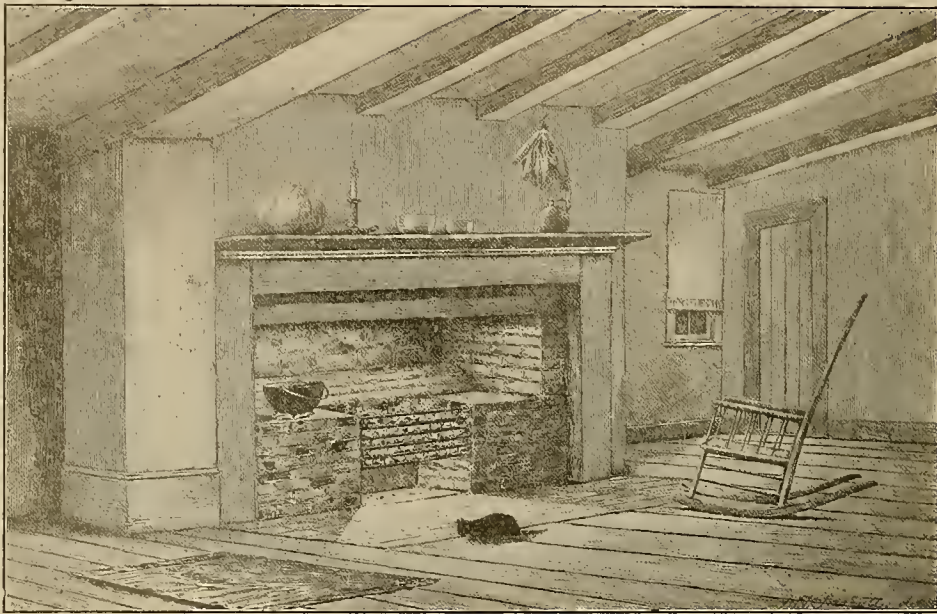
11, 1808. He made the experiment in the bar room of his hotel at the corner of Washington and Northampton streets. He made a grate of small iron rods, ten inches in depth and ten inches in height, and set it up in the fireplace. After lighting the fire he found it worked very satisfactory. Such was the effect of this pleasing discovery, that in a few days there were a number of grates put in operation. This brought the stone coal into popular notice.

#### LUZERNE COUNTY

Near the close of the year 1682, William Penn divided the province of Pennsylvania into the three counties of Philadelphia, Chester and Bucks.

Northampton, with the county seat at Sunbury. The Connecticut settlers were then within the limits of this county. As the population increased, it was thought advisable to form a new county from the northern portion of Northumberland. Accordingly, Luzerne county was organized by the Act of September 25, 1786, and was named in honor of the Chevalier De la Luzerne, minister from France to the United States. He was born in 1741 at Paris. Then Luzerne county included parts of Bradford, Sullivan and Carbon, and all of Susquehanna, Wyoming and Lackawanna counties.

Bradford county (called Ontario till March 24, 1812) was formed of parts of Luzerne and Lycoming counties, Feb. 21, 1810, and the same



THE OLD FELL HOUSE ROOM AND FIRE PLACE

The first and only picture of the room where Jesse Fell made his experiment, burning anthracite coal in a grate, Feb. 11, 1808. From a pen and ink drawing by J. H. Parrott, made in 1895, now in the Historical Society Building, Wilkes-Barre.

(Courtesy of Wyoming Historical Society)

Bucks embraced all the north-eastern portion of the province. The "Walking Purchase" of September, 1737, placed the heirs of Penn in possession of the lands along the Delaware. The settlements rapidly extended northward, along the river. On March 11, 1752, Bucks county was divided, and Northampton county organized, with the seat of justice at Easton. This act placed the Wyoming Valley within the limits of the new county, from which all legal processes were issued. Prisoners taken in Wyoming were conveyed across the mountain to the Easton jail.

By the Act of March 21, 1772, the county of Northumberland was organized from a part of

day Susquehanna was organized from a part of Luzerne; Wyoming, April 4, 1842 and Lackawanna August 13, 1878. The original territory of Luzerne embraced five thousand square miles, exceeding in extent the state of Connecticut. In 1800 the population was 12,838, and 18,109 in 1810.

#### WILKES-BARRE

Wilkes-Barre was planned and laid out early in June, 1770, by Colonel John Durkee. The plot, containing about two hundred acres, was laid out on the level land lying just north-east of Fort Durkee. In the centre of this plot was laid out a diamond-shaped space, containing

about four acres, which was called the "Centre Square," but for several years has been known as "Public Square." The land between River street and the river, containing some thirty-five acres, also remained as public property, and is now known as the "River Common." Wilkes-Barre was named in honor of John Wilkes and



ONE OF JESSE FELL'S GRATES  
The only one now extant, and now  
in Historical Society Building.

Colonel Isaac Barre, members of the British Parliament, and warm friends of the American colonies during the Revolution. The first dwelling within this plot was a log-cabin built in 1769, by John Abbott, on the south-west corner of Main and Northampton streets. In 1772, there were only five white women in Wilkes-Barre, but, several others came that summer. In 1784, the whole number of buildings amounted to twenty-six, of which twenty-three were burnt by the Pennamites.

Wilkes-Barre was incorporated a borough, March 17, 1806, and Jesse Fell was elected the first burgess. The population at that time was about 500.

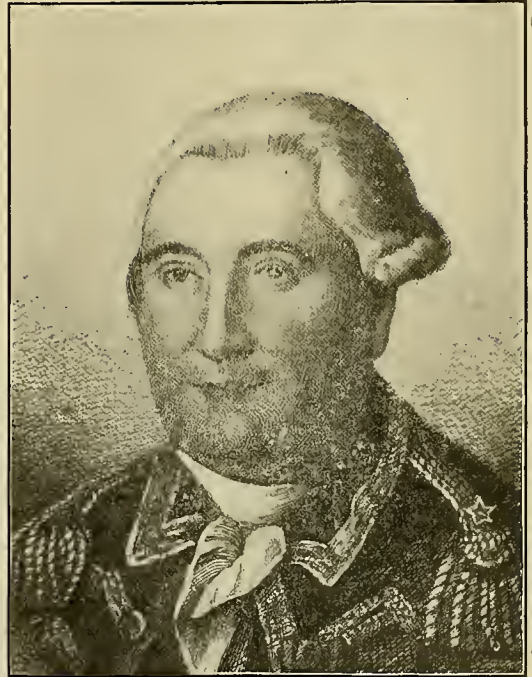
The city of Wilkes-Barre was incorporated by an Act of Assembly, approved May 24, 1871, and included the borough of Wilkes-Barre and all of the township of Wilkes-Barre lying west of the old Empire road, projecting northerly to the township line of Plains and southerly to the township line of Hanover. The population was then (1870) 10,174. In August, 1898, Wilkes-Barre became a third class city. It is divided into sixteen wards, containing about five square miles or 3,682 acres. The population in 1900, was 51,721 and 67,105 in 1910.

#### LUZERNE COUNTY COURT HOUSES

"The Act of Assembly forming Luzerne county, named Zebulon Butler, Jonah Rogers, Simon Spaulding, Nathaniel Landon and John Phillips, as trustees to locate and to erect a court-

house and jail. This they did, on the site of the old fort in the public square in Wilkes-Barre. This building was about 25x50 feet, constructed of hewn logs, two stories high, with outside steps leading to the court room on the second floor. The first story was used as a jail and the jailor's residence. This primitive temple of justice was completed in 1791, and Stephen Tuttle, whose good wife placed her cake and beer sign over the door of the first story, was appointed first jailor.

"On one occasion, during the sitting of the Supreme Court, an unusual noise disturbed his Honor, Judge McKean, who, in a stern voice, commanded silence. The noise, however, continued, when the court sent for Mr. Tuttle, who evidently much incensed, informed his honor that the d—d hogs had got at his corn in the



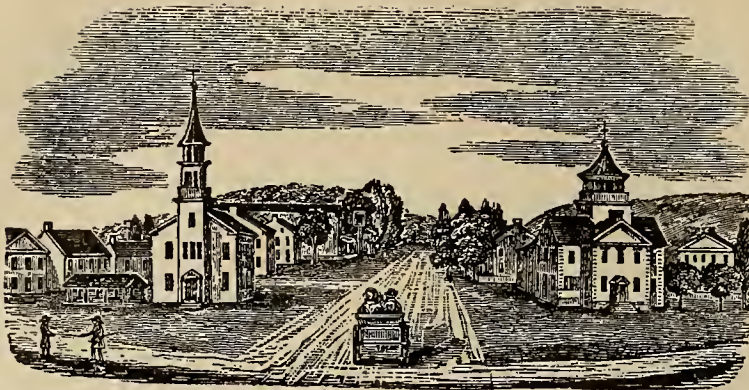
CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE  
(Courtesy of Wyoming Historical Society)

garret by coming up the outside steps in the morning. Mr. Tuttle was ordered to eject the intruders forthwith. There proved to be but one hog, which rushed forth with a tremendous grunt, capsizing Mr. Tuttle, together with the gravity of the court. After a few years it was resolved to erect a new building for the courts.

#### THE SECOND COURT-HOUSE

"In 1801, Lawrence Myers, Eleazer Blackman and Thomas Wright, county commissioners, procured the plan of a court-house in Frederickburg, Maryland, for which they paid \$17.07. The old log court-house was removed





THE PUBLIC SQUARE, WILKES-BARRE, 1845  
(From "Day's Historical Collection of Pennsylvania")

by Joseph Hitchcock, the contractor for the construction of the new edifice, but it continued to be occupied by the courts until 1804, when the new building was completed, and the old one was converted into the Wilkes-Barre Academy. The new structure, in the form of a cross, declared by the commissioners to be 'most elegant and convenient,' was erected on the site of the old log court-house. Including furniture and fixtures, it cost \$9,356. 06. There were thirty-two and one-half gallons of whiskey used at the raising of this building; a fact which demon-

#### THE THIRD COURT-HOUSE

"In 1855, a bill authorizing the erection of a new court-house passed the General Assembly, and became a law. The commissioners of Luzerne county invited Lodge No. 61, Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons to lay the corner-stone of the third court-house, August 12, 1856 in the public square in Wilkes-Barre, upon the site of the former building. Hon. John N. Conyngham was invited by the lodge to deliver an address appropriate for the occasion. A



SOUTH MAIN STREET, WILKES-BARRE FROM THE PUBLIC SQUARE. 1908.  
(From "Board of Trade Journal")

strates either the great capacity of the people of that day for ardent spirits, or else the presence of a large number of consumers.

"The bell, the tones of which have quickened the pulsations of the hearts of so many prisoners, of plaintiffs and of defendants, was cast in Philadelphia, by George Hedderly, in 1805.

"The judges of the Supreme Court, who sat in this court-house and in the original log-building, were McKean, Tilghman, Breckenridge, Smith and Yeates.

large concourse of citizens, including a number of ladies, were in attendance to witness the proceedings. The main building, used for county offices, was 100 feet in front by 55 feet in depth. The court-room was 50x75 feet. The rear building, 30x65 feet, was occupied by the judges, lawyers and jury rooms. The tower was 118 feet in height. The architect was J. C. Wells of New York. It cost about \$85,000, including furniture, etc."—*Annals of Luzerne County*.

## THE FOURTH COURT-HOUSE

The present court-house was completed in 1909, at a cost of nearly \$1,000,000. This is a handsome building, erected at the northern end of the River Common, near the Luzerne County Jail. The jail was erected in 1869. It is an expensive and substantial building of stone and brick. The old court-house was torn down in 1909.

## MATCHES

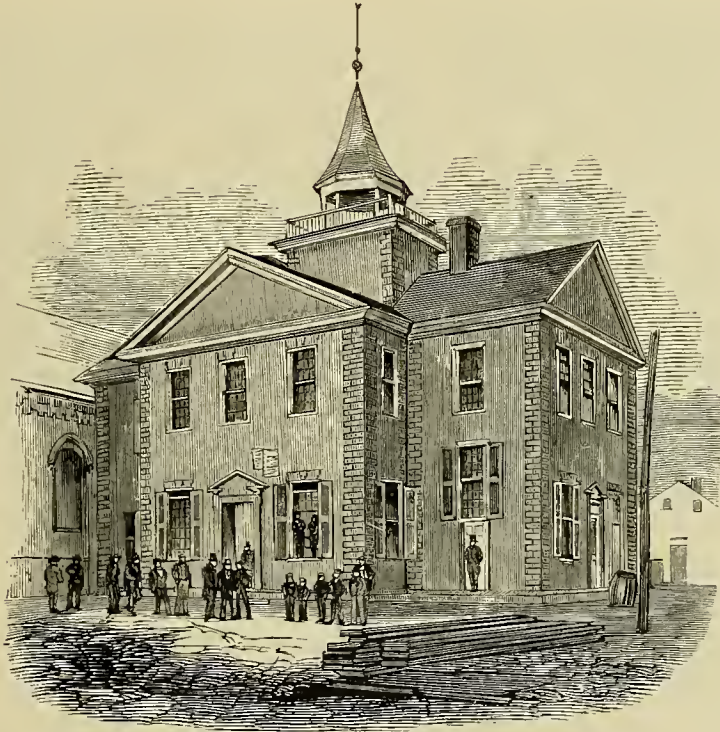
Friction matches are a comparatively modern invention. They were first made in the United States in 1836 by L. C. Allin, of Springfield, Mass. Before this time a clumsy form of match

## SCENERY AND HISTORY OF WYOMING

Written by E. I. Wolfe.

Various Indian villages were located here as recently as one hundred and fifty years ago. Two of the most important are known to have been at Forty Fort and at Firwood, South Wilkes-Barre. Aside from a few handfuls of relics, almost the only remaining vestige of the inhabitants here at that time, appears in the word Wyoming.

The first white settlers here found an oval-shaped embankment resembling the work of the Mound Builders of the Ohio Valley, and located a few rods northwest of where the D. L. & W. Depot at Kingston now stands. This and



THE SECOND COURT-HOUSE IN LUZERNE COUNTY, 1804.

(Courtesy of Wyoming Historical Society)

was imported from France, which had to be dipped into a bottle of sulphuric acid before it was lighted.

This took a great deal of time and trouble, and Allin, seeing the necessity of friction matches set about to make them, and succeeded. He neglected to patent them, however, and on finally applying for a patent, found that a man named Phillips, who was a peddler, had discovered through a third person the secret of making the matches and had already obtained a patent. Allin, though the real inventor, was forced to become a mere manufacturer under another man's patent.

Other similar mounds leave little doubt that at least two races before our own have found and occupied "Fair Wyoming." But those earlier people, who may have been prosperous and powerful here many years ago, have left us not even a word to remember them by.

Of the aboriginal inhabitants then, we have few facts and almost no monuments. On the other hand, this valley fairly bristles with points that became historically interesting during those strenuous first years of white settlement. One hundred and fifty years—only two lifetimes ago, there was not a single white man living in Wyoming Valley. With the settle-

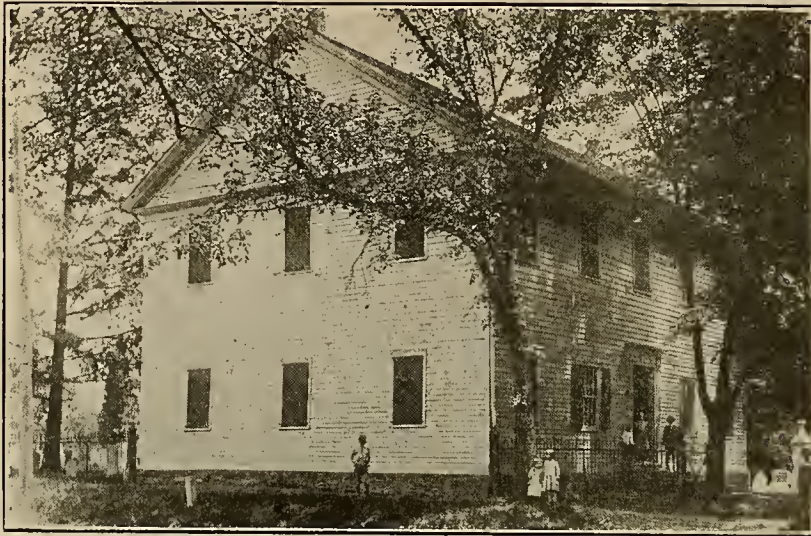


ment, began the struggle; and the tragedy of Wyoming is one of the most thrilling as well as one of the most heart-rending in all history.

All northern Pennsylvania was included in a grant made by the King to Connecticut several years before the same land was granted in mistake, to William Penn. The Connecticut people also were first to purchase the land from the Indians, and first to take possession; so that this section, when first settled, was understood to be located in Litchfield (afterwards Westmoreland) county in the State of Connecticut. The authorities of Pennsylvania disputed the claims of the Connecticut settlers as to both ownership and jurisdiction; which resulted in

of the Connecticut settlers at that time.

Twenty miles from Tilbury Knob, and at the opposite end of the valley, stands Campbell's Ledge, so named in honor of Thomas Campbell, English poet and author of "Gertrude of Wyoming." From the summit of Campbell's Ledge, you may gaze over the entire area of Wyoming Valley and a vast territory besides. Or you may look several hundred feet straight down to where at the base of the cliff ran the great Indian highway of communication between the Long House of the Iroquois and their tributary people on the Lehigh and Delaware rivers. This path came down the river past the Ledge, crossed the



OLD FORTY FORT CHURCH  
The Oldest Church in Wyoming Valley, 1807

a series of persistent and often bloody struggles, beginning in 1769, continuing for nearly twenty years. These are known in history as the Pennamite Wars.

Two simple monuments on the River Common in Wilkes-Barre show the location of two forts that figured prominently in the Pennamite Wars. Fierce fights occurred in the neighborhood of these and several other small forts; but perhaps the most famous of these wars was known as the Battle of Nanticoke Falls. This spot, the site of the present Nanticoke Dam, is at the extreme southwestern end of the valley and at the foot of the beautiful ledge called Tilbury Knob—a place well worth visiting either for its natural beauty or for its historical interest. Here on Christmas Eve, 1775, Colonel Phunket with seven hundred militia, mostly from Northumberland, was met and utterly defeated by the three hundred men and boys constituting the total effective force

Lackawanna, and struck over the mountain toward where Easton now is.

Nearly midway between these famous and beautiful ledges, and three or four miles east of the Wyoming Seminary, is Prospect Rock, which richly deserves its name. Just beyond the Rock, on the road to Laurel Run, a tasteful marker shows where on April 20, 1779, a company of soldiers marching to Wyoming to protect what was left of the settlements here was ambushed and six, including two officers were killed.

And so all through the valley, beautiful scenery and thrilling history await the observer. You may stand on the very spot where Frances Slocum stood when she was seized and carried off by the Indians despite the pleadings of her mother, and to be next heard from after nearly sixty years. You may study Colonial church architecture in the old Forty Fort Church, and a few rods away, on the river bank a small

monument will show you the location of Forty Fort, the principal refuge of the white settlers at the time of the Battle and massacre of Wyoming. In connection with your visits to this marker and to the great Wyoming Monument, Queen Esther's Rock, and other points connected with the history of this valley, you will,

of course, want to review for yourself the history of those times. You are always welcome at the Wyoming Historical Rooms in the rear of the Osterhout Library in Wilkes-Barre; and there in addition to a very interesting display of relics, you will find one of the finest historical libraries in the country.

## CHAPTER NINE

### EARLY SETTLERS ALONG THE SUSQUEHANNA

The following interesting account of John Gardner appeared in *The Wyoming Democrat*, published at Tunkhannock, under date of January 12, 1876:

#### THE GARDNERS OF GARDNER'S FERRY

John Gardner settled in Exeter (now Ransom township), six miles above the mouth of the Lackawanna river in 1769. He was chosen a town officer at the first election in 1774, and was a prominent and patriotic citizen. Three days before the great Wyoming Massacre, he was one of the Harding and Hadsall company, and was surprised while in a cornfield and captured. Although aged and lame no mercy was shown him. Esq. Harding and Mr. Jenkins state that his heart-broken wife was allowed to make him a brief visit. Mr. Gardner, feeling that he would return no more gave her his best advices as to family affairs. Both were forewarned against manifesting any feeling under the terrible scenes surrounding them, and parted hopeless of seeing each other again.

Dr. Peck says in his history of Wyoming, that "Mrs. Jenkins, wife of Lieutenant Jenkins, was with Mrs. Gardner at Fort Jenkins, after its capitulation. The husband of Mrs. Gardner was a prisoner in the hands of the Indians and Tories, and she wished much to see him once more and asked Mrs. Jenkins to accompany her. Having consented and obtained a leave, they started under escort of young Wintermoot, a Tory, who offered to go with them upon the condition that they would manifest no surprise or sorrow at the sight they might see, telling them at the same time, that they would behold many strange and heartrending scenes."

"They, therefore, schooled themselves to appear indifferent, and entered the camp as coolly as possible. Mrs. Gardner obtained an interview with her husband, who told her that he was well aware they would never meet again. He was lame and knowing that if unable to keep pace with his captors when on the march, they would kill him. He advised her to take their children and go to Connecticut and remain there with her friends, until the trouble being over in Wyoming, it would be safe to return and live upon the farm he had purchased, bidding her a final farewell. During all the time she had such possession of herself as to exhibit no outward sign of sorrow. Mrs. Jenkins also told us that the Indians were at that time busily engaged in burning their victims. They had thrown down an old dry pine fence, and piled upon it the dead, wounded, and some unhurt white men added more combustible matter, and set it on fire; and that the whole line of the fence was filled

with the charred bones and flesh of the poor creatures and men still burning; an awful sight, and I do not doubt her statement of the facts."

Mr. Miner gives the following account of Mr. Gardner's captivity and death: "One taken at Exeter the first of July, 1778, when the Hardings and Hadsalls were killed, deserve our special notice. Mr. John Gardner was a husband and father, a highly respectable man, against whom an unappeasable spirit of enmity is supposed to have existed. On the morning of the Fourth, his wife and child were permitted to see and take leave of him. Elisha Harding, Esq., then a boy, was present, and represents the scene as extremely affecting. When the last adieu was exchanged, an Indian placed a grievous load upon his shoulders, which he could scarcely raise, then put a halter around his neck and led him off as he would a beast. The farewell expressed the sentiment—I go to return no more. Exhausted with fatigue, before he arrived at his captor's home (James Hadsall says, he fell at Standing Stone, Pa., crushed by the weight of his load when he was handed over to the squaws for torture, who stuck his body full of the slivers of pine knots and tortured him to death by fire. Daniel Carr, a fellow-prisoner (who later escaped), saw the remains the following day, and represented it as a sight to awaken to deepest pity."

"John Gardner was the son of Perigreen Gardner of East Greenwich, R. I., who married Susannah Robinson of South Kingston, R. I., in April, 1731. John was the second son, and was born May 9, 1737, and was consequently a little over 41 years of age at the time he was captured by the Indians and Tories. His wife's name was Elizabeth Mumford, and they had five children to wit: Richard, Thankful, John, Benjamin and Betsy. Elizabeth, the wife or widow, died August 24, 1834, aged 91 years, 5 months and 25 days. Richard, the oldest son, was born July 8, 1767, and married in 1788 to Lydia Chapman, she died May 23, 1828, aged 61 years. Thankful was born in 1770; John, born January 9, 1773, and died March 30, 1836; Benjamin was born in 1775, and Betsy in 1778."

"John Gardner had two brothers, Stephen and Perigreen, who came and settled at Wyoming about the same time with him, and were active participants in all the struggles of the settlers against the forays of the British, Indians, Tories and Pennamites. His father, Perigreen, removed to and lived in New London, Conn., as early as 1747.

"There was a Thomas Gardner in Exeter, on the west side of the Susquehanna river, who was a cousin of John. The elder Stephen Harding, married his sister. He was a son of Stephen Gardner, brother of Perigreen. Stephen moved to Col-



chester, Conn., as early as 1743, and settled at the north end of a small lake, called Gardner's Lake, where he kept a public house in connection with a large dairy farm."

John Gardner was a man of large size and commanding appearance, the noblest and finest looking man of his time.

His wife (Elizabeth Mumford before marriage) carried out the instructions given her by her husband at their last farewell interview, as best she could, before leaving for Connecticut in 1778. She buried her household goods, not knowing but she might return for them after the trouble was over in Wyoming\*.

What fearful times these were. The strength of the settlement was gone. The husbands, sons and brothers, who were expected to clear the farms and raise the bread, had perished upon the battlefield or been led away into hopeless bondage. A few old men leaning upon their staves, mothers with infants at their breasts, and boys and girls of tender age, were left in a country overrun by murderous savages, without food, and often stripped of their clothing, until not enough was left to screen their bodies from the extremities of the weather; and in this condition obliged to undertake a long journey through the wilderness on foot.

Mrs. Gardner having arranged matters and things as best as she could made her way back to Connecticut with her four children: Richard, John, Jr., Thankful and Benjamin M. The last named then a nursing infant in her arms, the others walking with her the long weary way, suffering indescribably from hunger and weakness, yet all surviving. Why did she not faint, or give herself up to inconsolable grief or to utter despair? Ah! the women of those times were made of stern stuff. How nobly they bore themselves when the storm beat furiously upon them. There was a religious element in their character, says Dr. Peck in his History, that went to their relief in that terrible day of need.

The following was printed in the *Wyoming Democrat* of Tunkhannock, January 26, 1876:

"At Fort Jenkins, the uppermost in the valley, and only a mile above Wintermoots, there were gathered the families of the old patriots, John Jenkins, Esq., the Hardings and Gardners distinguished for zeal, with others. The fort consisted of a house built of hewed logs, and surrounded by a stockade.

"Not apprised of the contiguity of the savages, on the morning of June 30th, 1778, Benjamin Harding, Stukley Harding, John Hadsall, a boy, James Hadsall, James Hadsall, Jr., Daniel Wallen, John

Gardner and Daniel Carr, eight in all, took their arms and went up the river about six miles into Exeter township (opposite what is now Ransom), to their labor. Toward evening, at an hour when aid could not be expected, they were attacked. That they had fought bravely was admitted by the enemy. Wallen, Gardner and Carr were taken prisoners. James Hadsall and his son, James, Jr., Benjamin and Stukley Harding were killed. John Hadsall, the boy, threw himself into the river, and lay under the willows, with his mouth just above the surface. He heard with anguish the dying groans of his friends. Knowing he was near, the Indians searched carefully for him. At one time they were so close that he could have touched them. Two Indians, who were watching the dead, expecting that friends might come to take away the bodies, and they might obtain other victims, were shot, one where he sat, the other in the river to which he had fled.

"It is said that one of the Indians was shot by Zebulon Marcy, and a brother of the Indian killed hunted for Marcy for several years, and finally found and waylaid him, swearing he would have revenge."

## THE UPPER SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY

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Great rivers are always prominent factors in the development and history of a people. They are always interesting to the geologist and scientist, as well as the historian. Poets and orators have exhausted their imagination and powers of speech to describe the beauties and importance of the great rivers of all civilized countries. But the Susquehanna almost defies description. Always it is referred to as the "beautiful Susquehanna."

It drains the central part of the State of Pennsylvania and flows southward to the Chesapeake Bay. One historian well describes it in a sentence as "A broad, rapid, shallow, mountain stream, famous for its varied and romantic views." It would take a book of hundreds of pages to describe this picturesque river and the land through which it flows.

From pioneer days to the close of the Rebellion its history forms the most important pages of the story of the Republic. Her people have produced pioneers, heroes, statesmen, philosophers and financiers who have contributed to the population of the western states.

Its vast, original forests of white oak, hickory, walnut, maple, cherry, birch, beech, ash, chestnut, basswood, white pine and hemlock have furnished unnumbered fortunes to the lumberman and tanner. Her coal and mineral wealth, since the first rude forge was built on her banks in the seventeenth century, has been and still is a national resource. All these things have been accepted as a matter of course, and have gone without special notice or comment. In fact the boomer for other sections has been prone to disparage and discount this great valley in order to more rapidly draw from her

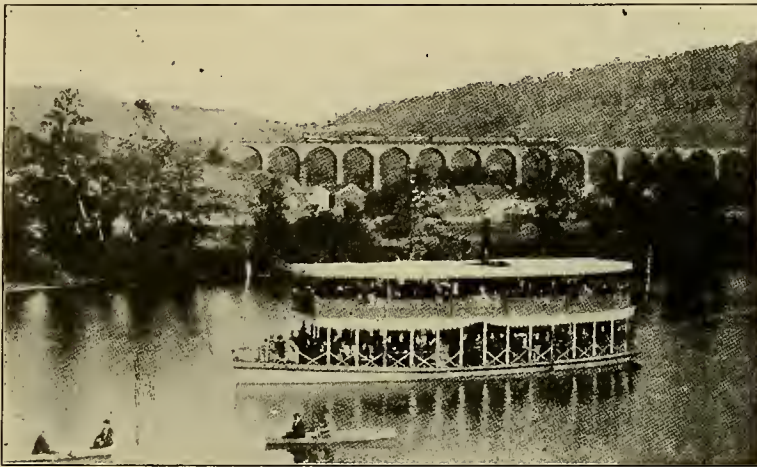
\*About 1846, John Stout, then owner of the John Gardner farm, plowed up near a mulberry tree, in front of the old tavern house, some crockery, pewter platters, chinaware and several articles of hardware, such as pots, kettles, spiders, axes, augers, etc., supposed to have been those buried by the Gardner family after the massacre, before they left for Connecticut. If so, the goods buried were not found on their return to the valley, and were a total loss to them. Christopher Taylor, who then lived in Newton, was present at the time they were plowed up, and took some of the articles home which he kept as relics of the olden time along the Susquehanna.

population and wealth.

Nevertheless, the Upper Susquehanna Valley has steadily increased in both population and wealth, as well as to constantly advance in social and educational advantages. The future holds great opportunities for this region.

#### GOOD GRAZING LAND

The upper valley is like an elevated plateau, through which the beautiful Susquehanna winds in graceful, sweeping curves. Her numerous tributaries are supplied by a regular rainfall, which is marvelously stored among the little hills and dales in innumerable small lakes and underground veins which break out at the surface in springs of clear, pure, cold water.



THE STARRUCCA VIADUCT, LANESBORO, PA.

These springs and lakes are the fountain head of many streams which make their way in every direction through the plains and banks of the ever increasing river.

Many of these tributary creeks have excellent natural water power, which have in the past, and will more in the future, when enterprise becomes disenthralled from monopoly, turn the wheels of industrial manufacture.

Owing to the annual rainfall and the marvelous natural system of water storage, the pasturage of this region is rich and abundant.

The upper valley of the river here described is sometimes called the "great bend" of the Susquehanna. Beginning at Lanesboro, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, the river turns from its general course and flows westward about twenty miles; thence northwest to Binghamton, New York, about twenty-five miles; thence nearly due west to Sayre, Pennsylvania, about sixty miles; thence south to Towanda, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, about twenty-five miles; thence southeast to Pittston, Luzerne

County, Pennsylvania, about seventy miles; at Pittston the stream turns again sharply back to its course toward the Chesapeake Bay. Thus the river has traveled a course of about 200 miles to gain a distance of 65 miles.

Within this loop formed by the beautiful Susquehanna, is the county of Susquehanna, a great part of Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wyoming and Bradford in Pennsylvania, and a part of Tioga and Broome counties in the State of New York.

It has been asserted by travelers and observing people that the natural verdure, especially the grass of this region, is different from any other section of the two states. That it is the same as the blue grass region of Kentucky.

Be that as it may, certain it is that verdant pasturage of rich nutritious grass grows naturally in this section.

Experience shows that if land is plowed here and left without seeding, it will come back to natural grass and sod in due time.

The soil in this section is diversified. On the river and creek bottoms it is a sandy loam; on the hillsides a clay loam; on the upper plateaus and hilltops, in places red shale, (always very rich, productive grain land) mostly clay loam.

It produces abundant crops under thorough tillage; and increases in fertility and retains its strength under modern methods of cropping and fertilization.

#### FRUIT CULTURE

The land and climate is well adapted to the apple, pear, plum, cherry and grape. While in some localities, peaches in the perfection of flavor are raised successfully. The strawberry, blackberry and raspberry grow spontaneous, and when cultivated the yield is very abundant



and of the highest quality of fruit.

Dr. J. H. Funk of Boyerstown, Pennsylvania, lecturing on commercial orcharding before a Farmer's Institute at Montrose, declared that this section of the state was well adapted to fruit. He pointed out that this latitude, between 39 degrees and 43 degrees was the best. That the altitude—about 1,500 feet—was sufficient to secure *air drainage*, which is now known to be important for all vinous and tree fruits. That the natural land drainage and right soil existed to produce vigorous trees.

But horticulture for the Upper Susquehanna Valley does not depend upon theory. It is an established success. The first settlers planted orchards; the trees grew and fruited so abundantly that choice fruit, especially apples, were annually harvested without any effort of cultivation.

As the land was cleared of the original forests, small fruits, such as the blackberry, red and black raspberry and strawberry grew spontaneously. The enormous quantities of these fruits growing in the cleared fields helped substantially in supplying the table of the early settlers. Every thrifty housewife laid by a generous supply of dried blackberries for winter use.

Nature has thus demonstrated that this valley is well adapted to fruit. The people for generations, having gathered fruits produced by nature's bounty, have for this reason been slow to develop the industry of systematic and improved horticulture. But the rapid and continuous growth of population in the manufacturing and mining districts of New York and Pennsylvania has created an enormous demand for apples and small fruits, which is not half supplied. Therefore, progressive farmers are now turning their attention to modern horticulture and commercial orcharding.

There are already a few small orchards which have become famous in their abundant and profitable yield of choice market fruit.

#### COMMERCIAL ORCHARDING

While in the past fruit growing in the upper Susquehanna valley has been conducted in a sort of haphazard way, it is now quite evident that a change is taking place, and some of the keen visioned, progressive citizens are planting large orchards.

It is no experiment. The thorough cultivation and systematic marketing of the apple, pear and even the peach, according to modern methods, will make this valley rich and famous.

#### DAIRYING

Another important industry in this region is dairying. The natural pasturage of the Sus-

quehanna plateau has been for years a prime source of her wealth. Along the broad elevations of land between the numerous tributaries to the Susquehanna, is sprinkled numerous little lakes, covering from one to two hundred acres; having a depth of from fifteen to fifty feet, of clear, sparkling water. These lakes really consist of several great springs, cropping out in a basin formation of the surface. The water is held back until it overflows the edge of the basin at the lowest point, and goes gurgling down through ever widening dales to the great river. Along the sides and over the crests of these small valleys other springs crop out everywhere. Clear, sparkling, cold, soft water.

It is needless to say that this wonderful natural system of water fountains furnishes a never failing water supply for stock not surpassed anywhere in the world. Rich, nutritious grasses grow naturally in the Upper Susquehanna Valley.

Recently, under the auspices of the Agricultural Department of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company, dairymen's associations are being formed for the systematic feeding and testing of milch cows. Through these associations the "robber cow" will be eliminated, and the whole dairy business of this section will be brought to a basis of systematic business, which will begin a new era for eastern dairymen and stock breeders.

#### THE SULKY PLOW

Modern method of agriculture is already having its effect to improve the conditions of the eastern farmer. A whole chapter might be written on the sulky plow, which is a practical tool in the valley of the Susquehanna. Farmers are finding out that it will do good work on our roughest and stoniest fields. One man with a modern sulky plow and a pair of heavy horses, will turn over more than twice the acres that could be plowed by hand and do it much better. Thus the drudgery of the eastern farmer disappears.

#### CHEAP LAND

Why then, with all these advantages, does Pennsylvania land continue so cheap? This question can be easily answered.

FIRST. Free land under the homestead law, has caused a constant drain on our population and resources.

SECOND. The boomer has always existed in every section of the United States except the *northeastern*, for the reason that land here always commanded a price, and of course, could not compete against free land.

THIRD. It must be admitted that the eastern

farmer has been slow to adopt modern methods of agriculture.

But the lure of nearby cities, with their glimmer of high wages and big salaries, together with a thirst for a more thorough education, has been the chief factor in drawing our young men from the farms.

The enactment of the homestead law and the discovery of gold in California were almost simultaneous. Under all these conditions the rural counties of many of the eastern states have shown a decrease in population, and *have now become the district of cheap lands in the United States.*

Good machine tilled farms, fenced, improved with small orchards, big dairy barns, horse barns, chickeries, hog houses, graneries, silos, wagon sheds, tool houses, ice-houses and good comfortable dwellings, all built with a lavish use of lumber from the very farm upon which they stand, can now be bought for less than the cost of erecting the buildings and fences at the present time. Most of the farms have running spring water to the buildings and in the pastures.

Of course, the land is not smooth and level like a prairie, but its nearness to the market more than makes up for the cost of tillage.

#### SOIL FERTILITY

Some of the land is rough and stony; some of the side hills are steep, but comparatively few acres are steep or rough enough to prevent the use of sulky plows, mowing machines, reapers and binders. If a man wants a level farm he can find it in the creek and river valleys. Some prefer the sloping side hill. Some of our very best farms are on the top of the hills.

The soil on the creek and river bottoms is a sandy loam, generally free from stones; on the uplands it is clay loam, with now and then a formation of red shale, which is always considered especially good grain land. The soil of the upland being mixed with small stones, is free and loose. It readily absorbs the regular rainfalls, and resists drought to a remarkable degree. It retains applied stable manure and lime, and under improved and scientific methods of agriculture increases in fertility and production.

It is proven by U. S. Agricultural statistics that Pennsylvania farms produce as much per acre of corn, oats, wheat, rye and timothy hay, as the prairie land.

#### CHEAP FUEL

Most of the farms in this section have a small piece of woods left, from ten to thirty or forty acres, which furnishes a constant supply of fuel, and lumber to repair buildings.

In the past our land owners have been careless and wasteful of their forest trees. But now they are more careful, and realize that a few acres of woodland adds substantial value to a farm property.

#### CLIMATE

All tourists and travelers are enthusiastic in their praise of the Upper Susquehanna Valley in the summer time. The days are glorious, and usually comfortable for the labor of both man and beast; no malaria; no miasma; no blasting desert winds or blizzards; no sizzling enervating torrid heat; no mosquitoes or poisonous insects.

The long days of bright sunshine; copious showers; the early and latter rains all combine to bring abundant crops and a salubrious climate. The four distinct seasons, viz.: Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall, are plainly marked by actual weather conditions. There are no extremes of heat or cold, wet or dry. In winter the ground is usually covered with snow through January and February, with sufficient quantity to make good sleighing most of the time. The approach of winter is generally very gradual, warm, pleasant weather continuing through the months of October and November.

The average temperature of the month of December in northeast Pennsylvania during the past forty-seven years, as kept by Mr. Theodore Day, of Dyberry, Pa., was 25.4 degrees. In mid-summer, during June, July and August, there are many very hot days, relieved, however, by a good breeze.

#### CROPS

Corn has been the standard crop here since the country was first settled by the Connecticut pioneer. Rye, oats, buckwheat, potatoes and timothy hay are the regular and profitable crops.

#### EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL ADVANTAGES

The Pennsylvania common school system is excellent. Many of the modern high schools prepare for college entrance; and the graduates of the county high schools are fully prepared to take up the regular courses of all colleges and universities of the eastern states, except about three.

Some of the famous and well established colleges of this country are within a day's journey of the Upper Susquehanna Valley. Some of the very best are within the valley. Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pa., is situate on the west branch of the Susquehanna, and convenient to northeast Pennsylvania. Its campus, formed by nature as well as art, slopes steep and high above the river, protected by the grateful



shade of fine elm, maple, oak and other native trees. Beyond and below the campus is an extensive athletic field, all commanding a most surpassing view of the great river valley at the point of confluence of the two branches.

Nature surely provided the site for Bucknell University. This great institution is engaged in the work of character building, as well as higher education, and well earns and deserves

the success she attains.

#### CHURCH PRIVILEGES

All the leading Christian denominations are represented in the many cities, towns, hamlets and country districts all through the valley. Most of their pulpits are supplied with able, educated pastors and preachers, and the religious influence is strong and uncompromising.

## CHAPTER TEN

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY

The name, Lackawannock or Lackawanna, is derived from the Delaware Indian language, and it has come to its present form through many corruptions. One historian has written, "Lackawanna is a corruption of the Indian *Lee-ha-ugh-hunt* or *Lee-haw-hanna*. The prefix *Lee ha* or *Lee haw*, signifies the point of intersection; *hanna*, as in *Susquehanna*, *Tobyhanna*, *Toppahannock*, *Rappahannock*, *Tunkhannock*, and *Tunkhanna*, implies, in Indian language, a stream of water." Hence, the original meaning of the word Lackawanna, is the place where two streams meet, and it was applied to the locality at the confluence of the *Susquehanna* and *Lackawanna* rivers. From this the river took its name, as did also the valley through which it runs, and ultimately the county which includes it.

#### THE MONSEY INDIANS.

When the Lackawanna valley was settled by the whites there were two Indian settlements or villages within its limits. One of these was *Asserughney*, at the confluence of the *Susquehanna* and *Lackawanna* rivers, under Campbell's Ledge. The other was about ten miles up the *Lackawanna*, near the mouth of the *Nay Aug* (Roaring Brook). It was called *Capoose Meadows* after a chief of that name, who came from New Jersey about the year 1700 and who was partly civilized, and noted for his peaceful character. Trails ran from this village to Wyoming, to Cocheeton and to *Oquago*, (now Windsor) Broome county, N. Y. The Indians inhabiting these villages were Monseys. They left the village after the Wyoming Massacre. In addition to these, traces were found of five other Indian villages that had long previously been inhabited and abandoned, all located on the west bank of the river.

Count Zinzendorf visited the village of *Capoose* in 1742, and the date of its first occupancy by the Monseys must have been at least

thirty years before. A quarter of a mile up the river, on the high bank of the *Lackawanna*, was the Indian burying ground, long since obliterated by the cultivation of the spot by the whites. Here in 1795 were discovered a number of Indian graves, which were opened, according to Hollister, "by a party of settlers in search of antiquarian spoils." He continues: "As one of the mounds seemed to have been prepared with especial attention, and contained, with the bones of the warrior, a great quantity of the implements of the deceased, it was supposed, erroneously, no doubt, to have been the grave of the chieftain *Capoose*. These graves, few in number, perhaps pointed to the last of the group of *Monsey* warriors who had offered incense and sacrifice to the great spirit of '*Capoose*.'" Several apple trees were found in Providence by the whites who first visited the valley. One of these trees was felled in 1801 having one hundred and fifty concentric circles, being one hundred and fifty years old. "The domestic habits of the *Monsey* tribe," says Hollister, "when not engaged in warfare were extremely simple and lazy. Patches of open land or 'Indian clearings' early were found in the valley, where onions, cantaloupes, beans, and corn, and their favorite weed tobacco, were half cultivated by the obedient squaw." The Monseys accompanied the Delawares to Ohio, and subsequently were merged in the latter tribe.

#### THE FIRST SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement in the territory which is now included in *Lackawanna* county, was made by John Gardner in 1769 in *Ransom* township near the mouth of Gardner's creek. For a detailed account of this settlement see *Ransom township*.

About the same time *Topez Williams*, *Silas Parks* and *Prince Alden* settled in *Lackawanna* township. They were dispossessed by the *Penanmites* in 1770.

## PIONEER INDUSTRIES OF THE COUNTY

The first grist- and saw-mills in the county were built by the town (then Pittston but now Lackawanna township) in 1774, just below the falls on the Lackawanna river. In 1775 they were sold to Solomon Strong, and soon afterward were destroyed by a flood.

Another grist-mill was built by Philip Abbott on Roaring Brook in 1788. The construction of this establishment was very simple. In October of the same year his brother, James, joined him in the enterprise, and in the spring of 1789 the firm was further strengthened by the admission of Reuben Taylor, when the mill was enlarged. Later they sold to John and Seth Howe, who in July, 1798, sold the same with improvements, to Ebenezer Slocum and James Duwain.

It is recorded that James Van Fleet (from whom Fleetville was named) made and sold nearly all the plows used in the first agriculture of the valley. He made plow-shares of gnarled knots of trees for a score of years or more. He lived to an extreme old age.

Large numbers of sheep were raised in the early days of Providence township, and the inhabitants, depending wholly upon their own woolen goods for raiment, early gave attention to carding and fulling-mills.\* The hardy pioneer women were ever busy in dealing out their warp and filling for frocks, coats, trowsers and flannel petticoats. These mills were regarded as equally important for the prosperity of the neighborhood as the grist-mill and the saw-mill. A carding and fulling-mill was built a little above Providence in 1808 by John Watres, which passed into the hands of Carter & Miller in 1841. The earlier exports of Providence were grain, lumber and whiskey. Of the latter a large quantity was manufactured at Tripp's still, half a mile below the village.

During 1826 Colonel Henry W. Drinker, of "Drinker's Beech" gave a brisk impulse to the village when he, with trifling State aid, crossed the valley with the Philadelphia and Great Bend turnpike, and opened communication with New York city by a tri-weekly stage. Passengers could then go from Providence to New York by way of Stroudsburg in three days. The Lackawanna was first bridged here by Drinker in 1826.

## A PIONEER'S EXPERIENCE

The locality of the thriving borough of Dunmore was often explored by passers between Connecticut and Wyoming in the early days;

\*A fulling-mill, for fulling or thickening cloth by means of pestles or stampers, which alternately fall into or rise from troughs where the cloth is put with fuller's-earth or other cleansing material.

but no settlers made an opening in the forest at this point until the advent of William Allsworth, from New York State, in 1783. Doctor Hollister gives the following incidents in the conflict of this pioneer family with the wild beasts which everywhere abounded in the primitive wilderness:

"From the Lackawa settlement, on the Paupack, some four and twenty miles from the cabin of Allsworth, there stood but two habitations in 1783, one at Little Meadows, the other at Cobb's, both kept as houses of entertainment. The need of more places of rest to cheer the emigrants toiling toward Wyoming with heavy burdens, drawn by the sober team of oxen, induced Mr. Allsworth to fix his abode at this spot. While he was building his cabin from trees felled for the purpose of gaining space and material, his covered wagon furnished a home for his family. At night heaps of logs were kept burning until long after midnight to intimidate wolves, bears, wildcats and panthers inhabiting the chaparral toward Roaring brook and Capoose. Deer and bears were so abundant for many years within sight of his clearing that his family never trusted to his rifle in vain for a supply of venison or the substantial haunches of the bear. In fall and winter months wild beasts made incursions with such frequency that domestic animals at night could be safely kept only in palisaded inclosures. These were a strong stockade made from a well driven sapling, and generally built contiguous to the dwelling, into which all kinds of live stock were driven for protection after nightfall. Every farmer in the township of Providence, unwilling to see his home invaded and occupied by the common enemy at the dead of night took this precaution less than a hundred years ago. And even then they were not exempt from depredation at Mr. Allsworth's. At one time, just at the edge of evening, a bear grouped his way into the pen where some of his pigs were slumbering, seized the sow in his brawny paws and bore the noisy porker hurriedly into the woods, where it was seen no more. The affrighted pigs were left unharmed in the pen. At another time, during the absence from home of Mr. Allsworth, a large panther came to his place before sundown in search of food. This animal is as partial to veal as the bear is to pork. A calf lay in the unguarded inclosure at the time. Upon this the panther sprang, when Mrs. Allsworth, alarmed by the bleating of the calf, seized a pair of heavy tongs from the fireplace, with a heroism distinguishing most of the women of that day, drove the yellow intruder away without its intended meal. The same night, however, the calf was killed by the panther, which in return was captured in a trap the same week, and slain."

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF EACH TOWNSHIP.

BENTON. This township was formed from Nicholson in 1838, and was named in honor of the late Hon. Thomas H. Benton, a United States senator from Missouri. This township was first settled in 1810 or 1811 by a Mr. Bassett, after whom Bassett pond is named. He located at the mouth of Bassett creek near Wallsville. At the head of Finn pond was the old camping ground of the Indians. It lay on the trail from the head waters of the Lehigh to



Great Bend, on the Susquehanna. Here have been found large quantities of arrow-heads, stone hatchets, and other relics. The pioneer nurserymen were Isaac Doud and Parmenus Brundage, who set out orchards as early as 1820 in the northeastern part of the township. The pioneer school-house was built of logs about 1820, in the northeast corner of the township. The population of the township was 1,055 in 1870; 1,148 in 1880; 1,052 in 1890; 1,042 in 1900; 807 in 1910.

CARBONDALE was formed in April, 1831 from a part of Blakely and Greenfield townships. The wild land of this township was originally owned by an Englishman named Russell, living at Sunbury. It was named Carbondale by William and Maurice Wurts, of Philadelphia, who came into possession of it in 1812. Including the city of Carbondale it contains about twenty-three square miles. The pioneer settler was David Ailsworth, who came from Rhode Island in 1802, and located on the side of the mountain. Mrs. Ailsworth was the pioneer weaver. Peter Wedeman located on "Ragged Island" in 1807, where he raised a large family. His attire was very imposing. He wore a bear-skin for a coat, the fore legs serving for sleeves; a fawn-skin vest, buckskin pants, and a raccoon skin cap with the tail hanging behind when worn. Christopher E. Wilbur came from Dutchess county, N. Y., in 1810, to manufacture the old fashioned wooden spinning-wheels used at that time. Nearly every fireside in the valley was soon gladdened by the hum of his wheels. The population was 721 in 1870; 1,163 in 1880; 1,784 in 1890; 1,440 in 1900; 1,635 in 1910.

CLIFTON. This township was formed from Covington, December 14, 1875. Jacob Gress, the first settler, located here in 1840. He opened the first tavern in a log-house in the most primitive style. He was a brave hunter, and was the proud owner of seventy-three bear skins. He also killed over seven hundred deer and a large number of panthers and wolves, and much small game. The first store was built in 1863 or 1864 by Herbine, Baum & Co., at Clifton. The population was 282 in 1880; 172 in 1890; 200 in 1900; 203 in 1910.

COVINGTON. The township of Covington was formed in 1818 from the township of Wilkes-Barre, and embraced at that time the whole of Henry Drinker's possessions in the south part of old Luzerne county. It was named Covington at the suggestion of H. W. Drinker, (son of Henry Drinker) in honor of Brigadier General Covington, who fell at the battle of Williamsburg, in upper Canada. In 1787, Henry Drinker purchased about 25,000 acres, includ-

ing this township, of the State, which has since been known as "Drinker's Beech," from the timber that covered it. In the summer of 1814 this land was resurveyed by Jackson Torrey of Bethany, Wayne county, into lots averaging one hundred acres each. Lots were sold at \$5 per acre on five years credit, the first two years without interest; payment to be made in lumber, shingles, labor, produce, or anything the farmer had to spare. The first settlement was made in 1815, by H. W. Drinker. The celebrated "Drinker Turnpike" was built through this township in 1828, its course being due north and south. The charter for this road was obtained in 1819. Its terminal points were Philadelphia and Great Bend. In 1827, when Edward Wardell, Jr., was township collector, the duplicate amounted to only \$96. The territory embraced in the township at that time covered the present townships of Covington, Lehigh, Clifton, Spring Brook, Madison, and Buck township of Luzerne county. The population was 1,182 in 1870; 881 in 1880; 884 in 1890; 794 in 1900; 641 in 1910.

FELL. This township was first settled in 1818 by Peter F. Ball who came from the State of New York, building a log-house in the north-western part of the township. This township was formed from Carbondale township, in November, 1845, and named in honor of Judge Jesse Fell, who acquired considerable fame in the Wyoming valley during its early history. A coal mine was opened on Elk creek in December, 1864 by J. W. and J. P. Williams, and the breaker built in 1874, having a capacity of one hundred tons per day. The Elk creek mine was opened and the breaker built in 1873 by Clarkson & Brennan. The population was 343 in 1870; 441 in 1880; 1,154 in 1890; 2,404 in 1900; 4,353 in 1910.

GREENFIELD. This township covers about twenty square miles, and was formed from Abington in January, 1816. Among the pioneer settlers were Elijah Hobb and James Sackett, from Vermont, the latter locating in the western part of the township about 1800. Charles Berry opened the first tavern about 1820 near Carey's Corners, which was a log-house one-and-a-half stories high, with one low room below for the guests and a little lower room above for the family. The floor between as well as the roof was made of bark. Meals were served for 12½ cents, and lodging was only 6 cents. Rum was 3 cents and gin or brandy 4 cents a glass. The pioneer school-house was built in 1820. The population was 819 in 1870; 821 in 1880; 673 in 1890; 681 in 1900; 590 in 1910.

JEFFERSON. Although Jefferson township

was only formed in 1836, from Providence township, its settlement dates back to 1781 or 1782, when John Somers made a clearing at the foot of Cobb's mountain. In 1784 he sold to Asa Cobb, who became the first permanent settler. For many years his cabin was the only habitation between Dunmore and the Little Meadows, in Wayne county, which offered hospitality to all passing between Connecticut and the Wyoming valley, and became one of the most popular stopping places on the whole route. The population was 776 in 1870; 794 in 1880; 696 in 1890; 750 in 1900; 633 in 1910.

**LACKAWANNA.** This township was formed in January, 1839, from portions of Pittston and Providence townships. It was settled as early as 1769 or 1770 by Topaz Williams, Silas Parks and Prince Alden, Connecticut Yankees, who were dispossessed by the Pennamites in 1770. Barnabas Carey built the first log-cabin erected by a white man above the falls of the Lackawanna. The first saw and grist mills in Lackawanna county were built by the town (then Pittston) in 1774, just below the falls on the Lackawanna river. In 1775 they were purchased by Solomon Strong and soon afterward were destroyed by a flood. The population was 5,822 in 1880; 8,061 in 1890; 5,623 in 1900; 2,756 in 1910. Moosic and part of Taylor boroughs were formed from Lackawanna township since 1890.

**LEHIGH.** When Lackawanna county was formed of Luzerne county, August 13, 1878, the line ran through Buck township, dividing it in nearly equal parts, and that portion lying east of the new line in Lackawanna county was formed in a new township and named Lehigh, from the river. The pioneer settler was Isaac Lewis, who came in 1842 and purchased land of Charles Terwilliger along the Lehigh river. The first year he cleared thirty acres, planted it all to corn, and raised the first crop in Lehigh. He was the first man married in the township. Gouldsboro is the only village in the township, which was made a borough May 12, 1871. The population of the township was 193 in 1880; 146 in 1890; 129 in 1900; 119 in 1910. It is settled only along the Lehigh river.

**MADISON.** This township was formed Aug. 7, 1849 from parts of Covington and Jefferson, and was named in honor of James Madison. The pioneer settlers, Thomas Biesecker and Richard Edwards, located in the northwest part of the township, in the fall of 1824, where they built log cabins, moving their families into them in January, 1825. The population was 1,530 in 1870; 1,041 in 1880; 1,257 in 1890; 1,242 in 1900; 640 in 1910. The borough of Mos-

cow has been organized from a part of Madison township since 1900, with a population of 650.

**NEWTON.** Until 1842 this township was a part of Falls township. In that year Wyoming county was formed from Luzerne, the easterly line of the new county running through Falls township, leaving the eastern portion without a name or an organization. This was organized into a township in 1844, and named Newton, after a town of that name which is the county seat of Sussex county, New Jersey, from where many of the early settlers came. Richard Gardner was the pioneer settler, making a clearing and building a log-house near the Ransom township line in 1803. The population was 1,057 in 1870; 1,027 in 1880; 1,059 in 1890; 1,281 in 1900; 1,417 in 1910. The inmates of the Hillside Home are included in the above.

**NORTH ABINGTON.** In 1867 this township was formed from Abington. In the Connecticut claim and survey this township was called Ebbington, in honor of Col. Ebbings, an extensive land agent of Connecticut, through whom titles to these lands were obtained on very reasonable terms; but these titles proved illegal and hence valueless, under the Pennsylvania laws which finally obtained, and the land holders, being indignant, changed the name to Abington. Under the Pennsylvania laws this was included in a large tract called Tunkhannock. In 1806 a new township was formed from Tunkhannock including this tract, and the name Abington was restored. This included several of the surrounding townships. In 1814 a part of Abington was annexed to Nicholson, and in 1816 Greenfield township was taken off. The township was divided in 1867 into North and South Abington. The contention of the "Yankees" and "Pennamites" retarded the early settlement of Abington, as did the large and almost impassible mountains on the south. The township remained an unbroken and unknown wilderness until about 1796, when it was surveyed by a party from Rhode Island under the Connecticut claim. In 1799, Deacon William Clark and family (including his three sons, William, Jeremiah and John), Thomas Smith and Ephriam Leach came from Connecticut. Their outfit consisted of one poor horse, a drag made of poles fastened at the back of the horse for a conveyance. On this drag were placed a sap kettle, their axes, and a few clothes and provisions. They crossed the Leggett mountain, at a gap westerly from where the road now passes. They made their camp in Abington, March 15, 1799. During the summer and fall they made clearings in several places and opened a path through



Leggett's gap. Deacon Clark settled at what is now Clark's Green, a name given in his honor. The first teacher, preacher and postmaster was Elder John Miller. The population of North Abington township was 1,072 in 1880; 1,090 in 1890; 362 in 1900; 319 in 1910. Dalton borough and West Abington township were organized from parts of North Abington township since 1890.

**RANSOM.** This township was formed in 1849, from parts of Exeter and Newton. It was named in honor of Captain Samuel Ransom, who raised a company in 1777 for the defense of Wyoming valley, and fell in the Wyoming Massacre, July 3, 1778. The pioneer settler, John Gardner (also first settler in Lackawanna county), came from Colchester, Conn., in 1769, and built a log cabin along the Susquehanna, near the mouth of Gardner's creek. The population was 646 in 1880; 650 in 1890; 894 in 1900; 849 in 1910. The above figures include the inmates of the Ransom Home.

**ROARING BROOK** township was formed May 24, 1871, out of parts of the borough of Dunmore and the townships of Jefferson and Madison, and named from the stream passing through it. Before and after the construction of the Drinker turnpike through the township there had been no settlement, unless we count Barney Carey, who kept the toll-gate on the turnpike about a mile below Dunning. Gilbert Dunning located at that village in 1847. He raised the first crops in the township. A few years later he erected the first framed house in the township. The first school-house was built in 1855. The population was 769 in 1880; 335 in 1890; 213 in 1900; 235 in 1910.

**SCOTT.** This township was formed from Greenfield in 1846, and named in honor of Hon. David Scott, one of the associate judges of Luzerne county. This is one of the townships across which the Indians traveled from the Susquehanna to the head waters of the Delaware. One of their camping grounds was near Scott village. Roger Orvis, from Vermont, located in 1802 at Orvis Corners. He made the first clearing and built the pioneer log cabin. The first grist-mill was built of logs by Seth Howe, in 1800, at the outlet of Chapman's Lake. It had but one run of rock stones. The water was conveyed from the outlet through troughs of logs to an overshot wheel. The township had a population of 1,132 in 1870; 1,263 in 1880; 1,213 in 1890; 1,255 in 1900; 1,296 in 1910.

**SOUTH ABINGTON.** At a special meeting held in the southern district of Abington, Oct. 8, 1867, 100 votes were cast in favor of a divi-

sion of the township, and 24 against. A majority being in favor of division in both districts, it was carried into effect on the 25th day of November, 1867. The population was 923 in 1880; 1,083 in 1890; 1,612 in 1900; 1,987 in 1910. (See *North Abington township*).

**SPRING BROOK.** This township was formed from Covington, Nov. 22, 1853. The north half was originally owned by Dr. Hoosic and the south half by a Mr. Fisher, except 800 acres at Yostville, owned by H. W. Drinker. The first settlement was made in 1832 by Abraham Turner, near the centre of the township. The pioneer school-house was built in 1832. It was a framed building, and the first teacher was Miss Emeline Griffin. The population was 426 in 1870; 658 in 1880; 756 in 1890; 458 in 1900; 439 in 1910.

**WEST ABINGTON** township was formed from a part of North Abington January 24, 1895. At a special election, held Tuesday, January 22, 1895, at the regular polling place of North Abington township; 81 voted for and 4 against the division of the township. Two days later the court appointed the following persons electors of the said township: George H. Colvin, judge of elections; W. S. Ross, majority inspector of elections; H. E. Capwell, minority inspector of elections, and George F. Gethman, constable. The population was 219 in 1900, and 216 in 1910.

#### TOWNSHIPS WHICH HAVE BECOME EXTINCT

The following townships have been merged into boroughs, and are now extinct:

**PROVIDENCE** township was formed in 1770. It was named from Providence, R. I., and was the sixth of the townships allotted by the Susquehanna Company to the Connecticut settlers. It originally contained twenty-five square miles.

After the decree of Trenton, in 1782, Providence became one of the townships of Northumberland county which had been organized in 1772, and embraced the territory in dispute between Connecticut and Pennsylvania. Upon the erection of Luzerne county four years later, it was included within its boundaries; but it was not organized into a township of said county until 1792, when it was separated from Pittston. As a township Providence has become extinct. In April, 1819, a portion was set off as a part of Blakely; Jan. 4, 1829, the western portion was reannexed to Pittston township; March 14, 1849, Providence borough was erected from its territory; Hyde Park borough, May 4, 1852; Scranton borough, Feb. 14, 1856; Dunmore borough, April 10, 1862. The city of Scranton was incorporated April 23, 1866, which embraced within its limits all that then

remained of the ancient township of Providence and the boroughs of Providence, Hyde Park and Scranton.

The first whites who settled in Providence, as originally bounded, were Timothy Keyes, Andrew Hickman and Solomon Hocksey. They erected a cabin in 1771, where Taylorville now is, on the bank of the creek which has since been named in honor of Mr. Keyes. Mrs. Hickman was one of the first five women in Wyoming. The same year Isaac Tripp, one of the proprietors of the Susquehanna company, built his log cabin near the vacated wigwams of the Monsey Indians at "Capoose Meadows," and without clearing a foot of land planted and raised a crop of corn the first season, on the

BLAKELY township was first settled by Timothy Stevens in 1786, near what is now Dickson City. This township was formed from parts of Providence and Greenfield townships in 1818, and is now merged into the boroughs of Blakely (1867), Jermyrn (1870), Dickson City (1875), Olyphant (1877), Archbald (1877) and Winton (1877).

OLD FORGE. This township was formed from Lackawanna township, May 26, 1871, and contained nearly nine square miles. Among the pioneers none were more prominent in business affairs and in the development of the township's resources, than Dr. William Hooker Smith, who came here in 1789, after having



CENTRE OF SCRANTON, SHOWING COURT HOUSE, 1908

Courtesy of Wyoming Historical Society, Wilkes-Barre

plantation deserted by the Indians a short time before. There were more than a score of other purchasers of land in the township between 1772 and 1775. In 1775 James Leggett emigrated from New York and located at the mouth of the creek now bearing his name. He was the first to make an improvement above Providence village. In the Connecticut Susquehanna Company's original plat of the township this tract had been allotted to Abraham Stanton, in 1772. The next year it was transferred by Stanton to John Staples. On account of some dereliction of duty, Staple's claim was declared forfeited, and in 1774 it was granted to Davis Thayer. When he sold it to Leggett, in June, 1775, this, with several other tracts of land in the vicinity were covered with unbroken forest.

lived in the Wilkes-Barre clearing from 1772. He was a competent surgeon and physician, and, excepting Dr. Sprague, he was the only physician in 1772 between Cochection and Sunbury, a distance of 150 miles. He was a plain, practical man, with all the old-fashioned faith in the virtues of bleeding. In the Spring of 1789 Dr. Smith and James Sutton built a forge just above the mouth of Ascension brook, on the rocky edge of the Lackawanna and just below the rapids or falls. This was the only concern of the kind in all old Westmoreland, except one at Newport, built in 1777. From it the township derived its name. Its population was 1,408 in 1880; 4,422 in 1890. Since 1890 the township has become extinct, being merged into Old Forge borough and part of Taylor borough.



## VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY

In 1910 there were 1,692 farms in Lackawanna county, a decrease of 163 since 1900; but the value of the property has increased more than a million dollars.

The area of the county is 288,640 acres, of which 134,000, or forty-six and one-half per cent., are farm lands.

The value of the farm property is distributed as follows: Land, \$4,517,971; buildings, \$2,291,295; implements and machinery, \$501,073; domestic animals, poultry and bees, \$994,343.

The following table shows the number of domestic animals, including poultry and bees, and the value of each:

	Number	Value
Cattle .....	13,339.....	\$403,437
Horses .....	3,675.....	470,015
Mules .....	87.....	8,371
Asses .....	45.....	1,562
Swine .....	4,218.....	37,866
Sheep .....	2,373.....	11,279
Goats .....	10.....	104
Poultry .....	.....	58,010
Bees (colonies) .....	930.....	3,699

The following crop production for the census year was shown:

	Acres	Bushels
Corn .....	1,250.....	39,014
Oats .....	4,651.....	101,440
Wheat .....	19.....	315
Buckwheat .....	2,152.....	37,077
Rye .....	1,037.....	14,309
Potatoes .....	2,763.....	263,917

## POPULATION OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY BY TOWNSHIPS AND BOROUGHS SINCE 1890

	1910	1900	1890
Archbald borough.....	7,194	5,396	4,032
Benton township.....	807	1,024	1,052
Blakely borough.....	5,345	3,915	2,452
Carbondale city.....	17,040	13,536	10,883
Carbondale township...	1,635	1,440	1,784
Clifton township.....	203	200	172
Covington township....	641	794	884
Dalton borough (a)...	767	681	.....
Dickson City borough(b)	9,331	4,948	3,110
Dunmore borough.....	17,615	12,583	8,315
Elmhurst borough(c)...	379	444	443
Fell township (d).....	4,353	2,404	1,154

Glenburn borough.....	319	307	290
Gouldsboro borough...	84	93	141
Greenfield township...	590	681	673
Jefferson township....	633	750	696
Jermyn borough.....	3,158	2,567	2,650
Lackawanna town'p (e)	2,756	5,623	8,061
LaPlume borough.....	258	274	253
Lehigh township.....	119	129	146
Madison township (h)...	640	1,242	1,257
Mayfield borough (f)...	3,662	2,300	1,695
Moosic borough (g)....	3,964	1,227	.....
Moscow borough (h)...	650	.....	.....
Newton township (i)...	1,417	1,281	1,059
North Abington twp. (a)	319	362	1,090
Old Forge borough (j)...	11,324	5,630	.....
Olyphant borough ....	8,505	6,180	4,083
Ransom township (k)...	849	894	650
Roaring Brook township	235	213	335
Scott township.....	1,296	1,255	1,213
Scranton city.....	129,867	102,026	75,215
South Abington twp....	1,987	1,612	1,083
Spring Brook township.	439	458	756
Taylor borough (j)....	9,060	4,215	.....
Throop borough (b)...	5,133	2,204	.....
Vandling borough (d)...	985	765	.....
Waverly borough.....	515	489	292
West Abington twp (a)	216	219	.....
Winton borough .....	5,280	3,425	1,787
	259,570	193,831	142,088

(a) Dalton borough and West Abington township organized from parts of North Abington township since 1890.

(b) Throop borough organized from part of Dickson borough since 1890.

(c) Formerly Dunning.

(d) Vandling borough organized from part of Fell township since 1890.

(e) Parts taken to form Moosic borough and part of Taylor borough since 1890.

(f) Formerly Mayville.

(g) Moosic borough organized from part of Lackawanna township since 1890.

(h) Moscow borough organized from part of Madison township since 1900.

(i) The inmates of the Hillside Home are included in the population of Newton township.

(j) Old Forge borough organized from part of Old Forge township since 1890.

(j) Taylor borough organized from part of Lackawanna and Old Forge townships since 1890.

(k) The inmates of the Ransom Home are included in the population of Ransom township.

Clarks Summit was formed from a part of South Abington township and incorporated into a borough August 30, 1911.

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

### EARLY HISTORY OF NEWTON TOWNSHIP

The history of Newton township dates back of the time when Newton became the name of this township, because until April 4, 1842, when Wyoming county was formed from a part of Luzerne county, this part of the country was known as Falls township, Luzerne county. The easterly line of the new county ran through Falls township, leaving the southeastern part of the township without an organization or a name. This was organized into a township in 1844, and as a large per cent. of the first settlers of this section came from Sussex county, New Jersey, the county seat of which is Newton, they named it Newton, in honor to their home town.

#### RICHARD GARDNER, THE PIONEER SETTLER

The first white man to settle in what is now known as Newton township was Richard Gardner, who came to this township in 1803; made a clearing and built a log house on the farm now owned by Peter Corselius. This house stood near where the road now runs, only a few feet south of the gate in front of the present house. Later he owned the farm now owned by George A. Beck.

In 1807 he sold out to Jesse Harding and returned to what is now Ransom township.

Then, and for a long time afterwards, elk, panthers, bears, wolves and wild cats held full sway. The woods were also full of deer, and the creeks were lined with many kinds of fish. Gardner's Creek was a trout stream, which swarmed with the speckled beauties.

Richard Gardner was born in Colchester, Conn., February 8, 1767. He was the oldest child of John Gardner, the first settler in Ransom township. (*See Ransom township*). Richard was only two years old when his parents came to Ransom township, and settled at the mouth of Gardner's Creek in 1769, and eleven years of age at the time his father was captured by the Indians, when he and his mother, with three smaller children, accompanied by other survivors of the horrible Wyoming Massacre, returned to their old homes and friends in Connecticut.

At the time of the Indian massacre and when his father was captured, Richard was with his mother in Fort Jenkins, across the river from where Pittston is now located, at the end of the river bridge.

In 1788, when twenty-one years of age, Mr. Gardner was married to Miss Lydia Chapman,

who was born in 1767 and died May 23, 1825, aged 61 years. Shortly after his marriage, Richard and his brother John, with their mother, returned to the farm settled by their father in 1769, opposite from where the Lehigh Valley Coal Storage Plant is now located. John was chiefly engaged in farming. He was the father of four children, and died March 30, 1836, aged 63 years, 2 months and 21 days.

Richard Gardner established Gardner's Ferry at Ransom about 1795. He was often subjected to much labor, and exposed to great danger on the river.

Richard Gardner was twice married, and was blessed with thirteen children, two of whom died in childhood, (Richard, Jr. died March 3, 1797, aged 3 years, 1 month and 22 days, being the first person buried in the old burying ground on the bank of the river) while the remaining eleven lived to mature years, namely: John, Elisha, Anna, Benjamin, Mumford, Samuel, Malinda, Lydia, Elizabeth, Harriet, and another whose name is unknown. Two of the number were cripples from early youth. Benjamin was permanently paralyzed in the lower limbs at the age of eleven, which made him unable to walk, nevertheless he became an active business man, filling the positions of merchant, tavern keeper and postmaster for many years, and was known throughout the country as "Uncle Benny Gardner." He died October 24, 1879, at the age of 85 years. Malinda walked upon crutches in consequence of having lost the use of one of her limbs by a fever-sore.

Mr. Gardner always enjoyed good health, and when nearly ninety years old he would walk to Wilkes-Barre and back again the same day, a distance of fourteen miles each way or twenty-eight miles both ways. A couple of summers before he died he laid thirty rods of stone wall. Mr. Gardner was a truly religious man, and a member of the Baptist church for many years.

"Soon after Mr. Gardner settled in this section he was accidentally shot by a companion, in one of his elbows, which was ever afterwards a source of trouble to him, although it did not make him a cripple. In a bear hunt, one of his companions, not perceiving that Mr. Gardner was in range between him and a ferocious old dam with two cubs, drew up his rifle and fired just as his friend was in the same act. Unfortunately, the ball struck his elbow. "I've hit her," exclaimed the delighted hunter.



"You've hit me," answered Gardner, while the blood was streaming from his arm, and the bear escaped unhurt. They were in the woods some miles east of the settlement. One of Mr. Gardner's companions accompanied him home, while the other took a straight course through the woods to Lackawanna to procure the services of Dr. Hooker-Smith. It was two days after the wound was inflicted before Dr. Smith could be on hand. When he came the arm was much inflamed and swollen, and the probing, cutting and picking out splinters of bone was a most terrible operation, but it had to be endured. The wound was some time in healing, and the injury of the joint was such that the conse-

farm, near the Hillside Home. He erected his log-house about thirty rods south from the present residence, on the west side of the road leading from Schultsville to Kern's Corners, near the ledge. The farm is now owned by Thomas McDonald of Scranton, and occupied by Mrs. Catherine McNay and son.

#### SUBSEQUENT SETTLERS.

Among the settlers who came soon after Mr. Gardner, we find a Mr. Lutz, Zebulon Comstock, John McMillan, Charles McClusky, Parley Von Cleveland, Henry Walters, Jacob Bie-seker, and many others followed.



RICHARD GARDNER AND HIS SON, SAMUEL

Richard Gardner was the first settler in Newton township. This picture was copied from an old Daguerreotype, taken only a few years before his death, which is his only likeness in existence.

quences were permanently troublesome. When eighty-eight years of age he received an injury to his spine by a fall in the barn, which much increased his stooping position."—*Peck's History of Wyoming*.

Mr. Gardner lived to a ripe old age, and died on Independence Day, July 4, 1859, aged 92 years.

#### BARRONET RODNEY

The second settlement in the township was made by Barronet Rodney. He was born in New Jersey, and married Miss Elizabeth Drake, June 13, 1801. She was a daughter of Benjamin Drake. (*See Benjamin Drake, also Elizabeth Drake*). Rodney came to Newton township in 1803 (a short time after Gardner), settling on what is known as the Theodore Stone

HENRY BEEMER was of German descent and was born in what is now called Beemerville, Sussex county, New Jersey, January 2, 1781. He was married to Mary Spangenburg (b. July 4, 1783), to whom ten children were born: Elias, the oldest; Mattie, Jane, Alexander, Jesse, Adam, Lusetta, Sidney, Lydia and Amzi. The last four mentioned were born in Newton township. They all lived to the age of maturity, and married and raised large families. Lydia is the only one now living, who married Allen Fitch for her first husband (died in 1858), and Benjamin Place for her second husband, and is living near Mill City. Elias, the oldest, was born in 1806, and married Phoebe Albright, a native of New York. Adam built a log house on the farm where Amzi Rosenkrans now lives.

Henry Beemer came to Newton in the sum-

mer of 1818, when about thirty-seven years of age, and cleared about ten acres, which he sowed to wheat, on the farm now owned by Mrs. Katherine Vanderburg, one mile north of Newton Centre, where he built a double log house. The remains of the old fire-place may yet be seen on the east side of the road leading from Newton Centre to Clark's Summit. He returned to Sussex county in the fall, where he spent the winter with his family.

March 1st, 1819, he returned to Newton, bringing his family. The trip was made through the woods by marked trees, arriving at their new home safely, excepting Adam, the baby, who was nearly killed during the trip by being kicked by a sharp shod horse, but providentially escaped death.

The country was new, and they endured many hardships. They lived in the old log house until about 1838, when Mr. Beemer built a frame house, across the road from the log house. Only the fire-place and stone chimney remain to mark the spot where this pioneer home stood.

Mr. Beemer was a blacksmith, wagon maker, carpenter and shoemaker; making and repairing all his farm implements, etc. He had a machine for making rope. The nearest mill was at Slocum Hollow (now Scranton), where the early settlers took their grain to be ground, not in an automobile over macadamized roads, but horseback through the woods.

His home was headquarters in Newton and surrounding country for the Whig party. Here they would have their ox roasts, which usually lasted for two or three days. He and his sons and sons-in-law belonged to this party.

The parents of Mr. and Mrs. Beemer were born in Germany. Mrs. Beemer was born in Sussex county, New Jersey, July 4, 1783. She was a very neat housekeeper, and always was noted for being spry and the easy manner in which she did her work. Mr. and Mrs. Beemer lived on the old farm until death, Mrs. Beemer dying August 1, 1862, aged 79 years, 1 month, 7 days. Mr. Beemer died about a year later, September 24, 1862.

Jesse and Adam Beemer owned the farm where Amzi Rosenkrans now lives, and in 1848 moved to Illinois, making the trip with two teams.

WILLIAM BRINK took up a large tract on the mountain. He died in 1858 at an advanced age.

HORACE COLLUM was born December 31, 1809, and died in Newton, September 2, 1867. He was a son of Richard Collum and a grandson of William. His wife, Sarah Schelenger, was born August 21, 1813, and died March 10,

1897. They raised a large family. Horace Collum came from Sussex county, New Jersey, in November, 1832 and settled on the farm now owned by Dennis Michaels. He has two children living at this writing: Martha, living in Honesdale, and married Peter Collum for her second husband. George Collum is living near Elmira, New York.

ZEBULON COMSTOCK, one of the early settlers of Newton, was a bold and experienced hunter, and spent a good part of his time in hunting and trapping. On his return one evening from what is now Hyde Park, a huge panther sprang out of the thicket just behind him. He quickly turned around, faced the savage beast, and thus walked backward about half a mile, keeping his eye steadily fixed upon the panther, when the animal finally turned and left him the victor. Early the next morning Comstock shouldered his rifle and, accompanied by his faithful log, returned to the spot where the panther sprang from the thicket. Here he found the remains of a deer the panther had killed and carefully covered with leaves. The dog followed the track of the panther about three miles, and treed him, where he was shot by Mr. Comstock. He came from near Forty Fort about 1812, and settled upon and cleared the farm now owned by Mrs. Daniel W. LaRue. He has two grandsons living in the township, Judson and Giles. (*See Judson C. Comstock.*)

JOSEPH COONS came from Sussex county, New Jersey, in 1816 and located on the fine farm now owned by his grandson, George L. Coon, about one mile north of Newton Center. Mr. Coons, like other pioneers, endured many hardships. He carried a grist of rye on his back to Slocum Hollow (Scranton). On his return he dared not take the flour from his shoulders, for fear he would not have strength to shoulder it again, and he rested by leaning against a tree whenever his strength began to fail him.

LEWIS COSNER (formerly spelled Casner) came from Sussex county, New Jersey, in 1816, and took out a patent on 248 acres of land, being the farm now owned by his grandson, Seldon S. Cosner. He was born January 4, 1791, and died in Newton township, November 18, 1818, when about twenty-eight years of age. He was a carpenter by trade. He married Rachel Knapp, who was born July 20, 1794, and died March 24, 1867, aged 72 years. After Mr. Cosner's death she married Abram Williams, who died December 4, 1854, aged 55 years, 9 months and 24 days. Lewis Cosner was the father of three sons, John, born April 28, 1816 and died August 4, 1822; Lewis, born



March 14, 1818 and died July 31st the same year. David, born September 11, 1813 and died May 4, 1899.

TIMOTHY DRAKE came from Sussex county, New Jersey, about 1832 and settled on the farm now owned by Christopher Richards. Here he built three log-houses and the house where Mr. Richards is living. The first log-house was built about thirty rods east from the present house, near the creek. Here the first road was built. A few years later the road was changed to its present location, and as the first log cabin, which was small, containing only one room below and an attic above, would not accommodate the increasing family, a larger building was erected on the new road, about fifty yards south from the present residence. Later the third log-house was built on the east side of the road about opposite the present site of Mr. Richard's tenant house, now occupied by John Snover. This was built for the hired help. He built the present framed house about 1846. In April, 1865, Mr. Drake and his family moved to Gilman, Ill. (81 miles from Chicago), where he died in 1876. He was born in May, 1804. He married Miss Anna, daughter of Thomas and Christian (Bedell) Hough, by whom he had nine children: Ruth (Mrs. Larnce VanBuskirk, Shay, Francis, Stephen, Mary (Mrs. Clinton Brink), Esther (Mrs. Fred Beemer), Susan (died, aged 3 years), Phebe (died, aged 14 years) and John. Only Ruth and John are living. Ruth is living in Kingston, with her daughter, Mrs. Etta Switzer. John never married. He is now living in West Nanticoke.

JACOB JACOBY was born October 14, 1815, in New Jersey and died in Newton January 14, 1892. He was married April 29, 1844 to Miss Celinda Walter (b. March 19, 1824—d. February 10, 1902), daughter of Henry and Catherine Walter. Mr. and Mrs. Jacoby had seven children: Catherine, born February 19, 1845, and married Noah Smith; Reuben, born September 6, 1848 and died November 11, 1862; Ellen, born September 29, 1850 and died August 18, 1852; Mahala, born May 3, 1855 and died November 24, 1872; Arthur, born May 19, 1857; Benjamin, born May 31, 1863 and Harlan, born December 26, 1866. These last three are living in Newton. Jacob came to Newton about 1836 and settled on a lot containing about five acres that he purchased of Henry Walter, and built a frame house. He was a stone mason by trade.

ANTHONY LACOE was born in France, March 11th, 1780. He came to Philadelphia in 1792, and to Wilkes-Barre in 1810, and was married in 1812 to Miss Amelia DuPuy, who

died in 1844. He came to Newton in 1850 with his son's family, where he died March 9, 1883, aged 103 years.

JACOB C. LESH came from Shawnee township, Monroe county, about 1835 and located near where Henry Summerhill is now living, where he conducted a wagon shop for about fifteen years. This was the first wagon shop in the township. In 1850 he moved to Newton Centre where he conducted a shop until about 1855, when he located in Milwaukee. He was born in 1812 and died Nov. 18, 1892 in Scranton where he had lived since 1864. His parents came from Germany. About 1831 he married Miss Christina Berry. Her parents came from Scotland. Mr. and Mrs. Lesh were the parents of thirteen children, only three of whom are living, namely: Mrs. Jesse Hunt and J. B. Lesh of Falls township, and Mrs. Catherine Bullard of New York city.

HENRY LITTS moved from Montague, Sussex county, N. J., in February, 1821, to Newton, settling on the farm now owned by Charles Biesecker. He came to Newton the previous summer; purchased a tract of land, built a log-house, containing only one room, about two rods north of the present residence of Charles Biesecker, cut a road to it through the wilderness from the Adam Thompson place (now George Biesecker), and returned to New Jersey for his family, in the fall. He hired William Havens, a brother of Zephaniah Havens, to bring his wife and children with a horse team and sleigh. Mr. Litts followed with an ox team and sled, loaded with their rude furniture and farm implements, and drove two cows and five sheep. He had only ten cents in money when he arrived in Newton. His family consisted of five sons and two daughters. In 1842 he built a framed house, now owned by Charles Biesecker, which was moved just above where Adam Thompson lives when the new house was built by Mr. Biesecker. Mr. Litts was appointed postmaster in 1844, and kept the post-office for several years at his home. He married Miss Catherine Hoyt, a relative of ex-governor Henry M. Hoyt. Mrs. Litts was one of the first members of the Newton Baptist church. She was loved for her acts of kindness, and Christian benevolence. Mrs. Jane Thompson, mother of Adam Thompson, who is living in Newton Centre, was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Litts. Mr. Litts died May 23, 1864, aged 77 years, 2 months and 18 days. His wife died July 10, 1861, aged 69 years, 1 month and 4 days.

MR. LUTZ located on the Henry Jacobs farm, which is now owned by William E. LaRue.

CHARLES McCLUSKY and his family came from New Jersey in 1818, and purchased the farm now owned by Peter Corselius, which was the farm settled by Richard Gardner, the first settler in the township. He lived in the log cabin built by Gardner several years before. His nearest neighbor was Elias Smith. He brought from New Jersey an apple, and from its seed, he propagated the "McClusky apple."

TIMOTHY McCLUSKY in his youthful days would go down on the river flats and work for farmers, taking his pay in grain, and at night carry the grain on his back to the mill at Pittston, wait for it to be ground, and take the flour home the same night. One night, while returning over the mountain, he was overtaken by a storm; and, it being too dark to find his way, he had to spend the night in the forest, frightening off the wolves. He carried butter from Newton to Wilkes-Barre and traded it off at six cents per pound for groceries.

ELIAS SMITH came from Sussex county, New Jersey, in 1816, and purchased 400 acres for \$1043.00 from Samuel Baird, of Stowe, Montgomery county, the patentee. He built a log house on the part now owned by his grandson, Curtis P. Smith, and built a wagon road from it to Ransom, which was the first road in this section, there being no foot path, not even a marked tree to guide him to this place. About 1822 he built the first framed house in Newton township. He also built the first saw-mill in Newton in 1816. Mr. Smith was born December 28, 1788, and was a son of George Smith who came from Germany. He was twice married, first to Miss Harriet Ayers, to whom four children were born, namely: Harriet, born August 7, 1811 and married John Thompson; Jacob, born March 29, 1813, and died in Iowa; David M., born March 5, 1815; Peter A., born February 5, 1817, and married Miss Sarah Compton. Elias Smith was married the second time to Catherine Adams, March 27, 1818, who was born February 5, 1789. To this union three children were born, namely: Sally, born December 17, 1820; Margaret, born April 22, 1821 and married Samuel Gardner; Elias A., born March 27, 1827, and married Ann McGeever for his first wife, who died November 28, 1895. He was again married October 1, 1898, to Amy Barton.

Elias Smith was a soldier in the War of 1812. He died August 8, 1867.

ADAM THOMPSON came from Sussex county, New Jersey, in 1819, and located on the farm now owned by George Biesecker, which contained 109 acres and cost \$405.87. Mr. Thompson purchased the farm from Thomas Ashley,

who "patented" a large tract of land in this section. Mr. Thompson was a fine penman, writing a vertical hand (the writer saw an Inventory that he wrote November 9, 1833). He was born July 8, 1786. He was the father of five children: John, born April 24, 1808; Jane, born June 16, 1810; Andrew, born February 11, 1813; Helen, born July 27, 1815, and Adam, born February 22, 1822.

PARLEY VON CLEVELAND settled on the farm now owned by Anthony McAndrews of Scranton, near the home of W. E. LaRue. Morgan J. Jones, a brother-in-law of Von Cleveland, located on the farm now owned by J. F. Lacoe. Parley Von Cleveland was the first teacher in the township.

#### NATHANIEL AND PETER RICHARDS

Written by P. K. Richards, West Pittston, Pa.

Nathaniel and Peter Richards were branches of a family tree planted in Sussex county, New Jersey, in the latter part of the Seventeenth Century. They immigrated to eastern Pennsylvania, which was at that time called "going west," making the trip in large covered wagons. Nathaniel came in the Spring of 1829, and Peter in the Spring of 1832.

A brief history of their lives in the community in which they lived would make interesting reading. They were certainly strong branches from a sturdy stock. Both were staunch temperance men, called at that time "teetotalers." One incident will illustrate what a man can do who possesses both grace and grit.

When Nathaniel told my father that he did not think he could raise his log house without furnishing four or five gallons of rye whiskey, his reply to him was: "I cannot furnish the dangerous stuff to others when I will not touch it myself." But instead, he furnished them a royal supper, including chicken pot pie, made in a large iron kettle, and all prepared by my mother and aunt and served on a rude table constructed in the woods, everyone going home sober, and not a man ever mentioned the word whiskey in my father's presence. And he had the distinction of being the first man in all that section of the country to raise a building without whiskey, and thereby avoiding accidents, several drunks, and a few fights.

Both men were active, earnest Christians, ever ready and willing to help a weaker brother, either financially or spiritually, hence they were a power for good which did much to mold the character of the community in which they lived. May we ever strive to emulate their example, making ourselves worthy to wear their mantle.



This part of Pennsylvania was then largely a forest, only a few scattering settlers, so that my father said it was necessary to send out at least five miles in different directions in order to get men enough together to raise his log house.

There were a few more settlers along the Susquehanna at Buttermilk Falls, Gardner's (now Ransom), and also at Brushy Ridge (now Newton Centre or Bald Mount), and Flickersville (now Milwaukie).

Nathaniel Richard's home was located at the western base of Bald Mountain, being the farms now owned by B. F. Reed and C. V. Deeker, and his brother Peter's home was made about two miles farther west on the farm now owned by his son, Daniel W. Richards. Both men then located in Falls township, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, which then included Falls, Newton, Ransom and a part of Exeter.

My father built a log house for a home, such as his brother and neighbors were then occupying. Your narrator was born September 13, 1832, in his father's log house, which had been partially built the previous April and not completed until late in November, when chimney, windows, door, clinking, etc., were added.

The only means of making fire at that date was by flint and steel, the spark igniting a piece of punk or decayed wood which was held near. A few years later, I well remember, being sent to our nearest neighbor, nearly a mile away, to borrow fire, carrying it home on a small shovel. The first advance in this direction was a preparation in liquid form kept in a small bottle and hung up on the side of the chimney. It pleased me greatly to see father stick a pine sliver in this bottle and bring it out on fire. Later the matches came, together with many other advancements, which were not only a great curiosity, but hailed with delight.

Nathaniel Richards was born Nov. 4, 1802 in Sussex county, New Jersey, and died Sept. 9, 1852 in Newton on the old homestead, now owned by B. F. Reed and Chas. V. Deeker. His first wife was Miss Catherine Roloson. She was born Aug. 12, 1800 and died Sept. 11, 1832. She had one daughter, Harriet, born April 16, 1823 and died about 1900. (*See Brittian Rosenkrans.*) She married Brittian Rosenkrans. Mr. Richards second wife was Miss Sarah Ostrander, born June 20, 1801 and died March 27, 1836. She had one son, Ostrander, born March 20, 1836. He is living in Ransom. After the decease of his second wife, Nathaniel was married Nov. 12, 1836 to Miss Sarah Michaels, daughter of Frederick Michaels. She was born Feb. 1, 1814 and died April 19, 1891. She had two sons: George, born Nov. 20, 1838. He died about 1910; Allen,

born Nov. 21, 1849 and died about 1902.

Peter Richards was born March 1, 1805 in Sussex county, New Jersey, and died Oct. 1, 1850 on the old homestead owned until 1911 by his son, D. W. Richards, but now owned by Christopher Richards. He was married Dec. 21, 1825 to Miss Fanny, daughter of Jacob and Susan (Wyker) Beemer. Fanny was born May 29, 1802 and died Nov. 8, 1837. She had five children: (1) David, born March 31, 1826 and died May 11, 1831 (2) Jacob B., born Dec. 15, 1829 and died Feb. 27, 1897. (3) Peter K., born Sept. 13, 1832 and living in West Pittston. (4) Susannah, born Aug. 18, 1834 and died Oct. 4, 1888. (5) Isaae, born March 16, 1836 and died Oct. 17, 1840.

Peter Richards' second wife was Miss Mary, daughter of Frederick Michaels, whom he married Feb. 13, 1838. To this union five sons were born: (1) Daniel W., born Feb. 22, 1839 and is living in Newton. (2) John, born Nov. 9, 1840 and died July 10, 1864. (3) Oren B., born April 20, 1843 and died April 24, 1908. (4) Cornelius, born Nov. 20, 1845 and died Dec. 27, 1905. (5) Jesse P., born May 21, 1848 and is living in Pittston.

## THE EARLY SETTLERS OF NEWTON.

Written by D. W. Richards.

In writing the history of Newton township it is necessary to go back of the time when Newton became the name of this township, and speak of the pioneer settlers who first came to this part of the country, known then as Falls township, Luzerne county, and in doing so we find that a large per cent. of the early settlers came from Sussex county, New Jersey. During the years intervening between 1815 and 1835 the following persons and their families left their homes in old "Sussex" to try their fortunes in this part of the old Keystone State: Samuel Clark, Isaae Rozelle, Benjamin Rozelle, Phineas Carman, James Comstock, Peter Ayers, Peter Corselius, Peter Richards, Elias Smith, Adam Thompson, Levi Rosenkrans, Rev. Higgins, Henry Beemer, Henry Litts, Nathaniel Richards, H. S. Deeker, Horace Collum, Simeon Cole, Henry R. Collum, Johnson Roloson, Jonas Fuller, William Brink, Abram Williams, Lewis Cosner, Zephaniah Havens, James Van Sickle and Joseph Coon.

Samuel Clark and Isaae Rozelle, after enduring the hardships and privations that are incident to the settling of a new country, became discouraged after a stay of two or three years, returned to their old homes. Benjamin Rozelle thought the outlook for him here was rather blue, and he moved to Columbia county, where he purchased a home and continued to

live until death claimed him. All of the other families remained for many years, and some are still represented by children and grandchildren. Peter Ayers has one son, Lewis B., still living in the township, hale and hearty at the age of eighty-three years. Peter Corseilus has four sons and one daughter, Mrs. P. K. Richards, living. Peter Richards has three sons living; one of them, D. W. Richards, owns and lives on the old homestead. Adam Thompson's children have all passed away; two grandsons are living in the township, Adam and William E. Henry Beemer's children are dead, but two grandsons, George and Samuel, are living in the town. George is filling a very important position as superintendent of the Hillside Home, a large and well appointed institution for the care of the poor and the insane for the city of Scranton. The buildings are fine and up-to-date structures, erected at a cost of about half a million dollars. Samuel Beemer is store keeper at the same institution. Of Henry R. Collum's family two are still living in this town, Phebe A., wife of Lewis B. Ayers and A. S. Collum, the postmaster at Bald Mount. Solomon Van Sickle, son of James Van Sickle, is living in Newton Center, where his father lived.

All of the old pioneers have long since died, except Mrs. Elizabeth Roloson, who at the age of ninety-seven, retains her physical and mental faculties to a wonderful degree.

Other pioneers from other places were Amos Learn, David Shook, George Myers and John Shelly from Monroe county, Pa. It is hard for those who are living here now to realize that when these people came and settled here, that where there are now fertile fields and beautiful residences, it was then one vast wilderness filled with wild and savage animals. Not a rod of land was cleared, and when they succeeded in felling trees to make a log house it was a common thing for the wolves to surround the house at night, and make the night hideous with their howling; but undaunted, the pioneers cleared up the land, burning the timber to get it out of the way. Thus they toiled and labored to make the farms that are so much admired in this town.

#### THE FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL.

As soon as their families were fairly settled in their little log huts the pioneers began to think of the future of their children. About the year 1830, a Sunday School was organized by Rev. Higgins, the farmer preacher, in a log house that stood near where Amzi Rosenkrans now lives.

The Baptist were first to organize a church

in this township, in the Spring of 1828, with only four members, holding meetings in school-houses and at the homes of the members. In 1871 they built a church edifice. The Presbyterian church was organized in 1835, and erected a building for worship in 1848.

The Methodist church was constituted in 1846 and one year later erected a church. The old red school-house at Newton Centre had been used for the regular place for preaching and prayer meetings for nearly twenty years.

There were regular services in all three of the churches, and all were well attended; people from the neighboring hills and valleys gathered to hear the Gospel preached. Strange to say, there is regular services in but one of the churches now (the Methodist), and the congregation there is often very meagre.

School-houses were erected of rough hewn logs, and the boys and girls were sent through the woods to school where the "masters" taught their young ideas how to shoot and the lessons found in the few books of those days.

There were no mail facilities, not a post-office for miles, and not a road anywhere only as the people "blazed" their way through the thinnest portions of the forest. To Henry Litts belongs the honor of having a post-office established in Newton. While the people worked hard and endured many privations, they were in the main contented and happy.

As the years rolled by and the country became more densely populated, and with the increase of business, Luzerne county was found to be too large, and a portion was taken from the northwestern corner, April 4th, 1842, which made a new county, called Wyoming, and in fixing the line of its eastern boundary it passed through the township of Falls leaving the eastern part of that township in Luzerne county, and without a name or an organization. As a large per cent. of the settlers of this section came from Sussex county, New Jersey, the county seat of which is Newton, and having a great love for their home town, they had it christened Newton, in honor to their old town.

The growth of the township, like all agricultural towns, has been slow but steady. Its seven schools, its fine farms and good houses and barns, two telephone systems, rural free delivery and good roads are all hand boards along the road of progress and improvement. But for a number of years past, like many another rural section, the younger generation has drifted to the towns and cities, and people from other places are rapidly filling their places until comparatively few of the descendants of the original pioneers are to be found here today.



### THE PIONEER SCHOOL-HOUSE.

About 1814 a log school-house was built, but the compiler has been unable to learn the location. The first teacher was Parley Von Cleveland, who was succeeded by John Mott and Anthony Briggs. Some years later a larger and more convenient school-house was built of hewn logs, near where Thomas Veety's residence now stands. Anthony Briggs and others taught in it.

Newton Hall Academy, on Presbyterian hill, was built in 1847, and the first term was taught by Rev. Mr. Osmond. None but the higher branches were taught. The academy building was later occupied by the Good Templars. The building is standing at this writing.

### THE PIONEER STORE

The pioneer store and ashery of Newton township was kept by Elias Smith. He bought ashes of the settlers and made from them potash, which he traded in Wilkes-Barre for such dry goods and groceries as the pioneers needed, and took more ashes from his neighbors in pay for the goods. He also built and operated the first cider mill.

The first regular store was kept by Solomon Strong, where the Van Sickle hotel was later located, and where Solomon Van Sickle now lives. Dr. Charles Kelly succeeded Strong, but in a short time returned to Tunkhannock. In 1842 E. A. and George Corey and Thomas Atherton purchased a barn of Chauncey Sherwood and converted it into a store, which they kept about twelve years. This building is now used by Mr. Cooper for a barn. They were succeeded by L. H. Litts, who subsequently built a store on the site where William Hice's residence now stands. This was burned in 1861, and Mr. Litts moved his goods in the building purchased from Chauncey Sherwood, which he occupied until his appointment as warden of Pittston poor-house about 1866, when he sold his goods to Chauncey Sherwood, who continued in the business several years. Henry Sham kept a clothing store at Newton Centre three different times. The old Sherwood store was later occupied by L. B. Ayers as a dwelling.

In 1861 or 1862 Ira Litts built the store building on Presbyterian Hill, opposite where William Hice now lives, and a few years later sold to John Hice, who kept a store there until a short time before his death in 1907. The building remains standing, but is unoccupied.

### THE PIONEER SAW-MILL

Elias Smith built the first saw-mill in Newton township. In 1816 he brought two men from New Jersey and built a mill on Gardner's Creek

about forty rods above the site of the present mill. This mill would not work until remodeled about 1821. This mill was run for several years. About 1852 it was moved to the present site. The old gate mill was taken out in 1866 and replaced by a new Muley mill patented by Clinton Gibbs of Fleetville, Pa. In 1883 it was replaced by a circular mill, manufactured by the Susquehanna County Agricultural Works of Montrose, Pa., which is doing first-class work at this writing, and is now owned and operated by Curtis Smith, grandson of Elias Smith. Part of the old dam of the first mill is standing firm and sound. Mr. Smith has several old irons of the first mill.

In 1868 Solomon Hopkins & Son built the first steam saw-mill, one and a half miles north of Newton Centre, on the road to Schultzville.

The Hartley saw-mill, near Schultzville, was built by Esquire Hartley about 1850. McKinsty & Childs converted it into a steam mill, and later it burned down.

John Shook erected a steam saw-mill on his farm in 1893. It is equipped with a circular saw, planer and matcher, run by a 25 h. p. engine and a 30 h. p. boiler.

In 1892 Mr. Shook installed a feed mill, also a hydraulic cider mill, with a capacity of 125 barrels per day.

About 1890, Levi Coon erected the steam circular saw-mill on the farm now owned by his son, Everett G. Coon. It is run by a 20 h. p. engine.

In 1841 L. H. Litts and Chauncey Sherwood built a saw-mill on the farm now owned by Joseph Lacoe. About 1881 the machinery was sold to Levi Coon for \$100.00, which he moved to a building that he erected on his farm.

### BLACKSMITH SHOPS.

Edward Rozelle carried on blacksmithing for several years from 1821, on the farm where Charles E. Lacoe now lives.

Christopher Van Buskirk commenced blacksmithing in January, 1854, at Newton Centre, where he ran a shop until about 1906, excepting about seven years when he rented his shop. His shop is now run by Charles H. Mitteer.

Levi Rosenkrans built a blacksmith shop in 1833 on the farm now owned by Amiz Rosenkrans, which he ran for several years.

Eder Garrison built a blacksmith shop about 1836 on the farm now owned by George Reed near Summit Lake, where he carried on blacksmithing for about thirty years. In 1866 he moved his shop to the farm now owned by his son, Lewis.

Isaac Whalen started a blacksmith shop at Newton Centre about 1848, which he ran for about six years. Eli Benedict had a shop previous to Mr. Whalen.

The first wagon shop in the township was established about 1835 by Jacob C. Lesh, near the present home of Henry Summerhill.

#### STATE MILITIA

About 1845 the men and boys of Newton and surrounding country met at Newton Centre, and drilled in the field south of the orchard on the old Thompson farm (settled in 1819 by Adam Thompson), now owned by George Biesecker. Drill days were known as vacation days, when the entire community turned out, coming in wagon loads, many drawn by oxtteams, bringing their dinners with them, having a good supply of gingerbread. Schools were closed for a half-day that the scholars and teachers might attend these gatherings. These days were the only recreation the children, men and women had at that time.

A colored man, commonly called "Black Sam," came with a baker's wagon from Wilkes-Barre with a supply of gingerbread (sweet cake highly seasoned with ginger) and other eatables for the drillers and other persons attending.

Stewart Pearce, in his *Annals of Luzerne*

*County*, says: "Sam Wright emigrated from New Jersey to Wilkes-Barre in 1822. Sam was a negro 4 feet 6 inches in height, and measured 9 feet in circumference. He was proficient in the art of cookery, and on his arrival opened an oyster saloon for the accommodation of the lovers of the bivalve. Oysters had been kept and sold for many years before in the cellar of the old court-house, at Arndt's Tavern, and at one or two other places, but there had never been an eating-house established in the place and conducted by a competent artist like Sam. Here good bread was baked and sold, and ginger cakes besides, together with mince pies and tarts of a most delicious flavor and taste."

There also were companies organized at Abington Centre (now Waverly), and Clark's Green. Their rifles were supplied by the State, and when the Civil War broke out they were all gathered up. They were the old-fashioned flint lock type. There were not enough to go around, several of the drillers using a stick instead of a rifle.

Olney Bailey, father of Andrew Bailey of Dimock, was the Colonel appoined to drill the companies.

About 1859 another company was organized in Milwaukie known as the "Ransom Invincibles." This company was also drilled by Colonel Bailey.

## CHAPTER TWELVE

### VILLAGES, CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS OF NEWTON

#### NEWTON CENTRE

or Bald Mount post-office, a small village located in the northwestern part of Newton township, nearly two miles northwest of Bald Mountain. It was known for many years by the name of Brushy Ridge, and later it was called Newton Centre, until the establishment of the post-office in 1835, when it was named Bald Mountain and a few years later shortened to Bald Mount.

Newton Centre contains about 100 inhabitants, but by counting every person living within the school district the number is increased to about 192. This village contains a post-office, and A. S. Collum has been the accomodating postmaster since April 1, 1905; a small grocery, kept by Solomon Van Sickle; a blacksmith shop, with Charles H. Mitteer, a first-class blacksmith, at the anvil; a school-house, three churches—Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist, but services are held only in the Methodist, and Rev. Wallace C. Wolcott has been the pastor

since April 1912. Dr. William H. Newman, the popular physician, came to this place December 31, 1896.

Newton Centre is the largest village in the township. The polls are located at the house of Solomon Van Sickle, where the voters of the township meet on election day to cast their votes for their favorite candidates.

#### NEWTON SCHOOL

Elias Smith and Joseph Coon were the first settlers in this district. They came from New Jersey in 1816; Henry Beemer in 1818; Adam Thompson in 1819; Henry Litts in 1821, and several others a little later.

Mr. Milot, one of the land agents, gave the land for the first school-house at Newton Centre, with the understanding that it should be used for both school and church purposes. This school-house was erected in 1830, and was the first frame school-house in the township, and



was built in front of where the Baptist church now stands. It was then called the Brushy Ridge school-house, and also the red school-house.

The new school-house was built in 1867, and Seely Rosenkrans of Flat Brook, N. J., was the first teacher. This is the largest school in the township. Frank A. Whitlock is the present teacher.

ker in the evening.

\$1,100.00 was raised on this day to complete paying for the church. It was the first church with a bell in Newton township. It was repaired in 1892 and again in 1904 when the steeple was made lower and an addition erected for a kitchen.

The parsonage was purchased of Lewis Litts. It was repaired and enlarged in 1882 and again in 1896.



BALD MOUNT METHODIST CHURCH

#### BALD MOUNT METHODIST CHURCH

The M. E. Church at Newton Centre was organized in November, 1846. The first trustees were Jacob Smith, Nathaniel Richards, Timothy Drake, Peter Bedell, Jesse Beemer, Alexander Beemer, George Albright, Noah Patrick and John Meiss. In 1847, Peter Bedell, Jacob Smith, James VanSickle, Nathaniel Richards and Peter Rutan were appointed the building committee who had a church erected at a cost of \$600.00, which was dedicated the same year. After holding occasional revivals, with a steady increase of membership for twenty-eight years, the old house of worship was abandoned on the 8th of December, 1875. This building is standing beside the Baptist church at Newton Centre in a delapidated condition.

The present site was purchased of William C. Ayers in 1875. The church is 32x44 feet, has a class room 18x28 feet, a vestibule 8x16 feet, and its steeple was 80 feet high. It cost \$4,204.00 and was dedicated Dec. 9, 1875 by Rev. Dr. Reuben Nelson during the pastorate of Rev. Isaac Austin, Rev. R. L. Dashiell preaching in the morning and Rev. I. T. Wal-

#### PASTORATES

Prior to 1851 this charge was with Abington and the names of the pastors are not available. 1851, E. F. Roberts; 1852, J. D. Safford; 1853, C. L. Rice; 1854-55, J. LaBar; 1856, P. Holbrook; 1857, J. W. Munger; 1858, C. Perkins; 1859, D. Personens; 1860-61, J. LaBar; 1862-63, G. W. Leach; 1864-65, I. N. Pardee; 1866, A. J. VanCleft; 1867-68, I. Austin; 1869-70, R. S. Rose; 1871-73, A. Brigham; 1874, A. J. Arnold; 1875-77, I. Austin; 1878-80, Wm. Shelp; 1881-83, F. Gendall; 1884-85, H. G. Harned; 1886-88, J. R. Angell; 1889-90, A. H. Maryott; 1891-95, J. C. Johnson; 1896-98, G. C. Jacobs; 1899-1901, A. Wrigley; 1902-03, E. McMillan; 1904, I. J. Smith; 1904, C. W. Smith; 1905, C. H. Wooley; 1906, C. W. Smith; 1907-09, H. W. Thomas; 1910-11, W. S. Wilcox; 1912, W. C. Wolcott.

Newton charge was in the Wyoming District until 1891, when it was changed to the Binghamton District, and in 1910 it was added to the Wilkes-Barre District. H. C. McDermott is District Superintendent.

The name of this charge was changed from

Newton to Bald Mount in 1904.

The Newton circuit was taken from part of Abington circuit at its formation in 1851 with nine places of worship, namely: Newton Centre, Milwaukie, Falls, Mill City, Lake Winola, Shook's School-house, West Abington, Schultzville and LaGrange. In 1888 the charge was divided, Falls charge being formed out of some of the appointments of Newton charge. Shook's appointment was dropped about 1875. Since 1888 Newton charge has embraced Newton, Schultzville and Milwaukie.

school-houses and wherever most convenient. January 18, 1868, Dr. H. S. Cooper, Rev. J. C. Sherman, Johnson Roloson, Jacob Biesecker and E. Taylor were appointed a building committee. The church building was dedicated Nov. 28, 1871, by Rev. W. P. Helling of Scranton. It is built of wood, size 36x50 feet and was neatly finished and furnished. The church property was valued at \$5,000.

After Mr. Sherman, Rev. George Lukins preached a year and Rev. Newell Callender three years; Rev. W. G. Comstock, 1880-'85;



OLD M. E. CHURCH AND BAPTIST CHURCH, BALD MOUNT

#### BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Newton Baptist church is an outgrowth of the Falls Baptist church, and was constituted in the spring of 1828, in the eastern part of Falls, now Newton township, with four members: Elias Smith, Samuel Mittan, Catherine Litts and Mrs. Fritchell. Rev. Isaac D. Jones, a licentiate of the church at Exeter, was the preacher until 1833. Rev. John Miller preached occasionally from 1836 to 1839, and Rev. James Clark part of 1840.

February 2, 1845, the Falls Baptist church was formally disbanded, and the Newton Baptist church organized. Rev. Silas Finn preached half the time during the next three years, and in 1853 Rev. John Miller accepted a call to preach half the time. February 9, 1857, he became pastor, and H. S. Cooper and Benjamin Rosenkrans were elected deacons. Rev. Charles Parker succeeded Mr. Miller, and preached till March, 1859. Rev. J. C. Sherman till December, 1861, and in the summer of 1862, when he entered the army as chaplain. Till April, 1867, the church was without a pastor. Then Rev. J. C. Sherman preached a year.

All this time the church had been meeting in

Newald Colender, 1885-'89; Mark Park, 1889-'92; Thomas Baker, 1892-1904. There has been no pastor since 1904. Thirty members were enrolled at that time.

The Sunday school was organized in 1872. John Coon was the first superintendent.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On Oct. 29, 1833, the Presbyterian church of Newton Centre was organized by Rev. J. Rhoades and Rev. J. Dorrance with fourteen charter members, namely: Samuel Clark and Elizabeth, his wife; Isaac Rozelle and Margaret, his wife; Peter Ayers and Maria, his wife; Peter Corselius and wife, Peter Richards and wife, Mrs. Matilda Rozelle, Mrs. Mary Carman, Sarah Comstock and Mrs. Harriet Thompson.

Although they were poor, and their families were getting along with the bare necessities of life, they erected a comfortable house of worship in 1848, on a lot donated by W. C. Ayres. This was a neat church edifice, built of wood, being the one now standing, which is in a dilapidated condition. It is a sad reflection upon those who are now occupying the places of



those sturdy pioneers, and enjoying the fruits of their labors, and have not energy and interest enough to keep the church in decent repair.

Horace Collum was the first Sunday School superintendent.

The first deacons were Peter Richards and Samuel Clark and the first elders were Peter Corseilius and Peter Ayers. The first meetings were held in school-houses, and Rev. J. Rhoades was the first minister after the organization, who filled the pulpit two years. Rev. N. G. Parke of Pittston then supplied the church every four weeks. Rev. Owen Brown preached once every two weeks for about two years; Rev. Jonathan Osmond was pastor from 1848 for about ten years; Rev. Wm. C. Holmes came in the latter

#### THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

During the pastorate of Rev. Henry Cardew, the Presbyterian church celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of its organization, October 29, 1908. By request of the pastor, D. W. Richards delivered the following address:

As a people we are in the habit of meeting together at certain times to celebrate great events. Some of these are of national importance and are participated in by all people in all parts of our great country. Such is the 4th of July, which commemorates the declaration of our independence as a nation. Such is the 22d of February, the birthday of George Washington. But today we meet to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the organization of the Presbyterian church of New-



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND THE OLD ACADEMY HALL, Bald Mount.

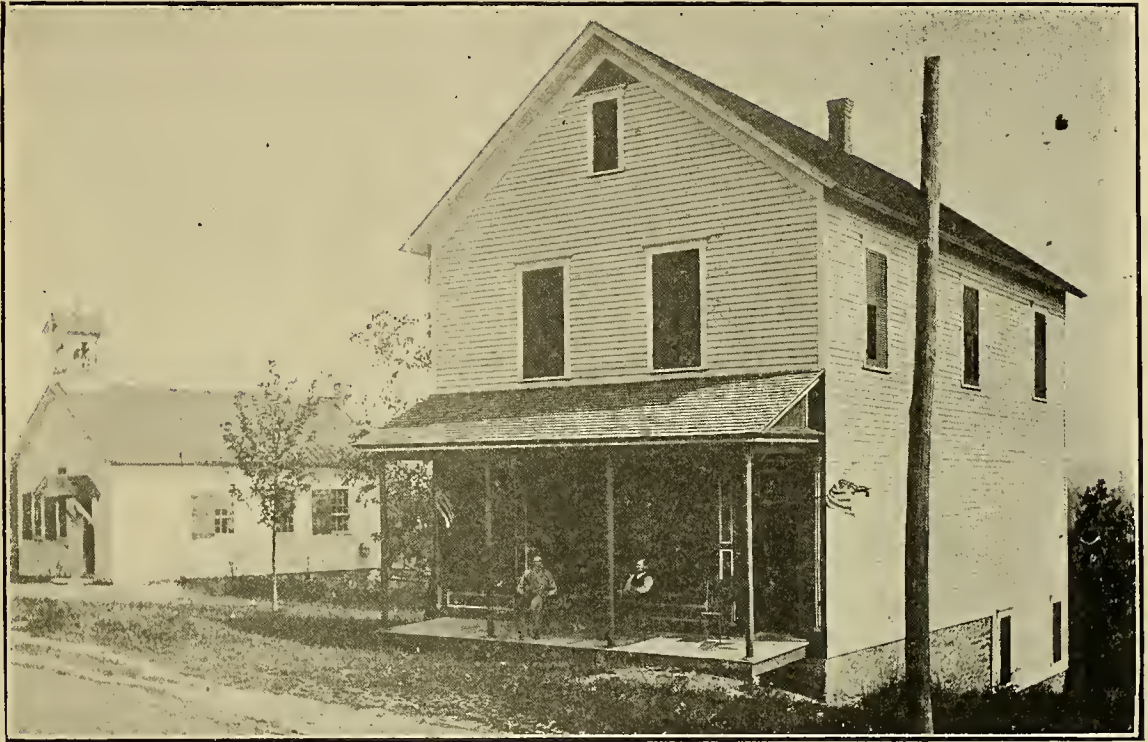
part of 1857 and filled the pulpit until April, 1859; Rev. J. B. Adams from May, 1859 to Feb. 7, 1864; Rev. John H. Sargent from May, 1864 to September, 1869; Rev. A. G. Harned from March 6, 1870 to May, 1876; Rev. John S. Hanna from December, 1877 to January, 1879. Revs. J. M. Phillips, J. A. Muir, G. G. Smith, A. M. Higgins, T. S. Bagranoff and H. Cardew were the ministers since January, 1879. Rev. H. Cardew remained two years, until 1909. Since then the church has been without a pastor.

In 1901, during the pastorate of Rev. A. M. Higgins, the church was repaired. A bell was purchased at a cost of \$125. The donors were D. W. Richards, John Hice, Charles H. Biesecker, Adam Thompson, (now living in Scranton) and George W. Beemer. Each gave \$25.00.

ton, an event that perhaps only a few now living in this vicinity are particularly interested, and yet, who will dare to say that it is of less importance than any of the events we celebrate. Who can understand and fully realize just what it means, or how far reaching the influence of a church of Almighty God is? Not until the last trumpet shall sound shall we know what a power for good Newton church has been in this community. I hold in my hand a slip of paper upon which are written the names of the charter members who composed this church at the time of its organization seventy-five years ago, fourteen in all, nine women and five men. (See names in preceding article.) All have passed away from earth and gone to their reward, but they have left an inheritance to us, that to me is very dear. I love Newton church as I could love no other. You may ask me why my affections are so strong for this church? I answer it was the church of my father, and as I love, honor and revere his memory, so I love his church. Some of you perhaps may never know the heart pangs I have suffered, when some who bear the name of my father have deserted his church. Some of you

know the history of Newton church; her days of sunshine and shadows, (as I had almost said, her successes and failures) but how little we know what constitutes success or failure in God's arrangements here. It is true there have been times of deep depression and gloom when we were without a pastor, an under shepherd to go out and in before this people; and worse still when some within the fold to whom this church ought to be as dear as it is to me, have sought to merge her with another, and thus close her doors and abandon her courts. But I thank God today that Newton church still lives, Aye, and will live when the names of those who sought to disrupt her shall have passed into oblivion. And I am thinking just now

the Rev. Jonathan Osmond, and supporting him on either side I see Elders Ayers, Collum, Richards and Dersheimer; but, oh! what a mighty host are following them whose faces I do not know. I ask, who are all these and what does it all mean? The answer comes to me, these are they who have come up through Newton Presbyterian church. And now I begin to realize something of the magnitude of the work that has been done by this church; and as I see them marching upward to Zion, bringing their sheaves with them, I indulge the hope that in all coming time at least nine women and five men may be found here to perpetuate the organization that was effected seventy-five years ago, and which today we celebrate.



NEWTON CENTRE SCHOOL-HOUSE AND THE P. O. S. OF A. BUILDING

if my father can look down upon this celebration, (and who will dare to say he cannot, for are they not all ministering spirits) and if I could hear his voice, what do you think he would say? I imagine it would be something like this: My son hear aloft the banner of Newton church; unfurl it to the breeze of heaven; transmit to coming generations what we have bequeathed to you. Yes, my friends, this is one of the happiest days of my life. I am so thankful that my life has been spared, and I permitted to participate in this celebration; and as I stand here today within these sacred walls on Presbyterian Hill, my thoughts go on before me, and my feelings and vision are akin to those John had when on the isle of Patmos. I seem to see a great throng gathering from North, South, East and West, and they are all coming toward this hill, and as they come nearer I recognize some of the faces. In advance of all the rest are nine women and five men arrayed in white and crowns upon their heads, and closely following them I recognize

#### P. O. S. OF A. CAMP No. 528

The local camp, No. 528, Patriotic Order Sons of America was organized at Bald Mount, March 24, 1893 in the old Academy Hall near the Presbyterian church, with forty-seven charter members. Rev. J. C. Johnson, minister of the Methodist church at that time, was elected the first president. Wm. A. Hice and a few others were instrumental in having the camp instituted.

Four years later the camp purchased a lot adjoining the Newton Centre school-house, and in the fall of 1897 erected a two-story and basement building, size 26x46 feet, the upper floor being used for a hall where the members meet twice a month. The first floor has a large front room furnished with tables, and a smaller room

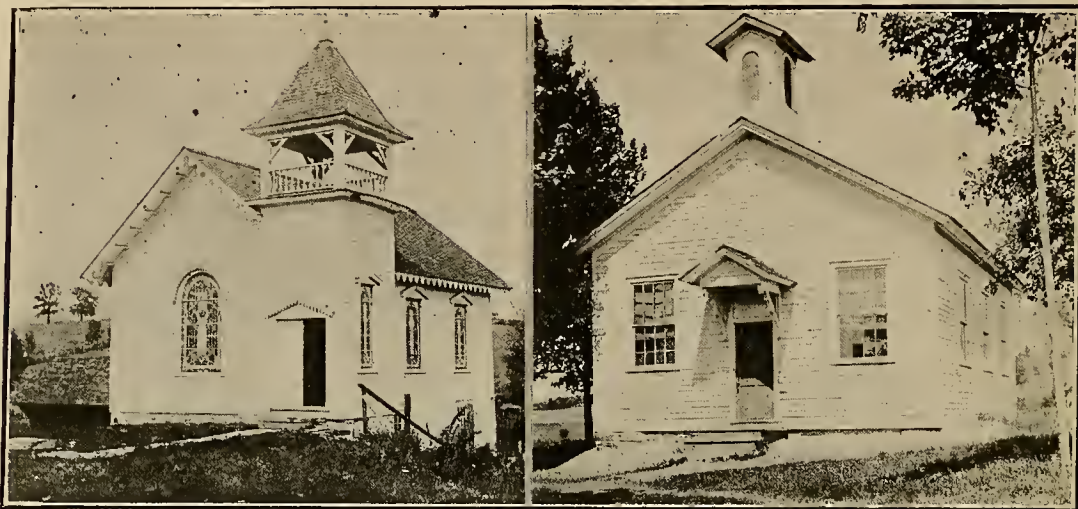


in the rear for a kitchen, equipped with a stove, dishes and every necessary article for preparing and serving a first-class dinner.

The camp is in a flourishing condition, having over \$1,000 in the bank. There were seventy-seven members April 1, 1912. The camp has been running over nineteen years, and has lost by death only one beneficiary member and one honorary member.

ted for a few months after 1850, and was followed by Dr. J. Keeney, from Laceyville. He died in the Spring of 1852. Dr. James Decker was the next physician. He died here in 1860. Dr. J. A. Hann came to Newton Centre in 1860 and practiced about twenty-five years.

Dr. P. F. Hubler, of Huntington, Pa., graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, in 1877, and located in Newton



M. E. CHURCH AND SCHOOL-HOUSE, SCHULTZVILLE

BALD MOUNT LODGE, No. 731, I. O. OF G. T.

An Independent Order of Good Templars was organized at Newton Centre, July 30, 1869 with fifty charter members. For several years it was in a flourishing condition, holding regular meetings on Friday evening of each week in Good Templars' Hall. (The old Academy Building.)

It enrolled over 300 members and had a full treasury. Miss Jennie Petty, a sister of Milton Petty, was an active member of this lodge, and an earnest advocate and worker in the temperance cause.

December 26, 1884 the Newton Division Sons of Templars, No. 31 was organized in Good Templars' Hall. They ran for about five years.

#### THE PHYSICIANS OF NEWTON.

Dr. Andrew Bedford was the first practicing physician in Newton, and was succeeded by Dr. Hiram Nichols, who lived in Abington. Dr. H. S. Cooper, who studied medicine with B. A. Benton, M. D., of Tunkhannock, and graduated from the Pennsylvania Medical College at Philadelphia, located at Newton Centre in 1842; left in 1850; came back in 1858 and remained until his death, June 28, 1902, excepting a year he spent in the army. Dr. S. M. Wheeler prac-

ticed for about ten years, when he moved to West Pittston, where he is now practicing. Dr. Charles D. Mackey practiced here for about six months, coming from Montrose about 1886. Dr. C. E. Richards located here about 1885 and practiced about five years, when he moved to Seranton. In October, 1891, Dr. F. I. Smith came from Clifford and remained until January, 1897. Dr. Richard and Dr. Smith graduated from Jefferson Medical College. William H. Newman, graduated from the Jefferson Medical College in 1896, and came to Newton December 31, 1896, practicing here ever since.

#### SCHULTZVILLE

This hamlet was founded and named in 1858 by John B. Schultz, who then owned all the land and other property here. Thirty years ago Schultzville was a thriving village of nearly 200 inhabitants, but since the removal of the tannery about 1882, the people were not able to find employment and moved to other localities, and today not over thirty persons are found.

Schultzville contains a school-house, two small stores, a blacksmith shop and one church, the Methodist, being on the Bald Mount charge, having services every Sunday. One store is

owned by George Sherman, keeping a stock of groceries and a line of dry goods usually kept in a small country store. Philip Harlos keeps a small stock of groceries and a stock of the different kinds of feed and grain. The blacksmith shop is owned and operated by Wesley A. Winter.

#### SCHULTZVILLE SCHOOL

The first log school-house was built about 1845 about a rod south of the present building. D. W. Richards was one of the early teachers. This was known for many years as the "Hog-pen School-house." Patrick Ketty taught school in this building about 1860.

#### THE SCHULTZVILLE CHURCH

The Chapel at Schultzville was built by John B. Schultz in 1861, and was for several years used jointly for school and religious purposes. Since the building of a school-house the chapel is used exclusively for religious meetings.

It was bought by the society in 1885 for \$250.00, and it is now valued at \$700.00. Before the erection of this building the Methodists worshiped in the school-house at Weiss' Corners. In 1908 the building was remodeled.

#### THE KEYSTONE TANNERY

was a thriving industry of Schultzville about thirty years ago. It was established by John



FIRE-PROOF SCHOOL-HOUSE

In those days the school-house was used for entertainments and church services. One evening after an entertainment the door was not fastened shut, and during the night an old sow belonging to Solomon Hopkins, who lived near, entered the building, after which the door was closed, either by the hog or the wind. Three or four days later she was found with a litter of young porkers. After that time it was called the "Hog-pen School-house" by every one in the community.

The second school-house was built in 1862, near Judson D. Hopkins' residence. This building was sold to Solomon Hopkins.

The present school-house was built in 1868. Miss Mary Morrow of Schultzville taught this school in 1910-'11. Twenty-three scholars were enrolled.

B. Schultz, who moved into Pennsylvania in the Spring of 1858, from Illinois. The same year in July, he began the erection of the large tannery, together with the necessary buildings for carrying on the tannery business, such as shop, storage buildings, store, tenements, etc., which was called the Keystone Tannery. Mr. Schultz carried on the business until January, 1866, when he sold the property to A. B. McKinstry and Nial T. Childs of Ulster county, New York. They carried on the business for about ten years, until May 4, 1876, at which time Mr. McKinstry purchased Mr. Childs' interest, and from that time the business was conducted under the name of Jackson S. Schultz & Co., of New York, until about 1882, when the tannery was moved to New York and nearly all the tenement houses and other buildings were torn down.

The Keystone Tannery employed about fifty



men, and had a capacity for tanning 40,000 hides a year, valued at \$175,000. A large farm of 500 acres was run in connection with the tannery. At that time this farm was considered the largest and most productive in the county, producing 300 tons of hay annually, and other crops. About twelve to fifteen men were employed on the farm and about twenty more were employed in the woods, cutting timber and peeling bark, making a total of over eighty men employed in the tannery, on the farm and in the woods.

terms (1910-'11 and 1911-'12). In 1911-'12 fifteen scholars were enrolled, namely: Carl Beck, Norma Beck, Leah Beck, Lloyd Beck, Esther Berry, Olive Fenton, Harry Franey, Thomas Franey, Wendall Lacoe, Wallace Lacoe, Helen Lacoe, Nicholas Reed, Marjorie Reed, Gertrude Sweet and Hubert Sweet.

#### COSNER SCHOOL

This school was named in honor of Lewis Cosner, who came from Sussex county, N. J., in 1816 and settled upon the farm now owned by



LACOE SCHOOL-HOUSE

#### FIRE-PROOF SCHOOL

Barronet Rodney made the first settlement in this district in 1803, on the old Theodore Stone farm. This was the second settlement in the township.

The first school-house was built about 1840. It was a framed building. The present building was erected about 1860. It was named "Fire Proof" several years ago, when it was set on fire two or three times, and each time went out, without doing but slight damage.

Miss Leona E. Winter, Bald Mount, was the teacher in 1910-'11. Twenty-one scholars were enrolled.

#### LACOE SCHOOL.

The first settlement in the township was made in this district in 1803, by Richard Gardner, upon the farm now owned by Peter Corselius.

The first and only school-house was built about 1860. Albert Corselius, Emily and Hattie Litts, Jessie Hunt and Lewis Rosenkrans were among the first teachers. Miss Vivian Bardwell. Tunkhannock, taught the last two

his grandson, Seldon S. Cosner. The first settlement in this district was made about 1812, or before, by Zebulon Comstock, upon the farm now owned by Mrs. Daniel W. La Rue. About the same time Parley Von Cleveland located on the farm now owned by Anthony McAndrews of Scranton (occupied by Elmer G. Swartz), and later a Mr. Lutz on the Henry Jacobs' farm, recently purchased by W. E. LaRue.

The first school-house in this district was built about 1820 on the main road from Newton to Scranton, near the present residence of Thomas Veety. It was built of hewn logs, and was known as the "Morgan School-house." The first teachers were Parley Von Cleveland, Anthony Briggs and Nancy Ackerly. Another school-house was built about 1845, near the present site. This was a framed building. It is now used for a corn house on Seldon S. Cosner's farm. Daniel Blatchley was the first teacher in this building. The third school-house was built about 1875.

#### PORT ROYAL SCHOOL

The first settlers in this district all came from

New Jersey. About 1815 John Walter and his brother, Jacob, settled on the farms now owned by Andrew Veety. John built his log-house where Mr. Veety's tenant house is now located, and Jacob erected his rude house opposite Mr. Veety's residence. Jonas Fuller located on the farm now owned by Fred Eckel, and built his cabin across the road from the spring, about fifteen rods south of Mr. Eckel's home. Andrew Compton settled and cleared the farm now owned by L. B. Ayers, Sr., which included the farms owned by Lewis Phillipsky and Peter C. Winter. Jephtha Mittan settled on the Richard Busteed farm. John K. Reed, a school teacher, located on the Kircher farm.

The first school-house (the present building)

house, upon which a log school-house was built in 1838. The first school was held without door or windows, and the first teacher was Miss Harmina F. Olmstead (born Feb. 19, 1816 and died Aug. 6, 1886). She married Gideon P. McMillan. Among the first scholars were Peter Sutton, P. K. Richards, J. B. Richards, Abram Agnew, Albert VandeBorgert, B. S. Drake and Amzi Decker. The present school-house was built about 1861, upon the site of the first.

Miss Nora F. Biesecker, Bald Mount, was the teacher in 1911-'12. Eighteen scholars were enrolled, seven boys and eleven girls, namely: Marjorie Coon, Eliza Coon, Laura Coon, Edyth Coon, Raymond Coon, Ralph Kresge, Bertha



SHOOK SCHOOL-HOUSE

was built about 1876, when George Snover was director. His adopted daughter, Mahala Snover, was the first teacher. This is the smallest school in the township, only about ten families living in the district, with a present population of less than fifty. Israel Vosburg, Jr., was teacher in 1911-'12, with about fourteen scholars enrolled. Richard Busteed is the oldest inhabitant, 85 years, and L. B. Ayers is next, being 82 years of age.

#### SHOOK SCHOOL

Adam Taylor was the first settler in this district, on the farm now owned by Ira Drake. This was about 1825. He made a clearing and built his log-house near the spring, above the house where Philip Winters is living. Christopher Taylor, (his brother), Silas Sutton, William Brink, David Shook and others came later.

David Shook donated the land for the school-

Nafus, Ira Nafus, Florence Newman, Mary Newman, Charles Newman, Edith Ferguson, Henry Pedrick, Merritt Pedrick, Sara Saxe, Leota Shook, Ella Vaughn and Arthur Winston.

#### EXTRACTS COPIED FROM AN OLD MINUTE BOOK OF THE SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF NEWTON TOWNSHIP.

The Board of School Directors of Newton township met at the house of Chauncey Sherwood (where Andrew S. Collum is now living) Oct. 18, 1856, and agreed that there be six schools in the District of three months' duration each for the coming winter. Teacher's salary not to exceed \$16.00 per month.

Directors met at the house of C. Sherwood, March 28, 1857 and organized by electing John Shook, President; Henry Kern, Secretary, and Peter Bedell, Treasurer.



Directors met at the house of C. Sherwood, Saturday, April 11, 1857 at 2 o'clock P. M., and agreed that a School Tax of three mills on each dollar on the last adjusted valuation be levied for school purposes for the ensuing year, and that the schools be kept open four months during the summer. Teacher's salary not to exceed \$9.00 per month; the president and secretary to issue orders therefor at the expiration of the term; and that the secretary of the board receive \$1.00 for services rendered.

Directors met at the house of C. Sherwood June 13, 1857. and Henry R. Collum was appointed collector of school taxes for the year 1857. He having accepted the appointment took the Duplicate, amounting to \$242.71.

Amount of school tax levied in 1859 was \$568.89 at 3¼ mills on the dollar. Total valuation of property taxed in Newton in the year 1859, \$175,043.00 and 197 persons taxed.

#### REMINISCENCES OF AN OLD TEACHER

In November, 1856, I commenced to teach. I was engaged to teach the school that is now known as the Schultztville school. The school-house was built of logs, and chinked between the logs with sticks and mud. In size it was about sixteen by twenty feet. Inside, on three sides, a board was placed along the sides at an angle of about forty-five degrees which served as a writing desk. A row of planks or slabs with holes bored in them and sticks driven in, were placed along the desk for the larger scholars, and a second row made in the same way but not so high for the smaller children. The house stood on the same plot of ground where the present house of more modern construction now stands. Within this little log hut, with sixty-four pupils huddled together, I spent my first winter as a country pedagogue.

I had always been ambitious to become a teacher, and now that my ambitions were to be realized I commenced my work with high hopes and lofty ideas. Among my pupils were many who were much larger, and some of them several years older than myself, for I was but a boy, not quite eighteen years old, and small for my age. I had not taken my examination when I commenced the school, but a few days after I began work, Mr. John L. Richardson, the county superintendent, called at the school and conducted the examination orally before the school, which was customary at that time, and I received my first certificate. I think I felt larger then, than I had ever before or since. Mr. Richardson, I think, was the first county superintendent elected in Luzerne county, which at that time included the territory that is now Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, his prede-

cessor having been appointed by the Governor.

The first thing that impressed me was that with so large a family it would be necessary to have thorough discipline, and I started to fight it out along that line. Among the large boys that I have mentioned, there was one overgrown fellow over six feet tall who seemed determined to be disagreeable to the small scholars. I had spoken to him about it, but he gave no heed. One day I told him if he did not stop it I would whip him, but he continued. Finally I sent one of the boys for a whip; he brought a fine birch, and I gave him such a thrashing as I think he had never had before. It never occurred to me at the time that he could have picked me up and thrown me out of the door easily. Some of the other large boys told me later that they expected him to fight, and they had planned to take care of me and give him what he needed if necessary, but he took his medicine like a man, and did not molest the little ones after that.

Teaching in those days was very different from now. There was no uniformity of text books, consequently it was impossible to classify the pupils, and we were forced to adopt the personal method as they do in Commercial Schools. While there has been many changes in our schools since those days, and many so called advanced methods introduced, yet I question whether we are getting any better results in many ways. I was talking a short time ago with a teacher who had fourteen scholars. She said she had so many classes she could not get around to all of them, and some had to be neglected. In my first school of sixty-four pupils, there was not a day that the little ones did not get four lessons. I call to mind a little girl of nine years to whom I taught the A B C's and at the closing of the term she could read fluently in Sanders' Third Reader. How does this compare with the progress made by your advanced methods? I know of no way to judge of methods except by the results obtained.

In those days one of the requirements of a teacher was to be able to make a good quill pen; he was also required to board around, and while there were things about this custom that were unpleasant, and at times embarrassing, yet there were many pleasant features about it: you formed many acquaintances that in after life you look back to with pleasure. I was always well fed and always slept in the spare bed. As a rule I like to sleep in the spare bed, but there are exceptions. I recall an instance; I was invited to the home of a very pleasant family, but the weather was extremely cold, twenty below zero. I was put in the spare bed far from the fire, and between a pair of snowy white linen sheets. Oh, the shivers I exper-

ience when I got into that bed. I can almost feel them yet. I would have been glad to have exchanged places with the dog and slept under the stove.

I often think of that winter and my first school, and now, at the age of seventy-three, it would be interesting to me could I follow the history of my pupils in their after life, but I cannot. Many, I presume are dead, others have gone to other places. A few, I have been able to keep in touch with; among them are George S. Snover, a retired farmer living at Mill City; Horace Rozelle, who was county commissioner of Wyoming county, and George W. Beemer, who is occupying a very responsible position as superintendent of the Hillside Home.

While this was my initial school, I very much doubt if I ever taught a better one. I know I worked hard to make it a success, and I only wish now that I had some of the compositions that were written for the closing exercises that you might see how my pupils regarded it. I know that I did not get fat in doing the work, either in body or pocketbook. At the close of school I tipped the scales at one hundred and twenty pounds. I received \$16 per month and my board while teaching, so after paying \$2 a month for Sunday board and washing it did not leave me enough to take a trip to Europe.

In giving the account of the school-house I forgot to mention its name. It was known as the "hog-pen school-house." I do not know who gave it that name or just why it was called that, but I do know, that some who attended that school have much better houses in which to feed their hogs.

I soon had a reputation for keeping order, and my services were in demand where they had trouble in the schools. I remember after I had married and had decided to not teach any more, Squire Ferguson, from the Falls, came to my house and said that "the school above the Falls had broken up," and he wanted me to take charge of it and complete the term. I did so, taking a good whip with me. I gave them but few rules, but gave them to understand that I expected them to be obeyed to the letter. One morning when I entered the school-house quite early, as my custom was, to make fire and write copies before the scholars came, I noticed some writing on one of the slates. I picked it up and read it. It proved to be an effort to write poetry about the teacher. After looking it over I thought to answer it in as near the same strain as I was able. The spelling was bad, and I had intended to strike at every word misspelled, but did not have time before the pupils began to arrive. I herewith give his effort and my answer.

We have a teacher in this hous (house)  
He sometimes looks quite kros; (cross)  
He has some hair about his mouth  
That makes him look a good deal wurs  
(worse).

Yes, and he has a great long arm,  
And in it carries a ten-foot pole,  
And if a child does any harm  
He cuts him to the sole. (soul)

#### ANSWER.

We have a boy within our school  
Who sets up for a poet;  
And though I'll not stoop to call him fool,  
I'm sure his poetry will do it.

His brain, I'm sure, is very small,  
Like any ordinary mouse,  
For when in poetry he tries to spell,  
"H-o-u-s," he thinks, spells house.

Now a word of caution I would give  
Unto this upshot poet;  
'Tis when he feels like writing verse,  
He'd better never do it.

Lest in hopes of sudden gain  
That narrow mind of his he strain,  
And burst the prison wall that bind  
The simple powers of a sickly mind.

I finished the school all right, and did not have to dig any graves either.

All of which is respectfully submitted by ye olden school-master. D. W. RICHARDS.

#### SCRANTON AND NEWTON TURNPIKE COMPANY

This road was completed Sept. 1, 1869, and was owned and managed by the company till February, 1891, when it was purchased by the county. David Cosner was the first president. Joseph Melhbaum was the gate keeper. The toll charged for a horse and buggy was 10 cents; horse and buckboard, 8 cents; horse and rider, 5 cents; two horses and wagon, 15 cents.

#### CLOUD BURST AND FLOOD OF 1909.

On Friday, June 25, 1909 the most disastrous flood ever known in this section swept through Newton and Ransom townships. It began raining about one o'clock in the afternoon, and the water fell in torrents for over three hours. Every bridge along Gardner's creek was washed out. On the main road between Newton Centre and Scranton, near the residence of Thomas Veety, the road was washed out to a depth of from six to ten feet for a distance of nearly one-fourth mile. Deep ditches were washed through valuable meadow land and large trees were uprooted and carried to the river. Many of the houses and other buildings were flooded.

Part of Curtis P. Smith's saw-mill, containing valuable lumber, was carried over a quarter of a mile and wrecked, and several hundred dol-



lars worth of lumber lost. The mill-dam at Milwaukie was washed out, and the mill damaged. Arthur Jacoby had five acres of potatoes entirely washed out. A smoke house, with about 250 pounds of meat, belonging to Henry Summerhill were carried away by the stream and lost.

#### LAKE VIEW POOR FARM

This institution was incorporated under an Act of Assembly approved April 4, 1868, under the name of "Luzerne Poor Farm," for the townships of Newton, South Abington and North Abington. About 1904 the name was changed to Lake View Poor Farm.

The Lake View Poor District now includes eleven townships and boroughs, namely: North

of the farm and buildings is \$16,000 and the personal property, \$3,000. The building is heated with hot water, and is equipped with hot and cold water.

There were fifteen inmates June 7, 1912; the youngest ten years and the oldest eighty-four years of age.

#### DEPUTY U. S. MARSHAL SHOT

There are many conflicting rumors about the shooting of Hosey by Noah Smith, which has made it very difficult to prepare this short narration. It is claimed by a few persons that the Deputy Marshal was **James Hosey**; others claim his name was **Hosey Phillips**.

Noah Smith enlisted as a drummer boy at the beginning of the Rebellion, when only



LAKE VIEW ALMSHOUSE

Abington, South Abington, West Abington, Benton, Greenfield, Newton and Scott townships, and Dalton, Glenburn, LaPlume and Waverly boroughs.

The first farm, containing 126 acres, was purchased in 1868 from Olney Bailey, and in December, 1910, 28 acres more were purchased from the Alfred Reed estate, making a total of 154 acres, of which 120 acres are cleared. The first steward was A. M. Pelham. Burton Vande Bogert has been the Steward since July 1, 1907, and Mrs. VandeBogert, Matron. A. J. Thompson was Steward for eleven years, from February 10, 1896 to July 1, 1907.

The building is a wooden structure, two stories and basement, size 28x71 feet for the inmates, with an addition on the front, size 26x36 feet, for the Steward and his family. This new part was built in 1893, during the Stewardship of George Vosburgh. The value

twenty years of age. It is asserted that after he enlisted, the superior officers insisted that he should enter active service as a private and not as a drummer. Smith was a bold and courageous young man, and took advantage of the first young man, and took advantage of the first opportunity he had for escaping, which was a daring feat. He ran past the guards who were stationed on all sides. After making his escape he went to a farm house, where the family was away. A card was tacked on the door containing these words: "Visiting at Uncle John's." The door was unlocked, and Smith improved the opportunity by entering the house and exchanging his "suit of blue" for a suit of citizen's clothes which he found hanging in one of the rooms. He then started on his journey reaching his home in Ransom with very little difficulty. He was captured several times after deserting, and each time escaped. He lived in a

cave in the rocks in the woods back of his father's house for several weeks.

One day in February, 1865, Smith and John Raife, another deserter, were invited to spend the day and night with Levi Rosenkrans, in Newton (where Amzi Rosenkrans is now living), and while there about three o'clock in the afternoon, Hosey Phillips, a Deputy U. S. Marshal, with a sleigh load of other men, came to the Rosenkrans home to capture the deserters. Smith and Raife went upstairs when they saw the officers coming. Hosey entered and began searching the house. He opened the stair door swearing that he would take Smith either dead or alive. Smith met Hosey at the top of the stairs warning him to stop or he would shoot. Hosey advanced farther, when Smith shot and killed him, then turning to the window he shot and injured one of the men standing outside the house. Smith and Raife then fled, going to Falls through the snow in their stocking feet. Here Amos Beemer, a merchant, gave each a pair of boots; then they went to Ransom and hid in John Stout's barn for about two weeks, and then went West. Later they returned to Ransom where Smith was married March 23, 1866 to Miss Catherine E. Jacoby. About two years later, one Sunday in February or March, a Mr. Casey and another man from Scranton, drove to the Smith home, arrested Smith, and took him to Scranton without hat or coat. The same day he was taken to the Wilkes-Barre jail. About six months later he was tried before Judge John M. Cunningham for the murder of Hosey. G. M. Harding was his attorney. The jury brought in a verdict of not guilty, that Smith fired the fatal shot in self defense.

Noah Smith was born March 13, 1841 and died June 4, 1900. He was a son of Peter and Sarah (Compton) Smith of Ransom. (*See Mrs. Catherine Smith of Ransom.*)

#### NEWTON AND RANSOM MAIL ROUTES

In the early days a mail route was established between Wilkes-Barre and Tunkhannock, via of Pittston and Falls. John Pruner was one of the first mail carriers. The postage was five cents for each letter, to be paid when the letter was delivered. Postage stamps were not introduced until 1847.

The first post-office in Newton township was established in 1835, at Bald Mount. The mail was carried on horse back from Old Forge to Falls, making a trip once a week. About 1857, Chauncey Sherwood, and a few others, made an effort to have it changed to twice a week, in which they were successful.

The mail is now carried daily by Solomon VanSickle, over a "star route," from Clarks Summit, via of Schultzville. Three rural de-

livery routes complete the system, two starting from Ransom, and one from Clarks Summit.

Route No. 1, from Ransom, was established Feb. 1, 1907, with Peter Bedell, Jr., mail carrier. This route serves about one hundred and twelve families in Newton, Ransom, and Falls townships, traversing about eighteen and a half miles of road.

Route No. 2, from Ransom, was started Mar. 16, 1907, and David H. Bedell was appointed carrier. This route serves over one hundred families in Ransom and Newton townships.

Route No. 2, from Clarks Summit, was established April 1, 1908 and serves the families along twenty-four and a half miles of road in South Abington and Newton townships. Orrin S. Sharpe is the mail carrier.

Six post-offices have been established in the two townships, as follows:

Office	Date Estab.	First Post Master
Ransom,	Apr. 9, 1850	Isaac D. Gulick
Bald Mount,	Dec. 23, 1835	Solomon C. Strong
Milwaukie,	July 16, 1855	Nicholas G. Reed
	Office discontinued Mar. 30, 1907	
Moosic,	About 1860	Henry Kern
	Office discontinued about 1866	
Schultzville,	June 2, 1864	John B. Schultz
Mountain Valley,	Aug. 7, 1868	Edward B. Trivley
	Office discontinued June 25, 1894	

The Moosic post-office was located at Kern's Corners, where P. P. Vosburg now lives.

There are now three post-offices, as follows:

Bald Mount, Andrew Collum, postmaster.  
Schultzville, George Sherman, postmaster.  
Ransom, James P. VanOstrand, postmaster.

#### POPULATION OF NEWTON AND RANSOM TOWNSHIPS SINCE 1850

Year	Newton	Ransom
1850	819	797
1860	916	509
1870	1,057	603
1880	1,027	646
1890	1,059	650
1900	1,281	894
1910	1,417	849

The above figures include the inmates at the Hillside Home and the Ransom Home

#### BALD MOUNT.

The highest point in Ransom and Newton townships, and surrounding country for many miles is Bald Mount, being 2,223 feet above the sea level. The "pinnacle" or highest point is located in Ransom township, a short distance east of the Newton line, and about five miles westward from Scranton. At its western base lies the village of Milwaukie.

The top of the mount is shorn of its larger trees by the force of the wind, which many



times sweeps over it with great fury, making it comparatively bald, thus giving it the name. When the day is clear a wide view of field, forest and lake is offered, and ten or twelve towns and villages can be seen from its high altitude. One large rock, prominently located on the pinnacle, is perforated with several holes of the capacity of from a quart to a gallon. These were probably used by the Indian women for pounding their corn into samp. This theory is substantiated by the large number of stone pestles found near it many years ago.

Bald Mount has become a popular resort during the hot summer months for persons from the crowded city loving the romance of mountain life. It is reached by a long, steep, zigzag road. A short distance below the pinnacle emerges a spring, cool and sparkling, where many weary and thirsty pedestrians have been refreshed by its pure and never-failing waters.

#### INDIAN GOLD SPRING.

There is a tradition of an Indian gold spring in this locality where the red man obtained the precious metal. Explorers have searched upon every side of Bald Mount for the hidden treasure, which has never been found.

"In 1778, a young man who had been captured by the savages in Wyoming Valley, was carried to the top of a mountain where the Wilkes-Barre settlement could be seen in the distance. Here they built their camp fire. A transaction took place at this time which, from its novel character, excited the surprise and ever afterward impressed the mind of the young, unharmed captive. A venerable chief, to whom the young man owed his safety, and subsequently his release, removed a large flat stone covering the spring. The waters of this were so conveyed by a subterranean conduit, constructed for the purpose, as regard to the real source of the spring. At its mouth a roll of bark, forming a spout, was placed in such a manner as to direct the current into a handkerchief held under it by two of the Indians. For some moments the chief, reverently attended by the warriors, arrayed with bow and arrow, and forming a circle around him, stirred up the spring with a conscious knowledge of its gainful results. After an hour had elapsed, every stone previously disturbed was restored to its former condition; earth and leaves were left as if never touched, and no one, without ocular knowledge, would suspect the existence of a water-course. The handkerchief, covered with yellow sediment, was now lifted from the spout. The glittering product thus gathered by the chief was placed in a stone vessel with great care. After the fire was extinguished, and certain incantations performed with ceremonial exactness,

the Indians left the spot in charge of the wild rocks surrounding it, and resumed their march toward their land of maize among the lakes.

"Six days' walk led the party to Kingston, New York, where the treasures of the mountain, thus artfully obtained, were exchanged with the whites, for such articles as want or caprice suggested to the occupants of the forest.

"In after years the returned hero often related the incident to his family and friends, some of whom thoroughly traversed every portion of Bald Mount and Campbell's Ledge without discovering the secret channel or the golden spring."—*Hollister's History*.

#### HILLSIDE HOME

On April 9th, 1862, a law was enacted by the legislature "to authorize the erection of a poor-house by the borough of Dummore, borough of Scranton and township of Providence." The corporators and first commissioners were Edward Spencer, of Dummore; Joseph Slocum and David K. Kressler, of Scranton; and Henry Griffin of Providence.

On June 30, 1862, the district purchased a farm of 127 acres from Abraham Polhemus, for \$6,730.50. This property is located in Newton township (part of farm in South Abington), Lackawanna county, nine miles from Scranton, on the old turnpike from Clark's Green to Newton Centre. It is also two miles west from Clark's Summit station on the Lackawanna Railroad, and the Binghamton and Scranton Electric Railway. No better location could have been selected. The wide and extended view of the landscape for many miles westward, toward the mountains along the Susquehanna river is a never ceasing source of joy and admiration to all inmates and visitors.

Since the purchase of the first farm in 1862, there has been added by purchase, 373 acres, making a total of 500 acres, and 28 buildings have been erected, including the large concrete dairy barn now being built. This building is 38x184 feet, one-story high, built of concrete and steel. The window-sash are made of steel, no wood being used in the entire structure. It will accommodate 100 cows, and will be equipped with all modern improvements for scientific dairying. No hay nor feed will be kept in this barn. Another concrete barn, for fodder and grain, is being built near.

The first almshouse was built in 1863. This was a wooden structure, size 30x60 feet, two stories high. It cost \$1,800. This building now stands just west of the insane asylum, with a basement added, and is used for epileptics. In 1878 another almshouse was erected. This is a three-story and basement brick building, and

since the erection of the new almshouse, completed in 1906, it is used for the insane inmates.

The rapid increase of insane patients made it necessary to vacate all the buildings formerly occupied by sane inmates, within the eleven acres inclosed, and devote them to the use of the insane. The Directors were unanimous in the belief that the sane and insane inmates should be kept separate and apart from each other. This could only be affected by the erection of a new building, outside of the fenced enclosure. This was finally decided upon, and a site was selected about one thousand feet from the asylum.

E. H. Davis was chosen as the architect to prepare plans and specifications, which were adopted by the Board in the spring of 1903. The building was completed and occupied in the fall of 1906. Its capacity will provide for four hundred inmates. The frontage is about 500 feet, two stories high, besides basement and attic; is fireproof and thoroughly equipped with the latest and best known modern improvements, the male and female departments being entirely separate. The entire cost of the building, including foundations, plumbing, electric work, heating system, etc., was \$262,946. 59.

In 1910, a fine brick residence for the Superintendent was erected directly in front of the new almshouse, near the road, at a cost of about \$10,000.

The Asylum and Hospital for Insane consists of a group of buildings enclosed by an iron fence eight feet high, under lock and key. The space thus enclosed, comprises eleven acres of ground, within which are the following buildings:

Administration Building, with wings, for insane wards. The basement under each wing, formerly used as wards for insane patients, have been converted into dining rooms with connecting corridors to other buildings occupied by patients, thus permitting all to enter the same without going out of doors. There are two other large buildings separate from the Administration Building, also connected by corridors to the dining rooms. These dining rooms are a model in every respect, each having a seating capacity of 200, being 90x50 feet in size, total capacity 400. The old dining room was located on the second floor of the Administration Building. Within this enclosure is the Epileptic Building (formerly the old Almshouse), also the cold storage plant, large play grounds (enclosed), store house (from which all goods, groceries and supplies are furnished), laundry, bakery, chapel, conservatory and morgue, a base ball diamond and tennis court.

The capacity of the asylum and hospital for the insane will provide for 500 patients. The

male and female departments are entirely separate from each other, and the patients classified and graded as to wards, as far as possible, according to their mental condition, whether of a mild, chronic or violent form.

Too much credit and praise cannot be given George W. Beemer, the present Superintendent, for the excellent management of this institution, and the manner in which he has carried out the various improvements at the Home, the work having been done by the inmates, under his supervision.

The Superintendents since the beginning of the institution in 1862, follow: William Cole, from July 1, 1862 to January, 1864; R. Hefflinger, from January to April, 1864. He died April 8th; J. V. Decker, from April 12, 1864 to January 1, 1877; J. W. Boice, from January, 1877 to April, 1883; G. W. Beemer, from April 6, 1883 to April 1, 1888; Charles S. Fowler, from April 1, 1888 to January, 1891; G. W. Beemer, January, 1891 to present time.

The value of the real estate is \$761, 950, and of the personal property, \$108,172.85, making a total valuation of \$870,122.85.

There are (July 10, 1912) 686 inmates, of which, 483 are in the Asylum and 203 in the almshouse.

#### OLDEST INHABITANTS OF NEWTON TOWNSHIP

The following persons, forty-seven in all, are seventy years of age or over:

Mrs. Eliz. Roloson	97	William Garrison	74
Mrs. Mary Cornell	87	Catherine McNay	74
Geo. W. Biesecker	87	John Ford	73
Richard Busted	85	Mrs. A. S. Collum	73
John Cooper	84	D. W. Richards	73
William H. Scutt	83	Gould Whitlock	73
Mrs. Angeline Coon	83	Thomas Veety	73
Mrs. Nancy Spencer	83	Mrs. John Shook	72
Lewis B. Ayers	82	Adam Thompson	72
Chris. VanBuskirk	81	John Cook	72
George Perigo	81	F. E. Bowman	72
Mrs. Ruth Hopkins	80	Mrs. John Cook	72
Mrs. Abigail LaRue	79	Mrs. William Sealey	71
Mrs. L. B. Ayers	79	Israel Vosburg	71
John K. Goodwin	79	Lewis D. Garrison	71
J. Sterling Ross	78	David Smith	71
Judson J. Cahoon	78	John Shook	71
Mrs. C. VanBuskirk	77	Dennis Michaels	70
Judson C. Comstock	76	Mrs. Thomas Veety	70
Mrs. Frederica Smith	76	James E. Roche	70
John W. Ross	75	Chris Fahs	70
Mrs. Lena Finkler	75	William Sealey	70
John Roach	75	Wm. E. Thompson	70
Mrs. Jno. K. Goodwin	75		

#### FARMING AND DAIRYING.

The plow and the cow are the ruling means of livelihood in Newton township. All kinds of grain, such as oats, corn, buckwheat, rye, wheat, etc., are raised. Many varieties of fruits, including peaches and plums, are raised in nearly every part of the township. Several of the



farmers are devoting much of their time to growing strawberries, and large quantities of tomatoes, cabbage, beets and other vegetables are raised, which find a ready market in Scranton. Potatoes are extensively grown by several farmers in the township. C. S. Richards and Peter P. Vosburg being among the large growers, having up-to-date machinery for planting, cultivating and harvesting the crop.

There are several farmers in the township who devote their time and energy to dairying. Among the leading dairymen who keep from twenty to thirty cows, are Amos G. Hollister, C. S. Richards, Ira Drake, L. F. Thompson, C. H. Kresge, T. M. Kresge, W. H. Spencer, A. H. VanCampen, Philip Harlos, Mary Fitzsimmons, George L. Coon, J. A. Lacoe, Frank A. Slate, J. S. Butterfield, and several others, keeping from ten to fifteen cows each.

In 1867 Peter Finkler began the trucking business, he being the first to raise garden truck for market this side of the mountain. For the last few years nearly every farmer is engaged

in this lucrative business, and nearly all kinds of vegetables are profitably raised, which are hauled to Scranton and Pittston markets.

#### GOOD PEOPLE.

The people of Newton and Ransom townships generally, are industrious, home-loving, law-abiding, and possess a liberal fund of quiet common sense. Serious crimes are rarely if ever heard of within our borders and even petty offenses are infrequent. There are no saloons in either Newton or Ransom townships, and a drunken person is seldom seen. Indeed, these townships in this respect, are above the average. Nearly all the families own their own homes, and are prosperous. They are hospitable, peaceable and good neighbors. No more industrious people can be found in any other section. Gould Whitlock, who has been one of the Justices of the Peace of Newton township since 1879, has not had a criminal case for over twenty years.

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

### HOMES AND PEOPLE OF NEWTON

#### LEWIS B. AYERS

Mr Ayers was born in Wantage township, Sussex county, New Jersey, November 25, 1830. When two years of age he came with his parents to Newton township, which has since been his home, living in the township longer than any other person. He is a son of Peter and Maria (Drake) Ayers.

Mr. Ayers school days were limited to four winter terms. His father had a large family of eleven children, which made it necessary for Lewis to work out at an early age, for which he received \$3 per month. When about thirteen years old he hired out for 25 cents a day. With some of this money he purchased a flint-lock shot-gun, nearly 5 feet, 6 inches long, which Stephen Winter, a neighbor, brought from New Jersey. Mr. Ayers has the gun at this writing, loaded and ready for service.

When about eighteen years of age he hired out to his uncle, William Ayers, who had taken the contract to make 20,000 railroad ties for the D. L. & W. R. R. Company which was then being built from Abington to Scranton. The next year he began learning the carpenter's trade, being employed by George Walter for \$8 per month. He worked at his trade for several years.

Mr. Ayers was married July 6, 1854 to Miss

Phebe A. Collum, daughter of Henry R. and Esther (Skelenger) Collum. To this union eleven children were born, namely: (1) David A., born July 21, 1855 and died Sept. 20, the same year. (2) William H., born Aug. 21, 1856 and died Jan. 10, 1858. (3) Albert, born Feb. 19, 1858 and died July 31, 1851. (4) Amos H., born March 24, 1861. He married Miss Catherine Maas, daughter of John and Catherine (Barth) Maas of Ransom. They have nine children living: Frank, Nellie, Edith, Roy, Anna, Jessie, Alice, Ruth and Emma. (5) John W., born Dec. 4, 1862, and married Miss Helen Storey. He was killed July 15, 1902, by lightning on Forkston mountain, leaving a family of eight children, six of whom are living: Eliza, Myrtie, David, Justin, Elmer and Arthur. (6) Lewis B., born Jan. 23, 1865. He married Miss Dora Fahs. They have one son, Oscar. (7) Lizzie M., born March 10, 1867. She married Edward Taylor, and has one daughter, Bessie. (8) Hattie B., born Sept. 16, 1871. She married George Smith. They have five children: Mable, Lewis, Ethel, Belle and Albert. (9) Cora L., born Aug. 6, 1873. She married Charles Pfuhl. They have five children: Eva, Kate, Irene, George and Clarence. Mr. Pfuhl died July 1, 1912. (10) Peter C., born Feb. 27, 1875. He

was married July 30, 1902 to Miss Mary J. Bradican, daughter of Peter and Mary (Derrig) Bradican. (11) Katie J., born Jan. 18, 1879, and married Archie Fitch of Mill City, Sept. 20, 1901.

Mr. and Mrs. Ayers have twenty-seven grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren living.

Mr. Ayers moved to his present home in 1884, and since then has been engaged in farming. He was tax collector and constable in Newton for several years. About 1869, he purchased of Chauncey Sherwood the hotel at Newton Centre (building now owned by Andrew Collum), which he conducted for five years.

bringing his family and goods with him. The journey from New Jersey to the Keystone State was made with ox teams through the woods, their path from Slocum Hollow (now Scranton) being laid out by marked trees. The nearest store was located at Razorville (now Providence), where the early settlers purchased their scanty supply of groceries and other necessary articles.

Peter Ayers was a son of David Ayers, whose father came from Scotland and established a shipyard at Sandy Hook, New Jersey, in 1759, at the time the Revolutionary War broke out.

Peter Ayers was married Sept. 30, 1820 to Miss Maria Drake, daughter of Benjamin



LEWIS B. AYERS AND FAMILY.

Upper Row—Mrs. Lizzie M. Taylor, Mrs. Hattie B. Smith, Mrs. Katie J. Fitch, Peter C. Ayers

Lower Row—Mrs. L. B. Ayers, L. B. Ayers, Amos Ayers, L. B. Ayers, Jr.

This Picture was taken July 6, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Ayers Fifty-eighth Wedding Anniversary

Mrs. Ayers was born July 6, 1835 in Sussex county, New Jersey. She is a sister of Andrew S. Collum, the postmaster at Bald Mount.

Mr. Ayers was born the same year (1830) the first railroad in the United States was completed.

PETER AYERS came to Newton township Mar. 25, 1832, from Wantage township, Sussex county, New Jersey. He took up a tract of land about one-half mile northeast of Brushy Ridge, (now Newton Centre) and cleared about two acres on a portion of the farm now owned by Harlan Jacoby, preparing to build a log-house. Soon afterward he sold his claim to Henry Walter for a yearling heifer. During the same year he took up another claim on the farm now owned by Chas. Biesecker. Here he made a clearing and erected a log-house (about twenty rods east from the Methodist church near Gardner's creek). He returned to New Jersey in the fall, remaining with his family until September, 1833. Then he came back to Newton,

Drake. They had a family of eleven children, namely: Elizabeth, born Aug. 13, 1821; David, born Feb. 14, 1823; Jacob, born Nov. 17, 1824; Lucinda, born Oct. 4, 1826; Margaret, born Sept. 4, 1828; Lewis B., born Nov. 25, 1830; John, born Aug. 8, 1833; William, born March 27, 1835; Martha Jane, born Jan. 25, 1836; Alvin, born Dec. 1, 1838; Elsie, born Oct. 17, 1851. Only two are living, Lewis B. of Newton and Elsie, who married Allen Weed and is living in Dushore, Pa.

BENJAMIN DRAKE was born in 1765 and died in 1842 in New Jersey. He was a son of Isaac Drake, born about 1732 and died about 1806. He is a descendant of Sir Francis Drake, the sea rover, explorer and destroyer of the Spanish Armada. It is now more than 300 years since Sir Francis Drake wiped the Spanish fleet forever from the English channel. He died about 1595, leaving an estate worth \$500,000. It is said that this vast amount lies in chancery in England, unclaimed.



ELIZABETH DRAKE, daughter of Benjamin, was married June 13, 1801 in Sussex county, N. J., to Barronet Rodney. They left New Jersey in 1802, and, following the Delaware river, landed in this corner of the State. They settled in Newton township about 1803, locating on the old Theodore Stone farm (near Hillside Home), now owned by Thomas McDonald of Scranton. Mr. Rodney built a log-house on the west side of the road leading from Schultzville to Kern's Corners, near the ledge, about thirty rods from the present residence.

### WILLIAM D. AYERS

Mr. Ayers is the son of Jacob and Mary (Milligan) Ayers, and grandson of Peter Ayers, one of the pioneer settlers.

Wm. D. Ayers married Miss Matilda Munson, Feb. 3, 1897, the only daughter of John and Pernella (Nelson) Munson of Ransom. Mr. and Mrs. Ayers have five children. Their names may be found in the Directory.

JACOB AYERS, born in Sussex county, N. J., Nov. 17, 1824 and died May 30, 1891 on the old David Madison Smith farm. Mary, his first wife, was born Aug. 18, 1837 and died in January, 1872. She was the oldest daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Lacoe) Milligan. Jacob had seven children by his first wife: Harriet E., born Aug. 5, 1856 and died Jan. 26, 1859. Elsa, born Nov. 11, 1858 and died Dec. 31, 1859. Rosey, born Oct. 19, 1860 and died Jan. 20, 1862. Ida, born Nov. 8, 1863 and married Arthur Jacoby of Newton. Viola, born April 24, 1866 and died Aug. 23, 1866. Catherine, born Dec. 19, 1867 and married Benj. Jacoby of Newton. William, born April 20, 1869. Jacob Ayers married Amanda Smith, daughter of Isaac Smith, for his second wife, to whom four children were born: George, Mary, Clarence and Isaac. Only Isaac is living. He was born Mar. 18, 1882. After Jacob Ayers' death, his widow married Judson Cahoon, May 6, 1903. Jacob Ayers was a son of Peter and Maria (Drake) Ayers.

### GEORGE W. BEEMER

Mr. Beemer comes of a family that has long been identified with the history of Newton. His grandfather, Henry Beemer, came to this township from Sussex county, New Jersey, in 1819, purchasing 250 acres of land, where he developed a farm out of the woods. Part of this farm is now owned by his grandson, George W. (*See Henry Beemer.*)

Our subject was born April 14, 1848 on the farm which he now owns. The life of a farmer is not devoid of opportunities for the practice of the sterling virtues of industry, perseverance and

brotherly kindness. On the contrary, it affords abundant chance to those who wish to build up an irreproachable character, while carrying on the vocation in which they hope to secure a competence. Mr. Beemer was born and reared on a farm. Much of his attention through life has been given to this work, in which he is considered very efficient. For about six years from 1885, he conducted a large dairy of forty cows.

Mr. Beemer received his education in the district schools (Schultzville and Fire Proof) and Madison Academy at Waverly, this county, at that time the only preparatory school in this section. Later he attended Lowell's Business College in Binghamton. Here he graduated from a Commercial course in 1867.

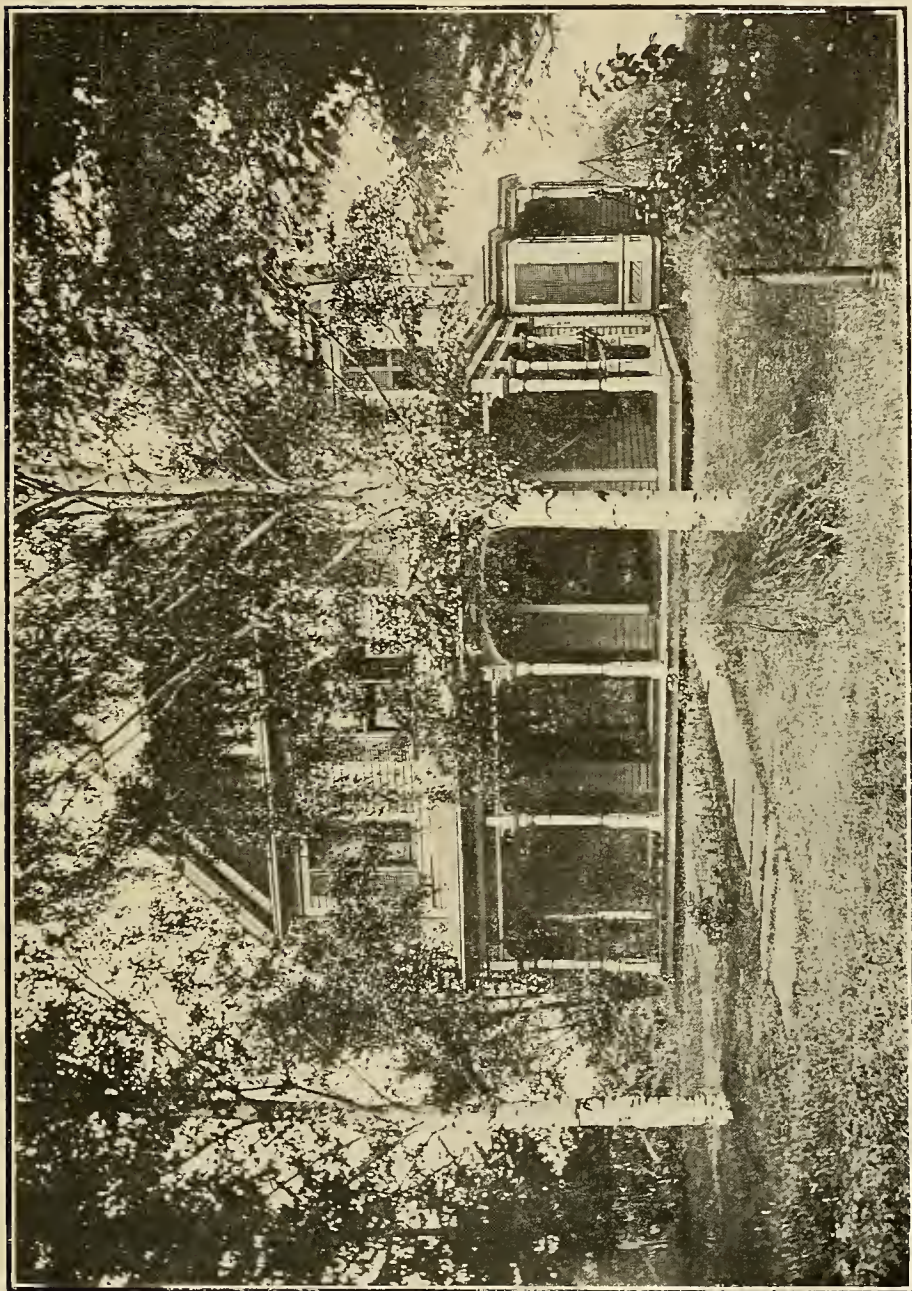
February 11, 1878, Mr. Beemer became superintendent of the Lake View Poor Farm in Abington, remaining there for five years. May 1, 1883, he was appointed superintendent of the Hillside Home. Resigning April 1, 1888, he engaged in farming until he was again appointed January 1, 1890. Since then he has devoted most of his time to the work of this institution. From the appearance of the institution no mistake was made in selecting him to fill this responsible position.

Mr. Beemer was married November 25, 1878 to Miss Jennie, daughter of Nicholas and Harriet (McEwen) Young. Her father, a native of Germany, came alone to this country at the age of fourteen. His principal occupation was that of a tanner. Mrs. Beemer was born July 24, 1854 in Ulster county, New York.

To Mr. and Mrs. Beemer two sons were born: Horace A., born Aug. 8, 1879 and died July 25, 1880; Floyd D., born Aug. 5, 1888. He is a graduate of Keystone Academy and Bucknell University. He now holds a trusted position in the Providence Bank, Scranton.

ELIAS BEEMER (father of our subject and a son of Henry), was born in Sussex county, New Jersey, Aug. 19, 1806 and died March 29, 1896 on the homestead farm. He was twice married, first, to Miss Caroline, daughter of Joseph Baker of Newton. She was born in February, 1809 and died July 11, 1841. His second wife was Miss Phebe Albright, daughter of John and Catherine (Hooper) Albright of Abington. She was born Feb. 17, 1825 and died Feb. 17, 1901. Soon after his second marriage, Mr. Beemer built a saw-mill on his farm, and for about fifteen years engaged in lumbering.

Mr. Beemer had seven children by his second wife, namely: (1) Allen D., born Dec. 19, 1842, and married Miss Belle Ackerly. He was a soldier in the Rebellion, enlisting in Aug., 1861, in Company K, 11th Pennsylvania Cavalry, and served until the close of the war. About 1870 he went West, locating in Cumming county,



RESIDENCE ON GEORGE W. BEEMER'S FARM





Neb. Here he started the new town of Beemer. He was twice elected sheriff of the county. He died in April, 1909, while warden of the State Penitentiary. (2) Jennie, born April 14, 1845, and married O. D. Hollister of Avoca. (3) George W., our subject. (4) Horace D., born Aug. 29, 1849, and about 1875 went to Wyoming where he married. He is a director of the First National Bank of Laramie City, Wyo. (5) Ella, born July 4, 1853, married W. H. Hollister, a brother of O. D. Hollister. He is a coal operator and a merchant in Avoca. (6) Samuel W., born Nov. 18, 1855, and is a store keeper at the Hillside Home. (7) Oakley, born Aug. 15, 1855, and married Miss Etta Smith. They are living in Clark's Summit.

turity he went to Trumble county, Ohio. Here he worked for his brother, George, on a farm during the summer returning to New Jersey in the fall. He then worked for his father until twenty-five years of age, when he was married November 30, 1865 to Miss Phebe J., daughter of Geratus and Mary (VanEten) Major of Hainesville, New Jersey.

Mrs. Bowman was born July 12, 1846 and died Jan. 24, 1876. Mr. and Mrs. Bowman were the parents of four children, namely: (1) Marrilla C., born Sept. 14, 1866. She married Samuel E. Gregory, son of James K. and Mary (Trauger) Gregory of Lake Winola. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel E. Gregory are living at Lake Winola. He is a dealer in organs, pianos and



F. E. BOWMAN'S RESIDENCE

#### MISS VIVIAN BARDWELL

Miss Bardwell was born Oct. 19, 1893, in Tunkhamock and is a daughter of Robert W. and Estella (Trauger) Bardwell.

Miss Bardwell attended school at Tunhamnock until thirteen years of age, when she entered the East Stroudsburg Normal School, from which she graduated June 23, 1910. In September the same year she began teaching the Lacoe school in Newton township, where she is now teaching her second term.

#### FRANCIS EDWARD BOWMAN

Mr. Bowman was born July 31, 1840 at Frankford Plains, Sussex county, New Jersey. He is a son of George and Susan (Bedell) Bowman.

Mr. Bowman attended the common schools of Frankford township until about eighteen years of age. After he reached the age of ma-

sewing machines. They have a family of four children: Nina M., Harry W., Mary and Horace S. (2) Melcena K., born June 30, 1868 and married Horace F., son of Lafenas and Caroline (Storms) Smith. They are living in Evanston, Ill. They have one adopted daughter, Edna M., born March 6, 1901. (3) Charles M., born June 15, 1872. He married Miss Minnie, daughter of Nathan and Julia (Roberts) Deubler of Bardwell, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bowman have a family of four children: Allie Keath, Francis E., Anna B. and George J. They are living in Factoryville. (4) Arthur C., born Jan. 20, 1876 and died March 28, 1877.

After the death of his first wife Mr. Bowman married again, March 18, 1877, to Mrs. Huldah A. Tidaback. She was born Oct. 10, 1849 in Newfoundland, New Jersey, and a daughter of John G. and Elizabeth (Kimble) Pittenger. She married Theodore Tidaback, July 5, 1868.



He died of typhoid fever, Sept. 29, 1874.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowman came from Sussex county, New Jersey to Factoryville, Pa., in February, 1880. They came to Newton April 2, 1893, purchasing their present home from the Thomas Kresge, Sr. estate.

GEORGE BOWMAN was born July 23, 1794 in Sussex county, New Jersey and died April 28, 1873 in Frankford township, Sussex county, New Jersey. He was a son of Gershom and Elizabeth (Price) Bowman. He (George) married Miss Susan, daughter of John and Catherine (Hough) Bedell. John Bedell was born Aug. 20, 1746. His wife was born April 7, 1746. Mrs. George Bowman was born June 21, 1796 and died Sept. 24, 1887 (*See Bedell Family*.)

Mr. and Mrs. George Bowman were the parents of nine children, namely: (1) Gershom, born Aug. 6, 1819 and died Jan. 2, 1821. (2) Marilla, born Feb. 19, 1822 and died Oct. 11, 1868. She married William Stivers for first husband and her last husband was Stephen R. Crane. (3) Jane C., born June 6, 1824 and died April 10, 1891. She married Jacob Washer, and after his death, Charles Day. (4) John, born Sept. 18, 1826 and died Nov. 21, 1899. He married Miss Ursula Wilson. (5) George J., born April 24, 1829 and is living in Branchville, New Jersey. He married Miss Cornelia Ludlam. (6) Peter, born Nov. 25, 1831 and is living in Branchville, New Jersey. He married Miss Eustatia Ann Terwilliger. She died Dec. 1, 1874. His second wife was Miss Ellen Kurent. (7) James H. born May 29, 1834 and died Sept. 2, 1895. He was thrice married, first to Miss Ann Compton, who died a few years later. His second wife was a Mrs. McKeeby. After her death he married Miss Mary Snook. (8) Oscar S., born Aug. 5, 1837 and died Nov. 22, 1900. He married Miss Matilda Compton, a sister of James Bowman's first wife. (9) Francis E., the subject of this sketch.

GERSHOM BOWMAN, the grandfather of our subject, was born Sept. 18, 1747 and died Oct. 28, 1843. He married Mrs. Elizabeth (Price) Stoll. She was born Oct. 18, 1749 and died Sept. 18, 1844. Gershom Bowman settled in Frankford township, Sussex county, New Jersey. He was a son of John Bowman who was born in Holland, July 18, 1662.

### THE BIESECKER FAMILY

JACOB BIESECKER and his son, John, came from Bethlehem, Pa., about 1823 and settled on farms in Providence, which they sold for coal land in 1846 at \$100 per acre, and came to Newton. Here they bought a farm of Edward

Rozelle, where Chas. E. Lacoe now lives. They later bought the farms where Wm. J. Biesecker and Chas. Keller are living.

Jacob Biesecker was born May 20, 1779 and died May 11, 1863 in Newton, and is buried in the Newton cemetery. He married Miss Elizabeth Swartz, who was born Dec. 3, 1781 and died Dec. 16, 1872. They had three children, Kate, John and Hannah. Kate died several years ago. Hannah married John Krotzer for her first husband, to whom was born one son, Benjamin. Her second husband was John Keller, and to them two children were born: Mary and Charles. Charles is living in Newton near Hillside Home.

JOHN BIESECKER, the son of Jacob and Elizabeth Biesecker, was born July 27, 1801 and died in Newton on the farm now owned by Charles E. Lacoe, Feb. 26, 1862. He married Miss Elizabeth Welda. They had seven children: Jacob H., George, William, Mary, Hannah, Sarah and Catherine. Mrs. Elizabeth Biesecker, the wife of John, was born March 24, 1799 and died Aug. 31, 1875.

JACOB H. BIESECKER, the son of John and Elizabeth (Welda) Biesecker, was born October 25, 1823 in Providence and died Nov. 10, 1881 in Newton, where his son Charles now lives. He was married Sept. 14, 1847 to Miss Eleanor Krotzer, daughter of David (b. Jan. 1, 1789—d. June 22, 1861), and Elizabeth (b. Aug. 12, 1787—d. Oct. 21, 1851) Krotzer. To this union four children were born: Charles H., born Oct. 3, 1849; Catherine, born July 9, 1848 and died May 23, 1894; George W., born Feb. 2, 1855; Willie F., born Oct. 25, 1866 and died Aug. 2, 1869.

### GEORGE W. BIESECKER

The subject of this sketch is one of the foremost citizens of Newton township, being a life-long resident. He was born Feb. 2, 1855, and a son of Jacob H. and Eleanor (Krotzer) Biesecker.

Mr. Biesecker attended school at Newton Centre until eighteen years of age, when he entered Keystone Academy. He lived on the farm with his father until twenty-two years of age, when he was married, March 15, 1877, to Miss Gertrude Knapp, the only daughter of Truman and Mary A. (Swallow) Knapp of Newton.

The maternal grandparents of Mrs. Biesecker were Joseph and Mary (Cooper) Swallow. Mr. Swallow was born in New Jersey, July 7, 1781. His wife was born in Wilkes-Barre, Feb. 9, 1786 and died in Newton at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Knapp, Aug. 13, 1878. George Cooper, the father of Mary Cooper, was of Revolutionary fame.



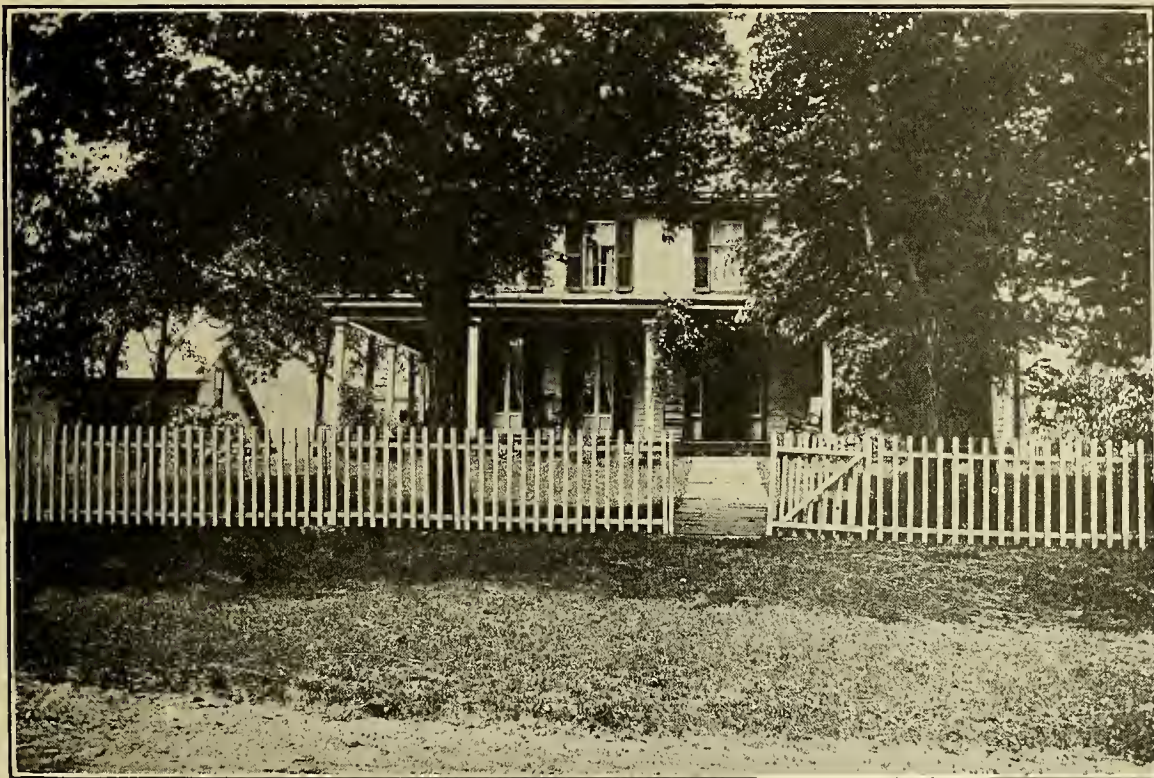
Since their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Biesecker have resided at their present home, on the Knapp farm, where he has been engaged in dairying and truck farming. In the Spring of 1884 Mr. Biesecker purchased the Corselius farm, adjoining the Knapp homestead, for \$5,000 and finished paying for the same four years later.

Mr. Biesecker has been a member of the I. O. O. F. Milwaukie Lodge, No. 267, for over twenty-five years, and also a charter member of Newton Grange No. 251.

in 1887, when they traveled through the middle West. The second time was in 1893, when they attended the World's Fair at Chicago, and visited friends in several states this side of the Rocky Mountains.

Mrs. Biesecker is a cousin of Silas C. Swallow, a candidate for president on the Prohibition ticket in 1904.

Mr. and Mrs. Biesecker have four children, namely: (1) Arthur S., born Aug. 12, 1878, and graduated from Wyoming Seminary and State College, and is now Traveling Electrical



RESIDENCE OF G. W. BIESECKER

Mr. Biesecker cast his first ballot for the Prohibition Party when twenty-one years of age, and has since been allied with this party. He is a member of the Methodist Church, being a trustee and steward for about twenty-five years. He has been superintendent of the M. E. Sunday School since 1884.

Mr. and Mrs. Biesecker were sent as State Delegates to the International Sunday School Convention which was held in San Francisco, Cal., June 20-27, 1911. They spent a month sight-seeing on the Pacific Coast and in the far West. On their return trip they visited several weeks among relatives of the middle West.

Mr. and Mrs. Biesecker made two previous trips to the western states. The first time being

Inspector for the Lackawanna R. R. Co., with headquarters in Scranton. He was married June 11, 1908 to Miss Norma G. Decker of Falls. (2) Mary Belle, born Oct. 5, 1880. She attended Wyoming Seminary for three years, and was married Nov. 29, 1900 to I. S. Hunt, and has since resided in Scranton. Mr. and Mrs. Hunt are the parents of four children: Wells, Eleanor and Dale are living. Gertrude died Nov. 1, 1907, aged 18 months. (3) Eleanor K. was born Aug. 22, 1884. She graduated from East Stroudsburg State Normal School and taught three years. She was married June 27, 1908 to J. Garfield Harris of Wilkes-Barre, and has since resided at Dorranceton. They have one son, Richard Wayne. (4) Truman Knapp,



born Feb. 4, 1889. He attended school at Starkley Seminary of York State, and graduated in a commercial course from Wyoming Seminary. He was married May 18, 1911 to Miss Oelo Rifembary, daughter of George Rifembary, Superintendent of the Ransom Home. They are living with his father and working the home farm.

TRUMAN KNAPP was born in Scranton, Dec. 30, 1816 and died in Newton, Dec. 29, 1889. He was married Jan. 27, 1846 to Miss Mary Ann Swallow, who was born Jan. 28, 1819 and died March 18, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Knapp were the parents of six children, namely: Eugene, Charles, Joseph, Frank, George and Gertrude.

ZEPHANIAH KNAPP, the grandfather of Mrs. Biesecker, was born March 18, 1779 and died in Hyde Park, Dec. 30, 1861. His wife, Nancy Fellows, was born in England in 1786 and died in Hyde Park, May 14, 1869. They had ten children.

#### CHARLES H. BIESECKER

Charles H. Biesecker is a son of Jacob H. and Eleanor (Krotzer) Biesecker, and a grandson of John. Charles H. was born in Newton near the Hillside Home, Oct. 3, 1849, and came with his parents to the farm where he now lives when about eleven years of age. He attended school at Newton Centre until about eighteen years old. He worked for his father on the farm until twenty-five years of age, when he was married to Miss Jennie Vandenburg, daughter of James and Mary Vandenburg, Dec. 10, 1874, to whom seven children were born: Corinne, born Nov. 12, 1876, and married Giles J. Miller, March 20, 1909, and are living in Lansford, Pa.; John C., born March 3, 1878 and married April 13, 1909 to Miss Jennie Tewksbury, and are living in Scranton; William J., born March 7, 1881 and married Jan. 2, 1906 to Miss Mable E. Reed; A. Grace, born Dec. 31, 1882 and married Roy Zeiss and are living in Ransom; Nora F., a school teacher, born Sept. 4, 1885. Lillian, born Feb. 10, 1887 and died March 27, 1888. Carl H., born Jan. 22, 1893 and is attending school at Lansford.

Mrs. Jennie Biesecker, the first wife of Chas. Biesecker, died April 10, 1906.

For his second wife Mr. Biesecker married, Oct. 10, 1908, Mrs. Elsie J. Stevens, widow of Fred Stevens of Dunmore.

Mr. Biesecker was elected township treasurer in February, 1882 and held the office for twenty-eight years. He was school director for six years. He was also elected poor director about 1903.

Mr. Biesecker joined the Presbyterian church about 1880 and two years later was elected elder, serving in this capacity ever since. He was one of the five who purchased the bell for the church in 1901.

Charles H. Biesecker has been a successful farmer. For over twenty years he has been an extensive grower of garden truck and for fifteen years has kept from twenty to twenty-five cows. He also sells from forty to fifty tons of hay each year.

Mr. and Mrs. Biesecker were appointed State Delegates to the International Sunday School Convention which was held in San Francisco, Cal., June 20-27, 1911. They visited several places of interest on the Pacific Coast, and on their return visited relatives in the middle West.

#### WILLIAM J. BIESECKER

Mr. Biesecker is a son of Charles H. and Jennie (Vandenburg) Biesecker, and was born on the farm where he now lives. He attended school at Newton Centre until nineteen years of age, and in September, 1901, he entered the State Normal School at East Stroudsburg, attending one term.

He worked for his father until he was married, Jan. 2, 1906 to Miss Mable E., the oldest daughter of B. Frank and Mary (Klipple) Reed.

Mrs. William J. Biesecker completed the stenographic course from the Scranton Business College, and worked for about four years in different offices in Scranton. She is a descendant of Robert Reed, who came over in the Mayflower.

Mr. and Mrs. Biesecker have two children: Helen M., born Jan. 2, 1908 and Zida A., born March 25, 1909.

B. F. REED was born March 13, 1859 and a son of Nicholas G. (b. Dec. 15, 1827) and Sarah (Petty) Reed. She was born Dec. 29, 1839.

Mrs. B. F. Reed was born Sept. 5, 1859, and a daughter of Wenzel and Catherine (Zeiss) Klipple, who came from Germany.

#### OSCAR O. BRITTON.

Mr. Britton is the second son of John and Helen (Dickinson) Britton. John Britton was a carpenter, and his three sons learned the same trade. Oscar began learning the trade with his father when only thirteen years old. He entered Keystone Academy when sixteen years of age. In 1891 he went to the Pacific Coast, returning in September, 1893. In September, 1894 he began teaching school in Wyoming county, which he followed for nine years. Since 1903 he has worked at his trade, devoting much of his time on the buildings at the Hillside

Home. He was married in 1894 to Miss Carrie E., daughter of Amzi Rozelle. Mr. and Mrs. Britton have a family of seven children. (*See Directory.*)

### THE BUTTERFIELD FAMILY

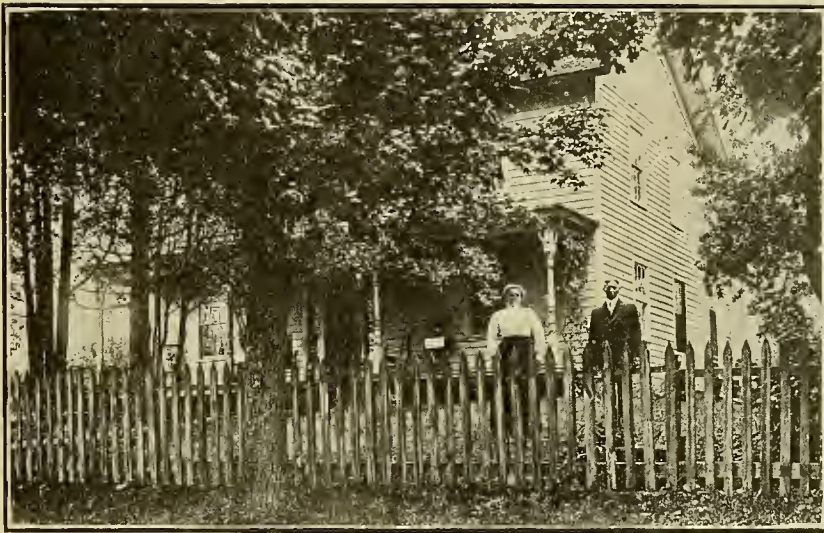
CHARLES BUTTERFIELD was born in England about 1600, or earlier, and was elected to Parliament. He went to Ireland, became interested in Ireland's affairs and married an Irish girl. On his return to England he made a speech in Parliament in favor of the Irish, for which he was expelled and transported to this country. He was the father of Benjamin.

BENJAMIN BUTTERFIELD was born in Charlestown, Mass. as early as 1638, perhaps earlier,

Reuben, born July 30, 1824 and died in California; Beebe, born Aug. 4, 1826; Andrew J., born Nov. 16, 1827, and in 1849 went to Illinois, successfully invested in land, and when he died had accumulated great wealth. All have been dead for several years.

BENJAMIN S. BUTTERFIELD, son of Charles and Roxcenia (Smead) Butterfield, was born Feb. 6, 1815, where the city of Binghamton is now located. About 1835 he came to Clark's Green. He was a wagon maker by trade. He moved with his family to Newton about 1856. He bought and sold several farms, and in 1872 exchanged for the farm now owned by his son, John. Here he died July 6, 1891.

Mr. Butterfield was a loyal Republican, and



RESIDENCE OF JOHN S. BUTTERFIELD

and was the father of John Butterfield. We can find no record of John's birth, but find that he lived in Westford, Mass., and later moved to Litchfield, N. H.

CHARLES BUTTERFIELD was a son of John Butterfield, and was born Sept. 25, 1735 at Westford, Mass.

CHARLES BUTTERFIELD, JR., was a son of Charles, and a grandson of John Butterfield, and was born Aug. 25, 1784. He was twice married; his first wife dying in 1812. He had one daughter, Sally, by his first wife. Sally was born Feb. 1st, 1811, and died about 1890. His second wife was Miss Roxcenia Smead, who was born Nov. 12, 1784. She was the mother of nine children: Elihu, born Nov. 10, 1813; Benjamin S., born Feb. 6, 1815; Hannah D., born Jan. 25, 1817; Roxcenia, born March 20, 1820, and died in Illinois in 1898; Polly, born Sept. 13, 1821; Charles, born Jan. 26, 1823;

was always in sympathy with the slaves, helping many to escape from their masters. He was known as an agent of the famous "underground railroad," an organized means of assisting fugitive slaves to escape to the free States of the Union, or to Canada, before the abolition of slavery.

Benjamin S. Butterfield married July 2, 1837 to Miss Mary Phillips, daughter of Aaron (b. May 12, 1790—d. June 9, 1838) and Susannah Sackett (b. Oct. 5, 1790—d. Feb. 13, 1862) Phillips. She was born March 23, 1820 and died Nov. 11, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Butterfield were the parents of eleven children:

Martha F., born March 1, 1838 and died June 10, 1838; Adelia, born June 10, 1839 and married June 10, 1858 to John M. Weiss and died July 10, 1909; W. Norman, born April 4, 1841 and married Amelia Moss, and died Sept. 18, 1905; Agnes, born April 11, 1844 and married March 1, 1862 to Cary Worden.



She died Aug. 16, 1911; Benjamin F., born March 25, 1847 and married Jennie Holmes Oct. 11, 1876. He died May 29, 1905; Dudley L., born Sept. 6, 1850 and married Sarah Richards Dec. 31, 1878. He died May 11, 1910; Zachary T., born Sept. 1, 1853 and died March 22, 1858; Mondel F., born July 24, 1855 and married Sept. 1, 1883 to Nettie Everetts. They are living in Oneonta, N. Y.; Mary L., born May 30, 1857 and died Oct. 10th the same year; John S., born Nov. 2, 1859 and married Bertha S. Winters April 15, 1903; R. Grace, born May 28, 1864 and married March 18, 1890 to John LaGrange. He died April 29, 1898.

Mrs. Grace LaGrange has one daughter, Mary J., who was born Aug. 12, 1895, and is living with her mother in Schultzville.

### JOHN S. BUTTERFIELD

Mr. Butterfield is a son of Benjamin S. and Mary Butterfield, and was born Nov. 2, 1859 in Schultzville. He was named after John B. Schultz, the founder of Schultzville. This village was established the year previous.

John S. Butterfield was married April 15, 1903 to Miss Bertha S. Winters, the only daughter of Emanuel and Minnie (Ace) Winters. Mr. and Mrs. Butterfield are living in Schultzville on the farm formerly owned by his father.

### THE BUTTERFIELDS IN WAR.

The Butterfields are a family of soldiers, having a war record. They have always been found ready and willing to march to the front to defend their country.

Charles Butterfield (born Sept. 25, 1735) fought for this country in the Revolutionary War.

Charles Butterfield, Jr. (born Aug. 25, 1784) was a soldier of the War of 1812.

W. Norman Butterfield, (born April 4, 1841) son of Benjamin S., was a soldier in the Civil War, enlisting Aug. 26, 1862 in Co. B, 143d Reg. Pa. Vol. He was promoted from corporal to lieutenant, in February, 1864, and transferred to the veteran reserve corps in March, 1865. He was also one of the guards over Lincoln's body.

Benjamin F. Butterfield, (born March 25, 1847) son of Benjamin S., was a soldier in the Spanish-American War of 1898, serving in the engineer corps.



### JUDSON J. CAHOON

Mr. Cahoon is an old soldier, serving all through the Civil War except the first three months. He enlisted in August, 1861 as private in Co. K. 11th Pennsylvania cavalry, and served until the close of the war in April, 1865.

He was a private scout during the last nine months of the war, which was a very dangerous position, and only three men in the regiment of 1200 men were willing to volunteer to serve. These scouts were sent to find where the rebel soldiers were stationed, and many times it was necessary for them to go inside their "picket lines" where they could hear the roll call to find out how many "rebs" were lying near. These scouts were liable to be shot any moment and the majority never returned to camp. Mr. Cahoon related many hair-breadth escapes.

Mr. Cahoon is the son of John and Eliza Cahoon, who were the parents of four children: Artemus, John, Judson and Charlotte. Only one, Judson, survives.

Judson was married Dec. 14, 1870 to Miss Caroline McCloskey who died Jan. 31, 1902. He married his second wife, Mrs. Amanda (Smith) Ayers, widow of Jacob Ayers, May 6, 1903. He was a butcher and ran a meat wagon for nearly twenty years. He retired from active life about ten years ago.

### WILLIAM L. CARPENTER

Mr. Carpenter is a son of Porter and Rosetta Carpenter, and was born June 4, 1880 at Pittston Junction. He attended school at Glendale, in Falls township, until twelve years of age. At sixteen he hired out by the month to Delbert Reed for six months, and three years to T. M. Roth. In the fall of 1899 he was employed by Charles Biesecker, working until September, 1900, when he fell from the top of the silo to the concrete bottom, a distance of 26 feet, breaking his left arm twice and three ribs. In 1902 he commenced driving milk wagon to Scranton for O. D. Hollister, working five years. He drove an ice and coal wagon for fourteen months for the North End Ice and Coal Co., of Scranton.

Wm. Carpenter was married Dec. 24, 1909, to Miss Myrtle Shotwell, daughter of William and Martha (Edgerly) Shotwell. Miss Myrtle attended the high school at Old Forge until 1905.

WILLIAM SHOTWELL was born in Wayne county, Sept. 11, 1851. Mrs. Shotwell was born Aug. 7, 1860 in Ulster county, N. Y. They were married Jan. 1, 1877, and had ten children, six of whom are now living. Two of the children died when but two days old. Loren, born March 29, 1879 and died Aug. 29, 1908; Bertha, born Jan. 22, 1882 and married Evan Pickrell and is now living at Old Forge; Roland, born April 12, 1888, and is a clerk in Old Forge; Myrtle, born Dec. 4, 1890, and is the wife of Wm. Carpenter; Pearl, born Feb. 12, 1893 and died Dec. 12, 1894; Olive, born July 13, 1895; Wilfred, born Jan. 22, 1899;

Zida, born Aug. 26, 1905.

PORTER CARPENTER is a son of Samuel and Minerva (Shaw) Carpenter, and was born near Factoryville, Jan. 11, 1842.

Mrs. Rosetta Carpenter is a daughter of Samuel and Cynthia (Farnam) Shaw, and was born in Lemon, Jan. 4, 1855.

Mr. and Mrs. Porter Carpenter are the parents of ten children, six of whom are living. Chester died when about seventeen years of age; John married Miss Carrie Swartz and is in Mill City; William, the subject of this sketch; Wal-

ment in the Union army, Sept. 1, 1864, serving in Company H, 52nd Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry. He joined his regiment at Morris Island, South Carolina, where it was doing garrison duty on the Island. One morning in January, 1865, at about four o'clock, Mr. Collum was on duty at Fort Gregg, when he saw something on the opposite side of the channel, slowly moving like a fog. Finally he discovered it was a blockade runner moving in the direction of Charleston, S. C. Calling for help and none responding he decided to load and fire a 10-inch



RESIDENCE OF ANDREW S. COLLUM

This Property For Sale. The Postoffice or Main Part, Built in 1848 by Chauncey Sherwood

ter married Miss Nellie Platt and is living in Falls township; Daisy and Dicky were twins, and both are dead; Grace married Wm. Devaugh and is living in Hancock, N. Y.; Gertrude graduated from the Factoryville High School, June 2, 1911; Earl, born July 8, 1895.

#### ANDREW S. COLLUM

Mr. Collum was born July 24, 1843 in Newton township. He is a son of Henry R. and Hetty (Skellenger) Collum, and a grandson of Jesse Collum.

A. S. Collum spent his boyhood days working at farming, carpentering, blacksmithing, machinist and boiler making, until his enlist-

Columbian cannon with a solid shot. This he did to good effect, striking a large side-wheel steamer directly through the wheels, sinking it with the first shot. Captain John B. Fish and other commanding officers of his company, who were nearly three miles below, came in haste to see what was going on. They were well pleased with the execution of the shot. Afterward, Mr. Collum was upon the wrecked vessel and found it loaded with cotton.

About six weeks later Charleston was evacuated by the Confederates. The 52nd Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry were the first Union troops to enter the city, and Mr. Collum was one of the first eight men to enter Fort Sumter after



the surrender of Charleston. Mr. Collum was accidentally wounded at Mount Pleasant, S. C., by the bursting of a requa battery. He narrowly escaped fatal injuries and for a time was under surgical treatment. He was honorably discharged June 23, 1865 at Salisbury, N. C., where he was stationed at the time of General Lee's surrender.

Mr. Collum returned at once to his home in Newton township. Here he worked at both carpentering and farming until his marriage, March 3, 1866, to Miss Eliza Follett, an adopted daughter of Matthew Sherwood. Mr. and Mrs. Collum's two children, Matthew H. and Amanda E., died in infancy. Afterwards they brought up Bessie May Evans. She married Berton Tallon.

After he was married, Mr. Collum moved to Falls. Here he was engaged in the mercantile business for a year and a half, after which he resumed carpentering. Later he purchased a farm, and in connection with agricultural pursuits, he operated a planing mill, cider and shingle mill for seven years. In the fall of 1881, he became a resident of Factoryville where he successfully conducted a general merchandise business until 1887.

Politically, Mr. Collum is identified with the Republican party. He served two terms as Justice-of-the-Peace in Overfield and Clinton townships, Wyoming county; was school director in Overfield for three years; town clerk in Clinton and Overfield townships; supervisor one year; township auditor nine years and served on the election board nine years.

Mr. Collum is a member of Mill City Lodge No. 890, I. O. O. F., having passed all the chairs. He is a thirty-two degree Mason, and has served three years as Secretary of Factoryville Lodge No. 341, F. & A. M.

March 6, 1905, Mr. Collum was appointed postmaster at Bald Mount (Newton Centre) taking possession of the office April 1st the same year, which he still holds.

Mr. and Mrs. Collum are both members of the Bald Mount M. E. church, of which Mr. Collum is one of the trustees. He is also recording steward for Bald Mount charge, which includes three churches: Bald Mount, Schultsville, and Milwaukie.

HENRY R. COLLUM, a son of Jesse and Anna (Roloson) Collum, was born March 11, 1810 in Wantage township, Sussex county, New Jersey, and died March 29, 1873 in Newton township. He learned the carpenter's trade, which occupation he followed for many years. He was the inventor of the "square rule" system of framing buildings, now used by all carpenters throughout the land. Before this time the "scribe rule" or fit-and-try system was used. In 1838

he moved to Newton township, moving in a log-house on the Mittan place (now owned by Mrs. Gertrude Biesecker). The same year he began building a log-house on his own farm which he finished in 1839. This building is still standing and is owned by Gould Whitlock. Here Mr. Collum worked at his trade for a time, and later devoted his time to farming until his death. He was married in Sussex county, New Jersey, Jan. 24, 1835 to Miss Hettie, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Ayers) Skellenger. (Mrs. Skellenger was born July 21, 1791). They became the parents of five children: (1) Phoebe A. (Mrs. Lewis B. Ayers), born July 6, 1836. She is living in Newton. (2) William H., born Sept. 8, 1837. He was killed in a well in Newton township, Sept. 20, 1895. (3) Andrew S. (our subject), born July 24, 1843. (4) Sarah E., born in 1846 and died in 1870. (5) Amos H., born July 27, 1854 and died three years later.

JESSE COLLUM, a son of William and Catherine (Ayers) Collum, was born March 13, 1786 in Ironia, Morris county, New Jersey. At an early age he moved to Wantage township, Sussex county, New Jersey. Later he moved to Wayne county, Pa., where he worked at shoe-making and farming. He died near Dundee, Yates county, N. Y., June 29, 1877. He married Miss Anna Roloson Nov. 28, 1807. She was born March 1, 1789 and died May 21, 1852. They had fourteen children, of whom two are living: Mrs. Elizabeth Roloson, born Feb. 26, 1815, and is living in Newton Centre, Mrs. Julia Ayers of Snedekerville, Bradford county, born Oct. 31, 1826. Mr. Collum married Ann Mullana for his second wife, by whom he had six children, of whom four are living near New York City.

WILLIAM COLLUM, born near Ironia, Morris county, New Jersey, and died at Zanesville, Ohio, in 1824. He married Miss Catherine Ayers of Morris county, New Jersey. She was born in Morris county, New Jersey, and died in Zanesville, Ohio, surviving her husband a few years. They had nine children, six boys and three girls, namely: Jesse, Jacob, Peter, Richard, David, William, Hannah, Elizabeth and Sally. Hannah married John Morgan, and lived near Seneca Lake, New York. Morgan was called from bed one night and was never seen by his friends again. It is said he was killed by the Masons for exposing the secrets of the order. After Morgan's death she married Levy Smith. The other two girls went to Ohio.

William Collum was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, being a member of Captain Bonnel's company of New Jersey troops. He served from June 17, 1781 to about Dec. 15, 1782.



**JUDSON C. AND GILES N. COMSTOCK**

are sons of Zebulon, Jr. and Hila Comstock, and grandsons of Zebulon, Sr. one of the pioneer settlers of Newton township.

Giles N. was born in Exeter township, Luzerne county, March 9, 1846. His father died (June 12, 1846) about three months after Giles birth, and about two years later his mother married Henry Walter and moved to Newton on the farm now owned by Chas. H. Koerner. The five brothers fought for the

Soldier's Home in Johnson City, Tenn., having served in the Navy during the war. He ran away from home when a small boy and went on a whaling vessel. He had been a lifelong sailor until he went to the Home about 1890. Elbridge was born in Newton township, May 8, 1840 and died about 1906 in Missouri. Zsenath was born Feb. 27, 1842 and died about 1902. Harriet was born Oct. 25, 1843 and is the wife of Thomas Fitzgerald and lives at 720 Tunkhannock Ave., West Pittston.



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE LEVI COON

Union in the Civil War. Giles and Judson enlisted Feb. 29, 1864 in 11th Pa. Calvary at Seranton, and served until mustered out, Aug. 13, 1865. Giles also enlisted April 11, 1872 in the U. S. Army and served in the 4th U. S. Calvary for five years, and fought several battles against the Indians through the Northwest. Kingsley was the only one of the five brothers who ever married.

**ZEBULON COMSTOCK, JR.** was born May 14, 1808, near Forty Fort, and his wife, Aszeniath Crossier, was born in New Jersey, July 1, 1811 and died Jan. 9, 1884. Their oldest son, Kingsley, was born Aug. 12, 1833, and was killed in the army, June 14, 1862. Judson C. was born in Carbondale, Nov. 23, 1836. Raymond, born in Newton township, Feb. 8, 1838, and is at the

**GEORGE LEVI COON**

George Levi Coon was born in Brenchville, Va., Sept. 22nd, 1858, and when three years old came to Newton township with his grandfather, David Cosner, who had been South on a visit. George Levi Coon is a son of John (born Jan. 20th, 1830—died Jan. 12th, 1906) and Rosanna (Cosner) Coon. Rosanna (Cosner) Coon having died in Virginia in 1861.

George Levi Coon attended school in Newton until nineteen years of age, when he attended Keystone Academy. He was married Jan. 25, 1883 to Miss Margaret Smith of Falls, Pa., the oldest daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Shelley) Smith. After his marriage he remained on the home farm with his father until his father's death, when he came in possession of



the old homestead, part of which has been in the Coon family for four generations. Joseph Coon, greatgrandfather of George Levi, settled here in 1816, and built a log house about twenty rods southeast of the present residence.

Mr. and Mrs. Coon have two sons and two daughters: Joseph, born June 7, 1886; is a chemist, living in Brooklyn, N. Y. Oscar was born Oct. 26, 1890; Bessie, born Feb. 7, 1893 and Winnifred, born March 13, 1898.

Mr. Coon is a progressive farmer, keeping from fifteen to twenty cows, and raises a large quantity of cabbage and sweet corn, which he sells to Scranton dealers. Some years he sells nearly sixty tons of hay. His buildings and farm are kept in first-class condition. Mr. Coon has one sister, Amy, who married Rev. H. G. Harned, Agent for American Bible Society, and lives in Scranton. Her first husband, A. C. Lewis, died Sept. 5, 1885.

JOHN COON moved to Virginia in the Spring of 1853. Here he lived for nine years, until the war broke out, and not being willing to join the Confederate Army he returned to Newton township in the fall of 1862. About two years later he purchased the farm in Ransom township, now owned by Geo. C. Coon, where he lived for three years. He then traded for the farm near Newton Centre. Here he lived until his death. His son, Geo. Levi Coon, now occupies the farm.

John Coon's first wife died in Virginia, and in 1866 he married Miss Angeline Fassett of Scottsville, Wyoming county, who is now living with her stepson, George Levi.

John Coon was the son of Samuel, and grandson of Joseph Coon, who was one of the pioneer settlers of Newton. John Coon was a member of the Baptist church.

#### EVERETT GRANT COON

Everett G. Coon was born February 1, 1865 on the farm now owned by his brother, Galusha A. He attended the Shook School until about eighteen years of age when he entered the Keystone Academy. Later he taught one term of school in Lemon township, Wyoming county. He then returned home, living with his father and working the farm until married, June 4, 1896, to Miss Minnie Lasher. She was a daughter of Arnold (b. June 6, 1830—died April 28, 1903) and Margaret (VanWhy) Lasher. Mrs. Lasher was born March 17, 1831 and is living in Falls township, hale and hearty at the age of eighty years.

Mrs. Coon, the wife of our subject, was born Dec. 25, 1871 and died Dec. 20, 1909, leaving five small children, namely: Inez M., born Apr. 25, 1897; Edith V., born Nov. 14, 1898; Eliza H., born May 17, 1902; Marjory, born June 2,

1905; and Genevieve, born May 28, 1909.

Mr. Coon is a son of Levi and Eliza (Hopkins) Coon and a greatgrandson of Joseph Coon, one of the pioneer settlers of Newton township.

LEVI COON was born June 29, 1834 on the old homestead where George Levi Coon now lives, near Newton Centre, and died April 26, 1902. He was married Aug. 30, 1862 to Miss Eliza Hopkins, who was born Nov. 23, 1831 in Newton township and died April 22, 1904. She was a daughter of Solomon (b. Feb. 8, 1808—d. Aug. 15, 1884) and Maria (Storrs) Hopkins. (Mrs. Hopkins b. Jan. 7, 1808—d. May 26, 1870). To them three children were born, namely: (1) Everett G., our subject. (2) Galusha A., born Sept. 19, 1868 and was married to Miss Minnie Fenstermaker, who was born April 9, 1873. They are the parents of three children: Raymond G., born March 17, 1899; Laura G., born Oct. 11, 1900, and Harold A., born October 7, 1910. (3) Eva M., born September 15, 1873, and was married December 30, 1896 to William H. Newman, M. D. of Newton Centre, and died Jan. 11, 1903.

#### CHARLES F. CORNELL

Chas. Cornell was born Feb. 28, 1858 in Wyoming county and came to Newton with his father when six years old. He is a son of William Cornell, who was born in Kent county. R. I. August 10, 1820. In 1847 he married Miss Mary Capwell. He died Dec. 10, 1905. His widow is living with her son Charles, on the old farm, aged 87 years. Part of the old log house that was built by Mr. Fillo, over ninety years ago, and where Mr. Cornell lived for several years is still standing.

Charles F. Cornell has a common school education. He has always lived on the farm with his parents, except about five years while working in Scranton. He never married.

#### FRIEND HOLLISTER COOPER

F. H. Cooper was born in Newton, July 14, 1855. He is the only child of John and Catherine (Biesecker) Cooper.

Friend H. Cooper attended school at Newton Centre until eleven years old, when he went to Scranton with his parents. Here he attended the graded school until twenty years old, when his parents returned to Newton. He was married Jan. 1, 1880 to Miss Hattie Vandenburg, daughter of James (b. in New York, Sept. 17, 1810—d. Jan. 7, 1892) and Mary (Kern) Vandenburg. She was born in New Jersey, March 19, 1817 and died in Falls township, July 19, 1888. She was the daughter of Henry and Annie (Linabury) Kern.

Mrs. F. H. Cooper was born Aug. 10, 1854, being one of a family of twelve children, four boys and eight girls:—Elizabeth, Henry, Lottie, William, Nellie, George, Lyman, Jane, Hattie, Fidelia, Louise and Annie. All are living except Elizabeth, Nellie and Jane.

F. H. Cooper learned the wagon making trade, and conducted a shop in Newton Centre for several years. Since 1903 he has been working at his trade in Milwaukie.

Mr. and Mrs. Cooper have four children:—Katie E., born Jan. 25, 1882, and married Nov. 28, 1900 to Alfred Speed, and are living in Oswego, N. Y. They have one son, Mason, born Feb. 18, 1906, and a daughter, Kathryn, born

ner, and a grandson of Lewis and Rachel Cosner who were among the first settlers of Newton. They came from Sussex county, New Jersey.

Mr. Cosner lived with his father until twenty-six years old. Then he spent fifteen years in the West and Florida. January 9, 1890 he was married to Emma Reed, who died December 29, 1898. In April, 1891 he moved to the farm where he now lives. He was married to Miss Lillian Bennett, November 21, 1899.

Mr. Cosner has two sons, Harry L., who is a plumber and is living in Mill City. Lewis, Jr., lives with his father.



THE LATE DAVID COSNER AND WIFE

Oct. 27, 1901. Katherine died Mar. 7, 1902.

J. Clinton was born May 17, 1883 and is living in Scranton.

Ruth E., a stenographer in Oswego, was born July 16th, 1889.

Frank E., a carpenter in Pittston, was born June 25th, 1893.

JOHN COOPER was born in Northampton county, Dec. 4, 1828, and came to Newton with James Lesh in the Spring of 1842, when he was thirteen years of age, walking the entire distance, driving a cow. Mr. Lesh established a wagon shop in Newton Centre, where Mr. Cooper learned the trade, and in 1852 he established a shop in the same town, which he conducted for several years. The same year he was elected constable.

#### LEWIS COSNER

Lewis Cosner is a son of David (b. Sept. 11, 1813—d. May 4, 1899) and Amy (Hice) Cos-

#### SELDON SCRANTON COSNER

Mr. Cosner is the youngest son of David and Amy (Hice) Cosner. He was born Jan. 22, 1853, on the old homestead purchased by his grandfather, Lewis Cosner, in 1816, which has since been in the Cosner family. Mr. Cosner has the State patent or deed, received by his grandfather from the State. It is written on a sheep skin, 13½x21½ inches.

Seldon Cosner was married April 30, 1876 to Miss Martha L. Reed, daughter of Moses and Sarah (Ross) Reed, and a sister of Lewis Cosner's first wife. Mrs. Cosner was born Oct. 30, 1852. Mr. and Mrs. Cosner have a family of four children, two sons and two daughters: (1) Amy M., born April 6, 1877, and married Harry B. Ackerly of Clark's Green. They have two daughters, Aileen and Luree (2) Arthur, born Dec. 22, 1881, and is living at home. (3) Howard, born June 22, 1884, and was married June 29, 1904 to Miss Maud E. Lacoe. (4)



Edna R., born March 23, 1892, and is living with her parents.

Arthur Cosner attended the Cosner School until seventeen years of age, when he entered the Keystone Academy, at Factoryville, where he remained for one year, after which he took a bookkeeping course at the Scranton Business College. He is now working part of his father's farm.

DAVID COSNER, born Sept. 11, 1813 and died May 4, 1899. His wife, Miss Amy Hice, was born July 1, 1816 and died Nov. 6, 1876. She was a member of the Methodist church for many years. To them six children were born,

Sarah C. Hadsell. She was born Sept. 17, 1825 and died Feb. 28, 1894.

David Cosner was honest and upright in all dealings. He took great pride in keeping his buildings and fences in first-class repair. He was a lover of fine horses, and brought the first pair of percheon horses into Lackawanna county, which he purchased from W. T. Waters of Baltimore, Md., for \$1,500, in the Spring of 1879. He was industrious and saving, and at the time of his death owned 457 acres of land and about \$8,000 in money. He was the first president of the Scranton and Newton Turnpike Company.



CHARLES V. DECKER'S RESIDENCE AND FARM

three sons and three daughters, namely: (1) Rosanna, the oldest, married John Coon. She moved to Virginia with her husband where their two children were born: Amy, who is now the wife of Rev. H. G. Harned of Scranton, and George Levi Coon, who is living on the Coon homestead near Newton Centre. (2) Lydia, married Thomas Spencer. She died in May, 1879, and is survived by one son, Arthur Spencer, who is living in Moscow. (3) Ira was born in 1842 and died April 3, 1910. In 1861, he enlisted and served over three years in the army. (4) Lewis was born Nov. 15, 1849 and is living in Newton. (5) Seldon S. and (6) Selma H. were twins, born Jan. 22, 1853. Selma died May 13, 1872, aged 18 years, 3 months and 21 days.

After the death of his first wife, David Cosner lived with his son, Seldon, for about four years, till the fall of 1880, when he married

#### S. HOWARD COSNER

Seldon Howard Cosner is the son of Seldon S. and Martha (Reed) Cosner. He was born June 22, 1884 on the farm now owned by his uncle, Lewis Cosner. He attended school at the Cosner school house until sixteen years old, then attended the graded school at Clark's Green for one term. When seventeen years of age he took a course in bookkeeping at the Scranton Business College. He was married June 29, 1904 to Miss Maud E. Lacoe, the oldest daughter of Chas. E. and Huldah (Rosenkrans) Lacoe. They moved to Scranton Jan. 9, 1905, where Mr. Cosner was employed by the National Casket Company as a casket trimmer. May 10, 1906, he returned to the old homestead in Newton township, settled by Lewis Cosner in 1816.

Mr. Cosner raises and sells from 500 to 700 bushels of buckwheat and about 500 bushels of



rye every year. Mr. and Mrs. Cosner have four sons:—Kermit Quintin, Charles Seldon, Arthur David, and Carl William.

### IRA DRAKE

Mr. Drake is a son of Lewis (b. 1826—d. 1888) and Amanda (Rosenkrans) Drake. Mrs. Amanda Drake, born in Newton and a daughter of Levi and Rebecca (William) Rosenkrans, who were born in New Jersey.

Ira Drake was born in Ransom, May 13, 1852 and was married Dec. 15, 1872 to Miss Mary A., daughter of Mathias and Elizabeth (Ace)

in Mr. Drake's tenant house; Myrtle, born Aug. 20, 1884 and was married Nov. 1, 1904 to Lewis Sherman of Schultsville. They have one son, Leo, born Feb. 10, 1908; Lewis, born Jan. 31, 1880 and died Jan. 28, 1893.

JACOB L. and Mary (Demond) Drake, grandparents of our subject, were born in Sussex county, New Jersey and came to Ransom township about 1834 and settled on the farm now owned by Mr. John Beyrent near Milwaukie. Mary Drake was a daughter of Joseph Demond.

MATHIAS BLACKWELL, born May 3, 1817 and died Sept. 14, 1895, and was married Aug. 24,



MR AND MRS. IRA DRAKE AND THEIR RESIDENCE

Blackwell of Milwaukie. She was born in White Haven, May 24, 1850.

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Drake are the parents of five children, namely: Jennings L., born July 5, 1873 in Ransom and was married to Miss Dean, daughter of Aaron Lasher, and have one son, Ira A., born July 4, 1900. They are living in Bald Mount; Alice, born July 15, 1874 and married Cyrus Bogert, son of Albert and Schelsha (Decker) Bogert, and have one daughter, Lucretia, born April 4, 1895. They are living in Pittston; Bessie, born March 27, 1883 and was married Sept. 30, 1903 to Philip Winters, son of Samuel and Kate (Barrier) Winters. They have three children and are living

1847 to Miss Elizabeth Ace, who was born April 3, 1822 in Monroe county and died Jan. 6, 1907. She was a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Walter) Ace.

JACOB ACE was born Sept. 1, 1796 and died May 5, 1870 and his wife, Elizabeth, was born Oct. 30, 1801 and died Feb. 16, 1884. They were married March 15, 1821 and had eleven children.

### CHARLES V. DECKER.

Mr. Decker is the oldest son of Oliver and Mary (Van Campen) Decker. He moved with his father from New Jersey to Newton when fourteen years old. He attended Keystone Aca-



deny two years. He began teaching school in 1874 in Falls township, and in 1875 taught in Ransom township. In the spring of 1876 he went to Kansas where he taught one term, returning to Newton in 1877, and in the fall of 1878 he went to Pike county, where he taught one term. He was married Jan. 15, 1880 to Miss Margaret, daughter of Wenzel and Katherine (Zeiss) Klipple who came from Germany in 1848.

Mr. Decker purchased the farm where he now resides of George Richards in 1889. In 1894 he was elected school director, which office he held for twelve years, being secretary of the board for seven years and treasurer for two years. In 1909 he was elected tax collector.

Elizabeth (Post) Dunlap. In 1862 he married Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Benjamin Hunter of Orange county, N. Y. She was born May 4, 1843 and died Oct. 13, 1894 in South Abington. Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap had nine children, namely: (1) Eva, living with her father. (2) Edgar, the subject of this sketch. (3) Minnie, married Thomas VanKirk. They live in Olyphant, and have six children: Eva, Grace, May, Hazle, Foster and Ethel. (4) Rose, married George Ackerly. They live in Sheridan, Wyo., and have three children: Bessie, Allen and Harold. (5) William, died about 1897. (6) Ida, married Frank Slate. They live in Newton and have one daughter, Naomi. (7) Charles, married Mand Davies. They live in Clarks Sum-



EDGAR B. DUNLAP'S RESIDENCE

### EDGAR B. DUNLAP

Mr. Dunlap, born Aug. 4, 1864 in Falls township, Wyoming county; a son of A. Perrington and Amanda (Hunter) Dunlap. Mr. Dunlap was born and reared on a farm, which occupation he has always followed. He attended the Schultsville and Fire Proof schools. He was married Sept. 2, 1891 to Miss Emma R., daughter of Abner and Cordelia (Garrison) Alger of South Abington township. Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap have two sons: Earl A., born June 26, 1893 and F. Howard, born March 5, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap have lived in South Abington township since their marriage until they moved to their present home, Feb 15, 1912.

A. PERRINGTON DUNLAP, born Feb. 10, 1843, in Falls township. He is a son of William and

mit, and have two children: Helen and Arthur. (8) Jesse, married Charles VanAken. They live near Walton, N. Y., and have one son, Lee. (9) Susan, died in 1892, aged eight years and eleven months.

Mr. Dunlap ran a canal-boat in 1864 from Falls to Elmira. About 1866 he kept hotel in the building now owned by A. S. Collum at Bald Mount. He purchased the farm in Newton township where he now resides in 1893.

ABNER ALGER, father of Mrs. E. B. Dunlap, was born Aug. 31, 1828 in Providence and died Dec. 15, 1895 on the old homestead in South Abington, which is now owned by his two sons, Chester and George. He is a son of Perserved and Sabrina (Southworth) Alger. Mr. Alger was married in October, 1863 to Miss Cordelia,

daughter of Eder and Sarah (Griffin) Garrison of Newton. Mrs. Alger was born January 2, 1837 in Providence. She is now living with her youngest daughter, Nellie, in Clarks Summit. Mr. and Mrs. Alger had four children, namely: (1) Emma, married E. B. Dunlap; (2) Chester, married Miss Emma Keller and lives on the old homestead in South Abington. (3) George, married Miss Emma Hunter and resides at Clarks Summit. (4) Nellie, also living at Clarks Summit.

PERSERVED ALGER was born Aug. 30, 1802 in Massachusetts and when a small boy came with his parents to Cooperstown, N. Y. He was a tanner by trade. He married Miss Sabrina Southworth. Her mother was a Butterfield, who came from Vermont. Perserved Alger died in April, 1882.

Lewis D. Garrison obtained a common school education, and has always lived on a farm, excepting about five years when living in Scranton.

Mr. and Mrs. Garrison have two children living, Cora and Albert. Two other children died in infancy, namely: Gertie E., born Feb. 10, 1879 and died from accidental death June 3, 1882; Edna A., born May 13, 1884, died Aug. 25th, the same year.

Cora was married Aug. 21, 1901, to Isaac Ayers. They separated April 8, 1907, and she returned to her father's home with her two small children, namely: Violet and Ada.

Mrs. Garrison is the youngest daughter of William and Mary (White) LaRue, who were the parents of four children: Olive, Myron N.,



LEWIS D. GARRISON'S RESIDENCE

### LEWIS D. GARRISON

Mr. Garrison is the son of Eder (b. Feb. 9, 1814—d. Sept. 26, 1898) and Sarah (Griffin) Garrison (b. Oct. 18, 1812—d. Jan. 11, 1888) who were married Feb. 11, 1835, and were the parents of seven children: Cordelia, born Jan. 2, 1836, married Abner Alger and lives at Clark's Summit; William, born Feb. 4, 1838 and is living in Newton township; George, born Aug. 8, 1839 and died May 15, 1899; Lewis born Sept. 16, 1841 and married Miss Violet LaRue Aug. 11, 1877; Thomas, born Nov. 3, 1844, married David Smith and is living in Newton township; Ruth Ann, born Aug. 27, 1846, married Laten Rosenkrans and lives in Newton township; John A., born Dec. 30, 1848 and died Sept. 4, 1852.

Violet A. and George W. Mr. LaRue also had five children by his first wife, namely: Mary J., Lydia, Amanda, Sarah E. and Joseph. Sarah died about 1891; Joseph died in the army and Lydia died May 5, 1902.

Mrs. Mary LaRue died in December, 1860 and her husband died Jan. 2, 1862.

EDER GARRISON came from York State to Razorville (now Providence) in 1835, and about one year later moved to Newton on the farm now owned by George Reed near Summit Lake, where he built a log house and cleared the farm. In 1866 he moved to the farm where his son, Lewis, now lives. Here he died. He was a blacksmith by trade.



## WILLIAM GARRISON

Mr. Garrison is the oldest son of Eder (1812-1896) and Sarah (1809-1887) (Griffin) Garrison, who came to Newton from Providence, near Scranton, in the spring of 1839. He purchased 57 acres from Elias Hoyt of Wilkes-Barre. This land is now owned by Geo. Reed, near Summit Lake (Mud Pond). The land was covered with woods, which was cleared by Mr. Garrison, and he built a log house. He had a family of seven children: Mrs. Cordelia Alger, William, George, Lewis, Mrs. Thena Smith, Mrs. Ruth Rosenkrans, and John who

teen years of age, when he came to Newton, about 1861, and worked eight months for James Decker. He continued working by the month until married Aug. 22, 1865, to Miss Mary A. Howey, daughter of Peter and Margaret (Hanna) Howey. She was born in Monroe county, March 18, 1845. Mr. and Mrs. Harlos had six children: George, Floyd and Minnie died in youth. Annie E. married Peter Sonsky and are living in Glenburn; Christina is living with her father; William E. is living in Falls township.

Philip Harlos purchased a farm near Ford's



RESIDENCE OF PHILIP HARLOS

died when about four years old. George died in 1898.

Wm. Garrison attended school until fourteen years old, which completed his school days except one term when 20 years of age. In 1864 he went to Illinois for a short time. In 1873 he purchased the home where he now lives. He was elected road supervisor for one term.

## PHILIP HARLOS

Mr. Harlos was born in Ransom township, near Mountain Valley, March 11, 1848, on the farm settled by his father, Philip Harlos, Sr., about 1846.

Philip Harlos lived with his father until fif-

teen years of age, when he was married. The farm was then a wilderness with only a foot path. (This farm is now owned by Peter Sonskey). In 1902 he purchased a part of the old tannery farm, containing the fine residence where A. B. McKinstry lived. Mr. Harlos and his daughter are living in this residence at the present time.

The first part of this residence was built in 1858 by John B. Schultz. About 1880 it was remodeled and enlarged by A. B. McKinstry, at a cost of over \$4,000. It is 48x58 feet, containing thirteen large rooms and three large halls. Mr. McKinstry died in the fall of 1881, only a short time after his beautiful home was



finished.

Mrs. Harlos died May 20, 1906, and is buried in Newton cemetery.

PHILIP HARLOS, Sr. was born in Germany and came to this country about 1838, settling in Ransom, where he kept a shoe shop for about eight years before he moved on the farm. He was married to Christena Miller, daughter of Geo. Miller, a local preacher of Monroe county, about 1840. They had ten children: George, Jacob, Philip, Elizabeth, John, Samuel, William, Charlie, Henry and Annie. Only five are living, Samuel, Philip, William, Henry and Elizabeth.

Clarence W., born Oct. 6, 1900. Mrs. Wilda Hice died Sept. 12, 1908.

Mr. Hice married his second wife, Winifred Swartz, Oct. 19, 1909. She was born July 2, 1881, and is a daughter of William P. and Cynthia (Sickler) Swartz. She (Mrs. Hice) was married June 29, 1896 to Edmond Swartz, (her first husband) by whom four children were born, namely: Alfred E., Rexford C., Cynthia Carolyn and Edmond F.

Mr. Hice was elected assessor in February, 1907 and re-elected in 1910. He was auditor for twelve years.

JOHN HICE was born Aug. 21, 1825 and died



WILLIAM A. HICE AND HIS RESIDENCE

### WILLIAM A. HICE

W. A. Hice (born in Newton, Sept. 2, 1865), is the only son of John and Dorcas P. (Corse-lius) Hice and a grandson of Henry and Edith (Sharps) Hice, who were the parents of eleven children, five boys and six girls. He was a farmer and lived near Forty Fort, where John was born. Henry Hice's father was born in Germany.

William A. Hice was married Oct. 3, 1888 to Miss Wilda J. Kern (b. Sept. 5, 1867), daughter of William A. and Roanna (Rosenkrans) Kern. To this union two sons were born:—Burson J., born June 13, 1896 and

Jan. 20, 1907, aged 81 years. His first wife was Dorcas P. Corselius, daughter of Peter Corse-lius, one of the pioneer settlers of Newton. They were married Jan. 23, 1851, having a family of three children:—Viola, born May 29, 1852 and died June 23, 1853. Mattie, born Oct. 22, 1854 and died April 14, 1862 after much suffering as the result of an accident at school; and William A., the subject of this sketch. An adopted daughter, Annie, was born Dec. 18, 1859 and died April 18, 1882, only sixteen days after her foster mother's death.

Mrs. Hice was born April 16, 1831 and died April 2, 1882. Mr. Hice was married again,



May 2, 1883 to Mrs. Roanna (Rosenkrans) Kern, widow of William A. Kern, who was killed Jan. 22, 1867, by a tree falling on him while working in the woods. She was born March 8, 1841, and was the daughter of Levi and Rebecca (Williams) Rosenkrans, being one of a family of fourteen children. She died Feb. 16, 1907, four weeks after the death of her husband, Mr. Hice.

In 1857, John Hice engaged in the mercantile business at Newton Centre, and was postmaster for over 25 years. He was a member of the Presbyterian church at Newton. Mr. Hice helped build a section of the canal along the

Miss Lydia E. Trauger. They have one son, Lovell L., born April 12, 1896.

#### JOHN G. HOLMES

Mr. Holmes was born Sept. 22, 1851 in Cherry township, Sullivan county, and is the oldest of a family of eight children. He attended school in one of the first plank school-houses in Cherry township. He helped his father on the farm during the spring, summer and autumn months, attending school only three or four months during the winter. In 1865 his father moved from the farm to Laporte, Sullivan county, to give his children better school ad-



RESIDENCE OF A. R. HOLLENBACK. Built in 1841 by Amos Learn

Susquehanna, near McKunes. He was honest, capable, energetic, and built up a large merchantile business, which he conducted until a short time before his death. He was liberal in his contributions, and his name was at the head of nearly every subscription paper. He was one of five men who gave the bell to the Presbyterian church when it was repaired in 1901.

#### ARTHUR R. HOLLENBACK

Mr. Hollenback, the third son of Dr. Urias and Margaret (Weiss) Hollenback was born Feb. 8, 1859, in Falls township, Wyoming county. Here he lived until twenty-one years of age, when he went to Springfield, Ohio, where he learned the carpenter's trade. He lived in Nebraska and Colorado about two years. In 1887 he moved to Scranton, working at his trade. In March, 1898, he came to Newton township, and purchased the farm he now owns.

Mr. Hollenback was married Jan. 8, 1881, to

vantages, but John being the oldest, attended the Laporte school only four terms of four months each.

When eighteen years of age he began clerking in a general store for C. M. King of Laporte, where he worked about two years. In 1871 he returned to Cherry township. Here he worked in the lumber woods, which has since been his employment a greater part of the time.

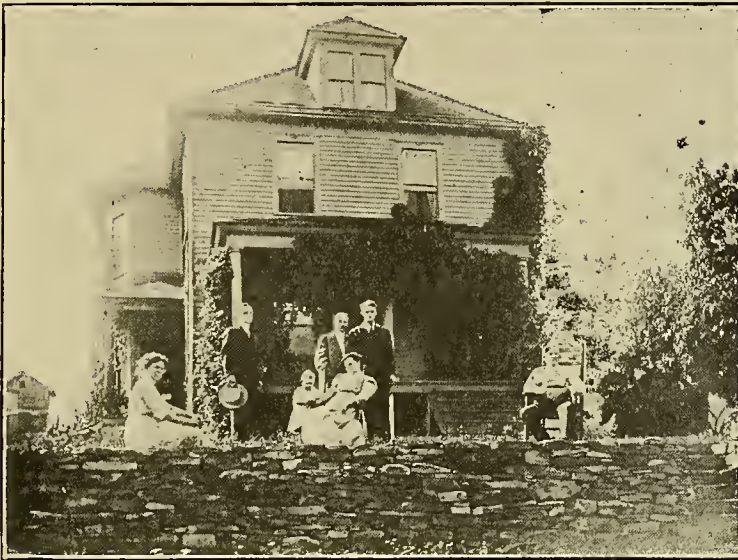
Mr. Holmes was married Dec. 22, 1877 to Miss Lillie P., the oldest daughter of Samuel A. and Phalinda (Thompson) Morton of Luzerne. Soon after his marriage he purchased a farm in Cherry township, where he lived eighteen years. During this time he owned three and four teams, and employed several men on the farm and in the lumber woods. In June, 1895 he moved to Port Bowkley (near Wilkes-Barre), where he ran a milk wagon for a dairy farm till April, 1898. Then he moved to Luzerne. December 4th, the same year, he went with a party to Scranton, Menefee county, Kentucky, where he was employed by a large lumber com-

pany until the mill burned two years later. In November, 1900 he returned to Pennsylvania, and the next February moved on a dairy farm at Keelersburg, Wyoming county, where he lived for one year. April 1, 1902 he moved to Luzerne, where he worked in a machine shop. In June, 1903 he purchased the Peter Sutton farm where he is now living. In 1904, he built the house illustrated on this page, and since has made many more improvements. While living in Newton he has devoted much of his time to lumbering until the last year.

Four children complete the family circle, namely: (1) Allen, born Sept. 4, 1879, and

1854; Mrs. Elizabeth Vaughn, born May 18, 1856; Walter K., born June 22, 1858; Henry L., born July 21, 1860; Mrs. Martha A. Schwoerer, born Oct. 28, 1862; Mrs. Augusta O'Neill, born Nov. 19, 1865.

SAMUEL A. MORTON, born in Bangor, Maine, May 1, 1835 and died in 1901 at Onset, Mass. He married Miss Phalinda Thompson of Wyoming county. They had a family of three children, namely: Lillie P., born Jan. 25, 1858 and married John G. Holmes; Flora, born Dec. 4, 1865, died in February, 1887; Effie M., (Dr. Effie M. Pace, O. D.), born Sept. 21, 1867. She is living in Luzerne.



RESIDENCE OF JOHN G. HOLMES

married Oct. 10, 1902 to Miss Cora Brungess. He is employed by the Commonwealth Telephone Company at Centremoreland. They have two children, Russell and Edward. (2) Lewis M., born April 9, 1881, and has been employed at the Baltimore Steel Works several years. (3) Ray V., born March 5, 1892, is clerking in Kingston. (4) Hazel M., born Aug. 23, 1894, is a student at the East Stroudsburg Normal School.

Mrs. Holmes is a descendant (eight generations) of Acquilla Chase, who came to this country in 1620 with the Mayflower company. Her grandmother Morton's maiden name was Chase.

LEWIS HOLMES, the father of our subject was born Dec. 26, 1821 in Sheffield, Mass., and died in April, 1883 in Bradford county. He married Miss Mary M. Green, who was born April 10, 1824 and died March, 1882. Their family of eight children were born as follows: John G., our subject; William S., born Feb. 4, 1853 and died in June, 1883; Edmund, born October 4,

#### ARTHUR JACOBY

Mr. Jacoby was born on the farm now owned by his brother, Harlan Jacoby, about one-half mile north of Bald Mount postoffice. This farm was settled March 25, 1832, by Peter Ayers, (grandfather of Mrs. Arthur Jacoby). The same year he sold out his claim to Henry Walter (grandfather of Arthur Jacoby) for a yearling heifer. He is a son of Jacob and Lucinda (Water) Jacoby.

Arthur Jacoby was married Jan. 17, 1881 to Miss Ida, daughter of Jacob and Mary (Maligan) Ayers. Mrs. Jacoby's mother died when Ida was only nine years of age. Then she began working out by the week. She has one sister, Kate, (Mrs. Benjamin Jacoby) and two brothers, William and Isaac Ayers, all living in Newton.

Mr. Jacoby moved to the farm where he is now living, April 1, 1884. He erected all the buildings and set out an apple orchard and other fruit trees.



Mr. and Mrs. Jacoby are the parents of four children, one daughter Katie, and three sons: Ralph, Ernest and Jacob (*See Directory*).

JACOB JACOBY, father of our subject, was born in New Jersey. He was a mason by trade, which he followed until a short time before his death in 1892. He married Miss Lucinda Walter, daughter of Henry Walter, one of the pioneer settlers of Newton, coming here from New Jersey about 1832. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Jacoby were the parents of seven children, four of whom are living, namely: Kate (Mrs. Noah Smith), of Ransom; and Arthur, Benjamin and Harlen who are living in Newton.

#### BENJAMIN JACOBY

Mr. Jacoby, born May 31, 1863 in Newton on the homestead farm now owned by his brother, Harlan. He was married Aug. 6, 1885 to Miss Catherine, daughter of Jacob and Polly (Milligan) Ayers. (*See William D. Ayers.*)

Mr. and Mrs. Jacoby have a family of three children, namely: (1) Howard, born May 25, 1886. He is a carpenter by trade. (2) Lillian B., born July 18, 1890. She married Wesley H. Lacoe, son of Frank and Minnie (Williams) Lacoe of Newton. They have two children living: Roy H. and Donald W. (3) Helen E., born Feb. 19, 1908.

About 1895, Mr. Jacoby purchased a farm of Richard Busteed, which he sold in 1910 to Abram Peters. In 1909 he purchased the Lewis Jennings farm, which he sold in 1912 to Wm. Seutt. Mr. Jacoby is a son of Jacob and Celinda (Walter) Jacoby. (*See Jacob Jacoby.*)

#### MRS. RUTH M. HOPKINS

Mrs. Hopkins was born at Waverly, North Abington township, July 12, 1832. She is the youngest child of Nehemiah and Catherine (Clark) Tinkham, who were the parents of nine children, one son and eight daughters. Mrs. Hopkins is the only one living. She was married Feb. 2, 1852 to William Clay, who was drowned in Gravel Pond, May 27, 1868. Three years later (January 2, 1871) she married Solomon Hopkins. The same year they came to the farm where she is living.

SOLOMON HOPKINS was born in 1808 in Sussex county, New Jersey, and died in Newton township Aug. 17, 1884, after a lingering illness of Bright's disease.

Mr. Hopkins married the first time, June 7, 1829 to Miss Mariah Sturr, daughter of Isaac and Mary (Demorest) Sturr. She died May 26, 1870.

Mr. Hopkins came to Newton about 1832 and settled the farm now owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Saxe near Milwaukie where he lived several

years, and then moved to the farm near Schultsville now owned by his second wife, Mrs. Ruth M. Hopkins.

#### EDWARD A. KERN

Mr. Kern was born July 9, 1864 in Newton on the farm now owned by Jesse Ware. He is the youngest of nine children of Henry and Samantha (Williams) Kern.

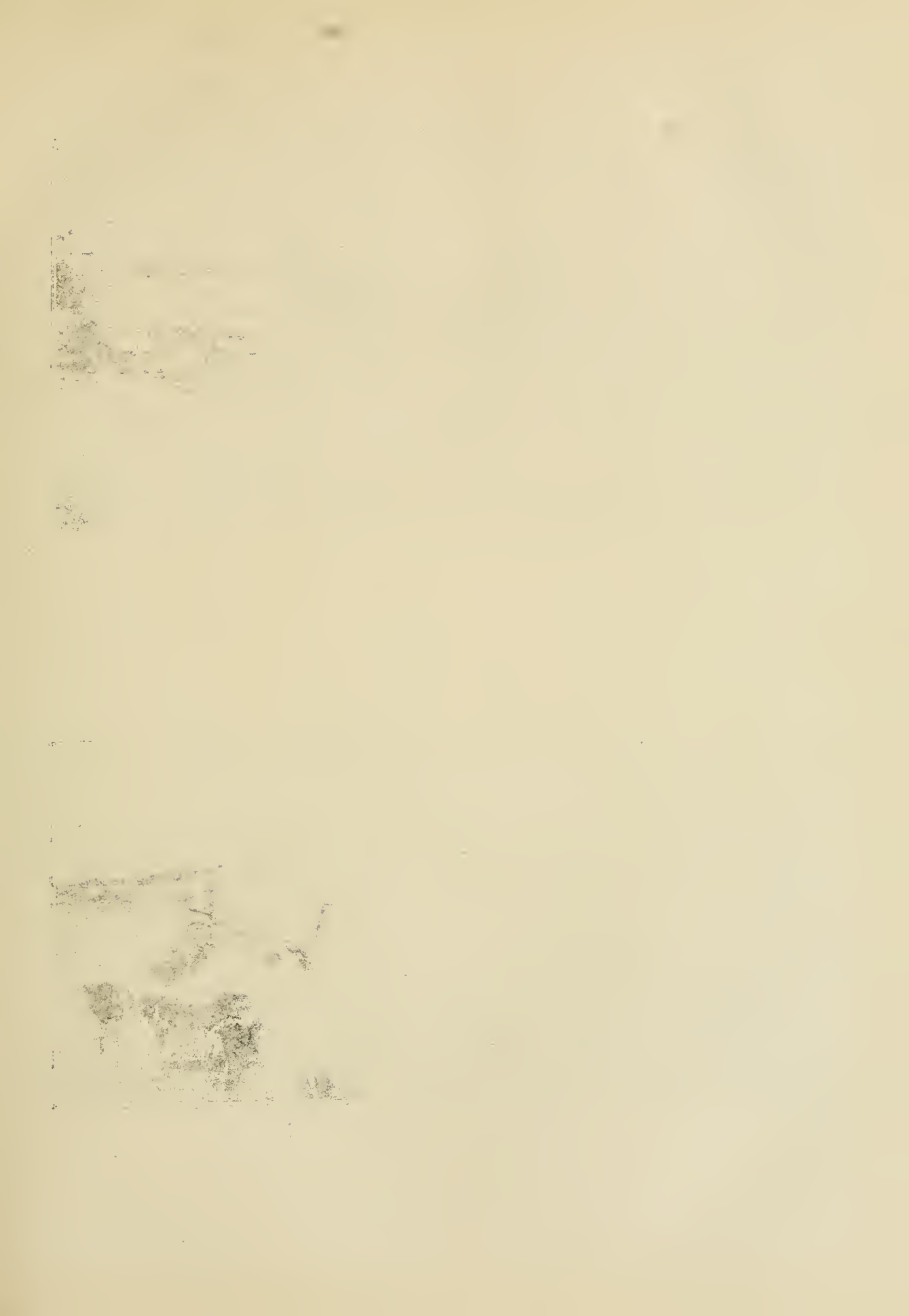
Edward A. Kern attended the Fire Proof and Cosner schools until about fifteen years of age. He was only fourteen when his father was killed, and when only eighteen years old began working the farm on shares, which he worked for thirteen years till the farm was divided in 1895. He selected sixty acres of woodland for his part, and soon began cutting the timber and clearing the land. In 1898 he built a ten-room house, which they occupied on the last day of October. Mr. Kern was married Aug. 6, 1888 to Miss Arena Lesh, the oldest daughter of J. B. and Mary (Marlatt) Lesh. Mr. and Mrs. Kern have three children living, two died in infancy and Margaret J. died March 10, 1910, aged 20 years.

Mrs. Kern was born in Scranton and when five years old she moved with her parents to Caledonia, Elk county, in 1875. In Dec., 1876 they moved to Dallas county, Texas. The first night in Texas they slept under cedar trees and used cedar boughs for beds, and Arena, who is now Mrs. Kern, slept in a large trunk which contained the bedding during the journey. They lived in Texas seven years, part of the time living in tents. Her father worked several farms on shares. The chief crops were cotton, corn and sugar cane.

On July 17, 1883 they left Dallas City for the East, with a small pair of Texas ponies and a heavy covered wagon, containing about 2,200 lbs of bedding, clothing, provisions and cooking utensils, and seven members of the family and the collie dog. They drove on an average, about 27 miles a day, stopping for a few days at several places. They reached Cleveland, O., Sept. 27th, where they remained during the winter, leaving there April 19, 1884 and arrived at Falls, Pa., on the 12th day of May, making a drive of 2,247 miles from Dallas, Texas.

HENRY KERN was born Dec. 8, 1817, and a son of Jacob and Mary (Winter) Kern. He married Miss Samantha Williams. They were the parents of nine children, namely: William A., Henry Baldwin, Abram W., Susan (Mrs. Joseph Kircher), David C., Albert P., Mrs. Kate Berlew, Edward A. and Jacob, who died when two years of age. Henry Baldwin Kern died in the army Aug. 15, 1863 and William A. was killed by a tree Jan. 22, 1867.

Henry Kern owned 332 acres of land which







T. M. KRESGE'S TWO RESIDENCES AND BARN



T. M. KRESGE'S HERD OF HOLSTEIN COWS

was divided between his six surviving children after his death. He was killed Dec. 19, 1877 by falling from an oat mow in the loft of the barn while threshing, striking on the machine, breaking his back.

JACOB KERN, grandfather of our subject, was born Nov. 8, 1792 and died June 6, 1858. He was married Dec. 25, 1814 to Miss Mary Winter. He came to Newton from Pittston in 1842 and settled on the farm now owned by P. P. Vosburg, where he built a log-house.

### EDWARD KIRCHER

Mr. Kircher is the youngest son of Joseph N. and Susan (Kern) Kircher. He was born in Newton township, Sept. 10, 1884. He attended school at Newton Centre until sixteen, then he entered Keystone Academy in September, 1900, from which he graduated with honors, June 12, 1902. He married Sept. 24, 1908 to Miss Zida E., oldest daughter of George H. and Eva (Bunnell) Rifenburg. Mr. Rifenburg has been superintendent of the Ransom Home since March, 1898 (*See Ransom township*).

Mrs. Kircher attended the district school and later Keystone Academy and Bloomsburg Normal School. She has one sister, Gladys Oelo, who married Truman K. Biesecker of Newton.

Mr. and Mrs. Kircher have one daughter, Dorothy Arline, born Feb. 20, 1910.

JOSEPH N. KIRCHER was born in Fulda, Germany, Jan. 12, 1840. He came to Ransom township a poor boy when twelve years of age. He attended school in this country only six months. For about nine years he worked for some of the farmers in Ransom township, where he got his start in life.

Nov. 2, 1862, he enlisted as a corporal in Company G, 177th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, serving faithfully until the company was mustered out, Aug. 5, 1863. He was married in January, 1872 to Miss Susan Kern (born Jan. 29, 1847). To them were born three children, namely: (1) Henry K., born Feb. 10, 1873, now a prominent physician of Joplin, Mo. (2) Maye, born Oct. 7, 1874, married P. P. Vosburg. They are living on a farm in Newton. (3) Edward, the subject of this sketch.

About 1870, Mr. Kircher purchased a farm from Thomas Kresge, containing fifty-two acres, and later purchased two or three smaller tracts, until he had accumulated ninety-seven acres. This farm is now owned by his son, Edward. He also saved considerable money. He died Aug. 15, 1908. His wife resides with her daughter, Mrs. Vosburg.

Mr. Kircher was elected school director and

poor master of Newton there times. He was also road supervisor and assessor.

### THOMAS MORGAN KRESGE

Mr. Kresge is one of the leading agriculturists and dairymen of Newton township, owning two hundred acres of productive land and a fine herd of eighteen holstein cows, shipping the milk to Pittston. In 1911 he produced 1000 bushels of oats, raised thirty-two acres of rye and cut about seventy-five tons of hay.

Mr. Kresge is a prominent member of Newton Grange, No. 251, being Master for the last three years. He is Sunday School superintendent of the Falls M. E. Sunday School, also superintendent of the Wyoming County Sunday School Association. He united with the Falls M. E. Church when only fourteen years of age. He is a loyal temperance worker. In October, 1911, he attended the State Sunday School Convention at New Castle, Pa., being sent as a delegate by the Wyoming County S. S. Association.

Mr. Kresge was born May 11, 1872 in Falls township. He is a son of David and Lydia (Fitch) Kresge. He attended the Port Royal and Pine Grove district schools until seventeen years of age when he entered Keystone Academy, after which he attended the East Stroudsburg Normal School. He lived with his parents until twenty-nine years of age, when he was married June 12, 1901 to Miss Georgiana, daughter of Jesse and Hannah (Lesh) Hunt of Falls township.

Mr. and Mrs. Kresge began housekeeping on his father's farm, where they have since lived. He purchased the farm in April, 1911. Mrs. Kresge was born Jan. 1, 1873. She attended Keystone Academy four terms. She taught school eight years.

Mr. and Mrs. Kresge have a family of three children: Ralph D., born Dec. 29, 1904; Donald T., born Dec. 11, 1906; Elsie Marie, born Aug. 2, 1911.

Thomas Kresge, like his father, enjoys traveling. Nearly every year he and his wife plan some vacation trip, including the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, and a trip to Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Washington, D. C. On their way they visited the magnificent estate of Senator DuPont, at Wilmington, Del.

In November, 1909, Mr. Kresge installed an acetylene lighting plant, which furnishes light for both, his residence and barn. They are both equipped with running water and all modern improvements, including individual water buckets in the cow stalls.

DAVID KRESGE, born Dec. 19, 1845 in Monroe county. He is a son of Thomas and Lydia



(Gregory) Kresge who were born in Monroe county, and came to Lackawanna in 1846 and to Newton in 1854. Then they purchased the farm now owned by the Joseph Kireher estate, from Peter Rutan. Here they lived ten years, then selling to Joseph Kireher and purchasing the Timothy Drake farm, which is now owned by Christopher Richards. They lived here about twenty years then sold the farm to their son, John Kresge. They (Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kresge, Sr.) had a family of ten children: Mary, George, Henry, David, Amy and Kate (twins), William, John, Lydia and Sarah. George and Lydia died in childhood. Henry died in 1905, and Mary in 1908.

David Kresge was married July 3, 1866 to Miss Lydia, daughter of Morgan and Mary Ann (Williams) Fitch. She was born Jan. 5, 1847 in Overfield township, Wyoming county, and died Dec. 12, 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Kresge were the parents of three children, namely: (1) Elizabeth M., born April 25, 1869 and married Sept. 24, 1901 to Harry A. Odell of Falls township, and have one child, Thomas Foster, born Dec. 15, 1902 (2) Thomas M., our subject. (3) F. Leslie, born June 30, 1884 and was married April 3, 1905 to Miss Myrtle M. Hillock of Detroit, Mich. They are living in Indianapolis, Ind.

Mrs. David Kresge united with the M. E. Church at Newton in 1878 and was ever after a faithful and devoted member of that denomination. Later she joined the Falls M. E. Church, and for more than thirty years was superintendent of the primary department of Falls M. E. Sunday School, doing a wonderful work, always being a faithful and devoted friend and teacher, seldom being absent unless from illness. She was an ideal wife and mother. Her daily life was marked with cheerfulness, good sense and great piety, for which she was generally respected and loved.

David Kresge traveled through the west during the winter of 1904-05, visiting his son, F. Leslie, at Chicago, who, at that time, was manager of one of the many five-and ten-cent stores owned by his cousin, S. S. Kresge, now the largest independent owner of such stores in the world. He spent several weeks with his cousin, John B. Swarts, in Monitron, Oklahoma. He made another trip to Oklahoma in 1907, visiting on the way, relatives in San Jose, Mo. and Indianapolis, Ind.

#### CHARLES H. KRESGE

C. H. Kresge, born in Newton, is the oldest son of John and Emorgene (Van Campen) Kresge, and a grandson of Thomas Kresge. C. H. Kresge has one sister, Stella. She married Daniel Raife, and lives in Scranton; a

half brother, Arthur V., a general merchant and undertaker in Carlisle, Ind.; another brother, Walter F., died Sept. 8, 1894, aged 15 years.

Mr. Kresge has a common school education. When eighteen years old he began clerking in a grocery store in Pittston, working there over five years. In January, 1899, he began working at the Hillside Home as an attendant, where he remained over three years. While there he became acquainted with Miss Fannie E. Blewett, who was also an attendant at the Home. They were married June 12, 1901. They remained at the Home until April 1, 1902, when they rented a farm for six years of Geo. W. Beemer, the superintendent of the Hillside Home. April 1, 1908, he moved to the farm where he now lives, which he purchased two years before.

Mrs. Kresge is a daughter of William and Betsey Blewett of Wayne County.

C. H. Kresge is one of Newton's most progressive farmers. He has a large dairy of twenty cows, producing both summer and winter milk, which he delivers to a dealer in Scranton. He also hauls milk for several of his neighbors. He is an extensive producer of cabbage, tomatoes, sweet corn, potatoes, etc., which he also sells in Scranton at profitable prices. In February, 1909, he was elected school director, and held the office of treasurer for one year. Two children complete the family circle, namely: Emorgene, born Jan. 17, 1904; William B., born Feb. 21, 1906.

WILLIAM BLEWITT was born in England, Aug. 14, 1839, and came to this country when ten years of age. He was married Dec. 31, 1859 to Miss Betsey Cruse. She was born Oct. 31, 1835 and died February 28, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Blewett had a family of twelve children, but only eight are living, namely: Mary Ann, born Feb. 27, 1861; Wm. Henry, born May 2, 1862; Fannie Ellen, born Oct. 22, 1863; Eliza Jane, born Feb. 25, 1865; John James, born Feb. 2, 1867; Lillie Marie, born Jan. 31, 1869; Ezra Franklin, born April 17, 1871; Lillie, born Mar. 21, 1873; Amanda L., born Jan. 7, 1875; Elias, born Nov. 23, 1876; Bessie, born May 28, 1879; Clarence, born Mar. 17, 1881. Four more died several years ago: Mary, aged 31 years; William, aged 27 years; Lillie Marie, aged 18 months and Bessie, aged 6 months.

#### JOHN FRANCIS LACOE

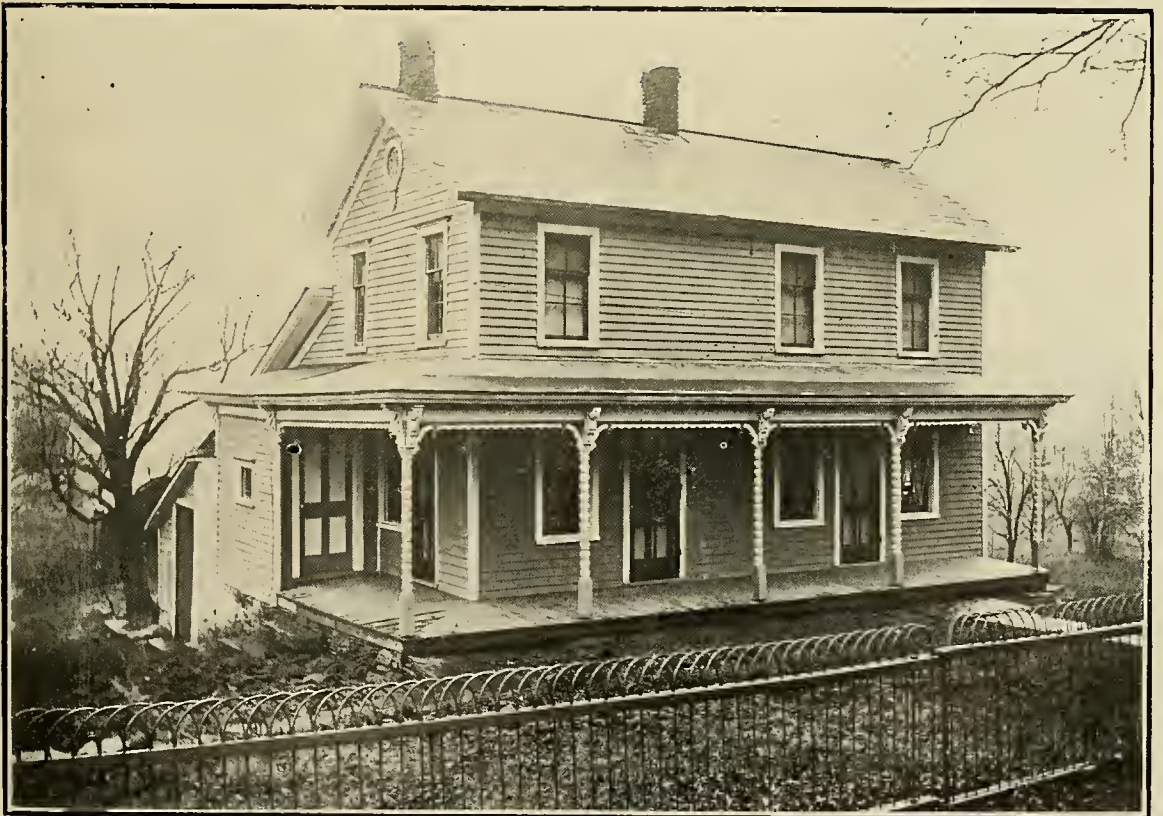
Mr. Lacoe was born on the farm where he now lives, July 18, 1858. He is a son of William A. and Sybil (Ash) Lacoe.

J. F. Lacoe was married Jan. 21, 1882 to Miss Arminta L. Williams of Ransom, who was born March 30, 1860 and died May 25, 1901.





C. H. KRESGE'S RESIDENCE AND CONCRETE MILK HOUSE



MRS. ABIGAIL LaRUE'S RESIDENCE





She was a daughter of Brittain (b. July 7, 1823—d. Feb. 24, 1891) and Martha (Blackman) Williams. To Mr. and Mrs. Lacoe four children were born: Jesse M., born Oct. 23, 1882, and married Miss Maeme Vaughn, in September, 1904. They have two daughters, Jean D., born Sept. 28, 1906 and Marion E., born Nov. 28, 1908. Jesse is a Real Estate Broker in Clark's Summit. Nelson S., born Sept. 4, 1884 and is a carpenter. Martha L., born June 16, 1886 and is a teacher. Wesley H., born March 31, 1889 and is a carpenter. He was married Sept. 12, 1909 to Miss Lillian Jacoby, daughter of Benjamin Jacoby. They have two sons, Roy and Ray (twins), born Jan. 26, 1910.



J. F. LACOE

J. F. Lacoe was elected School Director about twenty-five years ago, serving four years. In February, 1900 he was elected Justice-of-the-Peace, was re-elected in 1905, and in 1910 was elected for the third term.

Mr. Lacoe is a progressive farmer. For several years he has raised about 2,000 baskets of tomatoes which he sells in the Scranton markets. He has four green houses and raises over 200,000 cabbage and tomato plants each year.

ANTHONY LACOE, grandfather of J. F. Lacoe, was born in Garville, France, March 11, 1780. He came to this country in 1792, and to Wilkes-Barre in 1810, and was married April 19, 1812 to Amelia DuPuy of French descent. In 1814 Mr. Lacoe settled on the farm in Pittston, which then consisted of a tavern and four dwelling houses. His wife died in 1844, and in 1850 he sold his farm to the Pennsylvania Coal Co., and went to live with his son, William. He died March 9, 1883 at the age of 103 years.

## CHAS. E. LACOE

C. E. Lacoe is the fifth son of Wm. Anthony Lacoe. He was born in Nicholson and came to Newton with his father when about four years old. When a boy he selected farming for his life vocation. For several years he has run a threshing machine and ensilage cutter every fall. He produces a large quantity of cabbage, sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, apples, etc., which he retails in Scranton. For several years he owned a large dairy of twenty-five or more cows, selling the milk to Scranton dealers, but for last five years has kept only a few cows.

Mr. Lacoe was married June 22, 1878 to Huldah C., the oldest daughter of Brittain and Harriet (Richards) Rosenkrans. Mr. and Mrs. Lacoe have five children living. Two children died in infancy.

## JOSEPH ALLEN LACOE

Mr. Lacoe is the youngest son of William Anthony Lacoe. He received a common school education, remaining on the farm with his parents until twenty-one years of age. He was married June 18, 1884, to Miss Jennie S. May, the youngest of a family of five children of Abram and Leah (Shellabarger) May. She is a descendant of Cornelius Jacobson May, who came to this country with the Puritans in 1620 and was elected governor of the Mayflower colony. Mrs. Lacoe was born Feb. 8, 1862. She taught school three years in Kansas, and four years after she came to Newton in 1880.

Mr. Lacoe is a prominent farmer of this section. In March, 1885 he moved to the farm where he now resides.

Mr. and Mrs. Lacoe have a family of seven children living, namely: (1) Blanche, born April 28, 1885. She married John Thompson. Dec. 28, 1907. They are living in Newton. (2) William A., born Jan. 7, 1887. (3) Archie Gay, born July 13, 1891. (4) Ralph D., born March 1, 1895. (5) Harry S., born Sept. 23, 1898. (6 and 7) James Wallace and Joseph Wendell, the twins, born June 7, 1904. One daughter, Esther (born Oct. 7, 1900) died April 19, 1901.

WILLIAM ANTHONY LACOE, born Jan. 30, 1820 at Inkerman, in the Wyoming valley, and died in Newton Feb. 23, 1910. He was a son of Anthony and Amelia (Duprey) Lacoe. (*See Anthony Lacoe*). He was married Jan. 3, 1843 to Miss Sybil Ash. They were the parents of eleven children. Mrs. Sybil Lacoe died October 7, 1901.

## WILLIE E. LARUE

Willie Erastus LaRue (born on the LaRue homestead in Newton, Jan. 28, 1870), is a



son of Daniel W. and Abigail (Warren) LaRue, and grandson of Joseph and Mary (Miller) LaRue.

Mr. LaRue received a common school education. He helped his father on the farm until twenty-three years of age, and April 1st, 1893 rented his father's farm, and has worked all or part of it every year since. He was married October 11, 1894 to Miss Nellie A., daughter of Chas. M. and Emma (Hobbs) Dailey. They were the parents of ten children: Bertha, George, Annie, Stanley, Nellie, Willet, Nelson, Giles and Rose and Alice the twins. Mr. Dailey died Sept. 4, 1910 and Mrs. Dailey died May 16, 1901. Bertha died in Oct., 1906. George died about 1903. Nelson died in Feb., 1911 and Giles was drowned in Lake Winola Aug. 7, 1906.

Mr. LaRue purchased the H. P. Jacobs homestead, containing 110 acres, in 1907 for \$5,000. In 1895 he built a residence on one part of his father's farm, and in 1910 built an addition and enlarged the porch. The house now contains eleven rooms, furnace heated, and has running water from a fine spring at the foot of the mountain, bath, toilet, hot and cold water and all modern improvements. He is installing an acetylene gas plant for lighting his residence. In 1896 he built a large barn, 50x55 feet, with a concrete basement, and running water in the building.

Besides his farm work, Mr. LaRue does quite an extensive concrete business. He has built and repaired several bridges in Lackawanna county, has contracted to build three this season, and has taken the contract to repair fifty miles of road in Newton township during 1911. He was road supervisor for two years, 1896 and 1897, and has been school director for the last six years.

Mr. LaRue is a member of the Methodist church, and superintendent of the Sunday School at the Cosner school house, where they have about thirty scholars.

DANIEL W. was born May 5, 1827 in Franklin county, N. Y., and died in Newton May 8, 1900. He came to Newton with his parents when about two years old. He was married Dec. 12, 1861 to Miss Abigail A. Warren, (b. June 15, 1833), daughter of Ethan Allen and Anna (Doud) Warren. To this union seven children were born—Ethan A., born March 27, 1863 and died Oct. 18, 1887. Frank D., born Sept. 7, 1866 and died June 26, 1874. Minnie E., born Feb. 17, 1868 and was married Aug. 16, 1894 to J. Edward Ward of Bald Mount. Willie E., born Jan. 28, 1870. Louisa May, born Aug. 24, 1872 and is living at home. She attended Seranton Business College taking a course in stenography and typewriting. Charlie

I., born Sept. 24, 1874 and is a motorman on the Seranton Electric Railway. Daniel W., born Oct. 9, 1878, married Miss Mable Guinipp, Dec. 24, 1907, and is living in Cambridge, Mass. He has been principal of several schools, and for the last three years Superintendent of Schools in Augusta, Me.

JOSEPH LARUE was the father of Daniel W. and the grandfather of Willie E. He married Mary Miller. To them were born eleven children:—Morgan, who died in the army, Matthew, Mary, Joseph, Miller, Caroline, Anna, William, Jane, Erastus and Daniel. None of them are living.

The LaRues are of French descent.



MRS. ABIGAIL LARUE

#### SAMUEL LASHER

Mr. Lasher, born in Falls township, Wyoming county, June 23, 1867. He is a son of Arnold and Margaret (VanWye) Lasher, and a grandson of Peter Lasher.

Mr. Lasher was born and reared on a farm. He received a common school education at the Post Hill and Falls schools. He lived with his parents until nearly twenty-one years of age, then he hired out to John Kresge of Newton for eight months. In 1889 he was employed at the Ransom Home as teamster, working under Jacob Place, who was superintendent at that

time. Here he worked four years. May 6, 1893, Mr. Lasher was employed as keeper at the Hillside Home, where he worked until March 1, 1900. For the next six years he worked at farming. Sept. 24, 1906, he returned to the Hillside Home, working as night watchman until April 1, 1912, when he was promoted to farm foreman.

ARNOLD LASHER, born June 28, 1832 in the State of New York and died April 28, 1904 in Falls township. He married Miss Margaret VanWye. She was born March 17, 1833 in

M. Metzgar. Mr. Metzgar died Dec. 28, 1897, leaving Mrs. Metzgar with two small children. Their daughter, Lulu E., born April 25, 1886 and married Garfield White, September 15, 1910, and resides in Glenburn. Ira M., lives with his mother. He owns a fly shuttle carpet loom, and does first-class weaving.

#### DENNIS MICHAELS

Mr. Michaels was born in Luzerne county, and oldest son of John Michaels, who was born in Monroe county, January 16, 1818 (died in



SAMUEL LASHER'S RESIDENCE

Monroe county. They had a family of ten children, two sons and eight daughters, namely: Mary, Peter, Helen, Dean, Lucinda, Samuel, Ida, Minnie, Carrie and Margaret.

#### MRS. ELIZABETH METZGAR

Mrs. Metzgar is a daughter of Wm. and Margaret (Ace) Blackwell, who were the parents of eight children, one son and seven daughters, five of whom are living: Mrs. Sarah Breezie, Mrs. Elizabeth Metzgar, Mrs. Emily Landside, Mrs. Ada Metzgar and John. Mrs. Metzgar was born near Pittston. Her father had a large family, and she began working out at house work when only twelve years old, which she followed until married Jan. 12, 1884 to Edward

Ransom Nov. 21, 1854), and moved to Luzerne county about 1838. He was married February 13, 1841 to Miss Sarah M. Drake (born in New Jersey March 18, 1817 and died in Ransom Feb. 4, 1894), the oldest daughter of Jacob L. Drake.

Dennis Michaels helped his mother on the home farm until twenty-one years old. In April, 1862, he went to Michigan and other western states, and returned to Ransom in August, 1864. He worked at the carpenter's trade for about twenty-five years. April 1, 1890, rented a farm at Schultzville, and has since followed farming. Jan 5, 1903 he moved to the farm in Newton township that he purchased from Paul Aten. Mr. Michaels was married



Dec. 30, 1865. He has one son, George W., who was married Nov. 29, 1905 to Sadie, daughter of Thomas Benedict. Dennis Michaels has one brother, Jacob, born Sept. 11, 1852 and is living in Adrian, Mich. (*See page 142*).

#### JOHN C. NEWMAN

J. C. Newman was born on the old homestead farm, April 25, 1865, where he has since lived. He attended the Shook school, where he received a common school education. Mr. Newman is a son of Charles H. and Mary (Lanternau) Newman.

1834. She attended school at Wyoming Seminary, and later taught school about three years.

There were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Newman two sons and one daughter, namely: Eleanor, born Oct. 11, 1863 and was married Oct. 16, 1889 to J. C. Richards of Ransom township. She died Feb. 15, 1911; John, the subject of this sketch and William H., born Aug. 13, 1871, and is a prominent physician, living at Bald Mount. (*See History of Newton Township*). Mrs. Newman is now living with her son-in-law, J. C. Richards, of Ransom.



JOHN C. NEWMAN'S RESIDENCE

John C. Newman is twice married. His first marriage being June 12, 1894 to Miss Minnie J., daughter of Samuel and Phebe (Bogert) Decker, who was born in Newton township, June 17, 1866 and died May 19, 1909. To this union were born three children, one son and two daughters, namely: Charles H., born Dec. 5, 1898; Mary E., born Aug. 12, 1901 and Florence D., born May 17, 1905.

Mr. Newman was married again, June 7, 1910, to Miss Estella Frisbie, daughter of Dan and Emma (Spangenburg) Frisbie. She was born July 6, 1885. One child, Lester, was born to them, June 5th, 1911.

Mr. Newman was elected school director in February, 1908.

CHARLES H. NEWMAN was born near Kingston, April 29, 1822 and died in Newton on the homestead farm, March 20, 1897. He was a son of Henry and Susanna (Harris) Newman. Charles H. was married March 2, 1859 to Miss Mary, daughter of John and Sarah Ann (Vaughan) Lanterman. Mrs. Newman was born in Sussex county, New Jersey, April 19,

#### WILLIAM HARRIS NEWMAN, M. D.

For miles in every direction from Newton the people are acquainted with Dr. Newman and can testify as to his skill in the practice of his profession, his upright character as a man, and that by his genial disposition he has made many friends.

Mr. Newman was born on the homestead in Newton, Aug. 13, 1871, and is a son of Charles and Mary (Lanternman) Newman. He attended the Shook district school until sixteen years of age. In 1887 he entered Wyoming Seminary where he attended three years during the winter sessions, helping his father on the farm during the spring and summer months. He taught school at Milwaukie during the winter of 1900-'01. In September, 1901, when twenty years of age, he entered the Lackawanna (now State) Hospital in Scranton, as a nurse, where he began studying medicine. Two years later he entered Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, from which he graduated in the spring of 1896, and on the 20th day of July, the same year, he received his license to practice medicine

and surgery from the State Medical Council at Harrisburg.

Dr. Newman first located in Mill City where he practiced for about six months. Then he purchased the practice and residence of Dr. F. I. Smith of Newton, locating here Dec. 31, 1896. He has an extensive practice in Newton, Falls and Ransom townships and the surrounding country.

Dr. Newman is Medical Examiner for several of the most prominent Life Insurance Companies. In February, 1904, he was elected school director, and has been re-elected twice, and is now secretary of the board in which capacity he has served for about four years.



W. H. NEWMAN, M. D.

Dr. Newman has been twice married. His first wife was Miss Eva M. Coon, daughter of Levi and Eliza (Hopkins) Coon, to whom he was married Dec. 30, 1896. She was born Sept. 15, 1873 and died Jan. 11, 1903. Dr. Newman was married again, July 20, 1904, to Miss Alice B. Coon, daughter of George C. and Jane (Moore) Coon of Ransom township. To them three children were born, namely: George C., born Aug. 16, 1905; Marion J., born Nov. 9, 1906; William H., born Nov. 15, 1907.

#### JAMES REED

Mr. Reed was born July 29, 1864 at Schultsville, and a son of Moses and Sarah (Ross) Reed. He was married April 13, 1895 to Ida M., youngest daughter of James B. and Elizabeth E. (Blakslee) Mack.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed have a family of four children, namely: Roy A., born March 21, 1897; Maud E., born Aug. 12, 1899; Lucy, born Sept. 16, 1903; Bennie J., born Sept. 4, 1905.

Mr. Reed does an extensive business weaving carpets and rugs, which have secured first premiums for the last two years at the Lackawanna County Fair and Grange Poultry Association, which is held at Clark's Summit.

#### ELMER ELLSWORTH RICHARDS

E. E. Richards was born June 13, 1861 in Newton, on the farm now owned by D. W. Richards. He is a grandson of Peter Richards, who was born March 1, 1805 and died October 1, 1850, aged 45 years, 7 months. He came to Newton about 1832 settling on the farm where his son, Daniel W., now lives. Peter was twice married. His first wife was Fanny Beemer, daughter of Jacob Beemer of New Jersey, who died Nov. 8, 1837, aged 35 years, 5 months, 9 days. His second wife was Mary Michaels, daughter of Frederick Michaels, who died June 25, 1853, aged 36 years, 7 months, 28 days.

Elmer E. Richards was married Dec. 22, 1886 to Miss Alice Harris (born in Wales), daughter of William P. (b 1819—d 1889) and Dorothy Jane Harris (who was a daughter of John Thornton of Bath, England). Mr. and Mrs. Richards have two children: Egbert E., born in Newton, Sept. 28, 1889 and is working for Frank Jennings of Chinchilla. Maud E., born in Pittston, Aug. 20, 1893, is living at home.

JACOB B. RICHARDS, born in Sussex county, New Jersey, Dec. 15, 1829 and died in Falls township, Wyoming county, Feb. 27, 1897. He came to Newton with his parents, Peter and Fanny Richards, about 1832. He was married about 1851 to Mary Elizabeth Collum, daughter of Horace and Sarah (Skellenger) Collum. She was born Nov. 4, 1832 and died April 25, 1898. Jacob B. and his wife had a family of seven children, three boys and four girls:—Horace, born about 1852 and died in California, March 15, 1908. He was twice married. His first wife, Clara Austin, of Benton, died about 1881. His second wife was Lola Snyder of Avoca. Sarah, born about 1854 and died April 22, 1903. Alice, born about 1856 and married Edwin Felts. They are living in Santa Anna, Cal. Egbert A., born about 1858, and is living in Pasadena, Cal. His first wife, Lizzie Aten, died in August, 1907. He married his second wife, Anna Vail of Pasadena, Cal., Jan. 1, 1910. Elmer E., born June 13, 1861. Susie E., born in March, 1869, and married Arthur Aten. They are now living in Pasadena, Cal. Libbie, born July 10, 1871 and died March 13, 1878, aged 6 years, 8 months, 3 days.



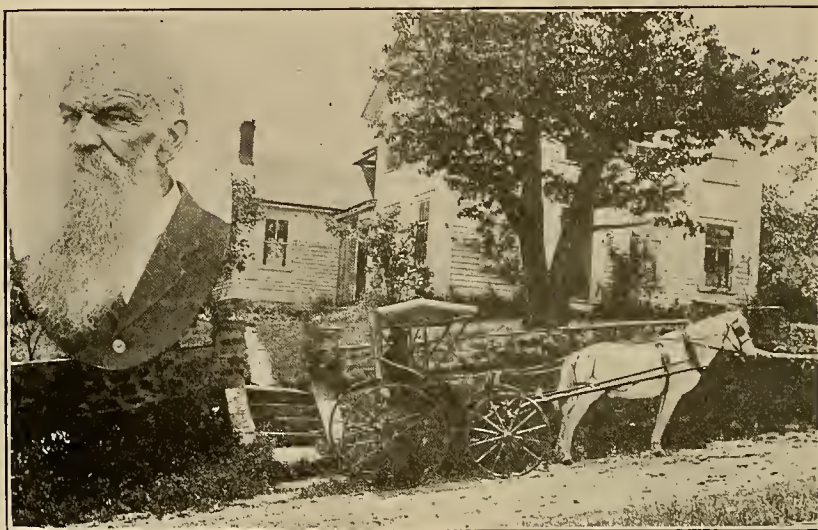
## DANIEL W. RICHARDS

Mr. Richards has filled so prominent a place among the citizens of Newton as to deserve more than a passing mention. He was born Feb. 22, 1839 in a log-house on the farm settled by his father in 1832. Mr. Richards purchased this farm April 6, 1900, which he owned until April, 1911, when he sold to Christopher Richards. He purchased the farm where he is now living May 21, 1868. This is part of the farm originally settled by his father.

D. W. Richards is a son of Peter and Mary (Michaels) Richards, and a grandson of Abram, and a great grandson of Nathaniel Richards.

October 18, 1860 to Miss Almira, daughter of Amos and Margaret (Shook) Learn. She was born July 21, 1841 and died Sept. 28, 1866. Mr. and Mrs. Richards were the parents of two sons: (1) Amos Clyde, born June 17, 1861. He married Miss Mary Hoover of Duryea. He died Oct. 25, 1892, leaving a daughter, Estella, and a son, Clyde. (2) Willie Parke, born Aug. 9, 1865 and died Dec. 23, 1872.

After the death of his first wife, Mr. Richards married (Sept. 17, 1867) Miss Marietta, daughter of John and Harriet (Smith) Thompson. She was born May 27, 1837 and died June 10, 1901. Mr. Richards had one son, John Wesley, by his second wife. He was born Jan. 26,



D. W. RICHARDS AND HIS RESIDENCE

Mr. Richards' father died when he (Daniel) was only eleven years of age, and his mother died nearly three years later.

Mr. Richards is a self-made man. His school-days were limited to the winter months, working by the month during the spring and summer. When fifteen years of age he entered Newton Hall Academy. Here he attended two winter terms of three months each. At eighteen he taught his first term of school in the old log school-house at Schultzville. For several years he worked on the farm summers and taught school winters. When twenty years of age he clerked one year for John Hice. About 1863 he purchased the store at Milwankie. In 1868 he was elected Justice-of-the-Peace, and re-elected five years later. He has been elected to serve the people of Newton in nearly every township office. Mr. Richards chose farming for his life employment in early life which has since been his chief occupation.

Mr. Richards has been thrice married. First,

1869, and married April 28, 1896 to Miss Margaret Ellen Lane. He died June 3, 1906, leaving one son, Wesley Daniel.

Mr. Richards was again married Feb. 9, 1907 to Mrs. Annie Richards, of Oklahoma.

## MRS. ELIZABETH ROLOSON.

Only one of the early settlers of Newton township is living at this writing, and her name is known throughout Newton township and surrounding country. "Aunt Betsy," as she is better known among her many friends, was born February 26, 1815, in Libertyville, Wantage township, Sussex county, New Jersey, being 97 years of age her last birthday. Aunt Betsy was the fifth child of Jesse Collum (b. March 13, 1786—d. June 29, 1877) and Anna (Roloson) (b. Mar. 1, 1789—d. May 21, 1852) Collum. Jesse Collum was the father of twenty children, fourteen by his first wife and six by his second.

Mrs. Roloson became the bride of Johnson

Roloson, March 16, 1837. They lived in Sussex county, N. J. for a couple of years after their marriage, until March 28, 1839, when they left their old home and friends in old Sussex county and started on their journey for the old Keystone State, arriving in Newton March 31, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon. They went to the home of Samuel Mittan, who came here six years before and settled on the farm now owned by George Biesecker. They were entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mittan until the next morning, April 1st, when they went into a little log cabin, only a few feet from the one now standing, which they had purchased in February from Clayfoss La Tier. This log house had been built, and for some years occupied by a man named Blair.

farther on, stood until a few years ago. Directly across the way from the house stands the spring house—fallen into dilapidation, through which flowed a broad stream of clear, pure, spring water emanating from a spring walled up and moss covered, about five feet from the spring house door.

The sweet yellow butter, cream and milk contained within that spring house will be for all time a pleasant memory to all those who have been privileged to enjoy them, not to mention cookies kept in stone jars, and preserved wild strawberry and blackberry jam, a delight to favored children. Two or three large trees threw a refreshing shade over both the spring and spring house. Just back of the log house was the apple tree nursery, where were grown



MRS. ELIZABETH ROLOSON AND HER LOG-CABIN. The Oldest Inhabitant of Newton Township.

The trip from New Jersey was long and tiresome. The snow was deep and the roads were poor, and part of the way very muddy, and for several miles large snow banks were prominent. They brought all their household goods and farm implements from New Jersey with three teams, Mrs. Roloson walking much of the way.

A turn to the left just before entering the village of Bald Mount or Newton Centre as it is better known, as you drive across the West Mountain, brings you to the site of this old home near which Johnson Roloson brought his bride over seventy-four years ago. This old home is only a ruin now, but for many years the neat, cosy home of the "oldest inhabitant" now living in Newton township. A log barn built by Mr. Roloson across the way a few rods

from seeds buried in the Autumn and dug up in the Spring to be sown. From these seed sown by Mrs. Roloson were the trees grown constituting the orchard that stands there, bearing fine fruit today. The trees later were grafted with greenings and pippins, the sprouts being brought from her father's farm in Sussex county, New Jersey, where she was born. The quince trees she brought also from her old home. At the end of the house was the peach nursery, where the trees were raised from seeds.

When Mrs. Roloson came to her new home it was a clearing in a wilderness: heavy woodland all around, even up to the spring house. The only cleared land being the field back of the house, the front yard and the field around the barn. Her husband cleared the remainder

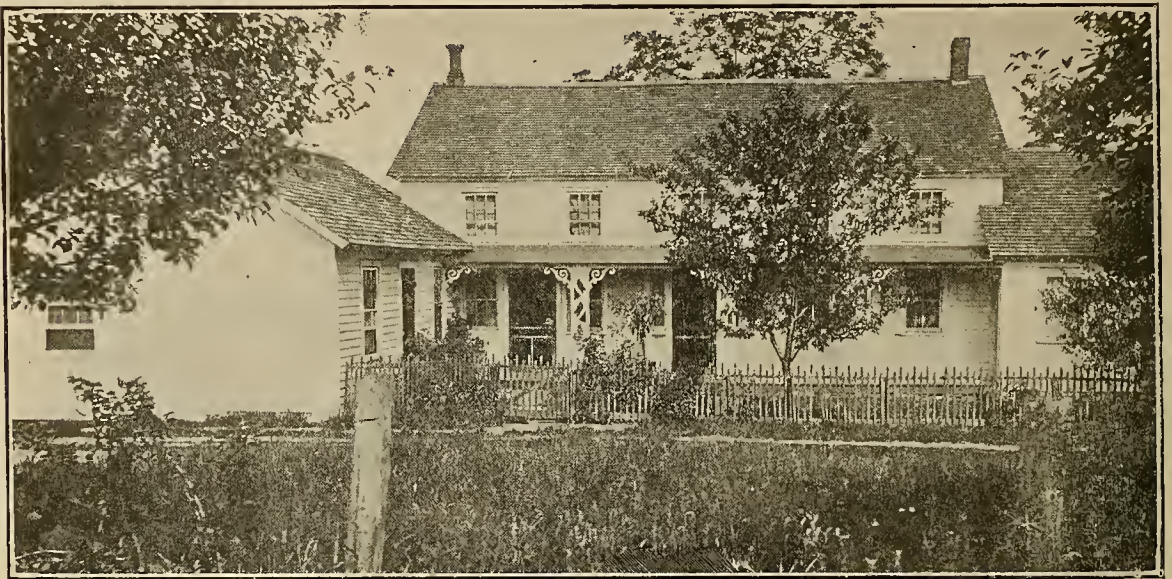


of the farm and now but little wood land remains.

Coming toward the village you pass a most picturesque little wood, and just on the farther border of the wood is the ruin of another pioneer home—known the county over as the Ross house, the early home of Mrs. John Van Buskirk, deceased, and who with her husband, also formerly of Newton Centre, was among the pioneer settlers of Northfield, Minn., now a flourishing city. John Van Buskirk was a brother of Christopher Van Buskirk, whose property adjoins the Ross lot. Across the way from the Ross house is standing a tree worthy of note. It forms an arch across the road, many of its branches growing up right from the arch

home in time to get dinner, which was a walk of about twenty miles. Where is there a girl today who would care to do that? She says that when a girl, working in Hamburg, New Jersey, she would many times walk up home after finishing her day's work a distance of eleven miles and then walk back in time to get breakfast by daylight the next morning.

The Bible which she holds in the picture accompanying this sketch has been her treasured possession since she was eighteen years of age, having purchased it with five weeks' labor at \$1 per week. She has read it through about thirty times, and it is in excellent condition. At her advanced age, she reads her Bible and other books and papers without spectacles. Mrs.



RESIDENCE OF DENNIS MICHAELS

See page 137.

good-sized trees in themselves. Mrs. Roloson knows its story. In the winter of 1836 this tree was a sapling. A very heavy fall of snow which lay on the ground until well into April weighed the slender tree until today it stands a monument to the truth of the proverb, "Just as the twig is bent the tree is inclined." Mr. Roloson, who came to the farm before bringing his wife, sowed timothy seed upon the snow that spring. The Ross property had for many years been a part of the Roloson farm until purchased with the original a few years ago.

Mr. Roloson died March 18, 1872, and for years after her husband's death. Mrs. Roloson did much of the farming, many times carrying the hay into the barn upon her back. Her butter-making abilities were known all over the country, and her butter always demanded a good price. She was accustomed to carry her butter in pails to Scranton to sell and return

Roloson experienced religion when eighteen years old, and joined the Baptist church.

Mrs. Roloson was the fifth child in a family of fourteen, and her sister, Mrs. Julia A. Ayers, of Bradford county, was the twelfth. Mrs. Ayers, alert and active as a girl, will be eighty-six years of age her next birthday (October 31, 1912).

Perhaps one of the secrets of Mrs. Roloson's perpetual youth is her active life. You would find it almost impossible to believe that she had worked as she has, or attained the age that she has, could you see how few lines mark her face. Her memory is good, remembering incidents happening over eighty-five years ago, she furnishing the writer with much valuable data of the pioneer days. She does her own work, which is remarkable for a person of her age. Her hearing is quite defective, but that is by no means an indication of old age. Mrs. Rolo-



son's grandfather, William Collum, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

Mrs. Roloson left the old log house in the Spring of 1885, and is now living in a part of her nephew's house, Andrew S. Collum, the postmaster of Bald Mount. She has continually deplored the fact and still grieves over leaving her old home where she lived so many years after the death of her husband. It is the earnest hope of her many friends that she may reach the century mark.

### AMZI ROSENKRANS

Mr. Rosenkrans is a son of Brittian and Harriet (Richards) Rosenkrans, and was born June 10, 1847 in Milwaukie.

BRITTIAN ROSENKRANS was born Sept. 15, 1822, and died Jan. 24, 1883. He was a son of Levi and Rebecca (Williams) Rosenkrans. Brittian Rosenkrans was married April 5, 1845 to Miss Harriet, daughter of Nathaniel and Catherine (Roloson) Richards. They settled on the farm now owned by William Zeiss, in Milwaukie, and about 1825 moved to the farm now owned by Amos Rosenkrans in Newton.

Mr. and Mrs. Brittian Rosenkrans were the parents of eight children, six of whom are living: Amzi, born June 10, 1847; Amos, born May 28, 1850; Johnson R., born March 3, 1853 and died in infancy; Johnson, born Mar. 22, 1855; Huldah C., born Oct. 26, 1857 and married Charles Lacoe; Lydia A., born May 16,



AMZI ROSENKRANS' RESIDENCE. Built in 1825 by Adam Beemer  
The oldest occupied house in Newton township.

Mr. Rosenkrans attended school in the old Lacoe school-house. He was married Nov. 21, 1887 to Miss Mary M., daughter of Solomon and Ellen J. (Vosburg) Van Sickle of Newton Centre. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Rosenkrans three children were born, namely: (1) Earl B., born Sept. 23, 1888. He was married Aug. 11, 1909 to Miss Belva L., daughter of John C. and Jennie (Dailey) Stark of Clarks Summit. (2) Jennie M., born Nov. 21, 1890. (3) Roana C., born June 12, 1895 and died July 11, the same year.

Mr. Rosenkrans was born and reared on a farm. By occupation he has always been a farmer. He has been constable of Newton township for nearly twenty years. He was one of the first directors of the Newton and Ransom Telephone Company.

1861 and married Dr. Theodore Senderling; Alice R., born Jan. 28, 1864; Amanda, born Feb. 16, 1866. All are living in Newton and Ransom townships except Mrs. Senderling, who is living in Scranton.

LEVI ROSENKRANS was born March 10, 1800 in Sussex county, New Jersey and died Aug. 25, 1879. He married Miss Rebecca Williams, born June 16, 1806 and died Oct. 22, 1877. To them fourteen children were born, namely: Brittian, born Sept. 15, 1822 and died Jan. 24, 1883; Lydia Jane, born May 19, 1824 and died April 5, 1897. Amanda, born June 24, 1826 and died May 8, 1888; Selah A., born Feb. 25, 1828 and died Feb. 19, 1897; William, born April 3, 1830 and died about 1886 in Iowa; Benjamin, born Aug. 2, 1832 and died March 2, 1887; Margaret A., born Oct. 16, 1835 and



died Oct. 8, 1892; Teresa, born Feb. 12, 1837 and died about 1892; Martha C., born Feb. 16, 1839 and died in 1910; Roanna C., born Mar. 8, 1841 and died Feb. 16, 1907; Laton and Levi (twins) were born Feb. 26, 1843. Laton is living in Newton, and Levi died about 1890; Judson, born March 28, 1845 and is living in Newton; Mallery J., born Mar. 26, 1847. He went west and has not been heard from for several years.

Levi Rosenkrans came from Sussex county, New Jersey, about 1827, and settled on the farm now owned by J. F. Lacoe. A few years later he moved to the farm now owned by Harry Corseilus in Milwaukie, where he lived until 1847, when he purchased the farm now owned by his grandson, Amzi, where he died.

### AMOS ROSENKRANS

Amos Rosenkrans is the third son of Brittian (1822-1883) and Harriet (Richards) Rosenkrans (1823-1900) who were born in Sussex county, New Jersey. Amos Rosenkrans has two brothers and four sisters living: Amzi, Johnson, Huldah C. Lacoe, Lydia A. Senderling, Alice R. and Amanda. Two brothers died in infancy. Amos, Alice R. and Amanda are living on the old homestead.

Mr. Rosenkrans has been an extensive grower of cabbage, tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes, carrots, onions, etc. In 1890 he began growing red raspberries, and for nearly fifteen years was one of the largest producers in this section, some years selling over \$1000 worth.

### LATEN ROSENKRANS

Mr. Rosenkrans was born in Ransom township on the farm now owned by Harry Corseilus, just over the Newton line. His father, Levi Rosenkrans, moved from Ransom to Newton township on the farm now owned by Amzi Rosenkrans, in the spring of 1848, when Laten was five years old.

Laten Rosenkrans received a common school education. He lived with his father until twenty-four years of age, when he was married Nov. 16, 1866 to Miss Ruth Ann Garrison, daughter of Eder Garrison. (See Lewis D. Garrison.) In 1875 Mr. Rosenkrans purchased the farm where he now resides from the Thomas Milligan estate. Mr. Rosenkrans keeps a dairy of ten cows, selling the milk to the Abington Dairy Co. of Seranton. Each year he raises nearly \$700 worth of cabbage, tomatoes, sweet corn, cucumbers, etc., which he markets in Seranton.

Mr. and Mrs. Rosenkrans have four children living:—Gusten, who is deaf and dumb, caused by black fever, when about two years of age; Eva S., born April 13, 1871 and married Har-

len Jacoby of Newton, Jan. 27, 1892; Emerson, born March 9, 1876 and married Miss Dora Rozler, Nov. 6, 1894. They are living in Ransom. Elmer, was married July 12, 1899 to Miss Ethel G. Singer. They are living on the farm with his father. One daughter, Rebecca, was born Jan. 25, 1868 and died March 24, 1872.

LEVI ROSENKRANS was a son of Benjamin (See Amzi Rosenkrans) and married Rebecca Williams. They had fourteen children:—Brittian, Jane, Sealey, Amanda, William, Benjamin, Margaret, Thersa, Martha, Roanna, Levi and Laten (the twins), Judson and Mallery.

### JOHN WESLEY ROSS.

Mr. Ross was born in Falls township, Feb. 24, 1837 and is a son of James and Olive (Hall) Ross, and a grandson of William and Lydia (Osborne) Ross, who were born in Scotland.

James and Olive Ross were the parents of eight children: Gilbert (b. Jan. 23, 1824), Christopher, (b. Dec. 7, 1825—d. 1826), James (b. April 13, 1828), Dorinda (b. March 4, 1832), Ziba (b. Aug. 1, 1834), John (b. Feb. 24, 1837), Sarah (b. Oct. 10, 1840) and Chester (b. Jan. 8, 1844). James Ross had one son by his second wife, Katherine Ainey Terpening: William (b. Feb. 1, 1859).

John W. Ross married Miss Margaret M. Halsted, Nov. 23, 1860 to whom five children were born: Ida D., Lee A., Ada, Eva and Ella.

Mrs. Margaret Ross died Jan. 30, 1873, aged 30 yrs., 4 mos., 6 da., and Mr. Ross was married again April 8, 1883 to Miss Lydia Ahnina Ruland, and to this union five children were born: Mabel A., born July 20, 1884; Nellie M., born April 3, 1886; Charles S., born May 17, 1888. Lena V., born June 12, 1891; Robert R., born Aug. 6, 1895.

### THAD ROTH

Mr. Roth was born Nov. 15, 1867 in Monroe county and came to Newton March 17, 1890. He is a son of Amos and Sarah (Frable) Roth, who are of Dutch descent. He was married Jan. 14, 1897 to Anna (Kern) Winter, widow of E. I. Winter, who died April 16, 1893.

Mrs. Roth was born Sept. 21, 1857 and is a daughter of Charles C. (b. Sept. 28, 1828—d. Dec. 26, 1874) and Hannah (Ayers) Kern.

Hannah (Ayers) Kern, born Aug. 8, 1828 and died Nov. 7, 1900. She was a daughter of William C. (b. Sept. 29, 1800—d. Feb. 19, 1882), and Anna (Smith) Ayers. Mrs. Ayers was born Nov. 25, 1809 and died Aug. 26, 1881. Mr. and Mrs. Ayers came from New Jersey and settled in Newton about 1820.

Mr. Roth was born and reared on the farm. By occupation he has always been a farmer.

## GILES B. ROZELLE

Mr. Rozelle is a son of Israel (b. April 18, 1815—d. Dec. 23, 1892) and Esther (Britton) Rozelle, to whom seven children were born: Amzi, Jennie (Mrs. W. S. Hopkins), Joel, Giles and Niles (twins), Oscar and Orlando. Samuel Rozelle, grandfather of Giles, was one of Newton's early settlers, coming from Newton, New Jersey in 1820.

Giles B. Rozelle learned the painter's trade, which he followed until 1881. In March, 1888 he moved to the farm where he now lives. He was married to Miss Lizzie Rifenburg Dec. 31, 1881. She is the second daughter of Benja-

in Scott township, Lackawanna county and died May 14, 1900 in Schultsville. Her mother's name before marriage was Lippincott. Mr. Rozelle came from Sussex county, New Jersey with his parents in 1820, locating on the farm now owned by Charles Lacoe. After Mr. Rozelle was married he purchased and cleared the farm now owned by Charles Kresge, moving in a log-house which was erected a few years before. In 1863 he built the house and barn.

Israel Rozelle was a son of Samuel Rozelle, and a brother of Joshua.

JOSHUA ROZELLE was born in Newton, New Jersey, April 9, 1811 and died in Wyoming,



GILES B. ROZELLE'S RESIDENCE

min and Seanea (Hough) Rifenburg, who were the parents of nine children, six of whom are living: Oelo (Mrs. Everett Ford), George, who is superintendent of the Pittston Poor Farm in Ransom; Lizzie (Mrs. Rozelle), Leslie, Frank and Lewis. Thomas, Kate and Cora have been dead several years.

To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Rozelle five children were born, namely: (1) Clifford J., born Aug. 23, 1883 and died Sept. 3, 1884. (2) Faye R., born March 23, 1886 and died April 20, 1893. (3) Halbert N., born Feb. 11, 1889 and died Aug. 5, 1889. (4 and 5) Cecil H. and Celia S. (twins), born April 18, 1892. Cecil died April 27, 1893. Celia is living with her parents.

ISRAEL ROZELLE was born April 18, 1815, in Newton, New Jersey and died Dec. 23, 1892 in Milwaukee. He was married in 1842 to Miss Esther Britton. She was born June 17, 1825

October 10, 1911, at the home of his son, Ebenezer Rozelle, aged 100 years, 6 months and 1 day. In 1820 he came to Pennsylvania with his parents and brothers and sisters, and settled on a farm in Newton township (now owned by Charles Lacoe). He was proud of telling how his father and the boys entered the unbroken wilderness for the purpose of finding a home, how they found it, and how the younger members of the family had to dodge the trees felled by the axes of the head of the house and his older brothers. His father's name was Samuel.

Mr. Rozelle's history goes back to the time when fires were lighted by means of flint-and-steel, and pine knots and tallow candles were used for illuminating the homes. There were no sewing machines, no postage stamps, no matches and only the rudest agricultural implements in the days of his youth.

In Mr. Rozelle's father's family there were fifteen children; eight own brothers and two



half brothers, three own sisters and two half sisters. Mr. Rozelle was married Feb. 14, 1839 to Clarissa Covey, taking her as "his valentine," as he would say. Mrs. Rozelle died in 1887. Six sons and one daughter were born to the union, namely: Perry, Mollie, Martin, Ebenezer, Wilbur, Edward and William. Martin died about 1906.

Mr. Rozelle boasted that he had always lived on a farm, and the one regret of his long life, he said, was that he had not filled out his whole life on a farm, he moving from the farm about two years before his death.

Mr. Rozelle had perfect control of all his senses, except being a little deaf, up to within a few days of his death. For over forty years he had been a member and a regular attendant at the services of the Methodist Episcopal church. He moved to Columbia county about 1852, where he lived for several years.

BENJAMIN FAULKNER RIFENBARY was born March 4, 1822 in Hackettstown, Warren county, New Jersey, and died Sept. 26, 1882 at West Nicholson. He was a son of Richard and Sarah (Faulkener) Rifkenbary. He came from New Jersey, Sept. 5, 1855. He was married Jan. 31, 1846 in Sussex county, New Jersey, to Miss Seanea, daughter of Thomas and Christian (Bedell) Hough of New Jersey. Mrs. Rifkenbary was born February 13, 1825, and died April 22, 1910 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Rozelle. She was one of eighteen children. Mr. and Mrs. Rifkenbary were the parents of nine children, namely: Olea, born March 16, 1847; George, born July 23, 1848; Elizabeth, born Oct. 5, 1850; Thomas, born April 6, 1853 and died Aug. 6, 1900; Cathern, born March 24, 1856 and died June 30, 1872; Leslie, born Sept. 3, 1862; Frank, born April 2, 1865; Cora, born April 14, 1867 and died June 4, 1893; Lewis, born Sept. 15, 1872.

Mr. Rifkenbary was a soldier in the Civil War, serving in Company B, 177th Regiment.

THOMAS HOUGH, grandfather of Mrs. Rozelle, was born Oct. 4, 1784 in New Jersey and died Sept. 5, 1859 at Lake Winola. He married Miss Christian Bedell. She was born Dec. 14, 1787 and died Sept. 11, 1859. Mr. and Mrs. Hough came from New Jersey to visit their children in Newton and Falls townships. Both were taken sick and died within a week at the home of their daughter, Mrs. B. F. Rifkenbary at Lake Winola (then Breeches Pond).

Mr. and Mrs. Hough were the parents of eighteen children, namely: (1) Deborah, born July 29, 1808 and died March 16, 1843. She married Jonas Courtright. Their children were Isaac, Peter, Crocker, Stephen, Elizabeth and Christian. (2) Anna Maria, born Oct. 26, 1809 and died Aug. 2, 1871. She married

Timothy Drake. Their children were Francis, Stephen, Shay, John, Esther, Mary, Ruth, Phebe and Susan. (3) John, born Dec. 26, 1810 and died Dec. 26, 1863. He never married. (4) Esther, born Jan. 24, 1812 and died Feb. 15, 1877. She married Michael Walter. Their children were Peter, Elvora, William, Clara, Timothy, Melvin, Melissa and Adelia. (5) Stephen B., born Feb. 15, 1813 and died Oct. 24, 1850. He married Miss Clara Lance. Their children were Peter H., Manley, Alice, Carissa, Osenia and Leslie. In March, 1896, Peter H. Hough composed the words and music to the hymn, "Beautiful City." He died March 4, 1907, aged 71 years. (6) Francis, born April 18, 1814 and died Feb. 4, 1894. He married Miss Catherine Clark. Their children were Frank, Eliza and Lester. (7) Catherine, born July 19, 1815 and died March 14, 1861. She married Richard Hinkle. Their children were Seanea, Maria, Phebe, Mary J., Isaac, John and Stephen. (8) Elizabeth, born Jan. 8, 1817 and died Sept. 12, 1817. (9) Isaac, born Feb. 21, 1818 and died Sept. 24, 1819. (10) Phebe, born April 12, 1819 and died Dec. 28, 1898. She married Daniel Winfield. Their children were Deborah, James, Rebecca, Benjamin, David and Edward. (11) Rebecca, born May 20, 1820 and died June 27, 1900. She married Anthony Peters. Their children were Clarissa and Emma. (12) Thomas, born Feb. 11, 1822 and died Jan. 3, 1899. He married Miss Maria Miller. Their children were Austin, Watson, Ella, Frank, Jason, Addie and Esther. (13) Jacob, born Sept. 23, 1823 and died April 4, 1824. (14) Seanea, born Feb. 13, 1825 and died April 22, 1910. She married Benjamin F. Rifkenbary (father of Mrs. Rozelle). Their children appear above. (15) Mary, born July 6, 1826 and died March 10, 1872. She never married. (16) Samuel, born June 31, 1828 and died Aug. 9, 1895. He married Miss Jane DeWitt. Their children were Laura, Ella, Gussie, Carrie, Maggie, Austin and Ernest. (17) Henry, born April 23, 1829 and died Jan. 16, 1890. He married Miss Adelia Heller. They had one daughter, Florence. (18) Jacob B., born April 9, 1831 and died Jan. 2, 1907. He married Miss Elizabeth Roloson. Their children were Edward, Charles, Lizzie and Alice.

Mr. and Mrs. Hough have had seventy-five grandchildren.

#### LEWIS R. ROZELLE

Mr. Rozelle was born March 23, 1878 on the farm now owned by Giles B. Rozelle, near Schultsville. He is a son of Amzi and Sarah (Leonard) Rozelle.

Lewis Rozelle attended the Schultsville

school until nineteen years of age. He lived with his father until twenty-four years old. Then he hired out by the month. He was married Dec. 6, 1911 to Miss Eva M., daughter of H. J. and Elizabeth (Huntsman) Clancey of Scranton. She was born Dec. 30, 1890. He moved to his father's farm, Jan. 6, 1912, where he has lived since his father's death.

AMZI ROZELLE was born July 26, 1842 in Schultzville on the farm now owned by Charles Kresge, and died March 11, 1912. He was married June 24, 1866 to Miss Sarah, daughter of John and Caroline (Ostrander) Leonard of

bert S. Lewis, who came to Newton in March, 1855. Washington Ruger lived in Binghamton, N. Y., and was a first-class artist, his pictures adorning many homes in Newton. He had three children, Emma, who died when about three years old; Robert L. and May E. (b. April 14, 1868) wife of Hayden Hoover of Clark's Summit.

Robert L. Ruger was married May 19, 1879 to Miss Elizabeth M., daughter of James E. Beebe of Binghamton, N. Y. Nine children were born to this union, but the five oldest died in early life: Albert, born March 2, 1881 and died



RESIDENCE OF LEWIS R. ROZELLE

West Abington township. She was born April 3, 1846 and died July 21, 1895.

Mr. and Mrs. Rozelle were the parents of five children, namely: (1) Gertie, died several years ago. (2) Alice, married Alonzo L. Newhart. She died Jan. 30, 1910. (3) Carrie, married Oscar Britton of Newton. (4) Effie, married Charles Fahs. He died October 4, 1908. (5) Lewis, the subject of this sketch.

Amzi Rozelle was a son of Israel and Esther (Britton) Rozelle. He was honest and industrious. His entire life was devoted to farming, and always lived in Schultzville.

#### ROBERT L. RUGER.

Robert L. Ruger is a son of Washington and Lydia A. (Lewis) Ruger, and grandson of Ro-

bert S. Lewis, who came to Newton in March, 1855. Washington Ruger lived in Binghamton, N. Y., and was a first-class artist, his pictures adorning many homes in Newton. He had three children, Emma, who died when about three years old; Robert L. and May E. (b. April 14, 1868) wife of Hayden Hoover of Clark's Summit.

#### MRS. ELIZABETH SAXE

Mrs. Saxe is the third of five children of John and Mary (Raeder) Beck. John Beck was born in Saxony, Germany, May 10, 1815, and came to this country when about fifteen years old. He devoted much of his time in traveling over a large portion of the United States until about thirty years old, when he came to Ransom, Pa., where he soon married. Here he



conducted a wagon shop for about fifteen years. About 1860, he bought a farm in Newton township, from Daniel W. Richards (now owned by his daughter, Mrs. Saxe), where he lived until a short time before his death. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Saxe, in Ransom, Feb. 19, 1895. His wife died on the farm in Newton township, July 24, 1888.

#### WILLIAM S. SEESE

Mr. Seese was born in Monroe county and is a son of William P. and Emiline (Price) Seese, who were the parents of thirteen children. Eight are living at this writing: Albert, William, George, Charles, Peter, Anna (Mrs. Chas. Dubler), Edward and Clinton.

William S. Seese worked several years in the lumber woods in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, and later worked in a stone quarry for two or three years. Since April, 1906 he has been working on a farm in Newton for Anson Van Campen. He was married on Christmas, Dec. 25, 1890 to Miss Margaret A., daughter of Ferdinand and Sarah (Sebring) Teel of Monroe county, who have eight children: Clarence, Samuel, Margaret (Mrs. Wm. S. Seese), Ida (Mrs. Andrew Betcheloff) Edward, George, Martha (Mrs. Wm. Tripp) and Emmet.

Mr. and Mrs. Seese have seven children living. One son, Elias, died Oct. 17, 1898, aged six years (*See Directory*).

#### JOHN SHOOK

The Shooks formerly came from Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. John Shook have three children, namely:

David A., born Aug. 30, 1866, and was married Oct. 4, 1887 to Miss Mary E. Smith, a daughter of Noah P. and Catherine (Jacoby) Smith. Mr. and Mrs. Shook have one daughter, Leota E., born Dec. 9, 1900.

Catherine Elizabeth, born Oct. 14, 1871, and was married Oct. 31, 1893 to Edwin Snover, son of George and Mary (Kresge) Snover. Edwin Snover and wife are working Mr. Shook's farm. They have one daughter, Beatrice M., born Sept. 20, 1907.

Emma, was born May 4, 1878 and was married May 3, 1902 to William Harder of Ransom.

John Shook is a dealer in farm implements.

DAVID SHOOK, the father of John, born in Monroe county, Oct. 23, 1809 and died in Newton township April 23, 1899. He was married Nov. 29, 1835, to Miss Catherine Kintz, who was born Feb. 14, 1816 and died Aug. 25, 1893. She was a daughter of Milton Kintz. David Shook came to Newton in 1837 and purchased the farm now owned by his son, John Shook. The winter of 1837 will be remember-

ed for years, as the long winter; the ground freezing up on the 8th of November and not thawing out until the next spring.

Mr. and Mrs. David Shook were the parents of three children: Lucy, born Nov. 8, 1837 and married Christian Kunsman, and are living in Tunkhannock. They have two children living: Matilda and Ida. One son died in infancy. Henry, born May 10, 1840 and died in Danville in Sept., 1909. He was never married. John, born Dec. 27, 1841, and was married Aug. 22, 1863 to Miss Maria Swartwood, daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth (Sickler) Swartwood of Wyoming county.

#### FRANK A. SLATE

Mr. Slate is the only son of Alfred T. (b. Aug. 29, 1830—d. June 6, 1903) and Susanna (Kunsman) (b. Aug. 6, 1839—d. March 23, 1910) Slate. One daughter died in infancy.

Frank A., like his father, has always lived on the old homestead. He received a common school education. He has been a successful farmer, and keeps a dairy of about twenty cows, selling the milk to a Scranton dealer. He also hauls milk for his neighbors.

Mr. Slate was married Dec. 7, 1895 to Miss Ida M., daughter of Harrington and Amanda (Hunter) Dunlap. They have one daughter, Naomi A., born Oct. 12, 1901.

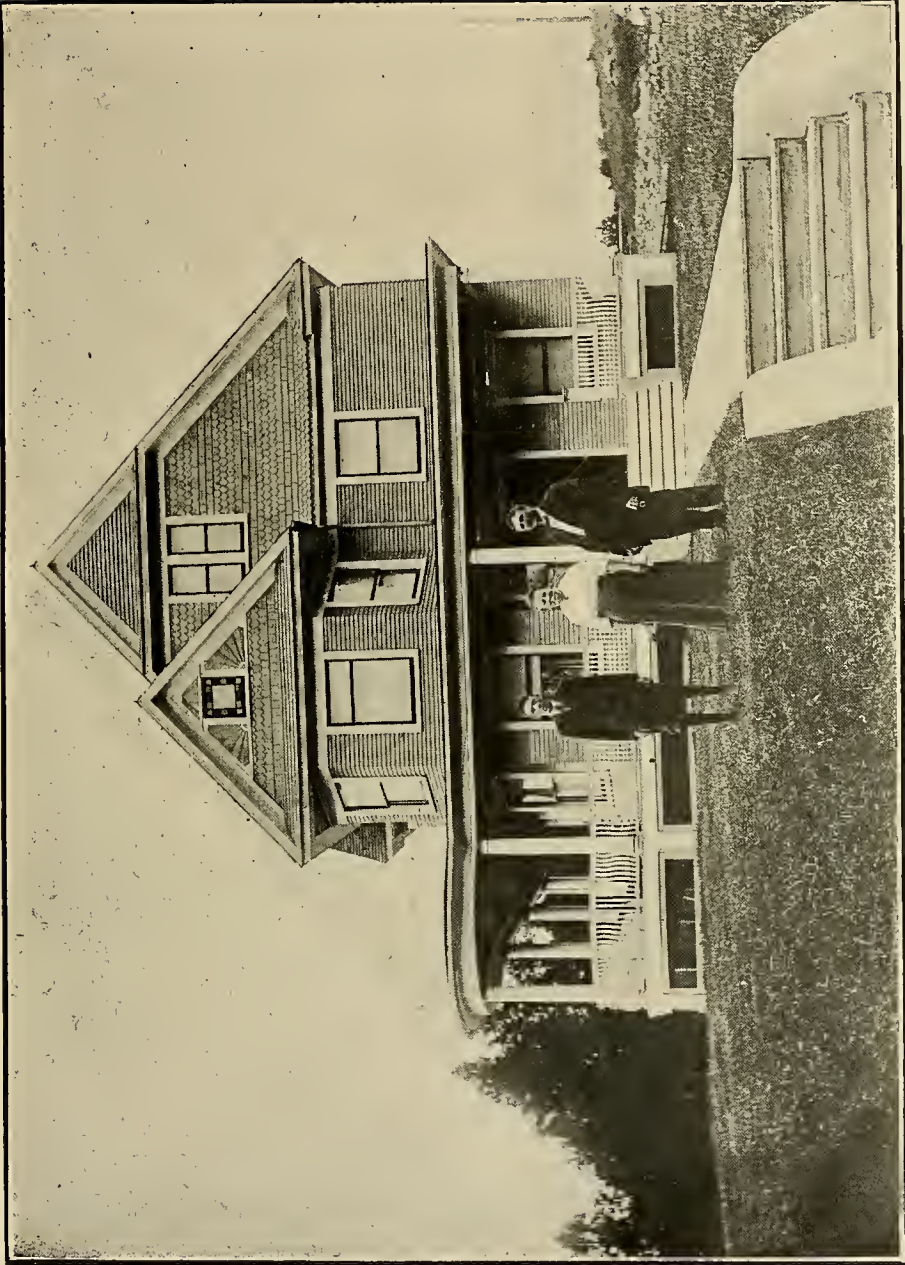
ADAM SLATE, the grandfather of Frank A., was one of early settlers of Newton, moving here from Northampton county in 1837 with his wife and two sons, Levi and Alfred T., and one daughter, Ellen. Another daughter, Catharine, was born soon after they came to Newton. He built a log house, which is standing at this writing, and cleared the farm, where he endured the hardships of pioneer life and died about eight years later. After his death the two boys remained on the farm, and finished clearing the land, and in 1892 built a large frame house to replace the old log cabin. Alfred T. was married Oct. 20, 1859 to Susanna C. Kunsman.

#### CURTIS P. SMITH

is a son of Elias A. and Ann J. (McGeever) Smith, and a grandson of Elias, the first settler of the Smith family in Newton township.

Mr. Smith was married Nov. 20, 1894 to Miss Margaret (Johns) Jones. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have one son, Ralph M., born Sept. 2, 1898. Three other children died in infancy.

ELIAS A. SMITH, a son of Elias, born March 27, 1827, on the farm settled by his father. His wife, Ann J. McGeever, born in August, 1842 in Liverpool, England. To this union six children were born, viz.: (1) George F., residing near Mill City, was born July 20, 1857, and



RESIDENCE OF CURTIS P. SMITH.





married Miss Clara Course. She died Aug. 30, 1907. (2) Melvin, born Oct. 9, 1859 and died Nov. 7, 1862. (3) Curtis P., born July 23, 1863. (4) Bertha E., born March 22, 1866 and married Horace B. Ross. They are living at 1918 Price Street, Scranton. (5) William H., born Aug. 9, 1869. (6) Elias J., born Sept. 17, 1875. William and Elias are living in Newton.

Elias A. Smith remained home with his father; he was a man of great energy and industry. He took a contract to deliver 100,000 feet of hemlock lumber in Wilkes-Barre at \$4.00 per thousand feet. This lumber was sawed in the first mill (the slow-up-and-down type) erected by his father, and was hauled to Ransom, a distance of six miles, thence rafted on the river from Ransom to Wilkes-Barre. The \$400 received for the lumber was applied on the debt against his father's farm, which was about to be sold.

He was sober, honest and upright: always ready to help a friend in need. He accumulated a large property, and at the time of his death owned about 470 acres of land, a store property on West Lackawanna Avenue in Scranton, valued at \$9,000, and a double house on Price Street, Scranton, and about \$3,000 worth of lumber and personal property. Mr. Smith inherited 206 acres of land from his father. This same tract is now owned by his heirs, 102 acres being owned by his son, Curtis P. Smith.

### ELIAS J. SMITH

Mr. Smith was born in Newton township, Sept. 17, 1875, being the youngest son of Elias A. and Ann (McGeever) Smith. He was married Nov. 24, 1893 to Miss Carrie Roeszler, daughter of John and Margaret (Lore) Roeszler of Ransom township.

Mr. Smith worked for his father in the lumber woods during the winter months for several years, and after his father's death in 1900, he came in possession of the farm where he now lives. Nov. 6, 1907 he moved to Scranton, and worked for Fred Post, the drayman, for one year, and for J. D. Williams & Bros. for six months. In June, 1909 he returned to his farm.

Mrs. Smith has two brothers and three sisters living, namely: Andrew, John, Lizzie (Mrs. Jacob Naugle), Rose (Mrs. Wm. Kiever), and Dora (Mrs. Emerson Rosenkrans). Hattie and Charles are not living.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have five children.

### WILLIAM H. SMITH

Mr. Smith is a son of Elias A. Smith, and was born in Newton township Aug. 9, 1869. Mr. Smith attended school at the Cosner school

house until about nineteen years old. He remained home working for his father until 1900, when he was thirty-one years of age. He was married April 3, 1901 to Miss Eva, oldest daughter of James and Eliza (Brown) Cooper of Newton.

Mr. Smith has a farm of 123 acres, being a part of his father's tract. In 1904 he set out 250 apple trees, 40 peach and 25 pear trees. One year later he set out 600 plum trees, which are beginning to bear at this writing, 1911. Mr. Smith had about 60 acres of fine timber (hemlock, pine, chestnut and oak), and for nearly ten years has been in the lumber business; has also cut and sold several hundred thousand mine props.

Mrs. Smith has one brother, Edward Cooper and two sisters, Anna and Laura. Anna married LaVerne Johnson of Clark's Green. Laura married Lance Lavender of Factoryville.

### MARCUS J. SMITH

Marcus J. Smith was born in Newton township, and a son of William N. and Maggie Smith.

Marcus J. Smith received a common school education. He was married Dec. 6, 1896 to Miss Rebecca M., daughter of Frederick M. and Alverda (Birth) Westcott. Mrs. Smith was only five years old when her mother died (Jan. 1, 1887) and Mr. Smith's mother died when he was nine years old. They were both married in their "teens," Mrs. Smith being only fifteen and Mr. Smith eighteen years of age. They have two children. After Mr. and Mrs. Smith were married they came to his father's farm which they worked for nine years. On Dec. 6, 1905 (their ninth wedding anniversary), they moved to Pittston, and work being scarce, they moved to Scranton three months later, March 1, 1906, when Mr. Smith learned the carpenter's trade, which he has followed since. He returned to the old homestead in Newton Jan. 29, 1910. Mrs. Smith's father was a soldier, enlisting in 1864, serving nine months until the close of the war.

WILLIAM N. SMITH enlisted in the fall of 1861 and served in the Civil War with Co. H, 52nd Reg. Pa. Vol. for three years, until he lost his leg near Charleston, S. C. August 24, 1864. He was a faithful soldier, and is now drawing a pension of \$40.00 a month. In 1867 he married Maggie Neary, who died May 7, 1887. They had two children, Blanche, born May 24, 1876, and married in December, 1893 to Chas. Scaries, and resides in Scranton; Marcus J., born Aug. 22, 1878.



## EDWIN SNOVER

Mr. Snover was born May 15, 1869 in Newton township. He is a son of George S. and Mary (Kresge) Snover of Mill City. He married Oct. 31, 1893 to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of John and Maria (Swartwood) Shook of Newton (*See John Shook*).

Mr. and Mrs. Snover have one daughter, Beatrice M., born Sept. 20, 1907.

GEORGE S. SNOVER, a son of James Snover; born April 18, 1838 in Blairstown, New Jersey. He came to Newton where he was married about 1857 to Miss Mary, daughter of Thomas and Lydia (Gregory) Kresge. (*See Thomas M. Kresge*). She was born Dec. 24, 1841 and died Jan. 28, 1909.

To Mr. and Mrs. George S. Snover were born eight children, namely: (1) Mahala, born May 3, 1859. She married H. F. Bender, and they are living at Falls. (2) Jane, born August 9, 1861, who married C. S. Richards of Newton. (3) William H., born July 23, 1865, and married Thirzah Wrigley. (4) Edwin, our subject. (5) John S., born May 4, 1871, who married Jennie Weir. (6) Jesse, born May 12, 1874, and married Cora Raif. (7) Clarence, born May 27, 1876, and married Ada Bedell. (8) Eugene, born July 19, 1881, and married Tempie Bedell.

George S. Snover enlisted March 9, 1863, in Company B, 143d Pennsylvania Volunteers, and was discharged June 20, 1865. He was a farmer in Newton for several years, and was elected school director about 1879. He married Mrs. Sarah Rought for his second wife. He is now living in Mill City.

## ARTHUR C. STEVENS

Mr. Stevens was born in Jenningsville, Wyoming county, Pa., March 18, 1884. He is a son of Benjamin and Lucy (Pewterbaugh) Stevens, to whom nine children were born: Nettie was the oldest and died about 1892. The following are living: Cynthia, married William Peters and is living in Allenhurst, Ga. Nora, married George Myers and is living in Mehoopany. Flora, married Jonah Farr and is also living in Allenhurst, Ga. Lucy, married Otis Mace and is living in Medix Run, Pa. Benjamin, married Marion Vanderburg and is living in Edgewood, N. Y. Arthur, the subject of this sketch. Howard, married Emma Parker and lives at Eldred, N. Y. Cora, the youngest, married Chas. Wandall who are living in Jenningsville, Pa.

Arthur C. Stevens was married Sept. 24, 1903 to Miss Esther P. Mead of Newton, daughter of William (b. June 30, 1861—d. Aug. 30, 1906), and Abbie (Moran) Mead. Mrs. Stevens has one sister (Elvira) and one brother (William) liv-

ing. Two sisters (Myrtle and Leachen) and one brother (John) are dead.

Mr. and Mrs. Stevens have one son, Clarence A., born March 10, 1908.

## WILLIAM SWEET

Mr. Sweet was born in Somersetshire, England, April 23, 1877. He is a son of William and Elizabeth (Fear) Sweet, and a grandson of Sandy Sweet.

William Sweet, our subject, was married April 27, 1896 to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Albert and Ann (Norton) Rice of Somersetshire, England. Mrs. Sweet was born June 5, 1875. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Sweet three children were born, namely: Hubert, born Sept. 15, 1897; Gertrude M., born Feb. 10, 1902; Margaret A., born July 29, 1906.

Mr. Sweet and family came to this country Feb. 26, 1909, sailing from England February 17th. He is working for Wm. J. Biesecker of Newton Centre.

Mrs. Sweet is a sister of Mrs. Jesse Ware of Newton township.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Rice, the parents of Mrs. Sweet, are the parents of twelve children, all of whom are living, namely: Mary, Alice, Lilly, George, Elizabeth, Frank, Fanny, Robert, William, Jane, Bessie and Kate.

WILLIAM SWEET, SR. was born Dec. 23, 1847 in Somersetshire, England, where he died Jan. 26, 1889. His wife was born Dec. 21, 1847 in Somersetshire, England, where she is now living. She was a daughter of John and Ann (Hembry) Fear. Mr. and Mrs. Sweet were the parents of nine children: Sandy, Edwin, Arthur, Emma, William, Mary, Albert, Gilbert and Mabel. Sandy and Edwin died in childhood.

## ADAM THOMPSON

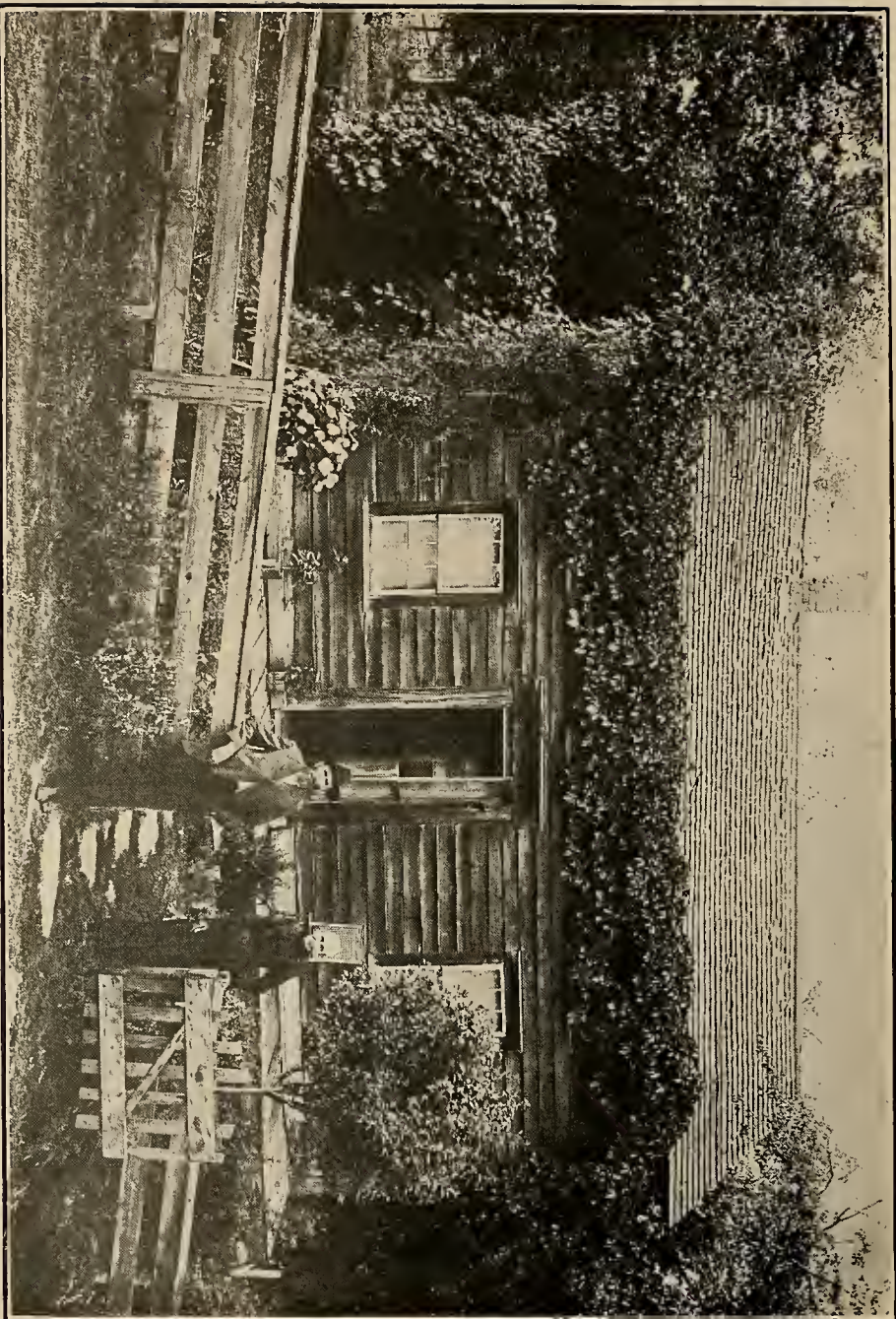
Our subject is a son of Andrew and Jane (Litts) Thompson. He was born Jan. 14, 1840, and was married Nov. 14, 1861, to Miss Catherine E. Smith, daughter of D. Madison and Susanna Smith. She was born Dec. 7, 1841 and died Dec. 30, 1895.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were the parents of four children, namely: (1) Estella M., born April 20, 1863 and died March 12, 1880. (2) Frank Leslie, born March 31, 1866, is living near Schultzville. (3) Elmer, born Feb. 1, 1871, is married and living near Philadelphia. (4) Edith Gertrude, born Oct. 20, 1881, married Henry Freeman and they are living in Benton township. They have one daughter, Ruth Mildred, born in November, 1902.

ANDREW THOMPSON, a son of Adam and Sarah (Cosner) Thompson, born Feb. 11, 1811, in New Jersey, and died October 19, 1850



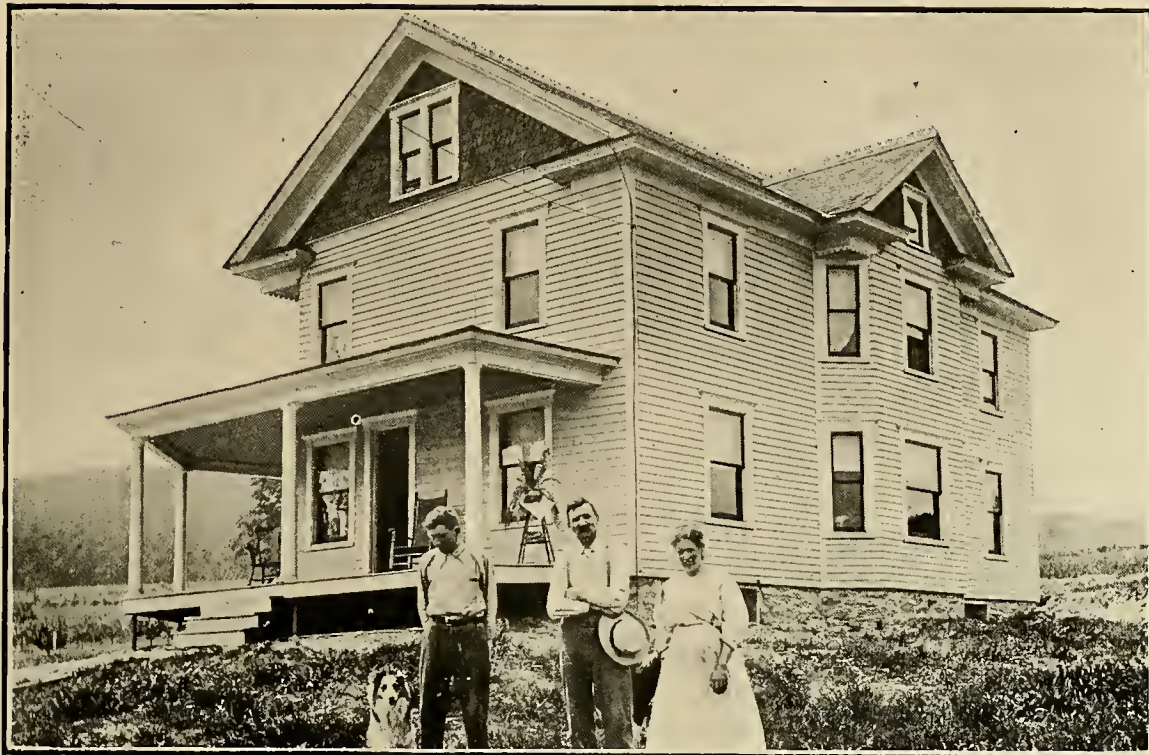




ADAM THOMPSON'S RESIDENCE

Built in 1856 by his mother, Mrs. Jane Thompson, who is standing near his side in the picture, which was taken a few years before her death.



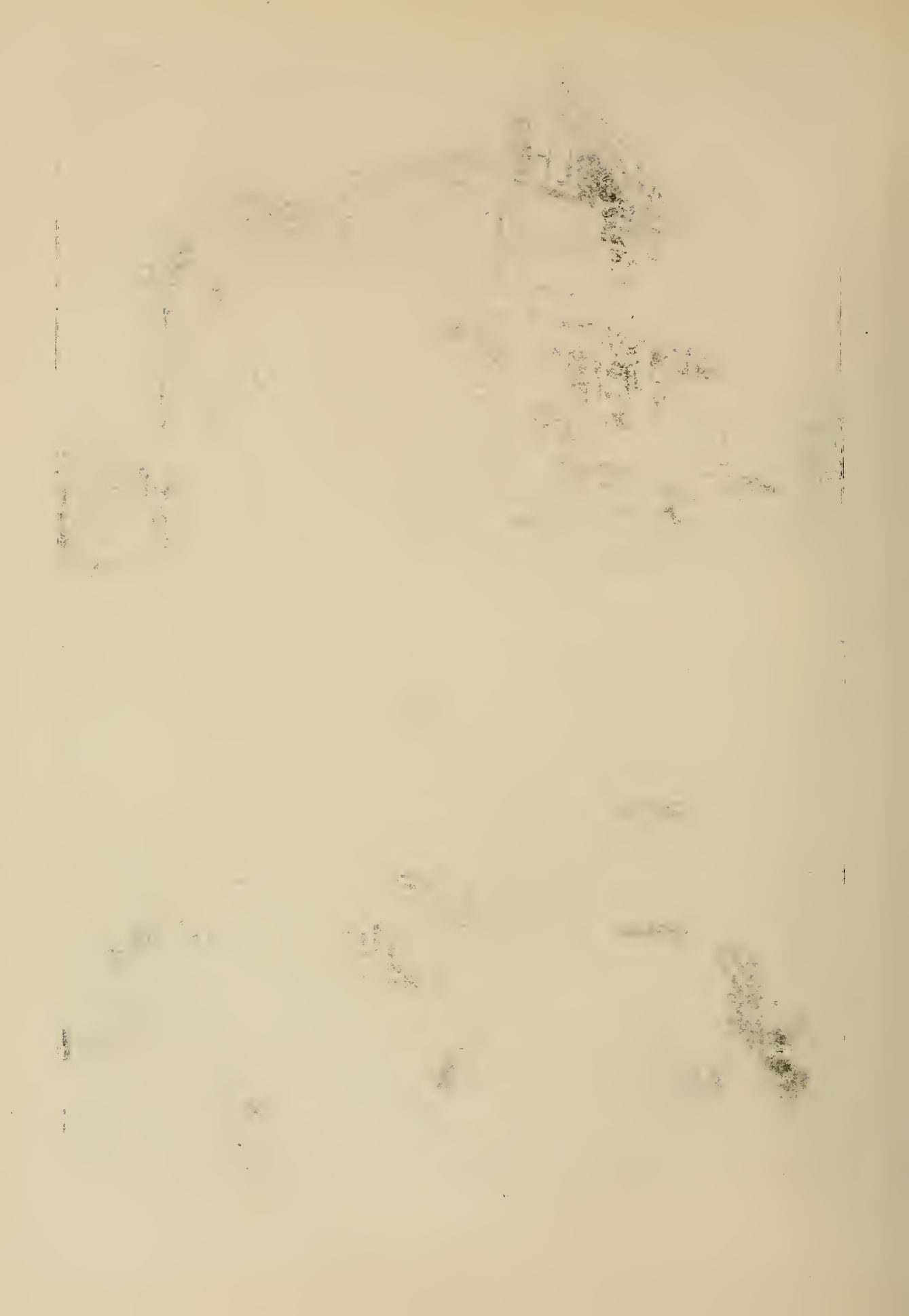


F. L. THOMPSON'S RESIDENCE



F. L. THOMPSON'S BARN AND HOLSTEIN COWS





in Newton. He married Feb. 22, 1834, to Miss Jane, daughter of Henry and Catherine (Hoyt) Litts of Newton. Mrs. Thompson was born June 16, 1817 in New Jersey and died July 15, 1904. (*See Henry Litts.*)

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were the parents of three children, all sons: Alva, born Nov. 8, 1834, and married Miss Harriet Winters. He died March 19, 1890; Adam, born Jan. 14, 1840, the subject of this sketch; Henry, born Dec. 16, 1841, married Miss Elizabeth Swartz and they are living in Peckville.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson settled and lived on the farm now owned by their grandson, F. L. Thompson.

Mrs. Jane Thompson or "Gran" as she was more commonly called and by which title she was best known, came to Newton with her parents in February, 1821, when she was less than four years of age. In the field, which is now the Newton cemetery, "Gran's" father had sown rye, and as he owned no gun, she was sent with a large club to pound upon the rail fence to frighten the deer away from the grain. Her early education was received in the old log school-house, known as the "Morgan School-house," situated near where Thomas Veety's residence now stands. Her first teacher was Anthony Briggs, and the second Nancy Ackery. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Thompson lived in her own home, on what was a part of her father's farm, now owned by her son, Adam.

Just below this home was a large spring, now drained, known as the Bear spring, so called because in the pioneer days Zebulon and John Comstock came from Wyoming to trap bears. She says she remembers hearing Zebulon tell her father about bringing an old horse up for bait, and that they had to chop down trees to make a place for the trap. Six days later, when they returned, horse and trap had disappeared, but there was a trail of blood, following which for about ten rods they found the trap and their game, a large bear.

ADAM THOMPSON, grandfather of our subject, was among the first settlers of Newton. He came from Sussex county, New Jersey in 1819, and settled on the farm where George Biesecker is living. Here he made a clearing in the wilderness and built a log-house. Later he erected an ashery and manufactured potash. He was a son of Andrew Thompson, who came from Scotland. He was born in Sussex county, New Jersey, July 18, 1786 and died in Newton Oct. 4, 1833. His wife, Miss Sarah Cosner, was born Jan. 30, 1785 and died Feb. 2, 1853.

To Adam Thompson and wife five children were born, namely: (1) John, born April 26, 1808 and married Miss Harriet Smith, daughter of Elias and Harriet (Ayers) Smith. (2)

Mina Jane, born June 21, 1811 and married Jacob Courtright. (3) Andrew, born Feb. 11, 1813 and married Miss Jane Litts. (4) Helen, born July 27, 1815 and married Jacob Smith. (5) Adam, born Feb. 17, 1822 and married Lydia Jane Rosenkrans, daughter of Levi and Rebecca (Williams) Rosenkrans.

All were born in New Jersey except Adam, the youngest.

ANDREW THOMPSON, the great grandfather of our subject, was born in Scotland, and later came to this country settling in New Jersey. He married Miss Margaret ———, by whom he had five children: Adam, born Dec. 11, 1777 and died in infancy; Anne, born June 27, 1781; Jenmet, born May 22, 1783; Adam, born July 18, 1786; Andrew, born July 24, 1788.

The above names and dates were copied from an old Scotch Bible which Andrew Thompson brought from Scotland. On the cover is written: "Andrew Thompson. His Book. Anno Domini, 1761."

#### F. L. THOMPSON

F. Leslie Thompson was born March 31, 1867 on the old Thompson homestead where he now resides. He is the oldest son of Adam and Catherine (Smith) Thompson, and great-grandson of Adam Thompson, one of the Pioneer settlers in Newton, who came from Scotland and settled in 1819 on the farm where Geo. Biesecker now lives, near Newton Centre.

Mr. Thompson graduated from Keystone Academy in 1889. On the 13th of March, 1890 he purchased his father's farm where he has since resided. He taught several terms of school in Newton township, three terms at Glenburn, and was principal of the Dalton High School for three terms. He was married Mar. 31st, 1891 to Miss Agnes Belle White of Newton. To this union four children were born: Howard, Maurice, Roy and Robert. Howard died when eight years of age and Roy died when fourteen month old.

In 1907, Mr. Thompson tore down the old barn erected by his grandfather, Andrew Thompson, and erected a large modern structure, 40x56 feet, with a concrete basement, equipped with running water and the latest improvements for extensive dairying. He is an up-to-date dairyman, truck farmer and horticulturist; having a fine large apple orchard. He also produces large quantities of fine timothy hay for the local market.

Up to the year 1910, Mr. Thompson had been living in the old frame house erected by his grandfather in 1844. During 1910, he had the old house torn down and built a fine twelve-room residence across the road from it.

Mr. Thompson is secretary of the Lacka-



wanna County Agriculture Society; secretary of the Lackawanna County Fair and Grange Poultry Association; secretary of Lackawanna Pomona Grange, which office he has held for about five years. He is, also, secretary of Newton Grange No. 251, and Third Vice-President of Lackawanna County Horticultural Society.

#### ANSON HENRY VAN CAMPEN

Mr. VanCampen was born near Falls, Pa., and is the youngest of six children, of Henry (1818-1883) and Phoebe (Bennett) (1829-1876) VanCampen.

Anson VanCampen has only one brother and one sister living, Lester of Clark's Summit, and Mrs. John Kresge of West Pittston. Two

keeps a dairy of twenty cows and sells his milk to Scranton dealers. He also raises garden truck which he sells in Scranton.

Mr. Van Campen was married March 28, 1893 to Miss Ida J., the oldest daughter of El-nathan and Nancy (Robinson) Johnson of Dalton. Mr. and Mrs. Van Campen have two daughters living, Mabel and Orla. One daughter, Ruth P., born June 20, 1896 and died July 31, 1909.

#### HORTON B. VAUGHN

Mr. Vaughn was born at Sciotavale, Sullivan county, Pa., April 17, 1863. He was the oldest son of Benjamin R. and Sybil P. Vaughn.

Horton B. Vaughn received a common school



RESIDENCE OF HORTON B. VAUGHN

brothers, Amzi and Theron, and one sister, Mrs. Emorgene Kresge, have been dead for several years. Mr. VanCampen received a common school education, and when sixteen years of age came to Newton township where he worked for John Kresge, his brother-in-law, for nearly two years. In 1885 he began working at the Hill-side Home, where he remained for nearly seven years, leaving the Home in June, 1892, going to Old Forge, where he held the position of barn boss with the Connell Coal Company for ten years until they sold out to the Lehigh Valley Coal Company. Here he continued working four years longer.

While at Old Forge Mr. VanCampen was elected School Director for two terms, and served as treasurer of the board for two years. In March, 1906 he came back to Newton and rented the farm where he now resides. He

education, and when about twenty-two years of age went to work in the lumber woods in Tioga county, Pa., where he worked until the fall of 1893, when he returned to Sullivan county. In 1898 he entered the coal mines at Bernice, working there for six years. Mr. Vaughn moved to his present home in Newton township (part of the Peter Sutton farm) in 1904, and since then has been engaged in farming. Mr. Vaughn was married June 7, 1890 to Miss Elizabeth Holmes, the oldest daughter of Lewis and Mary (Green) Holmes. (See John G. Holmes). Mrs. Vaughn was born in Cherry township, Sullivan county, Pa., May 18, 1856. She taught eleven terms of school, teaching her first term when seventeen years of age and continued teaching until twenty-seven years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn have two children,

namely: Claud B., born June 28, 1891, and Ella W., born May 2, 1897. Both are living at home

BENJAMIN R. VAUGHN was a son of William L. and Martha (Ross) Vaughn and was born Sept. 1, 1832 in Vermont, moving to Sullivan county with his parents when four years of age. He was married April 17, 1862 to Miss Sybil P. Redfield, who was born in Chemung county, N. Y., Oct. 25, 1842 and was a daughter of Levi Redfield.

CAPTAIN JOHN GREEN, grandfather of Mrs. Vaughn, was captured during the Revolution by the English and confined in Mill Prison in England. Later he was paroled and sent to France, whence still later he brought to this

owned by the State and not by the U. S. Government.

Mrs. Vaughn's grandfather, John Sims Green, fought in the War of 1812, being a member of the State Fencibles, a crack regiment of Philadelphia.

### PETER P. VOSBURG

Peter P. Vosburg attended the graded school at Wyoming and nearly one term at Bloomsburg, and from there was taken to the hospital where he underwent an operation. He was married Dec. 24, 1896 to Miss Maye, daughter of Joseph and Susan (Kern) Kircher. (See *Edward A. Kern*). They have one daughter, Alta Mae, born Aug. 21, 1909.



P. P. VOSBURG'S RESIDENCE

county the "Due du Lausan," a French battleship, purchased from the French Government, which he later named the "Empress of China."

In 1784, Capt. Green, having left the navy to engage in private business, first carried the American flag in Chinese waters on the ship, the "Empress of China." Upon returning from this voyage he brought the first set of chinaware imported direct from China, and also the first Shanghai chickens. Dr. Harvey of Philadelphia is the proud owner of three pieces of the chinaware.

Capt. Green was one of the founders of the "Society of the Cincinnati," and both Captain Green and Captain Craig were charter members. The "Sons of the Cincinnati" is one of the oldest organizations in this country.

Mrs. Vaughn is also a descendant of Capt. James Craig, Jr. of the Pennsylvania navy. Before the Revolutionary War the navy was

In 1897 he purchased the middle tract of the old Kern homestead where he now lives. Mr. Vosburg is an extensive grower of potatoes, having purchased all up-to-date machinery for planting, cultivating and harvesting the crop, producing from 1000 to 2000 bushels a year. He produces different kinds of vegetables which he sells in Scranton. He is also much interested in the modern methods of growing fruit under scientific principles.

Mr. Vosburg is equipping his home with hot and cold water, bath and modern improvements. He is installing an acetylene gas plant.

Mr. Vosburg's parents moved to North Carolina in 1888, where he lived seven years. He was born Aug. 31, 1873. Mrs. Vosburg was born Oct. 7, 1874. Mr. Vosburg is a son of Joseph B. Vosburg.

Jos. B. Vosburg enlisted in the army when young and lost his left arm in the Battle of the



Wilderness. Since his marriage in 1867 he has lived in thirteen different states. He was born April 13, 1845 and died Feb. 13, 1904. He married Miss Margaret A. Parrish. They were the parents of seven children, namely: George Corey, who is living in Lincoln, Del.; Susie, who died in 1877; Mrs. Dora Sutton of Lincoln, Del.; Peter P. of Newton township; William P. of Lincoln, Del.; Mrs. Anna Faux and Mrs. Rita Leach of Wyoming, Pa.

### SAMUEL WALTER

Mr. Walter was born March 11, 1854 in a log house on the farm where he is now living, and where he has always lived except about one year. He is a son of John and Sarah (Rought)

farm with his mother. He built all the buildings now standing on the place.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter have six children, five sons and one daughter. All are living at home.

HENRY and CATHERINE WALTER, grandparents of Samuel Walter, came to Newton about 1832 and settled on the farm owned by Chas. H. Koerner, having a family of fourteen children. He had only six sheep, a farrow cow and three cents in money, but was saving and industrious and when he died owned over 200 acres of land.

### JOHN EDWARD WARD

Mr. Ward was born in Tunkhannock Aug. 12, 1857, and is a son of John J. and Hannah M. Ward.



RESIDENCE OF J. E. WARD

Walter, being one of a family of thirteen children, only five are living at this writing: Mary, wife of William Gruver, living near Miner's Mill; Hila Ann, wife of John Huntzman of Scranton; Susan, wife of Judson Rosenkrans of Newton; Rebecca, wife of John Stout, and lives in Sugar Notch, and Samuel, the subject of this sketch.

Samuel Walter was married Jan. 18, 1875 to Miss Elizabeth, the oldest daughter of William and Elizabeth (Rupp) Scherer, who were the parents of thirteen children, seven of whom are living: Christina, wife of Charles Blackwell of Ransom; William, who is living at Taylor; Jacob and Anna have never married and are living together in Taylor; Mary, wife of Wm. Davis of Taylor; Yety, wife of Jesse Thompson, living in Newton.

Samuel Walter was only thirteen years of age when his father died. He remained on the

John Edward Ward was married Aug. 16, 1894 to Miss Minnie E. LaRue, daughter of Daniel W. and Abigail (Warren) LaRue. (See W. E. LaRue). Mr. and Mrs. Ward are blessed with two sons: John D., born June 16, 1895 and Charlie E., born May 3, 1903.

JOHN J. WARD, born in Dutchess county, N. Y., Aug. 4, 1833 and died in Newton Aug. 11, 1885. He married Miss Hannah M. Mullison who was born July 24, 1831 near Tunkhannock and died in Newton March 6, 1908. He was a soldier in the Civil War, enlisting in June, 1864, serving eleven months in Co. K, 203 Reg. Pa. Vol. Was also a sharpshooter. After contracting typhoid fever, he was discharged July 3, 1865. He was a moulder by trade and worked about seven years in Gerhart's Foundry at Tunkhannock. He moved from Tunkhannock to Scranton in April, 1861, and to Old Forge

about 1868, and five years later came to Newton. Mr. and Mrs. John J. Ward were the parents of four children, namely: Flora, John Edward, Bertha and Ernest R. Flora is a waitress at the Keystone Academy; Bertha, born July 23, 1863 and died Sept. 21, 1886; Ernest, born in Old Forge, Aug. 4, 1869, and was married Nov. 28, 1894 to Miss Anna Van Buskirk. They are living in Newton.

### JESSE WARE

Jesse Ware was born in Somerset county, England, Feb. 28, 1871, and came to this country when about seventeen years old. He is the son of Thomas and Salena Ware, who live in England and have five children, three sons and two daughters: Frederick, Jesse, Ernest E., Mrs. Emma White and Mrs. Darcas Carey.

Jesse Ware had only 75 cents when he came from England. He worked in mines in Scranton for two years, after which he hired out to Freeman Leach at Chinchilla, where he worked five years. He returned to England Dec. 11, 1895, where he was married to Miss Alice Rice, March 10, 1896. He returned to this country with his wife, March 25, the same year. He purchased the farm where he now lives of David Kern in April, 1906. Mr. Ware, with his wife and son, made another trip to England Dec. 3, 1908, returning three months later.

To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Ware four children were born, namely, Arthur J., born March 9, 1898 and died four months later; Walter J., born Aug. 7, 1899 and died in September, the same year; Floyd J., born June 28, 1903; Leta, born Dec. 6, 1910.

### JAMES M. WHITE

Mr. White is the son of John (born in Scotland in April, 1834 and killed in Colorado in 1876) and Elizabeth (Thompson) White, to whom seven children were born, five of whom are living: Anna (Mrs. Henry Burrough) John, James, Robert and Agnes (Mrs. Leslie Thompson).

James White was only nine years old when his father was killed. Then he began living with John Coon, where he lived until twenty-one years of age. He was married Dec. 27, 1887, to Miss Edith P., daughter of Harry (1822-1905) and Lucy (Snover) Smith of Newton township.

In 1911 Mr. White purchased and moved to the farm where he now resides. He was elected school director for one term, and in February, 1900 was elected tax collector, serving for six years. In 1906 he was elected supervisor and served two years.

Mrs. White has three brothers and three sisters living: Mrs. Maggie Sarles, Ziba S., Seymour, Marilla (Mrs. Paul Heidt), Harry and Alice (Mrs. Wm. Langenbach). Two brothers died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. White have one son, J. Van Noy, born Feb. 3, 1895.

### HORACE WILLIAMS

Mr. Williams was born in Ransom township, Feb. 22, 1846, and was the son of James and Anna (Roloson) Williams, who were the parents of twelve children: Perry, Isaiah, Lydia, Maria, Britton, Catherine, Eveline, Harriet, Andrew, Sarah, Amanda and Horace. Only three are now living: Harriet, married Benj. Relph, and lives in Dalton; Amanda, married Jephthie Dady and lives in Bradford county; and Horace.

Horace Williams was married Jan. 21, 1874 to Miss Mallie Milligan, the sixth child of Thomas and Elizabeth (Lacoe) Milligan. To them three children were born: Frances, born May 23, 1874, who married Herman Moser Feb. 20, 1895, and are now living in Scranton. Eugene was born Jan. 21, 1879 and died July 12, 1880. Almeda was born Sept. 6, 1881 and died July 20, 1883.

### DANIEL WINTERS

Mr. Winters was born Dec. 15, 1880 in Milwaukee. He has been employed as blacksmith at the Hillside Home since April 4, 1904. He is a son of Manley and Minnie (Ace) Winters. He was married Sept. 18, 1907 to Miss Belle, daughter of Solomon and Amelda (Decker) Avery of Mill City. She was born Feb. 24, 1886 near Mill City.

Mr. and Mrs. Winters have two children, one son and a daughter, namely: Harold W., born Aug. 13, 1908 and Gwendolin A., born Sept. 24, 1910.

MANLEY WINTERS, born in 1847 in Milwaukee and died June 27, 1905 at Square Top, Falls township. He married Miss Minnie, daughter of Adam Ace. She died July 4, 1902. They had four children, namely: (1) Charles H., married Miss Dora Cook. He is a blacksmith at Square Top. (2) Wesley A., married Miss Mary Fahs. He is a blacksmith at Schultzville. (3) Daniel, the subject of our sketch. (4) Bertha, married John Butterfield. They live in Schultzville.

SOLOMON AVERY, born May 26, 1859 near Mill City. He married Miss Amelda, daughter of Isaac and Eliza (Williams) Decker. She was born May 3, 1862 and died Sept. 25, 1893. They had two children: Andy L., born May



12, 1884 and married Miss Lena Sonsky: Belle, born Feb. 24, 1886, the wife of Mr. Winters.

### PETER C. WINTER

Mr. Winter was born Feb. 9, 1863 in the house where he is living, and is a son of Merritt and Jane (Thompson) Winter. He attended the Newton school until about twenty years of age. In June, 1884 he went West where he spent several months visiting in Illinois, Iowa and Dakota.

Mr. Winter was married April 25, 1888 to Miss Georgia A., daughter of Mortimer and Lousia (Hoover) Fulkerson of Wayne county.

Peter and Elizabeth (Courtright) Winter. Peter Winter was born in 1785 in Belvidere, New Jersey, and came to Pittston in 1807 where he settled on a farm and conducted a blacksmith shop. He served his township as Justice-of-the-Peace for fifty years. In 1850 he was elected Commissioner of Luzerne county. He was respected by all, and lived and died a good Christian. He died Feb. 27, 1872. His family consisted of six children, namely: Polly, Haines, Harriet, Merritt, Eliza and Ziba. Merritt Winter was married Feb. 13, 1848 to Miss Jane, daughter of Isaac and Mary (Wilcox) Thompson of Pittston. Mrs. Winter was born August 7, 1820 and died March 4, 1895. Mr. and



P. C. WINTER AND HIS RESIDENCE

Mrs. Winter was born June 22, 1870 in Moosic.

MORTIMER FULKERSON was born May 12, 1822 in Pleasant Mount township, Wayne county, and died Sept. 16, 1905. He was married in 1862 to Miss Louisa, daughter of Michael and Maria (Lampman) Hoover. Mrs. Fulkerson was born Sept. 3, 1842 and died June 22, 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Fulkerson were the parents of four children: Virginia, Isabelle, Georgia and Harvey. Virginia and Isabella died in infancy. Harvey married Miss Dora Allen who died June 21, 1901, leaving two small children, Hattie and Belva. They are living in Wayne county. The Fulkersons are of French descent.

MERRITT WINTER was born May 1, 1818 at Inkerman and died Jan. 18, 1899 on the farm now owned by his son, Peter. He was a son of

Mrs. Merritt Winter were the parents of ten children, namely: Joannah, Alva, Alonzo, James, Edson, Melisa, Emma, Jennie, Peter and Claude. Only four are living: Alva, James Emma and Peter.

ISAAC THOMPSON, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was born near Pittston, Nov. 18, 1796, his parents moving to that place from Philadelphia about 1770. In June, 1818 he was married to Miss Maria Wilcox whose parents were among the first settlers. At the time of the Wyoming Massacre they escaped to Dutchess county, N. Y., where they remained until after the Revolutionary War, when they returned to their ruined homes. Mr. Thompson died in October, 1900, aged 104 years. He had a family of fifteen children.

## REV. WALLACE CLIFTON WOLCOTT

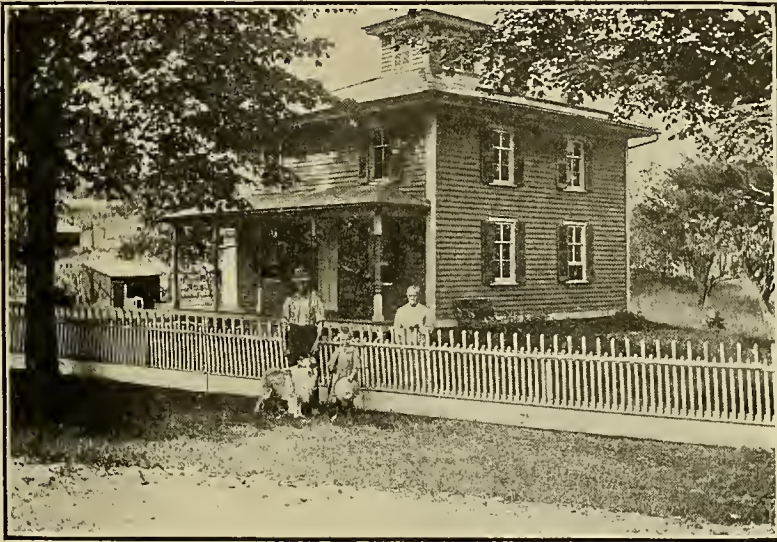
Rev. W. C. Wolcott was born in Delphi, Onondaga county, N. Y., May 19, 1875. In 1886 he moved with his parents to Cortland, N. Y., where he lived for nineteen years. During this period of his life he attended the State Normal School at Cortland, took a business course in the Cortland Business College and spent a few years as clerk and bookkeeper.

In 1904 he was granted his first license to preach, and took his first charge, Flemingville, N. Y. He afterwards spent nearly two years at Wyoming Seminary and has taken some work with the University of Chicago. Mr. Wolcott was appointed to the Bald Mount charge at the session of the Wyoming Confer-

Flemingville, N. Y., 1904; Old Forge, 1906 Eatonville, 1907; Mehoopany, 1908-1911; Bald Mount, 1912.

## MRS. CATHERINE McNAY

Mrs. McNay was born in Ireland Nov. 27, 1838, and came to this country in 1860. She is a daughter of John and Margaret (Connors) Connors. She was married in 1864 to James McNay, who died about 1880. Mr. and Mrs. McNay were the parents of four children, three sons and one daughter, namely: John, James, Thomas and Margaret. James died in February, 1887. Margaret married Thomas McDonald and is living in Scranton. Thomas is living with his mother, working the farm recently pur-



RESIDENCE ON THE FARM OWNED BY THOMAS McDONALD

Better known as the Theodore Stone Farm, which was settled in 1803 by Barronet Rodney. Built about 1855 by Theodore Stone.

ence held in Elm Park church, Scranton, in March, 1912.

On May 18, 1898, he was married to Miss Anna Belle Snyder of Ithaca, N. Y. She was born in Tompkins county, N. Y., May 19, 1875 (the same day as her husband). She attended the Cortland Normal School, and taught in the Tompkins county schools for five years. Previous to her normal course she attended the Ithaca High School.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wolcott; a son, Harold, born March 21, 1907, and a daughter, Mildred, born April 14, 1911.

Mr. Wolcott has served the following charges:

chased by Thomas McDonald.

THOMAS McDONALD was born March 20, 1875, in Dunmore, where he lived until eighteen years of age. Then he went to Scranton, where he worked for M. J. Bird, proprietor of the Globe Hotel, for one year. After that time he was employed for thirteen years by P. J. Conway, proprietor of the Ariel Hotel. On the 21st day of September, 1908, Mr. McDonald purchased the Armory Hotel, at 919 Washington Avenue, where he now lives. He purchased the Theodore Stone farm in Newton township, Jan. 27, 1910. Mr. McDonald was married June 17, 1904 to Miss Margaret McNay, daughter of Mrs. Catherine McNay.



## CEMETERIES IN NEWTON AND RANSOM

The first burying ground in Ransom is located near the Ransom Home, on the bank of the river. The first interment was that of Richard Gardner, Jr., a son of Richard Gardner, who died March 3, 1797, aged 3 years, 1 month and 22 days. Mrs. John Gardner is buried here. It was fenced in 1901 by the descendants of John Gardner, and placed in charge of Dial Rock Chapter, D. A. R.

The cemetery at the Lutheran church near the village of Ransom, was donated in 1846, by Jacob and John Dersheimer. The first interment was that of Conrad Shafer, a soldier of the Revolution, who died in 1846. The first burial in the cemetery at Milwaukie was that of Arthur M. Skinner, an infant son of Daniel S. and Rebecca M. Skinner, who died March 30, 1859, aged 1 year, 1 month and 3 days.

Margaret Ann Litts, daughter of Henry Litts, died Aug. 30, 1824 and was the first person buried in the cemetery at Newton Centre. In the fall of the same year an infant child of James Williams was buried.

## PETER BEDELL

Peter Bedell was born in Sussex county, N. J. April 9, 1803 and died in Milwaukie June 9, 1874. He came to Newton about 1826, and settled on the farm where Charles Finkler now lives. His wife was Susannah Caus, who was born April 9, 1801, and was murdered in her home on the night of June 28, 1876.

Peter Bedell, when a young boy, was bound out to John Wyker of Wykertown, Sussex county, N. J., who was an applejack distiller. Young Bedell received a suit of clothes and \$60.00 in money when he was twenty-one years of age. He purchased a yoke of steers and worked on a farm in New Jersey for about two years. He was advised by Henry Litts, who had come to Newton in 1816, who gave such glowing accounts of this section, and the grand opportunities awaiting a young man, that he decided to move to Newton. He traded his steers for a

horse and a one-horse wagon, on which he loaded his earthly belongings, and he and his wife started on their journey. They purchased 100 acres from John Bell, who had about five acres cleared and a log-house erected.

Mr. Bedell paid what money he had and was trusted for the balance. He sold the farm in 1867 to Peter Finkler for \$10,000, and moved to Milwaukie.

Peter Bedell started in life a poor boy, with a limited education, but by industry and economy, he was worth over \$46,000 when he died, which was made off the farm and accumulated interest on money loaned, and not by speculation. His widow received \$22,000 for her share. She was murdered and robbed about two years later.

## A CHANGE OF STYLE

When this old hat was new,  
The railroad was a stage;  
And a six-mule team made plenty of steam  
For the broadest kind of gauge.

You caught a goose when you wanted a pen,  
The ink you used was blue;  
And the women you loved didn't want to be  
men  
When this old hat was new.

A spade was only a spade,  
And Jennie was just plain "Jane."  
For this impudent lip a boy would skip,  
At the end of a rattan cane.

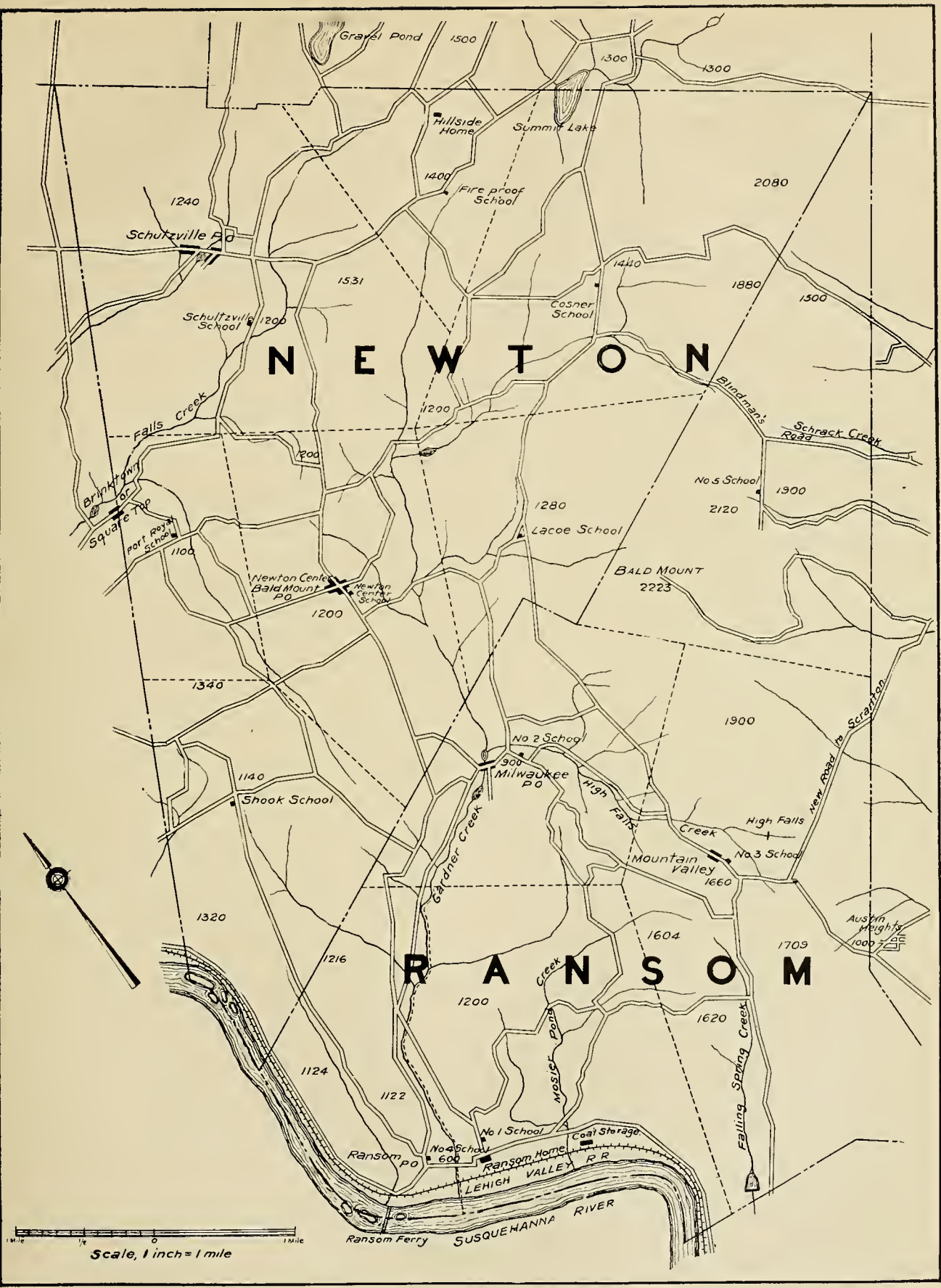
There were sixteen ounces in every pound,  
Four quarts made a gallon true;  
But things don't seem like they use to been  
When this old hat was new.

But we've shortened the time since then,  
And we're running a faster heat;  
And the boys of ten are full-blown men,  
Who run the store and the street.

We blush to giggle, and we should smile;  
We're cute, and we never say die,  
We're up to snuff, and we're full of guile;  
And we're just too awfully fly.

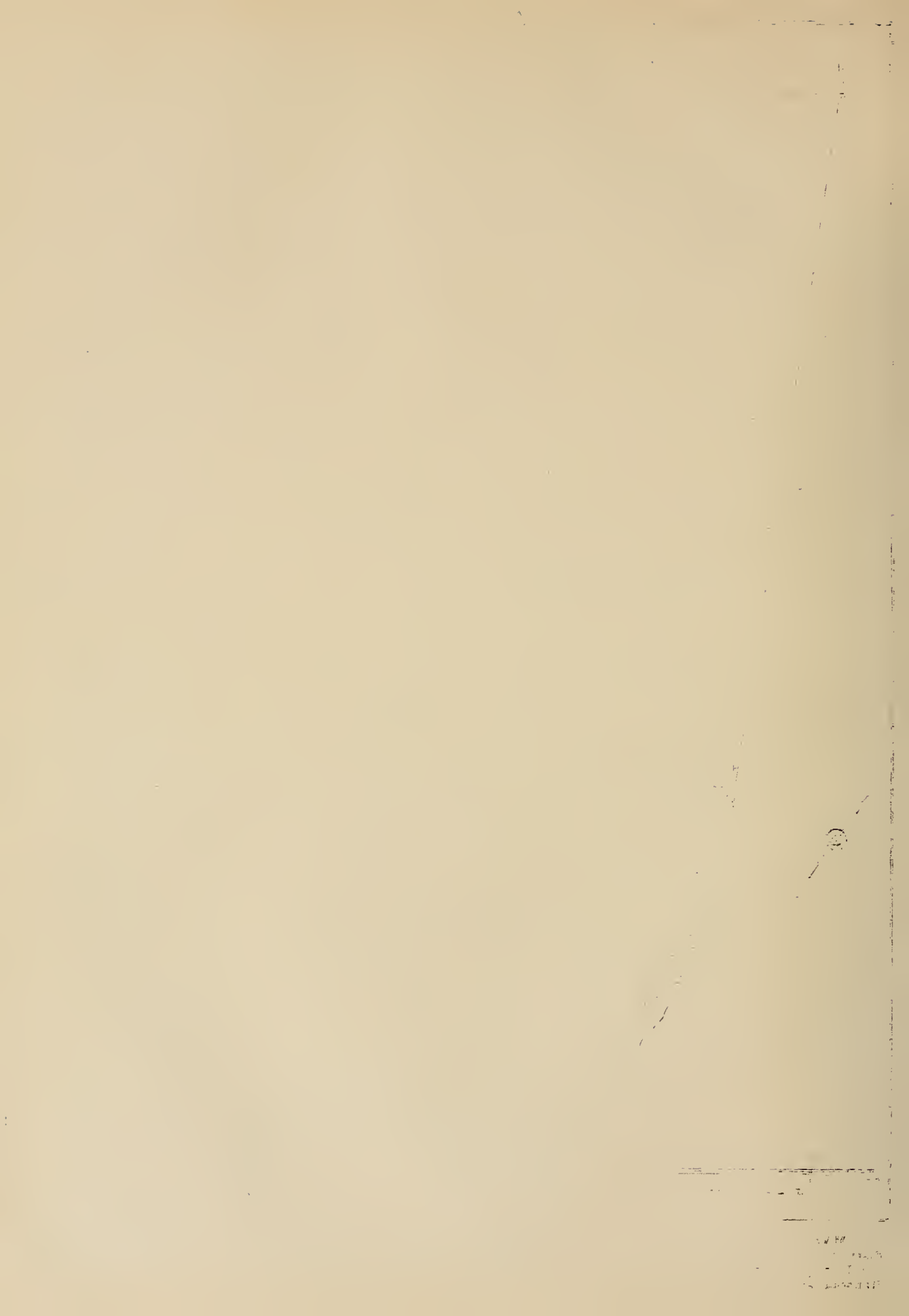
And father is governor, old man, dad;  
And his old day is gone,  
We run things fast, and a little bad,  
Since we put this new hat on.





**MAP OF NEWTON AND RANSOM TOWNSHIPS**—This map shows the location of the villages, roads, school districts, creeks, and the altitude of several places, which is indicated by figures, viz.: Milwaukee, 900 feet above sea level; Mountain Valley, 1660 ft., etc. Ransom Valley is No. 1 School, and Mount Dewey, No. 5 School. Ransom and Ransom Valley school districts are divided by Gardner Creek.





## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

### EARLY HISTORY OF RANSOM TOWNSHIP

This township was named in honor of Captain Samuel Ransom, who in 1777 raised a company for the defense of the Wyoming Valley. He was killed in the Wyoming massacre, July 3, 1778.

The history of Ransom township, extends far back of its official organization. It was formed from parts of Exeter and Newton, and was organized into a township in 1849.

#### JOHN GARDNER, THE PIONEER SETTLER

The first white inhabitant of Ransom township was John Gardner, the father of Richard Gardner, the first settler in Newton township.

John Gardner came from Colechester, Conn., in 1769, and settled on a farm at the mouth of Gardner's creek (being the farm later owned by John Stout, but now by the Lehigh Valley Coal Storage Plant), where he lived until captured by the Indians and Tories, July 1, 1778, two days before the Wyoming Massacre.

Before Gardner's departure he advised his wife to take their five children to Connecticut, and remain with her friends until it would be safe to return. He then bade his wife and children a final farewell, and soon an Indian placed a load upon his shoulders which he could scarcely raise, put a halter around his neck, and led him away as he would a beast. Mr. Gardner became exhausted before reaching what is now Geneva, N. Y., and was given over to the squaws, who tortured him to death by driving his body full of pine sticks and setting them on fire.

Mrs. Gardner returned with her five children to Connecticut. In due time she came back to Ransom, and lived with her son John, till her death, which occurred August 24, 1834, being 91 years old. She was buried in the old ground at Ransom.

John and Richard Gardner settled on the farm purchased by their father in 1769, at the mouth of Gardner's creek. John continued working the farm, but Richard established Gardner's Ferry at Ransom, which he ran for several years. In 1803, he moved to what is now Newton township, being the first settler there. He remained here until 1807, when he returned to Ransom. (*See page 69.*)

Thankful Gardner, daughter of John Gardner, was the first white child born in Ransom township. She was born in 1770.

PELEG COMSTOCK came from Connecticut about the same time with the Gardners, and settled on a tract of land which he "patented," near Gardner's creek, containing 175 acres. This farm was later owned by John H. Cunningham. In 1869 it was purchased by P. K. Richards. The farm is now divided and is owned by Jessie P. Richards and Amos C. Learn. Mr. Comstock died at an advanced age, and is buried in the old burying ground at Ransom.

JOHN McMILLAN came from Ireland, located on the farm owned for several years by David M. Huthmaker, and now owned by W. A. Hantz. He was a school teacher and physician. He had eleven children. His son, Alexander, married Nancy Montanye, and the names of "Uncle Aleck" and "Aunt Nancy" were synonyms for good in every household. He died November 25, 1869, at an advanced age.

FRED SANDWAY, JOHN BAUMGARDNER, JOHN RADER, ANDREW NETT, PHILIP SHELLENBERGER and CHARLES RESLER came to Ransom in 1841, from Germany, and settled on what has since been known as "German Hill."

CONRAD MAAS came from Germany in 1846 and purchased the farm settled in 1841 by John Baumgardner. This farm was purchased in 1910 by Charles Richster. Conrad Maas married Miss Catherine Hines. They were the parents of four children, namely: John, Julia (Mrs. Fred Weiscarger), Conrad and Wentzel. They were all born in Germany.

#### BENNY GARDNER, THE PIONEER GROCER.

The first store in Ransom township was started in 1810 by Benjamin Gardner, son of Richard Gardner. He was born at Gardner's Ferry (now Ransom), Sept. 27, 1795. His lower limbs were paralyzed when a child. He hitched about on his hands and hips, but was cheerful. He was an honest man in all his dealings. At the age of fifteen, the neighbors assisted him to build a small log-house where he could sell peanuts, candy, etc. This building was only twelve feet square, but it answered his purpose for many years. The people sympathised with him in his helpless condition, which had the effect to help him on in his business.

Elisha Harris, a neighbor, purchased for him some whiskey, and gave it to him. With this



he started a tavern, and after this he was always able to purchase his own whiskey. The travelers were sure to call on him and purchase something in his line. His name and business became known everywhere along the river. His business increased, and in a few years he was able to purchase from the Butler heirs, a lot of seven acres of land, and soon after erected a much better and larger tavern, where he was able to lodge strangers and travelers, and accommodate them with something to eat in the shape of crackers, pies, cakes, candy, etc. In this way, things went on smoothly, until finally some of his neighbors found considerable fault with him for selling whiskey without a license, and to prevent a prosecution, he procured the service of Christopher Taylor to take him to Wilkes-Barre at court time when court was in session. Judge Scott was presiding. Mr. Taylor took Benny on his back and walked into the court room. When the Judge made inquiries as to his lameness, he discharged him, remarking that if so great a cripple could make his living in that line of business he should be allowed to do so.

Later he was married to a widow lady by the name of Owen and for a time kept quite a respectable tavern, furnishing meals and lodging to customers, but it was of short duration. His wife soon tired of tavern keeping and advised him to sell out, which he did, and purchased a few acres of land of a Mr. Jones, on the opposite side of the river in Exeter. His wife soon tired of this and advised him to sell out. Mr. Gardner, finding that his wife was too expensive a luxury for him to maintain (she having daughters that she was providing for at the same time secretly), and his father seeing how things were going, advised him to sell his little property, set the old lady adrift, and come home, which he did. Soon after, his father gave him an ancient little building on the bank of the river, a few rods above the ferry, where he again started in the confectionery business, doing an honorable business, having left off the whiskey trade.

#### THE PIONEER TAVERNS

The first tavern was established at Ransom in 1812, by Benj. Gardner, which he kept for about twenty-five years. It was opened in a small log cabin.

About 1837, he was succeeded by Benjamin Smith and Philip Drear, who made many improvements. The property was next owned by A. W. Clark, who sold to L. D. Gulick. This building was burned in March, 1855. Gulick then kept tavern a year in another house. Fred Sandway purchased the property and kept a tavern a few years, and later sold to Jacob

Bertels. The building is now a private dwelling, owned by the John Crowell estate.

In 1846 a tavern was built at the head of the first narrows on the road from Pittston to Ransom by George Saxe, and later was kept by J. Nafus.

In 1876, a hotel was built by John Crowell.

THE RANSOM VALLEY TURNPIKE COMPANY was incorporated February 18, 1871, and the following persons were appointed commissioners: L. H. Litts, P. K. Richards, Peter Bedell, George Damon, Chauncey Sherwood, D. M. Hutmaker and Amos Saxe.

#### BOUNDARIES AND SURFACE

Ransom is one of the eastern townships of Lackawanna county; bounded on the north by Newton township; east and south by the city of Scranton, and Lackawanna and Old Forge townships; west by Marcy township and the Susquehanna river.

The surface of the township is more hilly than that of Newton. A large portion is traversed by the West Mountain, in which the highest elevation is Bald Mount, reaching an altitude of 2,223 feet. The lowest portion, along the Susquehanna near the village of Ransom, is only 600 feet. Milwaukie is 900 feet, and Mountain Valley 1,660 feet above sea level.

Ransom township is triangular in shape, its western border being about five miles, and extending northeastward over eight miles, tapering to a point. It has an area of twenty-one square miles, with forty-two miles of roads.

Newton township contains twenty-four square miles. It has fifty-one miles and sixty-one rods of roads.

#### RIVERS AND CREEKS

This township is everywhere well watered with creeks, which are formed by numerous springs. The Susquehanna river forms about two-thirds of the western boundary. The largest stream flowing through the township is Gardner's creek. This creek has its source in the mountain above the Cosner school-house, in Newton township (near the Ransom line), flowing nearly directly west, to a short distance below Curtis P. Smith's saw-mill. Here it turns abruptly to the south, flowing through Milwaukie, where it takes a south-westerly course, entering the Susquehanna river near Ransom.

High Falls Creek rises in Mountain Valley, flowing north into Gardner's creek at Milwaukie. On this creek is located High Falls, on the farm of Lewis E. Powell. The water falls from a height of nearly seventy-five feet, from which it derived its name.

Mosier Pond creek has its source near Mountain Valley on the old Mosier farm (now owned by Edwin S. Miller) and flows south-west into the Susquehanna near the Coal Storage Plant.

Falling Spring creek rises near Mountain Valley, taking a southern course through Marcy township, flowing into the Susquehanna near Campbell's Ledge. Two large reservoirs are located on this creek, near the line between Ransom and Marcy townships. These reservoirs were built by the Spring Brook Water Supply Co., and furnish the water supply for the boroughs of Taylor and Austin. The largest reservoir was finished in 1905 at a cost of \$285,000. It covers seventy-one acres of land. Two large concrete dams were built for its construction, one about 600 feet and the other about 750 feet long.

There are several smaller streams in the township.

#### AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the chief occupation of the citizens of Ransom township. There are about eighty farms in the township, containing nearly 5,800 acres, of which 4,500 acres are cleared and improved. The township covers an area of 6,339 acres, including cleared, timber and unimproved land. Only four farms contain 150 acres or more; seven, 125 acres or more; fifteen, 100 acres or more; fourteen, 75 acres or more; seventeen, 50 acres or more; ten, 25 acres or more; and ten of 10 acres or more each. The Ransom Home farm is the largest, containing 267 acres. James Lacoc owns 187 acres.

The land is hilly, but productive. It is kept fertile by thousands of tons of manure, which is hauled from Scranton and Pittston each year.

Some grain is raised, but the principal crops are cabbage, sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes, etc.

#### LIVE STOCK AND DAIRYING.

The land in Ransom is too valuable for stock raising. Much more money can be realized from an acre planted to garden truck, which brings good prices in Scranton, an unlimited market. There are only 314 cows in the township.

J. B. Coolbaugh and E. S. Miller, both of Mountain Valley, keep forty cows each, the largest dairies in the township. Mr. Coolbaugh runs a retail milk wagon to Scranton and Mr. Miller has a milk route in Moosic and Avoca. The Ransom Home has the next largest dairy, twenty cows. Horace Courtright has sixteen cows and John Beyrent, twelve. Both have retail milk routes in Scranton.

The township has 211 horses, 9 mules, 64 sheep and 285 pigs and hogs.

#### OLDEST INHABITANTS OF RANSOM

Twenty-six person, seventy years of age or over, are living in Ransom township, namely:

Dorothy Schultheis	90	Mrs. Ella D. Park	75
Martin Hoffman	86	Jacob Bedell	74
Nicholas G. Reed	85	Tobias Stine	74
Margaret Blackwell	80	Mrs. Alvy Krouse	73
Irwin Miller	79	Mrs. Regina B. Klaile	73
John Munson	79	Mrs. N. G. Reed	73
Mrs. Mary L. Newman	78	Mrs. Tobias Stine	72
Mrs. Dorinda Setzer	77	Mrs. Irwin Miller	72
Ostrander Richards	76	James Taylor	72
Sarah Knnsman	76	Martin Sickler	71
Mrs. John Williams	76	Mrs. Geo. W. Ace	71
Mrs. Jacob Bedell	75	George W. Ace	71
John Wilson	75	John Williams	70

## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

### VILLAGES, CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS IN RANSOM

#### RANSOM VILLAGE

This village was first settled sometime before 1800. It contains only twenty-four houses, and has a population of about 100.

The ferry was first built about 1795, by Richard Gardner, who ran it for several years. It was next owned by his son, Samuel, and grandson, George W. Later it was owned by Mrs. Mary A. Ives, and since Nov. 1, 1910, by her son, Francis M. Ives.

The postoffice was established April 9, 1850, and Isaac D. Gulick was appointed the first postmaster, but the office was kept by Benny Gard-

ner. This was the first postoffice in the township.

#### THE EARLY STORES

The first general store in Ransom township was kept by Benjamin Smith and Ira Gardner, which was opened in 1835. The building was built in 1832, by Samuel Gardner for a dwelling. It was used for a stable a few years later. There was no other store here, excepting "Uncle Benny" Gardner's grocery, till 1846, when Abel and James Thompson built and opened one, which was burned in 1855. In 1864, Jacob Bertels built and opened a store near the depot



at Ransom, and in 1866 sold it to Fred Sandway. This property was purchased in 1910 by Mrs. David M. Huthmaker. It has been used as a residence for several years, until April, 1912, when it was purchased by James P. Van Ostrand, and is now used again for a store. Charles Getz, from Pittston, rented the building vacated by Mr. VanOstrand, where he opened a store on the first day of May, 1912.

#### SAW-MILL

A saw-mill was erected in Ransom village in 1875, by Joseph G. Osborn, and was later owned by F. P. Osborn. There has been no mill here for several years.

torate of S. I. Sharters, a framed church was built on a lot donated by Sebastian Dersheimer. It was dedicated in 1872. This church was burned Nov. 26, 1898.

The present church was built in 1899, and the pasonage was built about the same time. They cost about \$3,000.

The following ministers have served this church since its organization: J. Hartzlen, 1859 to March, 1860; Samuel Smith, March 29, 1860 to March, 1862; S. E. Davis, March 30, 1862 to March, 1864; J. H. Dietrick, March, 1864 to March, 1866; Solomon Buck, March, 1866 to March, 1868; I. M. Pines, 1868 to 1869; J. M. Price, 1869; William Crawman, 1869 to 1870;



THE RANSOM FERRY.

Established about 1795 by Richard Gardner.

#### BLACKSMITH SHOP

The first blacksmith shop in this village was built in 1847, by Benjamin and Warren Smith. There is no shop here at the present time.

#### LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran church at Ransom was built in 1845 and dedicated in 1847, during the pastorate of Rev. John Lescher. For several years the pulpit was supplied by preachers from other places. This was the first church built in the township. No regular services have been held in this church for several years.

#### EVANGELICAL CHURCH AT RANSOM

A religious society was organized in the vicinity of Ransom in 1859, by the Rev. Mr. May and Rev. Jacob Hartzlen. Services were held regularly at the home of Miss Malinda Gardner for several years. In 1871, during the pas-

torate of S. I. Sharters, 1870 to 1873; P. S. Oring, 1873 to 1875; W. W. Rhoades, 1875 to 1876; J. A. Hollanbaugh, 1876 to 1879; G. L. Burson, 1879 to 1880; H. H. Douty, 1880 to 1882; G. M. Currin, 1882 to 1883; J. M. Longsdorf, 1883 to 1885; J. M. Brader, 1885 to 1888; C. J. Dick, 1888 to 1891; H. A. Stokes, 1891 to 1893; E. E. Shaffer, 1893 to 1896; F. F. Mayer, 1896 to 1901; B. F. Keller, 1901 to 1905; H. W. Thomas, 1905 to 1907; L. Dice, 1907 to 1911; W. E. Smith, 1911 to the present time.

In its beginning, the Ransom church was a part of the Wilkes-Barre Mission, which was organized in March, 1853, and included Wilkes-Barre, Pittston and Ransom townships. At the Annual Conference held at Glen Rock, York county, Pa., in March, 1861 its name was changed to Wyoming Mission. Since 1891, it has been known as the Ransom Mission, which includes the church at Mountain Valley.

In 1867 a union Sunday School was organized at the home of Miss Malinda Gardner, which was removed to the church after its completion.

#### RANSOM SCHOOL-HOUSE

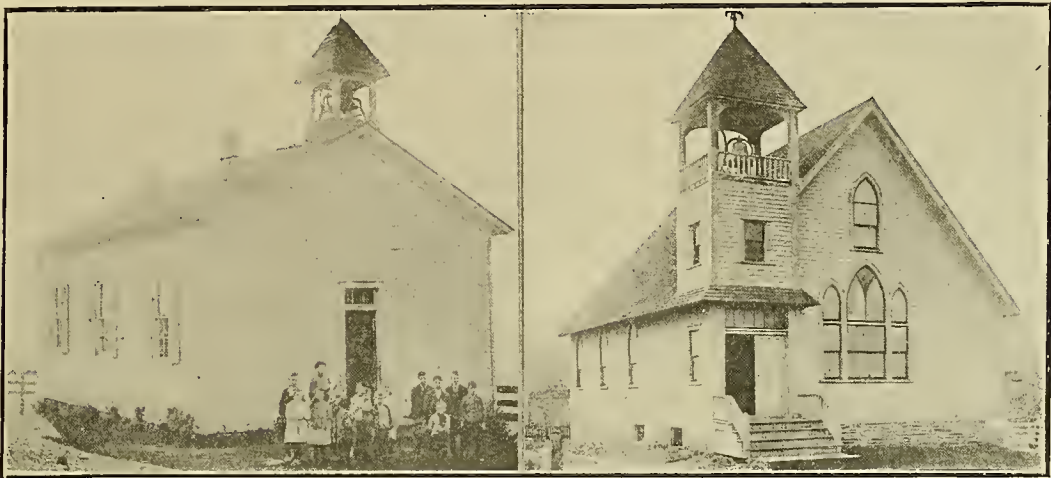
Until 1852, the children at Ransom attended the Ransom Valley school. In that year the district was divided, and a school-house was built at Ransom. Gardner's creek is the dividing line between the two schools. Miss Susan Neyhart was the first teacher at Ransom, who taught four terms in succession.

Miss Martha Lacoe taught this school in 1911-12. Fifteen scholars were enrolled, namely: John McCabe, Francis McCabe, Ellen McCabe, Harry McCabe, Fred Taft, Mildred Taft, Martha Taft, Ralph Bedell, Grace Bedell, Matilda

#### RANSOM HOME

The Home is an institution for the care of the poor and homeless of the city of Pittston, and Pittston and Jenkins townships. It is a large and substantial brick building, located in Ransom township, nearly three-fourths of a mile south from the Lehigh Valley Railroad station, and about six miles north of Pittston, on the east bank of the Susquehanna river. The first directors were D. Stark, David S. Coon, Leonard Everitt and Joseph Schooley.

The first farm was purchased in 1858 from Emmanuel Dersheimer, who had charge until the following spring. The old farm-house was used for the inmates until the first brick building was erected. It was located across the road from the present building, and was torn down



SCHOOL-HOUSE AND EVANGELICAL CHURCH, Ransom.

Engleman, Luzon Gardner, William Richards, Jim Serene, Alfred Stark and Victor Musselman. John McCabe was the youngest, aged 4, and Victor Musselman, the oldest, aged 14 years

#### RANSOM VALLEY SCHOOL

The first school-house in Ransom township was built about 1830 on the flat near Gardner creek, which was undermined by a flood about 1850. The building was then moved to its present location. P. K. Richards, who is now living in West Pittston, taught this school in 1855, 1856 and 1857. He had about seventy-five scholars. Miss Sarah E. Klipple is the present teacher (1911-12), with thirteen scholars, as follows: Nicholas Basalyga, Anna Bookler, Jennie Hantz, Eva Krynsky, Rocco Ocetiato, Frank Ocetiato, Sophia Richter, Carl Richter, Willie Richter, Mamie Rosenkrans, Elmer Rosenkrans, Thressa Rosenkrans and William Thompson.

a few years ago.

The first inmates were brought from Pittston on the North Branch Canal. Before the farm was purchased there were fifty-five paupers within the district, but only five could be persuaded to go to the Home. The other fifty, having such horrors of going to the "poor house," decided to take care of themselves.

The first brick building was erected about 1877, during the stewardship of Alfred Helms. This was a three-story and basement building, 40x80 feet in size. In 1889, an addition, size 40x128 feet was erected, making a building 40x208 feet, equipped with all modern improvements, including an electric light plant for lighting the buildings.

The farm contains 267 acres, valued at \$10,000, and the buildings are valued at \$50,000. The personal property is valued at about \$25,000, making a total valuation of \$85,000.

The following are the Stewards of the Home since the first farm was purchased: Emmanuel



Dersheimer, from 1858 to 1859; P. K. Richards, from 1859 to 1866; Lewis H. Litts, from 1866 to about 1870, who was succeeded by J. J. Miller (a son-in-law of Mr. Litts), who served until about 1876; Alfred Helms, from about 1876 to about 1878; Eli Brown, from about 1878 to 1887; Jacob Place, from 1887 to 1897; George H. Rifenbary, from April 1, 1897 to the present time.

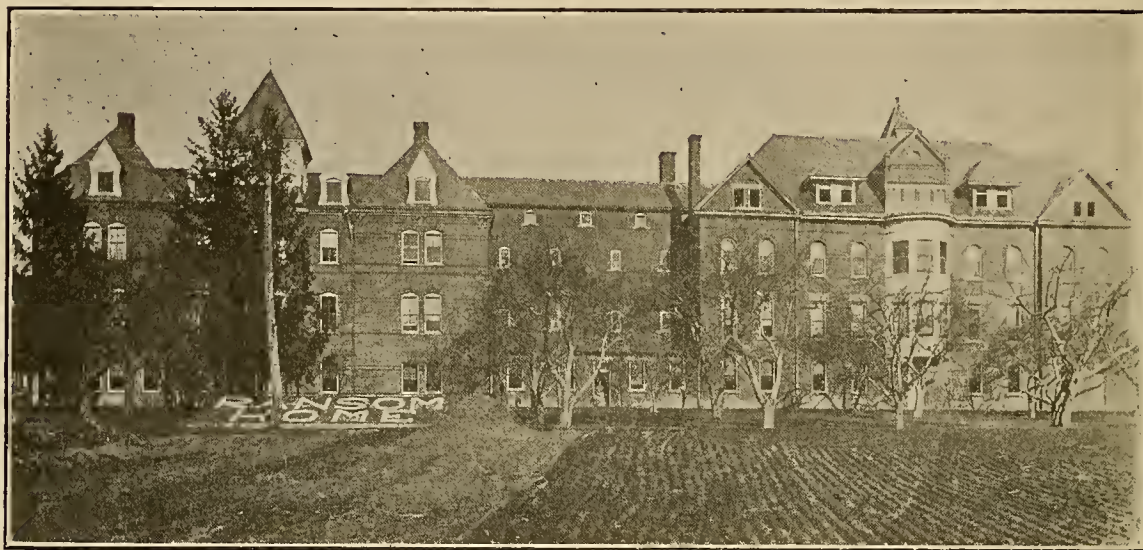
The Home had on January 1, 1912, ninety eight inmates, seventy-six males and twenty-two females. The monthly pay roll for house and farm labor averages about \$235.00 per month. The products of the farm for the year 1911, amounted to \$6,081.05.

The present directors and officers are as fol-

## MILWAUKIE

is a pretty little village nestled among the hills of Ransom township. It is located on Gardner's creek about four miles east from the village of Ransom and about two miles south of Newton Centre.

The first settlement was made sometime before 1820 by William Brink, on the farm now owned by Charles Stine. A little later, Horace Twitchel settled where Milwaukie is now built, and in 1824 erected a saw-mill. Phineas Sherwood came about the same time. In 1825, Joseph LeTier made a clearing and built a log house on the farm now owned by Mrs. John Beyrent. About 1840, or sometime before, Barney Dersheimer settled the farm now owned



RANSOM HOME.—Rear View.

lows: Gomer Jones, president; Patrick H. Durkin, secretary; Michael J. Brennan, treasurer; Thomas J. Llewellyn and John H. Mullin.

## RANSOM COAL STORAGE PLANT

About 1905, the Lehigh Valley Coal Company purchased about 500 acres of land in Ransom, including the farms formerly owned by John Saxe, Amos Saxe and John Stout, and part of the D. M. Huthmaker farm. The plant was begun July 1, 1905 and finished about one year later at a cost of \$500,000. The first coal was stored in March, 1906.

The plant is run by electricity, which is generated by two 325 horse power engines with direct-connecting dynamos. The plant has a capacity of about 360,000 tons. There were about 100,000 tons in storage Jan. 1, 1912. From twenty to thirty men are employed. F. J. Devlin is foreman.

by Milton W. Petty; David Huthmaker on the farm now owned by Thomas J. Huthmaker; Alex. Beemer on the farm now owned by Joseph B. Munson; and Peter Hufford on the farm now owned by Anthony Schultheis. It is said that Peter Hufford was the father of twenty-four children. He was twice married.

The last farm settled in Ransom township is now owned by John Hoffman. His father, Martin Hoffman, purchased and moved to this farm in 1874. It was then a wilderness.

The growth of Milwaukie was slow until about 1842, when Absalom Young made an auction sale of building lots, and several were sold. Soon after several buildings were erected.

The village of Milwaukie contains not over twenty families, but counting every person living within Milwaukie School District the population is about 175.

The inhabitants are thrifty and industrious,

nearly all owning their homes. They are law-abiding, no serious crime being committed since the night of June 28, 1876, when Mrs. Susannah Bedell, widow of Peter Bedell, was murdered and robbed, in her home. The perpetrator of this horrible deed has never been brought to justice.

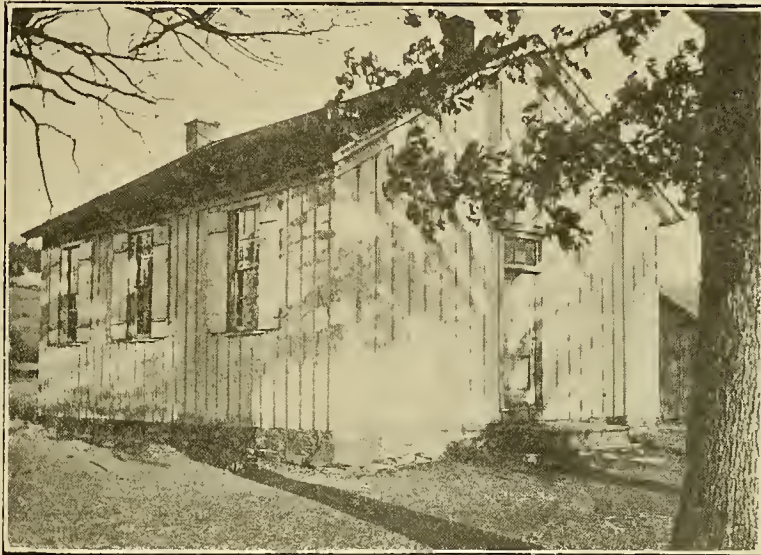
Unlike many other towns, Milwaukie is quite free from the spirit of gossiping, and as a rule, everyone attends to his own business, making it a desirable town to live in.

Milwaukie can boast of having the largest store of any town in either Ransom or Newton townships. The present building was erected and is owned by the I. O. O. F. Lodge, which is rented to O. W. Petty, who keeps a very complete stock of groceries and general merchandise.

It was purchased by the present owner, Martin Sickler, April 1, 1897. Mr. Sickler owned a mill in Lake Winola before coming to Milwaukie.

#### FOUNDRY

A foundry was built in 1851 by William Vosburg in Milwaukie, across the creek from where Davis' wagon shop is now built. Later it was owned by S. E. Griffin, who in 1880 erected a new building near the site of the old. About 1885 it was purchased by George C. Haupt. In March, 1897, it was sold at Sheriff's sale to Ira Drake, and he sold it, June 13th, the following year, to John Wilson, but the business was managed and run by Gail Haupt. It was abandoned about 1901. The building is now owned by Ira Davis.



RANSOM VALLEY SCHOOL-HOUSE.

#### THE PIONEER SAW-MILL

The first saw-mill in Ransom township was built in 1824 by Horace Twitchel on the present site of Ira Davis wagon shop. It was rebuilt by William Vosburg, and later owned by William Tompkins. In the fall of 1890, Ira Davis purchased the site from Tompkins' estate, upon which he erected a wagon shop.

#### THE PIONEER GRIST-MILL

The first grist-mill in Ransom township was built on Gardner's creek at Milwaukie, in 1825, by Phineas Sherwood. He sold it to Absalom Young, and he to Jacob Dersheimer, who in 1844 built the present mill about five rods below the site of the old structure. It was purchased in April, 1852, by Nathan and Jacob Keim. Later it was owned by Thos. Johnson.

#### BLACKSMITH SHOPS

The pioneer blacksmith shop in this township was built in the early days at Milwaukie, and stood where the church sheds now stand. It was washed away by a flood, and rebuilt in 1835, near the old site, by Abraham Michaels, who worked in it for several years. It was bought and rebuilt by Daniel Skinner and L. H. Winters. Later it was owned by William Meyer, and the business carried on by E. M. Winters. Abram and Jacob Bedell had a shop here for about five years.

The present shop is owned by John C. Kunsman, who ran the business a few years. Since Sept. 1, 1910 the business has been carried on by Harry A. Courtright.

The up-to-date wagon shop is conducted by Ira E. Davis & Sons. On March 1, 1883, Dan-



iel W. and Ira E. Davis, under the firm name of Davis Brothers, bought the wagon making shop of William Moyer, near the site where John Kunsman's blacksmith shop now stands, where they conducted the business until Sept. 24, 1890, when the building and contents were destroyed by fire. During the spring of 1891, they erected a two-story and basement building on Gardner's creek, which they equipped with circular saws, planer and other wagon-making machinery which is run by water-power. Daniel W. Davis died May 24, 1898, and the coming autumn Ira E. Davis purchased the half-interest from his brother's estate and ran the busi-

ness. It was repaired in 1875, at a cost of \$500. The site for this church was purchased of Zachariah Bedell in 1859 for \$100. This building was torn down in 1903.

In 1902 preparations were made for the erection of a new church edifice. The trustees appointed the following building committee, Aug. 8, 1902: William Zeiss, J. F. Lacoe and Henry Zilk. In 1903, a lot was purchased across the street, and south of the old church. This lot was bought of William Zeiss for \$145. The old church lot is now part of the cemetery.

The corner-stone for the new church was laid June 18, 1903, by the presiding elder, Rev.



M. E. CHURCH AT MILWAUKIE.

ness until Jan. 1, 1911, when he formed a partnership with his two sons, Robert and Clarence.

Davis Brothers purchased the water power privilege from the William Tompkins estate for \$500, which included the site of the present shop.

#### MILWAUKIE M. E. CHURCH

The Methodists of Milwaukie held services in the school-house for several years, the following ministers from the Newton Circuit preaching: Samuel Griffin, Rev. White, J. M. Munger, Luther Ellis, J. D. Safford, Miner Swallow, Philip Holbrook, J. W. Wilbur and John LaBar.

In the summer of 1859 the Society built a framed church at a cost of \$4,500, which was dedicated in January, 1860, by Rev. George

J. B. Sweet, D. D., assisted by Rev. A. J. Van Cleft.

The contract was given to the lowest bidder, John A. Johnson of Pittston, and Benjamin A. Crowther of the same city was the architect. The contract price was \$2,988, less \$300 for the material in the old church, after which Mr. Johnson donated \$50. The total cost of the building, including seats and all inside fixtures, was \$5,000.

The church was erected during the pastorate of Rev. Edward McMillan. It was dedicated in September, 1904, during the pastorate of Rev. C. W. Smith.

The Milwaukie church is part of the Bald Mount charge. For a complete list of ministers since 1851, see Bald Mount M. E. Church,

## SUNDAY-SCHOOL

A Sunday-school was organized in the school-house in 1852, and removed to the church upon its completion. Henry Barker was the first superintendent. Ezekiel Bennett was the next, and later N. G. Reed. Henry Zilks is the present superintendent.

## MILWAUKEE I. O. O. F. LODGE, No. 267

This Lodge was instituted Feb. 28, 1883, with twenty charter members which follow: Jacob Bedell, Peter Bedell, Charles V. Decker, Joseph Geary, Rev. Francis Gendall, P. K. Richards, Geo. W. Ace, Moses Ace, E. K. Townsend, John Roszler, William Moyer, Lester Griffin,

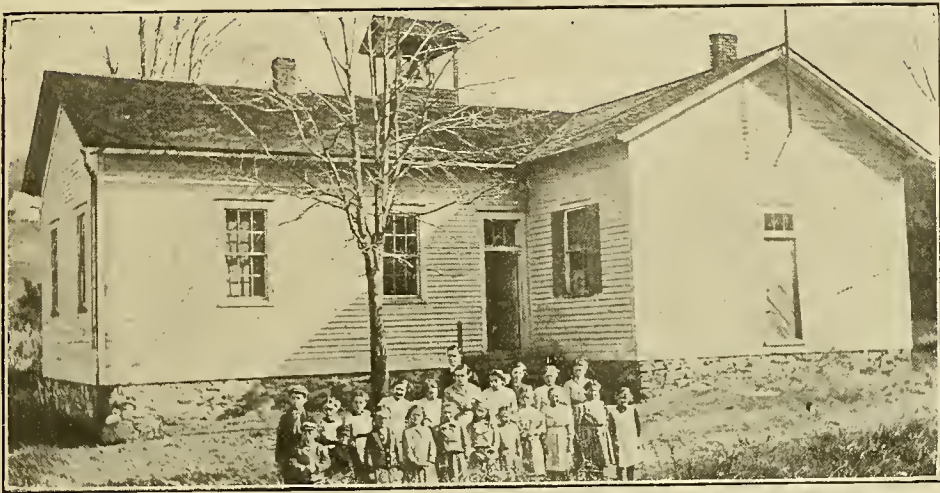
first teachers. Later he went to California, where he was twice elected State Senator.

The present school building was erected about 1861.

## MILWAUKIE SIXTY YEARS AGO

Written by P. K. Richards, West Pittston, Pa.

At the western base of old Bald Mount, nestled in a quiet little valley through which the Gardner creek flows in all its beauty, the pleasant little hamlet, known to our readers as Milwaukie, is located. Not unlike many other country towns, it is considered by the farmers in the immediate vicinity as "headquarters," because here are located the blacksmith and



MILWAUKIE SCHOOL-HOUSE AND SCHOLARS.

John Wilson, John Hoffman, Jacob Courtright, Charles W. Blackwell, William Zeiss, I. H. Sax, Thomas Huthmaker and Andrew Hopkins.

The following officers were elected: Jacob Bedell, noble grand; P. K. Richards, vice-grand; C. V. Decker, secretary; I. H. Sax, financial secretary; William Zeiss, treasurer.

Ninty-eight members have been admitted by initiation, and five by card. The present membership (Jan. 4, 1912) is fifty-six members.

The original charter was issued to Abington Lodge, No. 267, Oct. 8, 1847, which was surrendered by them in 1859.

## SCHOOL-HOUSES

The second school-house in the territory now known as Ransom township, was built at Milwaukie about 1835. This building was built of logs, a short distance above the present residence of William Zeiss, near the corner of, and on the south side of the road leading to Mountain Valley. Judson Carpenter was one of the

wheelwright shop, store and church, together with mills for manufacturing logs into lumber and grain into flour and feed.

I have known this town for more than sixty years, and remember well when it was called Flickerville. One of the first grist-mills in northern Luzerne was located here, owned and operated by Absalom Youngs. Subsequently an industrious and enterprising farmer and mechanic of Ransom Valley, by the name of Dorshimer, purchased the old mill and water privilege. He at once began the erection of a new mill on a much larger and improved plan. This, in connection with other enterprises, such as shops, store and post-office about to be inaugurated, raised the pride of the citizens to such an extent that they resolved that with the erection of the new mill, the name of the town must be changed. G. J. Carpenter, the village school-master (the only man in those days supposed competent for such things), was invited to be present at the raising, and from the top of



the frame, loudly proclaimed the new chosen name. By special request I reproduce from memory, as near as I can, the little speech woven into rhyme and spoken at the time:

On 'butment and sill,  
We've raised the new mill,  
Now we've hoisted the frame,  
Why not give it a name?  
To silence all clamor—  
By the choice of Dorshimer—  
I'm called to proclaim,  
MILWAUKIE is thy name.  
Oh, Flickerville, here!  
While blushing, draw near,  
Thou backsliding shrew—  
I'm sponser to you.  
To seas thy conversion,  
I must favor aspersion—  
A baptismal bond  
As deep as yon pond.  
MILWAUKIE'S thy name,  
Thou new christened Dame,  
Thou art born of a flood,  
From the mouth of "Priest" Jud.\*

Behold now your mills,  
O'ershadowed with hills,  
And hoof-beaten streets  
Intersect at their seats.  
We've heard, moreover,  
Of time-honored Dover,  
Where Kokeko falls  
Off her forty-foot walls,  
Of mills she can boast,  
And of factories a host,  
With her far-famed bangers,  
While mill engines clangor.  
Forty-five years ago,  
No mill boy did go,  
Penobscot's dark wave  
Her wild sides did lave,  
As damless and free,  
She flowed to the sea.

Then urge to new life,  
The commercial strife,  
And enter the lists,  
With your toil-torn fists,  
'Mid storms and embargoes,  
With tariff-taxed cargoes,  
Rich argosies court,  
And the city's proud port.  
But winds may not track,  
Nor armed pirates sack,  
Or Congress invade,  
Our overland trade,  
By a second-hand lease  
Of the rich golden fleece,  
The grain grower's hand,  
Holds the wealth of the strand.

Old Scotia is gasping,  
Sad Erin is clasping  
Her rude rustic arms  
For the grain on your farms.  
Famine broke on the wheel—  
Dies belching corn meal—  
Dies cursing good millers  
And thrifty land-tillers.  
You have no need of steam,  
With so noble a stream,  
Just dig down these mountains,  
And dam up the fountains,  
Then go on, Dorshimer,

With hand-saw and hammer,  
And finish Milwaukie,  
Or we'll call you a great gawky.

Oh! now clear the course,  
For the twenty-horse force  
That impatiently waits  
To leap through yon gates.  
If it rain to Milwaukie,  
She'll never get balky  
But like a gallant steed  
Will continue her speed.  
The might of her breast,  
The roar will attest  
With her wheel-strapped trace,  
As she leaps from the race.  
Then let her wheels roll,  
And your babies sop toll  
Till the Gardner ceases to flow,  
And the sound of the grinder is low.

It is needless to add that the christening was done quite to the satisfaction of the hundred or more sturdy men present, who with willing hands and strong arms had put the frame in position.

P. K. R.

## MOUNTAIN VALLEY

The first settlement in what is known as Mountain Valley, was made about 1835 by Frederick Stine on the farm now owned by Charles W. Blackwell. About 1840, Joseph Krouse, father of Alvy Krouse, settled upon the farm now owned by Horace Courtright, and the same year built the log-house now standing on the place. About the same year Jacob Ace settled the farm now owned by Edward E. Ace; Alfred Aten made a clearing and built a log-house upon the farm now owned by George C. Coon; Fritz Mitchael settled the farm where Edwin S. Miller owns and lives; Scott Carey settled upon the farm now owned by William Legg, and Philip Harlos, Sr. settled the farm where Emil Huggler is living. About 1842 the Mosier farm was settled by Jacob Drake, and George M. Trivley came to the farm now owned by Alvy Krouse.

## HOTEL AND POSTOFFICE

About 1866, Edward B. Trivley erected a building, size 26x54 feet, for a hotel, which was abandoned about 1870. This building stood on the site of Lewis E. Powell's residence, and was destroyed by fire June 5, 1898.

The Mountain Valley post-office was established in this building, Aug. 7, 1868, and discontinued June 25, 1894. Edward B. Trivley

\*In the expression, "Priest Jud," the author referred to himself, his name being G. Judson Carpenter. He was assisted to an elevated position on the frame, where he was supported by a workman on each side, while speaking, being unable to stand alone at such a height. He taught district school in Newton and Ransom for several years.

was appointed the first postmaster about 1870. He was succeeded by M. Trivley.

This hamlet was named "Mountain Valley" in 1868, by Edward B. Trivley, when the flag pole was raised at the hotel.

#### SCHOOL-HOUSES

The first school-house in Mountain Valley was built of logs, sometime before 1840, on the farm now owned by Horace Courtright (across the road from where Lewis E. Powell's barn is erected). Eliza Hallstead, Cyrus Marey and a Mr. Swarts were among the first teachers.

About 1861 a framed school-house was erected on the William Mosier farm (now owned by

#### EVANGELICAL CHURCH

The church at Mountain Valley was erected in 1884, during the pastorate of J. M. Longsdorf. In 1882, Alvy Krouse, E. S. Miller and J. B. Coolbaugh were appointed a building committee. A lot was purchased in 1883 of David Z. Michael for \$25. A building was erected the following year, at a cost of \$1,000. It was dedicated Sept. 7, 1884 by Rev. N. Young. The church was remodeled in 1906, at a cost of nearly \$2,000, and was rededicated the same year by Rev. W. F. Swengel, during the pastorate of Rev. H. W. Thomas.

This church belongs to the Ransom circuit. Rev. W. E. Smith is the present minister.



MOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL-HOUSE AND CHURCH.

E. S. Miller), near where Ostrander Richards' barn now stands. Edward Ayers was the first teacher. The Misses Emily Litts and Susan Neyhart were among the early teachers. Among the later teachers were William Shelley, Miss Amy Petty, Reuben Lesh, Miss Maggie Robertson, Augustus Michael and others. This school building was purchased by William Mosier and torn down, and the lumber used in the erection of his house in 1884.

The present school-house was built about 1879, and Joseph Moore was the first teacher. Other teachers were Mame Miller, William Brodhead, Marjoria Jones, Mamie Zeiss, Marie Corselius, Bessie Evans, Dora Huthmaker, Rhea Williams, Anna O'Malley, Porter Michael, Miss Roloson, Sara Klipple, Lillian Decker, and others. Miss Maude Hincley of Dalton, is the teacher at this writing.

#### MOUNT DEWEY

This portion of Ransom township was a wilderness twenty-five years ago, except two or three clearings. The first settlement was made in 1832 by a Mr. Woolsey, who purchased 160 acres and the same year erected part of the house now owned by John Witzal. This farm has since been divided into lots containing from one to ten acres each, except the farm, containing twenty-eight acres, now owned by George Kellou of Green Ridge. The house on this farm was built about 1880 by Andrew Witzal. The farm now owned by Alonzo J. Wickizer (on the Newton turnpike) was settled about 1869 by William Canterbury, father of William F. Canterbury. About 1880 William Lloyd settled the farm now owned by William T. Jones. About 1886 Frederick Biere erected a house on the property now owned by Stephen



Schmidt.

The growth of the settlement was slow until about 1889. During the next ten years several houses were erected. There are now thirty-five houses in Mount Dewey school district, containing about 180 inhabitants.

The name, "Mount Dewey," was suggested by Mrs. Catherine Wilson at an entertainment given at the school-house, Feb. 22, 1899, for the benefit of the school library. Prior to that time it was called the "West Mountain School." It is also called Little Ransom.

An election board was established in 1899 through the efforts of Charles Mayer and Frank Hildebrant. Before this time the voters of this part of the township went to Milwaukie to vote.

Scranton. There are no factories or industries. The citizens find employment in Scranton.

#### SCHOOL-HOUSE

In 1889, George Witzal (brother of John), called a meeting to plan for the erection of a school-house. Congressman John Farr was instrumental in getting an appropriation of \$700 from the State, and the township paid \$150. The same year a building was erected at a cost of \$850. Andrew Witzal, Jr., was the first school director and Edward Parker the second.

The following are the teachers: 1889, Miss Munson, 1890, Miss Dora Huthmaker; 1891, Miss Bartal; 1892, Mr. Richards; 1893-97 (5 terms), Frank Hildebrant; 1898, Laverne Taylor; 1899 and 1900, Miss Stella Price; 1901 and



MOUNT DEWEY SCHOOL-HOUSE AND SCHOLARS.

The public road from the corner at the Continental Mine Office to the old "Blindman's Road" was built in 1896. This road follows the Continental creek to near its source where it crosses the creek, and extends eastward by the school-house.

Mt. Dewey has no post-office or rural route. West Scranton is the nearest post-office. A large portion of the mail is delivered at 914 Keyser Avenue, Scranton. Better mail service is needed in this hamlet.

Mt. Dewey has no regularly laid out streets. The different homes are built among the trees, some are nestled in the valleys, while other are on the hill-tops. It is a very pleasant place in summer, where many people of Scranton go for a day's outing. Here they find abundance of pure air and cold spring water.

The nearest stores and churches are in West

1902, Miss Anna P. Reed; 1903 and 1904, Miss Nellie I. Garrett; 1905 and 1906, Mrs. Edward Wint (sister-in-law of General Wint); 1907, Miss Ruon; 1908 and 1909, Mrs. Martha Nolan; 1910, Miss Margaret Jones; 1911, Miss Sara D. O'Malley.

#### WEST MOUNTAIN SANATORIUM

The Scranton Society for the Prevention and Cure of Consumption was incorporated Jan. 26, 1903. The incorporators were J. M. Wainwright, M. D., A. J. Connell, M. D., M. J. Hoban, Rogers Israel, J. Benj. Dimmick, Reese G. Brooks and Henry A. Knapp. On the 15th of July, 1903, the Society purchased of John Heim, a farm on the West Mountain, in Ransom township, containing thirty acres, for \$6,000. Upon this property a pavilion and several shacks have been erected for the accommoda-

tion of the patients. The patients are kept in open shacks, both summer and winter. Fifty-two patients were treated in 1911, and fifteen were discharged cured. The largest number of patients at any one time during the year was thirty, and the smallest number was nineteen. The business address of the Sanatorium is 436 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, Pa.

#### BURNING OF THE SCHMIDT RESIDENCE

One of the sad events of Ransom township was the burning of the residence of Ferdinand

Schmidt, Sept. 9, 1906.

Shortly after the noon hour, on a pleasant autumn Sunday, the quiet settlement of Mount Dewey was aroused by the alarm of fire, sounded by Mrs. John Moor, who lived near the Schmidt home, which was soon a mass of flames. Mr. Schmidt and his two daughters, Nettie and Amelia, aged seven and twelve years, were fatally burned. They were taken to the Moses Taylor Hospital, where the children died the following morning, and the father two days later.



RESIDENCE OF EDWARD E. ACE.

## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

### HOMES AND PEOPLE OF RANSOM

#### EDWARD E. ACE

Mr. Ace is a son of Moses and Anna (Barrier) Ace. He was born Jan. 31, 1869 on the homestead farm where now living, which has always been his home. Farming has been his lifelong occupation.

Mr. Ace was married Dec. 24, 1891 to Miss Mary Ellen, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Blackwell) Brezee. Mr. and Mrs. Ace have a family of five children, namely: Moses E., Maggie A., Wilda J., Sarah I. and Abram W. They are all living at home.

MOSES ACE, father of our subject, was born May 29, 1839 in Newton township, and died Aug. 24, 1906 on the farm now owned by his son, Edward. He was a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Walter) Ace (*See George W. Ace*).

Moses Ace was married Oct. 6, 1866 to Miss Anna, daughter of Philip and Susan (Dersheimer) Barrier. Mrs. Moses Ace was born Dec. 13, 1844 in Milwaukie, and is living with her son, Edward. Mr. and Mrs. Moses Ace were the parents of five children, namely: Jennie, born Aug. 15, 1867 and married Wm. Cosler, and living in Taylor; Jacob, twin brother of Jennie, died Jan. 3, the following year; Edward E., our subject; Bertha, born July 31, 1874 and married Wade Clark, and living on a farm near Falls; and Maggie, born Sept. 25, 1878, and died Feb. 22, 1883. Moses Ace was a farmer, a carpenter and a blacksmith.

JOSEPH BREZEE was born Sept. 6, 1853, near the home of Chas. Stine, and died Feb. 13, 1906. He was married May 13, 1871 to Miss Sarah J.,



daughter of William and Margaret (Ace) Blackwell (*See Peter S. Metzgar*). Mrs. Brezee was born Aug. 12, 1853, and is living in Mountain Valley. She had a family of twelve children, namely: Mary E., Lucy A., Maggie E., Hattie J., Ida M., Emma D., William A., the twins, Cora and Carrie, John M., Bertha B., and Pearl E. Four of the above are dead: Hattie, Ida, Carrie and John.

#### GEORGE W. ACE.

The Ace's were among the early settlers of Ransom township.

Our subject, George W. Ace, was born Dec. 6, 1841. He enlisted October 18, 1864 in Co.

was a son of George and Barbary Ace, and was married to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of George and Elizabeth Walters. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Ace moved from Monroe county to Newton township in April, 1839 and rented the old Peter Corseilus farm, near where Jennings Drake now lives. In 1840 they moved to Ransom township and settled on the farm now owned by his grandson, Edward Ace, and erected the framed house, which was rebuilt about 1887 by his son, Moses. Their farm and adjoining land was then a wilderness. Mr. and Mrs. Ace were the parents of eleven children, three sons and eight daughters, namely: Elizabeth, married Mathias H. Blackwell; Solo-



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE W. ACE

G, 52nd Regiment Pa. Vol., and served until after the close of the War. He was married January 4, 1866 to Miss Susanna, daughter of Benjamin and Sarah (Ace) Courtright. Mrs. Ace was born November 10, 1841 in Middle Smithfield township, Monroe county.

To the union of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Ace four children were born, namely: (1) William, born June 29, 1864 and married about 1887 to Miss Jennie Ace. They are living in Taylor and have six children: Elmer, Ethel, Millie, George, Berlo and Acea; (2) Jacob, born July 8, 1866 and died six days later; (3) Stella, born April 1, 1879 and died April 28, the same year; (4) Elwood Laverne, born June 20, 1880, and married March 13, 1907 to Miss Lizzie L. Davis of Taylor. They have two children: George E., born December 5, 1907, and Pearl E., born October 18, 1910. Laverne is working his father's farm.

JACOB ACE, the father of our subject, was born October 9, 1797 in Monroe county. He

mon, married Marrier Williams and second wife was Catherine Prentzman; Mary Ann, married Peter Williams; Sarah, married Henry Leader; Harriet, married Charles Wagner, who was killed about 1854 when tearing down the old rolling mill at Wilkes-Barre. Her second husband was Nicholas Overender; Margaret, married William Blackwell; Lavina, died when about twenty-six years of age; Emaline, married John M. Williams; Moses, married Anna Barrier; George W., the subject of this sketch; Samantha, married Dennis Michaels.

Jacob Ace died May 5, 1870. His wife was born November 1, 1801, and died February 16, 1884. They both died on the old homestead.

BENJAMIN COURTRIGHT was born October 15, 1806 and died June 18, 1864 in Monroe county. His wife was born July 12, 1812 and died December 13, 1879. Both were born in Middle Smithfield township, Monroe county. Their family consisted of eleven children, seven

sons and four daughters, namely: George, Katherine, Anna, Oliver, Moses, Susanna, Mary, John, William, Samuel and Jacob.

GEORGE ACE, our subject's grandfather, was born November 8, 1759 and died February 1, 1849. His wife, Barbary, was born April 25, 1769 and died August 9, 1840.

#### DAVID H. BEDELL

Mr. Bedell is a son of Abram H. and Ellen (Swartz) Bedell of Milwaukee. He was born Sept. 9, 1872. When about five years of age his father purchased and moved to a farm at Square Top, in Falls township. When about seventeen he attended Keystone Academy one term. He was married July 18, 1893 to Miss

son. Mr. Bedell was married April 13, 1864 to Miss Ellen A., daughter of Henry and Malissa (Miller) Swartz of Newton township. To this union eleven children were born, namely: Caroline, Gertrude, Eva, Kate, David, Arthur, Adalade, Tempie, Brice, Robert and Dolly. Eva and Dolly died in youth.

#### THEODORE G. BEHLKE

Mr. Behlke was born Sept. 7, 1854 in Pomeran, Prussia, Germany, where he lived until eighteen years of age, sailing for this country in May, 1872, arriving in New York June 2, being about thirty days on the water. He went to Oxford, N. J., where he worked in the iron mills for twelve years. In October, 1884 he moved



DAVID H. BEDELL AND FAMILY

Mary C., daughter of Nicholas and Alzana (Dailey) Klinge of Abington. She was born Nov. 21, 1873.

Mr. Bedell has devoted much of his life to farming, excepting a few months while employed in the Dickson boiler shop at Scranton.

When Rural Route No. 2 was established at Ransom, March 16, 1907, Mr. Bedell was appointed mail carrier.

Mr. and Mrs. Bedell have one son, Walter A., born Feb. 5, 1894.

ABRAM H. BEDELL, the father of our subject, was born April 28, 1844 in Milwaukee. He is a son of Zachariah Bedell. Mr. Bedell is a blacksmith by trade. He and Jacob Bedell conducted a shop in Milwaukee for several years. Later Mr. Bedell kept a store in the same village. About 1877 he purchased a farm at Square Top, where he lived several years. In August, 1900 he sold his farm to Elmer Thomp-

son. Mr. Behlke was married April 13, 1864 to Miss Ellen A., daughter of Henry and Malissa (Miller) Swartz of Newton township. To this union eleven children were born, namely: Caroline, Gertrude, Eva, Kate, David, Arthur, Adalade, Tempie, Brice, Robert and Dolly. Eva and Dolly died in youth.

Theodore G. Behlke was married Sept. 15, 1876 to Miss Catherine Isabel, daughter of Peter and Barbary (Wholeb) Kline. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Behlke twelve children were born, namely: (1) George, born Feb. 10, 1878 in Oxford, N. J., and married Nov. 28, 1903 to Miss Annie Louise Podgee. They have two children, George and Russell. They are living in Scranton. (2) Peter T., born April 11, 1880 and died Feb. 3, 1882. (3) John H., born April 29, 1882 and died twelve days later. (4) Anna B., born June 9, 1883 and died Dec. 28, the same year. (5) Louise G., born Feb.



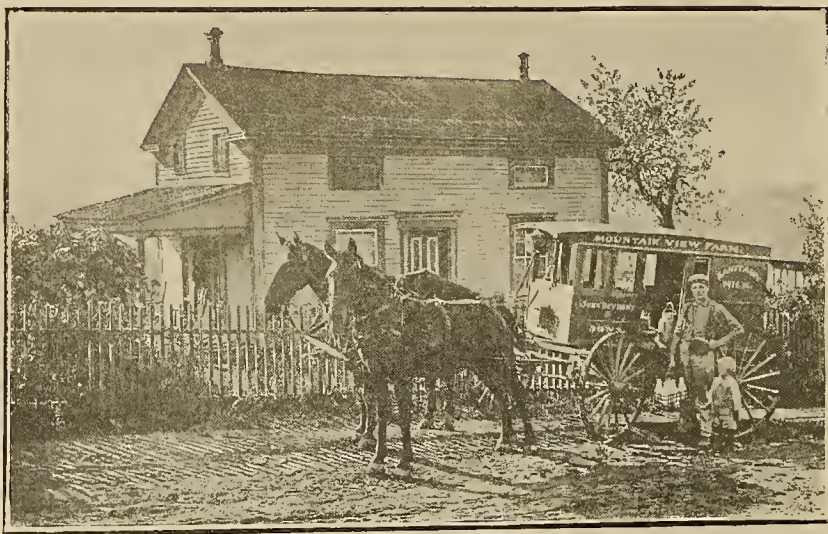
1, 1885, and is a tailoress. (6) Herman E., born May 4, 1887, and is a carpenter. (7) Jacob A., born July 5, 1889, and is a plasterer. (8) Elizabeth M., born July 10, 1891, and is a seamstress. (9) Christine C., born Aug. 6, 1893, and working at home. (10) Rose M., born May 25, 1895 and died Feb. 7, 1896. (11) William G., born Dec. 18, 1896. He is learning the tiling trade. (12) Elmer R., born Sept. 24, 1899 and died March 23, 1900.

FREDERICK BEILKE was born in March, 1819 in Germany, and died in November, 1903 in Oxford, N. J. He was a farmer while living in the old country, but worked in the iron works after he came to New Jersey in 1872. His wife, Miss Hannah Friday, was born in 1829 in

many, and the inhabitants were compelled by law to change from the French to the German language.

Mr. Beyrent came to this country in November, 1880, living in Scranton for ten years, where he worked in Finch's boiler shop. He was married Sept. 21, 1887 to Miss Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Peter and Lena (Milttenberger) Finkler.

To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Beyrent nine children were born, namely: (1) Peter, born July 17, 1888 and married July 19, 1911 to Miss Freida, daughter of John and Mary (Kiefer) Miller of Scranton. They reside in Scranton, where Mr. Beyrent is engaged in the automobile business, corner Linden St. and Webster



JOHN BEYRENT'S RESIDENCE

Germany, and died July 1, 1901 in Oxford, N. J. They were married about 1848. Their family consisted of six children, namely: Herman K., Augusta, who died in 1888; Theodore, our subject; Anna, married Albert Pohl and living in Michigan City, Ind.; Edward, who died in infancy; William, also living in Michigan City.

PETER KLINE, father of Mrs. Behlke, was born in Bavaria, Germany, Sept. 18, 1833 and died in Oxford, N. J., Nov. 5, 1894. His wife, Barbary Wholeb, born in Switzerland, Sept. 17, 1839 and living on the old homestead, in Oxford, N. J. They were the parents of twelve children.

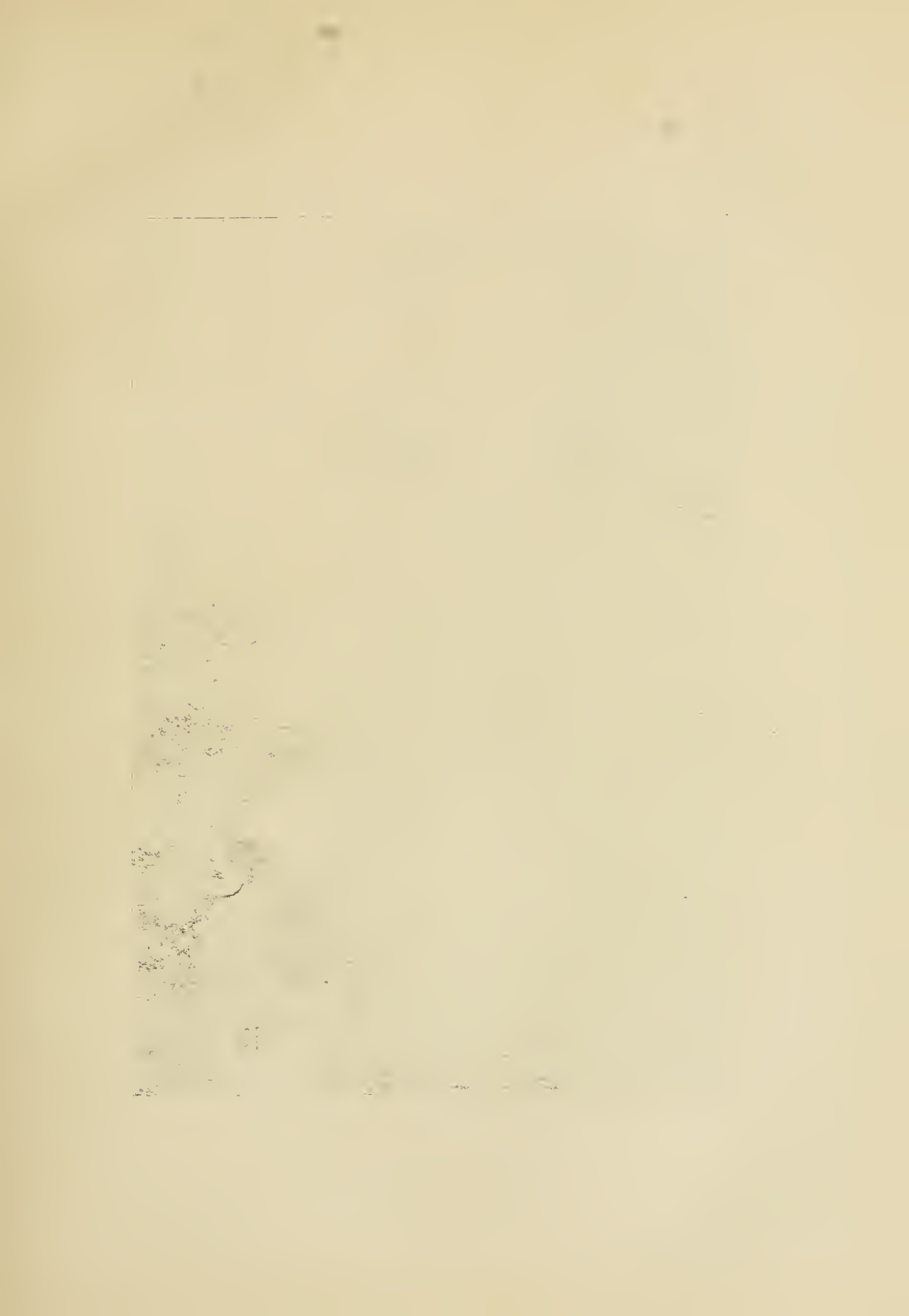
### JOHN BEYRENT

Mr. Beyrent was born May 30, 1865, in Alsace-Lorraine, Germany. This country, until 1870 belonged to France, and after the French and German war it was ceded to Ger-

Ave. (2) Nicholas J., born Dec. 9, 1890, is a farmer, helping on the home farm. (3) John, born Nov. 14, 1892, is running his father's milk wagon. (4) Mary E., born Oct. 5, 1894. (5) Charles, born Aug. 19, 1898. (6) Christian, born Sept. 12, 1900 and died Jan. 30, 1905. (7) Anna, born Sept. 16, 1902. (8) August, born Sept. 9, 1905. (9) Joseph A., born Nov. 29, 1908.

Mr. Beyrent has run a retail milk wagon to Scranton since March 15, 1908, and his son, John, has missed only two days on the wagon since May 1, 1908, excepting a few Sundays.

PETER FINKLER, born in Germany, July 11, 1830, and died in Newton January 13, 1908. He came to this country in 1839, when a boy nine years of age, with his mother and two younger sisters, being thirty-six days on the water. His father came the previous year and was seventy days making the journey. The trip can now be made in six days or less. Then







FRANK H. COON'S RESIDENCE.

the old sail ships were the only means of traveling by sea, and many times they would be drifted by the wind in the opposite direction for several miles.

Michael Finkler, the father of Peter, as stated above, came to this country about a year before his family, and settled on a farm near Wilkes-Barre. He met his family in New York city at the wharf in December, driving a one-horse wagon. Over two feet of snow fell and they were seven days driving from New York to Wilkes-Barre and Michael froze his feet, disabling him the remainder of the winter. He died in April, 1868, aged sixty-six years.

Peter Finkler was twice married, first in 1849 to Miss Margaret Herold. He was a poor boy.

daughter, Mrs. John Beyrent is now living, for which he paid \$5,500.00.

Mr. Finkler was the first person this side of the mountain to raise garden truck for marketing, which was in 1867, the year he came to this township. At first his neighbors told him it would be impossible to make a success of trucking in this section, and ridiculed the undertaking. But today nearly every farmer in Newton and adjacent country are raising all kinds of vegetables adapted to this section.

#### CHARLES W. BLACKWELL.

Mr. Blackwell was born Nov. 22, 1853 on the Homestead Farm where he is now living. He is a son of Mathias and Elizabeth (Ace) Black-



CHARLES W. BLACKWELL'S RESIDENCE.

having only \$3.00 when married, and after giving the "Squire" one-half of that amount for "tying the knot" he had only \$1.50 left to begin housekeeping. They moved to a farm on the mountain above Olyphant. Later they moved to a farm at what is now Priceburg, where his wife died about 1855, leaving four children: Mary, Charlotte, Katherine and Henry. All are dead but Katherine.

Mr. Finkler was again married in 1856 to Miss Lena Mittenberger, and to this union twelve children were born: Annie, Christian, Margaret, John, Joseph, Elizabeth, Peter, Emma, Lena, Charles and a pair of twins, living only a day. Only four are living, namely: Margaret, Elizabeth, Peter and Charles.

Mr. Finkler moved to Newton township in 1867 and purchased the Peter Bedell farm for \$10,000.00. In 1890 he purchased the Lewis Drake farm in Ransom township, where his

well.

Charles W. Blackwell was married Feb. 13, 1878 to Miss Christina, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Rupp) Scherer of Mountain Valley, who were the parents of thirteen children.

Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell are the parents of five children, namely: Lizzie, born Oct. 15, 1879 and was married in March, 1901 to Jacob Schwitzer. He died Nov. 8, 1908, leaving two children, Anna May, born Feb. 23, 1902 and Charles W., born Feb. 22, 1905. Lizzie was married again in March, 1910 to Sterling Evans and living near Dalton; Abram, born Feb. 23, 1882; Josephine, born Feb. 19, 1884; William, born Sept. 13, 1888 and Mary, born July 1, 1891.

Mr. Blackwell was elected constable of Ransom township in February, 1906 and re-elected in 1909. He has been road supervisor since



March, 1909, and was school director for nine successive terms, being first elected about 1883. He has been elected poor director three times.

Mr. Blackwell's sons, Abram and William, are now working the farm on shares. They were the largest growers of tomatoes in Ransom township during 1911, producing over 2,500 baskets. They also raised about 15,000 heads of cabbage and fifty tons of hay.

MATHIAS BLACKWELL was born May 3, 1817 in New Jersey, and when three years of age he came to Wilkes-Barre with his parents, Israel and Sarah (Bates) Blackwell. Here they lived on rented farms until 1842, when they moved to the farm now owned by Charles W. Blackwell, which was then a wilderness except a small

on the farm now owned by Frederick Hoffman, above Milwaukie. He is a son of William and Margaret (Ace) Blackwell (*See Peter S. Metzgar*).

Our subject was married Sept. 10, 1882 to Miss Ellen Nora, daughter of Peter and Ellen (Miller) Miller. Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell are the parents of nine children, namely: (1) Elmer W., born June 19, 1884 and married Miss Louise Weisenthal of Taylor, and have one daughter, Helen Louise, born March 16, 1910. (2) Susannah, born Oct. 17, 1886, and married Dec. 24, 1908 to Wesley Maas, son of Wentzel Maas. They have one son, Albert, born Jan. 14, 1910, and are living on a farm near Ransom. (3) Layton, born Oct. 4, 1888, and



RESIDENCE OF THEODORE G. BEHLKE

clearing around the log-house that was built sometime before 1838 by Frederick Stine. Mathias was married Aug. 24, 1847 to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Walters) Ace. She was born April 3, 1822. Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell were the parents of six children, namely: Ellen, born Feb. 8, 1849 and died Jan. 12, 1853; Mary Ann, born May 24, 1850 and married Ira Drake of Newton; Amy, born Nov. 16, 1851 and married Jacob Court-right and living in West Pittston; Charles W., the subject of this sketch; Sarah, born Dec. 31, 1855 and died May 21, 1865; Moses, born July 9, 1858 and married Anna Maas, and died Dec. 23, 1889; Mathias died Sept. 14, 1895 and his wife died Jan. 6, 1907.

#### JOHN M. BLACKWELL.

Mr. Blackwell was born March 20, 1857 near Pittston. When about eleven years of age his parents moved to Ransom township and settled

working for Edwin S. Miller on the milk wagon since September, 1907. (4) Alice, born Dec. 22, 1890. (5) John C., born Oct. 23, 1892. He has been working for Edwin S. Miller for about three years. (6) Harry, born Jan. 13, 1895, also working for Mr. Miller. (7) Minnie J., born Jan. 9, 1896 and died Feb. 8, the same year. (8) Della M., born Jan. 9, 1897. (9) Mildred H., born April 2, 1900 and died April 12, the same year.

Mrs. Blackwell is a sister of Edwin S. Miller of Mountain Valley. She was born Nov. 30, 1862, in Monroe county, her mother dying when she was only a week old. Then she was taken to the home of her grandmother, where she lived until six years of age, when her father was married again. When nine years of age she came to Ransom township, and lived with her aunt, Mrs. Susannah Mosier, until married (*See Edwin S. Miller*).

## ELMER W. BLACKWELL

Mr. Blackwell is a carpenter, working for the Taylor-Duryea Lumber Co. of Taylor, where he has been employed since the spring of 1907.

He was born June 19, 1884, near Mountain Valley school-house, on the farm where Adam B. Miller is now living. He is a son of John M. and Ellen (Miller) Blackwell of Mountain Valley, and a grandson of William Blackwell. (See *Peter S. Metzgar*).

Our subject was married at the age of twenty-five to Miss Louise, daughter of John and Barbara (Sultzer) Weisenfluh of Taylor.

Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell have one daughter, Helen Louise, born March 16, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowen are the parents of fourteen children, namely: (1) Polly, born April 7, 1882 in Trederger, South Wales, and died in February, 1892. (2) William J., born June 7, 1882, and married Sept. 24, 1907 to Miss Celia Evans, and living in Hyde Park. They have one son, William, born July 27, 1910. (3) Martha G., born Oct. 28, 1884 and married Sept. 30, 1907 to Hiley W. Stewart, and living in Mt. Dewey. They have two children, namely: Willard L., born Jan. 9, 1909; Letitia, born March 22, 1912. (4) Margaret, born Jan. 6, 1885. She is an operator in the Imperial Underwear Factory. (5) Sarah Ann, born April 19, 1887, and married Bruce Cobb, May 14,



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM BOWEN

JOHN WEISENFLUH, born in Switzerland, May 12, 1840. He came to this country about 1882, and has since lived in Taylor. He married Miss Barbara Sultzer. They are the parents of ten children.

## WILLIAM BOWEN

Mr. Bowen was born Nov. 13, 1857 in Aber-sychan, South Wales. He is a son of Joseph and Margaret (Jones) Bowen, who were the parents of five children, namely: William, Sarah Ann, Charles, Agnes and Ada.

Mr. Bowen was married April 9, 1881 to Miss Letitia Gilbert, in their native country. Mrs. Bowen is a daughter of William and Masling (Thomas) Gilbert. (See *Wm. F. Canterbury*).

Mr. and Mrs. Bowen came to this country March 20, 1887. Mr. Bowen is a shoe-maker by trade, which he followed about four years after arriving in Scranton. He then began working in the mines, where he has since been employed.

1908 and living on a farm near Lake Sheridan. (6) Ada, born July 8, 1889, is working in the Imperial Underwear Factory. (7) Charles, born Nov. 12, 1890, is working in the mines. (8) Polly, born June 9, 1892. (9) Letitia, born June 23, 1894. (10) Agnes, born Aug. 13, 1895. (11) Susan, born Aug. 11, 1896. (12) Winifred, born April 25, 1898. (13) Annie, born Aug. 1, 1899. (14) May, born April 10, 1897 and died two weeks later. The first four children were born in South Wales.

## FRANK H. COON

Mr. Coon ranks among the leading agriculturists of Ransom township. He is engaged in mixed farming—trucking, dairying and grain raising, making a specialty of hay, cabbage and apples.

Mr. Coon was born March 16, 1873 on the homestead farm, which has since been his home. He was married Feb. 15, 1900, to Miss



Marie F., daughter of Peter and Octavia (Fitch) Corselius. She was born Sept. 13, 1872 near Milwaukie, on the farm now owned by her brother, Harry Corselius (*See Harry Corselius*).

Mr. and Mrs. Coon are the parents of two children, namely: Samuel, born Dec. 26, 1900, and Ruth O., born Dec. 22, 1906.

GEORGE C. COON, father of our subject, was born March 26, 1848 near Newton Center, on the farm now owned by George L. Coon. G. C. Coon is a son of Samuel and Margaret (Walter) Coon, and a grandson of Joseph Coon, one of the pioneer settlers of Newton township. Mr. Coon lived with his parents until twenty-one years of age, when he moved to the farm where he now resides. He was married one year later to Miss Jane L., daughter of William Moore of

children. When only nine years of age, he began working in Brigg's (Capouse) Breaker as slate picker. In September, 1878 he entered the mines, where he worked as door boy, mule driver and car runner. In July, 1883 he advanced to mine laborer, and five years later to coal miner, working seventeen years mining coal. In April, 1906 he began working for the D. L. & W. Coal Company in the Hyde Park mine as bratticeman, which is a position next to foreman. In April, 1911 he went back to mining.

Mr. Canterbury received no education in his younger days, and when married could not read nor write. He then realized his need of an education, and spent his spare moments learning to read and write, gaining a fair edu-



WILLIAM F. CANTERBURY'S RESIDENCE

Wyoming county. She was born Aug. 9, 1849 and died Aug. 13, 1880. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Coon four children were born, namely: William B., born July 12, 1871 and died July 24, the same year; Frank H., our subject; Alice B., born June 1, 1877 and married W. H. Newman, M. D., and are living in Newton Center; Samuel, born July 25, 1880 and died Feb. 10, 1885.

Mr. Coon was married the second time, Dec. 5, 1882 to Lydia Brown, daughter of David K. and Loretta Brown of Wyoming county. She died Jan. 4, 1906, and Mr. Coon is now living with his son, Frank.

### WILLIAM FRANCIS CANTERBURY

Mr. Canterbury was born in Keyser Avenue, Scranton, Oct. 21, 1867. He is one of fifteen

children. On June 16, 1910 he passed the required examination for Assistant Mine Foreman, and August 1st, the same year was granted Certificate of Qualification, issued by the State Department of Mines at Harrisburg.

William F. Canterbury was married January 3, 1890 to Miss Mary Ann, daughter of William and Masling (Thomas) Gilbert. Mrs. Mary Ann Canterbury was born January 13, 1872 in Wales and came to Canada October 31, 1882, with her parents, and two years later to this country.

Mr. Canterbury is of the only family bearing the name of "Canterbury" in the United States, and all are living in and near Scranton.

Mr. and Mrs. Canterbury are the parents of eleven children, ten of whom are living at home and their names may be found in the Directory.

Another daughter, Lucy, born Jan. 24, 1893, and married April 21, 1910 to Eugene, son of George and Mattie (Carey) Engles. They have one son, William G., born May 17, 1911. They are living in Hyde Park.

GEO. W. CANTERBURY, the father of our subject, was born Nov. 7, 1828 in York State and died in May, 1904. He married Miss Mary J. Gruslin, who was born in France in 1841 and died in Scranton in May, 1893. They were the parents of fifteen children, nine of whom are now living, namely: Joseph, William, John, Charles, Frank, Ellen, Emma, Kate and Mame. George W. Canterbury traveled in every state in the Union. He was a soldier in the Civil War, enlisting in 1861 and serving till the

### HARRY CORSELIUS

Harry S. Corselius was born Feb. 7, 1877 on the farm where he is now living. He attended the Milwaukie school until 1895, when he entered the East Stroudsburg Normal School. Here he attended two winter terms. He was married Jan. 20, 1900 to Miss Mand E., daughter of Peter and Emma (Rader) Bedell of Milwaukie.

Mr. Corselius is a progressive truck and dairy farmer. He is secretary of the school board, being elected director in November, 1911.

Mr. and Mrs. Corselius have a family of three children, namely: Mary H., born Sept. 23, 1900; George B., born April 25, 1907; Floyd S., born June 9, 1909.



RESIDENCE OF HARRY CORSELIUS.

close of the war. He was never wounded in battle.

WILLIAM GILBERT was born May 1, 1832 in Somersetshire, England. Mrs. Gilbert was born April 1, 1830 in France. She is a daughter of William and Mary Ann Thomas. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert are the parents of nine children, five of whom are now living, namely: (1) Lettie, married Wm. Bowen, and have fourteen children and living in Mt. Dewey. (2) Agnes, married Valentine Herne, having a family of fourteen children and living in Hyde Park. (3) Thomas, married Susie James, and have three children and living in Hyde Park. (4) Benjamin, married Rachel Burch, and have a family of six children and living in Hyde Park. (5) Mary Ann, the wife of our subject. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert have over sixty grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren. They are living with their daughter, Mrs. Herne

Mr. Corselius is a son of Peter Corselius, Jr., and a grandson of Peter Corselius, one of the early settlers of Newton township.

PETER CORSELIUS, JR., the father of our subject, was born in Newton Centre, Feb. 2, 1843. He was married May 14, 1868 to Miss Octavia E., daughter of Seymour and Elizabeth Fitch of Square Top. Mr. and Mrs. Corselius were the parents of two children: Marie, born Sept. 13, 1872 and married Frank Coon of Mountain Valley; Harry S., our subject. Mrs. Corselius died Feb. 7, 1905. In 1871 Mr. Corselius purchased the farm now owned by his son, Harry, from John Kuhn, and in 1909 moved to Newton township, exchanging farms with his son.

PETER CORSELIUS, SR. was born in April, 1800, in Sussex county, New Jersey and died in April, 1863 in Newton township. He was married in 1827 to Miss Marie Youngs, and about three years later moved to Newton town-



ship and settled on the farm now owned by George Biesecker. He built a log house near the home of Jennings Drake and a few years later built the house where F. H. Cooper is now living. He was one of the first justice-of-the-peace in this section, holding the office for several years. His family consisted of nine children, namely: George, who died when eleven years of age, Dorcas (Mrs. John Hice), Phebe (Mrs. Horace Litts), Jephtha, Rosanna (Mrs. P. K. Richards), Alvy, Peter, Harvey and Harry. The two oldest were born in New

His father died when he was twenty years of age. He purchased the home farm from the heirs, which he has since worked.

Mr. Coolbaugh was born Sept. 22, 1854, and is a son of Nelson and Sarah (Carey) Coolbaugh. He was married June 6, 1880 to Miss Rosa, daughter of John and Catherine (Barth) Maas of Mountain Valley. Mr. and Mrs. Coolbaugh are the parents of four sons, who are living and working on the home farm, namely: Elmer, Archie, William W. and Nelson J. Elmer and Archie are graduates of the Wyoming



J. B. COOLBAUGH'S MILK HOUSE

Jersey. Peter was a son of George and Kate (Kimball) Corseius, who were born in Holland.

### JOHNSON B. COOLBAUGH

Mr. Coolbaugh is an extensive and progressive agriculturist of Mountain Valley. He is an up-to-date dairyman, and runs a retail milk wagon to West Scranton, where he sells the milk of forty first-class, grade holstein cows.

He produces from 25,000 to 30,000 heads of cabbage a year, and sells from twenty-five to fifty-five tons of hay. His farm is in first-class state of cultivation.

Mr. Coolbaugh was born and reared on a farm, and has been a farmer from his youth.

College of Business. William drives the milk wagon to Scranton.

NELSON COOLBAUGH, the father of our subject, was born in Exeter township, Wyoming county, June 6, 1829 and died Jan. 17, 1874 on the farm now owned by our subject. His wife, Miss Sarah Carey, was born in 1831 in Mountain Valley, and died Oct. 9, 1882. Their family consisted of seven children, namely: Delia, Johnson, James, Mary, Alvira, William and Letitia. Only three are living: Johnson, our subject; Alvira, married George Rose, and living in Scranton; William, married Mary Clark and they are now living on a farm near Falls.

For a record of Mrs. Coolbaugh's parents, see *John P. Maas*.

## HORACE COURTRIGHT

Mr. Courtright is one of the largest truck growers in Ransom township, which he sells at retail in Scranton, making from four to six trips a week from early summer till late in autumn. He is the largest producer of red raspberries in this township. April 1, 1911 he started a retail milk wagon in Scranton, which is supplied by milk from his own dairy.

Mr. Courtright was born June 6, 1860 in Middle Smithfield township, Monroe county, where he received a fair education. In 1877 he came to Milwaukie where he worked for

Mr. Courtright is a son of Oliver and Caroline (Treible) Courtright. (For record of Mr. Courtright's family, see *Thomas J. Huthmaker*).

To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Courtright eight children were born, namely: Willard H., Mabel E., Anna S., Laura B., Howard L., Walter, Christian K. and Albert W. All are living at home. Laura is a student at the East Stroudsburg Normal School. (See *Directory for dates of birth*).

BENJAMIN COURTRIGHT was the grandfather of our subject. (See *George W. Ace.*).



J. B. COOLBAUGH'S BARN.

William Zeiss two summers, after which he returned to Monroe county. He was married April 29, 1886 to Miss Arminda, daughter of John and Margaret Ann (Wells) Clark, of Middle Smithfield township. Mr. and Mrs. Courtright moved to Ransom in March, 1887. They lived in Milwaukie ten years, where he worked by the day for the farmers. On March 22, 1898 he moved to the Mosier farm (now owned by Edwin Miller) on the mountain, which he rented three years. He then rented the Jacob Bedell farm three years, which he purchased Nov. 23, 1904, where he has since resided.

Mr. Courtright was elected school director in Feb., 1902, and re-elected in 1905 and 1908.

JOHN CLARK, father of Mrs. Courtright, was born in 1813 and died June 27, 1892 in Middle Smithfield township, Monroe county. He was married May 14, 1847 to Miss Margaret Ann Wells. She was born Nov. 26, 1823 in New Jersey and died Sept. 8, 1900 in Middle Smithfield township. They were the parents of ten children, four sons and six daughters, namely: (1) Martha R., born Feb. 1, 1848 and died June 8, 1852. (2) Mary Emma, born April 14, 1849 and was drowned June 12, 1852. (3) Franklin P., born July 25, 1852, and is living near his old home. He never married. (4) Sarah S., born Oct. 7, 1853 and married Christian Kautz. They have three children: Harry, Bertha and Austin, and living



in Smithfield township. (5) Aaron Q., born April 9, 1855. He went West when about twenty years of age and has not been heard from since. (6) Susanna C., born Sept. 1, 1857 and married Thos. Blatchler of Monroe county. They had a family of ten children. She died April 20, 1898. (7) Arminda, born April 10, 1859 and married Mr. Courtright, the head of this sketch. She died August 17, 1909. (8) George W., born April 1, 1861 and died March 28, 1902. He never married. (9) William H., born Sept. 14, 1865. He is a mechanic, living in Middle Smithfield township. (10) Margaret E., born April 8, 1867 and died July 26, 1894.

1877 and married Oct. 25, 1905 to John Schultheis and are living in Taylor, and have one daughter, Luella; Virgie R., born Dec. 4, 1879 and married Dec. 26, 1906 to Harry Dymond and are living in Blairstown, N. J.; Harry A., born May 14, 1886 and married Oct. 20, 1909 to Miss Margaret Bedell and are living in Milwaukee where he has a blacksmith shop; Sadie M., born Feb. 26, 1888 and married Walter Klipple April 22, 1909 and are living in Milwaukee; Pearl L., born Aug. 6, 1893 and is living with her mother.

JOHN MICHAELS was born Jan. 16, 1818 in Monroe county and died Nov. 29, 1854 in Ransom township. Mrs. Michaels was born March



HOME OF HORACE COURTRIGHT.

Showing the old log-house, concrete milk house, barn and residence.

### MRS. PHEBE COURTRIGHT

Mrs. Courtright is the youngest daughter of John and Sarah (Drake) Michaels. She was born Aug. 20, 1856 in Ransom township.

Mrs. Courtright was married Nov. 13, 1872 to John Courtright, son of Benjamin and Sarah (Ace) Courtright. He was born Nov. 11, 1845 in Monroe county and died in Milwaukee Sept. 16, 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Courtright were the parents of six children, namely: Lewis D., born March 22, 1875 and was married Sept. 6, 1893 to Miss Sarah Keilbach and are living in West Pittston, and have four children: Ella, Anna, Mamie and Harry; Mary E., born Jan. 17,

18. 1817 in New Jersey and died Feb. 4, 1894.

They had seven children, namely: Dennis, who is living on a farm in Newton township; Elias, who died when young; Mary, married M. H. Trible and is living in Scranton; Sarah, married Andrew Hopkins and died in 1877; Phoebe, the subject of this sketch; and Jacob, who is living in Michigan.

### HARRY A. COURTRIGHT

Mr. Courtright is a son of John and Phebe Courtright. He was born May 14, 1886 in Kizer Valley and came to Milwaukee with his parents when about nine years of age. His

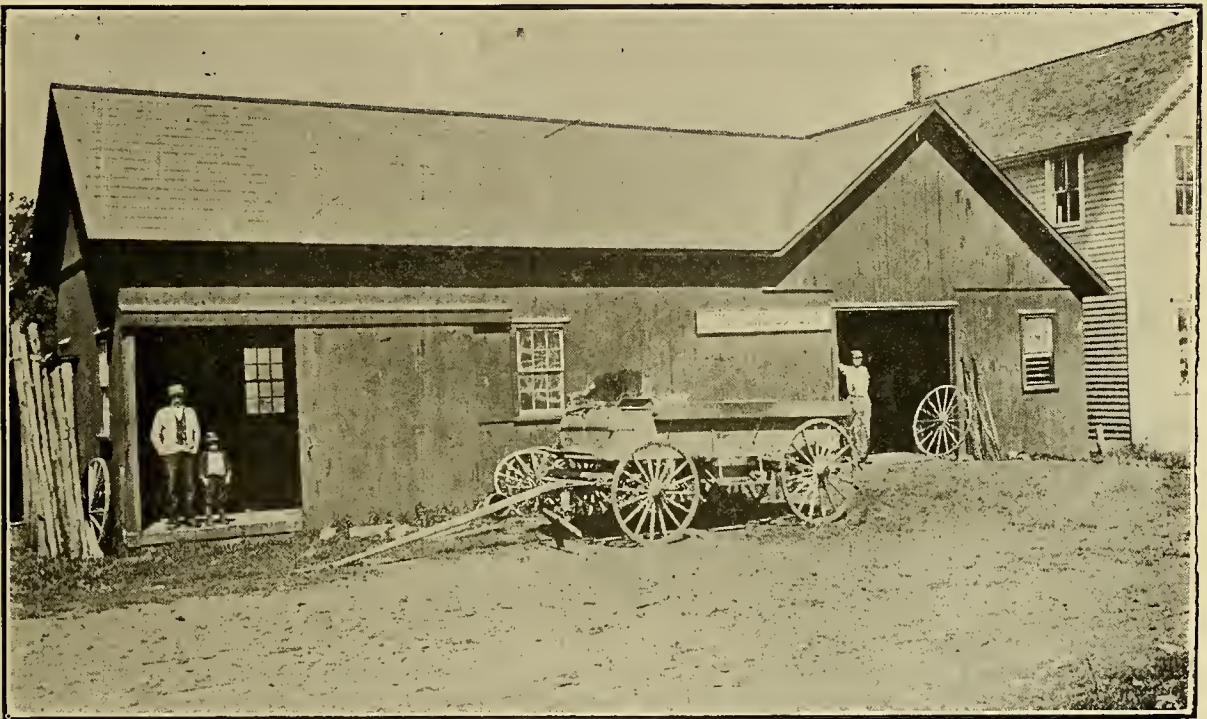


father died when Harry was only twelve years old. Harry attended No. 17 School, at Kizer Valley, three years and at Milwaukie four years. When sixteen years of age he began learning the blacksmith's trade with John C. Kunsman at Milwaukie, where he worked over four years. March 1, 1907, he rented the blacksmith shop of Christopher Van Buskirk at Bald Mount, which he ran for three years, the first year being in partnership with his brother-in-law, Harry Dymond, and the last two years alone. On April 1, 1910 he commenced clerking for O. W. Petty, where he worked until Sept. 1, 1910 when he rented the blacksmith shop of

working in the Mount Pleasant Breaker as slate picker, and when twelve he entered the mines. He advanced to the different stages of the work until about 1889 he was employed as track layer, which has since been his occupation.

Our subject was married Sept. 13, 1894 to Miss Sarah J., daughter of John and Eliza (Parry) Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis W. Coslett have five children living (*See Directory*). Four died in infancy, namely: Vera, born Oct. 17, 1897 and died July 15, the following year; Lydia, born Dec. 19, 1901 and died Aug. 23, 1903; James, born April 22, 1908 and died May 2, 1909;



BLACKSMITH SHOP, MILWAUKIE.

John C. Kunsman which he is conducting at this writing.

Mr. Courtright was married Oct. 20, 1909 to Miss Margaret, daughter of Peter and Emma (Rader) Bedell.

Mrs. Courtright was born Jan. 20, 1887 in Milwaukie. Her father was born in Milwaukie, Dec. 7, 1854 and her mother was born June 10, 1855 at Ransom and died May 13, 1901. She (Mrs. Bedell) was a daughter of John and Catherine (Walters) Rader. (*See Mrs. Phoebe Courtright.*)

#### LEWIS W. COSLETT.

Mr. Coslett is a son of William and Martha (Todd) Coslett. He was born Sept. 24, 1871 in Taylor. When eight years of age he began

John, born July 21, 1911 and died Jan. 28, 1912.

Mr. Coslett attended school only three short terms, but later in life realizing the need of an education, purchased several books. These he read and studied during his spare moments, thereby obtaining a fair business education.

WILLIAM COSLETT, our subject's father, was born about 1833 in South Wales and died in West Scranton in July, 1887. His wife was born about 1843 in Mertha Tydvil, South Wales and died in April, 1901 in West Scranton. She was a daughter of James Todd. Mr. Coslett was a miner by trade. Mr. and Mrs. Coslett came to this country in 1865.

JOHN F. DAVIS was born in South Wales



and died in April, 1885 in West Scranton, aged about 53 years. His wife was born in Herfordshire, England, Oct. 1, 1843 and died May 4, 1896 in West Scranton. They were married in England about 1850, and came to this country about 1866. Mr. Davis coming about a year before his wife and children.

#### IRA E. DAVIS

The up-to-date wagon maker of Milwaukie was born Oct. 7, 1857 in Columbia county. He is a son of Robert D. Davis.

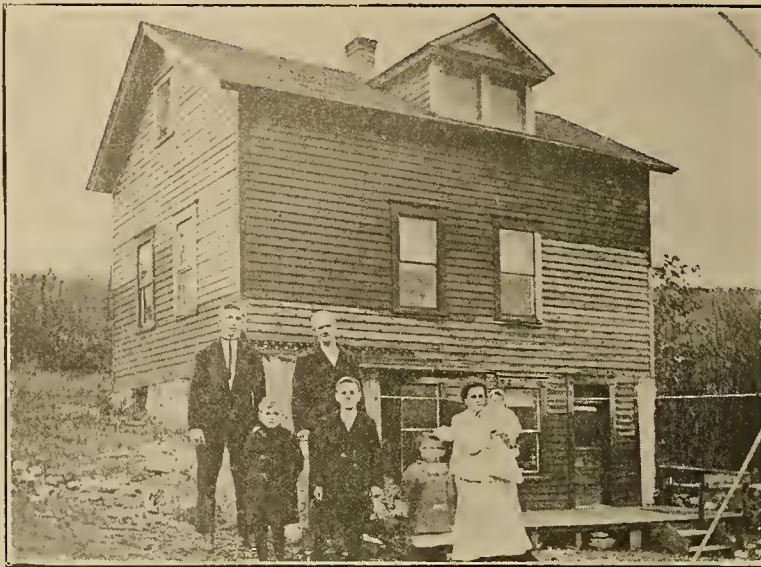
When about sixteen years of age he began learning the blacksmith trade with E. M. Winter at Milwaukie. He worked here about eigh-

Davis, May 24, 1898. Ira E. conducted the business alone until Jan. 1, 1911, when he entered into partnership with his two sons, Robert and Clarence.

Ira E. Davis was married March 20, 1880 to Miss Hattie E., daughter of Ebenezer (b. Oct. 25, 1819 —d. Jan. 8, 1903) and Julia M. (Rose) Rozelle. Mrs. Rozelle was born March 1, 1829 and died Feb. 11, 1908.

Mrs. Davis was born Nov. 6, 1854 in Newton, opposite from where the Hillside Home is now built. She is a dress-maker by trade, which she followed seven years before marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis are the parents of six children, namely: (1) Edith M., born Dec. 29,



RESIDENCE OF LEWIS W. COSLETT

teen months. Then he went to Scranton, working four years with his uncle, William Blume. Here he finished learning his trade, after which he worked in Wilkes-Barre and Pittston until March 1, 1883. Then he returned to Milwaukie, where he and his brother, Daniel W., under the firm name of Davis Bros., purchased the William Moyer wagon shop. The building and contents were destroyed by fire Sept. 24, 1890. The same year they purchased the site and water privilege of the pioneer saw-mill in Ransom township, from the William Tompkins' estate. Part of the old mill-dam built in 1824 by Horace Twitchel was then standing. In 1891 they erected a two-story and basement building, size 40x51 feet, with an one-story addition, size 26x28 feet, for a blacksmith shop.

The building is equipped with first-class wood working machinery, driven by a turbine water-wheel. After the death of Daniel W.

1882 and married Nov. 29, 1906 to Fred G. Hinekey, and has one son, Clyde V., born July 21, 1909. Mr. Hinekey was born April 7, 1881 and died Oct. 26, 1911. (2) Robert J., born April 11, 1884. (3) Mary L., born Oct. 10, 1886. (4) Grace R., born May 27, 1888 and married Oct. 23, 1909 to Thomas Looms. They have one daughter, Hazel L., born Jan. 20, 1911. Mr. Looms is depot agent for the Lehigh Valley R. R. Co. at Springville. (5) Clarence L., born June 9, 1892. (6) Frances W., born June 18, 1898.

ROBERT D. DAVIS, born March 27, 1820 in Goshen, Orange county, N. Y. He came to Pennsylvania about 1846; married in Newton township to Miss Mary, daughter of Adam and Lydia (Ace) Michaels. She was born Oct. 29, 1829 and died Jan. 23, 1903 in Ransom township. Mr. Davis died Jan. 18, 1890 on the homestead farm in Ransom. Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Davis were the parents of nine chil-



dren: George M.; Daniel W., who died May 24, 1898; Ira E.; Lydia, who married James Walter; John C.; James R.; William H.; Benjamin S. and Arthur Z.

### ALBERT R. DAVIES

Mr. Davies was born near Russell Hill, Wyoming county, July 29, 1872. He attended school at Russell Hill and one term at Keystone Academy. He was married Dec. 22, 1896 to Miss Arminda E. Sweet, daughter of Jacob and Mary (Ace) Sweet. She was born Aug. 26, 1874. Her father died when she was less than two months old.

and Sarah (Lott) Vosburg. Mr. and Mrs. George Davies were the parents of nine children: Frank, Albert, Jessie, John, May, Ray, Arthur, Clarence and George V. Jessie died when about two years of age.

GEORGE HENRY DAVIES, our subject's grandfather, was born in London, England, Jan. 23, 1811 and came to this country in 1848. He was a local Methodist preacher and a tailor by trade. He died Aug. 13, 1867. His wife, Maria Harris Davies, was born in Wales, Oct. 4, 1814 and died Jan. 6, 1885, on the old homestead farm near Russell Hill.



RESIDENCE OF ALBERT R. DAVIES.

JACOB SWEET, born March 17, 1840 and died Oct. 21, 1874. His wife, Mary Ace, born July 18, 1846 and is living in Montana. They were married June 8, 1867, and to this union four children were born: Adam, Edgar F., Mary E., and Arminda E.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Davies are the parents of two children, namely: Horace H., born Aug. 30, 1897 in Tunkhannock and Albert F., born May 22, 1902 on the farm near Milwaukie.

GEORGE DAVIES, our subject's father, was born May 29, 1844 in Neath and his wife, Orcecia, was born Feb. 14, 1849 in Vosburg. She is a daughter of Riley B. (b. 1818—d. 1880),

### LOUIS ENGLEMAN

Mr. Engleman has been a steady employee of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company since June 12, 1889, when he was first employed as car oiler, and three years later was promoted to car inspector, which position he has since held, working in the company's yard at Coxtown.

Mr. Engleman was born March 12, 1868 in Pittston, where he lived until March 1890. Then he came to Ransom with his mother and stepfather, Charles Rock, and moved on the George Sax farm, below where the Coal Storage Plant now stands.

Louis Engleman was married Nov. 15, 1890



to Miss Charlotte A., daughter of John and Lydia J. (Harris) Stout. She was born in Ransom, Oct. 23, 1870.

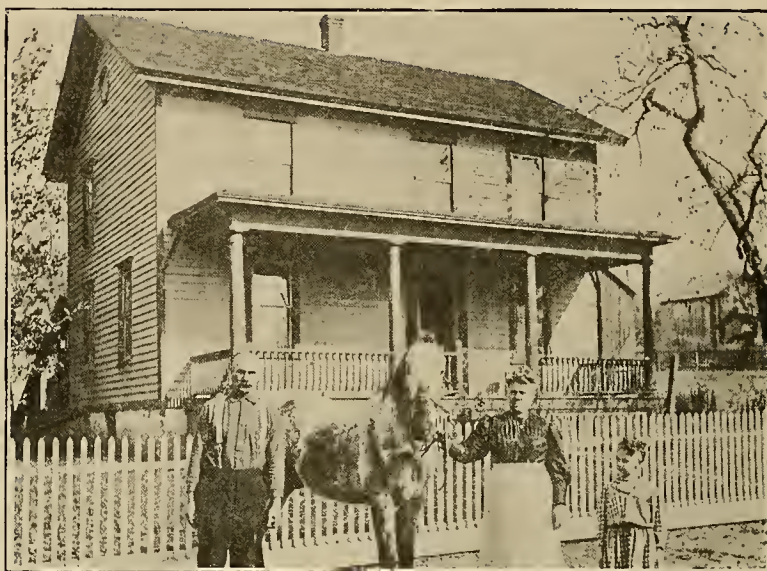
Mr. and Mrs. Engleman are the parents of two children, namely: Louis H., born July 8, 1893 and was killed by a passenger train in front of the Ransom depot, Nov. 17, 1907; Bertha M., born Feb. 1, 1899 and died of scarlet fever Aug. 26, 1905. They have one adopted daughter, Matilda May, born Aug. 6, 1902.

JOHN ENGLEMAN (Mr. Engleman's father), was born in Germany about 1818 and died in Pittston in 1870, of consumption, which he contracted in the Army. He enlisted three different times and served to the close of the rebellion, where he was taken sick with typhoid

Palmer, who died when Stella was a small girl. Mr. Gardner is employed in the Coxton yard as boss coal loader.

To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Gardner four sons were born, namely: George M., born Dec. 10, 1892 and died Mar. 20, 1898; Vivian, born Dec. 25, 1894; J. Otto, born Dec. 28, 1896 and died April 25, 1897; Luzon O., born Sept. 29, 1894. They have one adopted daughter, Viva Faith, born March 31, 1907.

GEORGE GARDNER was born March 28, 1832 and died Aug. 20, 1907. In November, 1862 he enlisted in Company D, 143d Regiment, Pa. Vol. and served until the close of the war. He learned the blacksmith trade when a boy, which he followed until the war broke out. He mar-



LOUIS ENGLEMAN'S RESIDENCE.

fever and spent several months in a hospital in Rhode Island. His wife was Miss Catherine Stem, daughter of John Stem. She was thrice married. Her second husband was George Gardner who died about 1880, and about five years later she married Charles Rock. She had five children by her first husband, namely: Catherine, Lena, Sophia and Louis and John, the twins. Four children were born by her second husband: Michael, Charles, Bridget and Jennie. She died May 28, 1897, aged 49 years.

#### JAMES GARDNER

Mr. Gardner is a son of George W. and Roselia (Smith) Gardner and a grandson of Samuel and Sarah (Lafey) Gardner and a great grandson of Richard.

James S. Gardner was married Dec. 14, 1891 to Miss Stella Palmer of Kingston. Her parents were David and Caroline (Hollenback)

ried Miss Roselia, daughter of Peter A. Smith of Ransom. They had two children: Harriet, born Oct. 13, 1862 and married John Sharp and living near Eatonville, Pa.; and James S., the subject of this sketch, born Nov. 5, 1866.

#### ELIAS A. GARDNER

Elias A. Gardner is a son of Samuel and Margaret (Smith) Gardner. He was born April 18, 1847 on the farm now owned by Henry Burgess. He married Miss Martha Cooper, oldest daughter of Reuben and Elizabeth (Wilson) Cooper.

Mr. and Mrs. Gardner own and are living on the farm settled by Mrs. Gardner's grandfather, Charles Wilson. Mr. Wilson walked from his place to Harrisburg to get a deed of the farm after he had it paid for.

To Mr. and Mrs. Gardner six children were born, namely: (1) Maggie, born May 8, 1871

and married Edgar Dadey. They are living in Scranton, and have a family of ten children: Leah and Lena (twins), born Jan. 19, 1891 (Leah married Wilson Shoemaker, July 25, 1910. They have one son, born May 9, 1911. Lena married William Kreinburg of Scranton, Aug. 17, 1911), Harold, Ruth, Inez, Lewis, Elmer, Robert, Norman and Arthur. (2) El-nora, born Oct. 12, 1873, and married Oliver Wood. She has six children living: Lester, Martha, Maud, Elisha, Arnold and Stanley. She is living in Scranton. (3) Grace, born June 17, 1876 and was married April 20, 1884 to Lloyd A. Singer, son of George W. and Julia (Smith) Singer. They have two children: Bessie A., born November 3, 1894 and David D., born January 1, 1899. Mr. Singer is

from Ransom to Pittston. Here he was employed at the Barnum Breaker for about three years. June 1, 1911 he went to Indiana and Illinois for the summer. He is now employed as fireman at the Pine Brook Colliery in Scranton. He is living with his mother. (2) Martha B., born Sept. 2, 1893. She is employed at Wickham, Hughes & Co. cut glass factory. (3) Maud S., born Jan. 11, 1895. (4) Elisha H., born Sept. 27, 1896. He is employed at the Scranton Nut and Bolt Works. (5) Leonard L., born March 8, 1900 and died Nov. 3, the same year. (6) Walter A., born Sept. 11, 1903. (7) Stanley E., born Feb. 19, 1906.

Mrs. Wood and her family moved from Pittston to Scranton Aug. 20, 1911, where she is now living.



MR. AND MRS. ELIAS A. GARDNER

employed by the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company at the Coxton round-house. (4) George W., born Sept. 23, 1884 and died Aug. 22, 1887. (5) William Roy, born March 27, 1888 and died the following day. (6) Reuben S., born April 6, 1889 and married March 23, 1911 to Miss Ethel Posten. They reside in West Pittston. They have had one child, Daniel Elias, born Oct. 31, 1912 and died Nov. 12, the same year.

MRS. ELNORA WOOD is a daughter of Elias and Martha (Cooper) Gardner. She was married July 14, 1890 to Oliver Wood, son of George and Lucinda (Ayers) Wood of Newton. Oliver Wood was born in 1865. They are the parents of seven children, namely: (1) Lester E., born March 18, 1892. When fourteen years of age he began working at the Coal Storage Plant at Ransom. Here he worked about a year. Later he was employed by Peter Finkler and Ira Drake in Newton township at farm work. On the 9th of October, 1907 his mother moved

SAMUEL GARDNER was born Oct. 12, 1797 in Ransom, near the Coal Storage Plant; a son of Richard and Lydia (Chapman) Gardner. Samuel Gardner was twice married. His second wife was Margaret Smith, daughter of Elias and Catherine (Adams) Smith, who were among the pioneer settlers of Newton township. Mrs. Gardner was born April 22, 1822 and died in February, 1892. She was the mother of nine children: Elias A., Jeanie (died when 5 years old), Samuel, James, Catherine (died when 17 years of age), Benjamin, Matilda, Eva and William (died when 5 years of age). Mr. Gardner had six children by his first wife, namely: Nancy, Mary, Jane, Sarah Ann, George and David. None of the six are living.

Samuel Gardner died Dec. 1, 1890, aged 93 years.

#### WILLIAM GAUL

Mr. Gaul is a first-class carpenter and cabinet maker, living in what is known as Little Ransom or Mount Dewey. He was born June 14,



1854 in Dunmore, and a son of William and Catherine (Shafer Fern) Gaul. He attended school only about two terms, and before eight years of age he began picking slate in the Scranton Coal Drifts Breaker, where the coal was screened in the old-fashioned way, with a gin and a mule. He advanced to mule driver, working until about fourteen. Then he began learning the woodworking trade in Joseph Ansley's Planing Mill in Scranton. When about eleven years of age he entered a private night school in Scranton, attending about two years. Mr. Gaul was twice married. He was first married Oct. 10, 1874 to Miss Kate D. Wolcott of Moosic. She was born Jan. 10, 1856 in Scranton and died Sept. 4, 1882. She was a daughter of Squires and Hannah (Hines) Wolcott.

father's house. (2) Charles, born May 16, 1886, is a traveling salesman for the Rumford Baking Powder Company. (3) Leland S., born April 1, 1888, is a car inspector for the Lehigh Valley R. R. Company at Sayre. (4) Ray W., born Jan. 24, 1890 and died Aug. 23, 1894.

WM. GAUL, SR., the father of our subject, was born in Frankfort-on-the-Meine, France. He came to this country about 1850. When the war broke out between the North and the South, he enlisted as a private in Co. E 1st Pa. Artillery in the spring of 1861 and was killed May 31, 1862 in the battle of Fair Oaks. He was married soon after coming to this country to Mrs. Catherine Fern, to whom four children were born, namely: (1) William A., our subject. (2) Charles H., born July 15, 1855 and married



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM A. GAUL

Mr. and Mrs. Gaul were the parents of three children, namely: Jessie May, born Jan. 12, 1875 and died Jan. 10, 1882; William J., born Jan. 21, 1875 and married Anna Giles, and living in Scranton. They have six children living and two buried; John T., born June 14, 1879 and died May 21, 1883.

Mr. Gaul married his second wife Oct. 10, 1883 (nine years to the day from his first marriage) to Miss Sophia Annemans. She was born May 15, 1858 in Hazleton, and a daughter of John and Elizabeth C. (Stine) Annemans.

Mr. Gaul had four sons born to his second wife: (1) Frank W., born July 31, 1884, and married Sept. 22, 1908 to Miss Emma, daughter of John and Annie (Tampler) Moore of Scranton. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gaul have one son, Howard Frank, born Oct. 13, 1909. Frank Gaul is a carpenter. He is living in part of his

Miss Lizzie James, having four children, Ezra R., Pearl, Mabel and Archie. They are living in Taylor. (3) Lizzie A., born March 5, 1859 and married George Stevens of Madisonville. They have four sons, Eugene, Leroy, Harold and Donald. They are living in Pittsburg. (4) Tracy, who died in infancy.

MRS. CATHERINE FERN was born Feb. 9, 1818 in Hesson, Germany, and came to this country about 1841. Her maiden name was Catherine Shafer. She married Peter Fern about 1840. To this union three children were born: Julius, John and Elizabeth. Peter Fern went to California in 1849 to search for gold, and about one year later sent for his wife. Upon arriving there she found that her husband was dead and buried. She was in a strange, and at that time a wild country, over three thousand miles

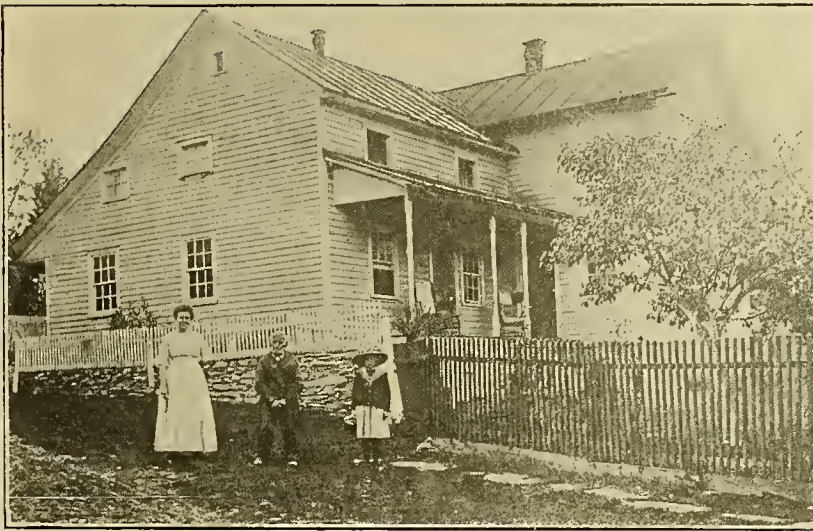
from her friends. She made the trip in a sailing vessel from New York to the Isthmus of Panama, crossing the Isthmus with pack mules, and from there, by water to San Francisco. She was several months making the trip. After returning to Pennsylvania she soon married William Gaul, Sr. by whom she had four children, namely: William A., born June 14, 1854; Charles H., born Aug. 15, 1855, and died in August, 1907; Elizabeth A., born March 5, 1859 and married Geo. W. Stevens. She is living in Pittsburg. The fourth child died in infancy.

JOHN ANNEMANS was born Sept. 21, 1827 in Belgium, France. His parents died when he was only thirteen years of age. Then he began working on a sailing vessel as a sailor boy. Here

1865, at Richmond, Va. He died Jan. 29, 1900. His wife was born July 7, 1828 and died March 19, 1880. Mr. Annemans was a charter member of Ezra S. Griffin Post, No. 139, Scranton. Mr. and Mrs. Annemans had a family of ten children.

#### JOHN HOFFMAN

Mr. Hoffman was born in Germany, Oct. 28, 1851, and when eight years of age came to this country with his parents arriving in Scranton May 28, 1860. They were sixty-eight days on the water, landing in Baltimore. At that time no railroads were built between Baltimore and Philadelphia, and they came in a stage, and from Philadelphia to Scranton by railroad. Mr. Hoffman purchased the farm in Ransom town-



JOHN HOFFMAN'S RESIDENCE.

he was employed for thirteen years, and during this time met with many thrilling experiences, barely escaping death many times. He made his last trip in 1852, meeting Miss Elizabeth C. Stine on the vessel, where they became acquainted.

After reaching New York City the ship was condemned and never returned to the old country. A few weeks later he walked from New York to Hazleton, Pa., where Miss Stine was living. She became his wife in July, the same year. He lived in Hazleton until the beginning of the Civil War, when he was one of the first to enlist for nine months' service. After the expiration of nine months he returned to his family in Hazleton, and a few months later moved his family to Hyde Park.

He re-enlisted March 15, 1864 for three years in Co. A, 11th Reg. Pa. Cavalry, but was discharged after the close of the war, on Aug. 13,

ship, where he is now living, from Thomas Huthmaker in 1873, where they moved Sept. 28, 1874.

John Hoffman was married Feb. 28, 1876 to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of John (b. Oct. 4, 1826—d. Nov. 29, 1891) and Catherine (Barth) Maas of Ransom. Mrs. Maas was born Nov. 3, 1825 in Germany and died Sept. 22, 1909. John Maas came to this country about 1846. Mrs. Hoffman was born in Ransom Feb. 12, 1858.

John Hoffman is the only son of Martin and Catherine (Getz) Hoffman. When a boy he decided to make farming his occupation which he has always followed. He and his father cleared the farm, which was a wilderness when they came, and erected the buildings, built the fences, pulled the stumps and set out fruit trees.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman are the parents of



eight children, namely: Frederick, born Dec 24, 1876 and married in March, 1901 to Miss Margaret, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Blackwell) Breeze, and have one son, Joseph; Catherine, born July 9, 1880, and married in Nov., 1903 to Lewis Evans and have three children: Walter, Leland and Louise; Charles, born May 9, 1882 and married April 25, 1905 to Miss Irene, daughter of Stephen and Georgia Ann Lake, and have one son, Norman; John J., born July 30, 1884; Eluora, born May 26, 1886; Mildred, born Aug. 11, 1888; William, born Dec. 13, 1890; Ruth M., born March 29, 1904

first husband was James V. Townsend, son of Obadiah and Susan (Van Auken) Townsend, who died July 28, 1878. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. James V. Townsend one daughter was born: Elizabeth C., born Aug. 16, 1878. She married June 27, 1896 to William F. Mission, who was born Feb. 6, 1872, and a son of Peter and Helena (Newhart) Mission. Mr. and Mrs. William F. Mission have one daughter, Helen E., born June 26, 1911. Their home is in Scranton, at 519 Harrison Avenue.

Thomas J. Huthmaker has four children born to his second wife, namely: Idella, born



THOMAS J. HUTHMAKER'S RESIDENCE

### THOMAS J. HUTHMAKER

Mr. Huthmaker is the only son of Jacob and Dolly (Siglin) Huthmaker, and was born near Ransom, Aug. 1, 1847.

Thomas J. Huthmaker has been twice married. His first marriage was April 19, 1874 to Miss Julia, daughter of Philip and Catherine (Soricks) Shellenburger, (Peter Bedell and Miss Emma Rader were married at the same time and place, by the same minister, Rev. Compton.)

Mr. Huthmaker has one daughter by his first wife, Catherine, born Sept. 18, 1875 and married Feb. 1, 1894 to Warren Dornblazer. They have three children: Ray, born Sept. 14, 1896; Blanche, born Aug. 7, 1899 and Russell.

Mrs. Julia Huthmaker died Dec. 6, 1881. Mr. Huthmaker was again married April 26, 1882 to Mrs. Eliza (Courtright) Townsend.

Mrs. Eliza Huthmaker was born in Monroe county, May 17, 1857. She is a daughter of Oliver and Caroline (Treible) Courtright. Her

June 15, 1883 and married Nov. 18, 1903 to Edwin Stont, who have two daughters, Alma, born June 2, 1905 and Dorothy, born March 10, 1910. They are living at 298 Baltimore Ave., West Pittston; Edna G., born July 2, 1886 and married Nov. 28, 1906 to Adam B. Miller, and have two sons, Edwin S., born Nov. 2, 1907 and Norman E., born Aug. 29, 1910. They are living on a farm in Ransom; Thomas E., born June 4, 1892 and Rhalda R., born Feb. 26, 1899.

JACOB HUTHMAKER was a son of David, and was born in Monroe county, March 11, 1816 and died May 8, 1900 in Ransom. He was married in Monroe county, Feb. 8, 1835 moving to Ransom the same year. His wife, Miss Dolly Siglin, was born in Monroe county, March 20, 1814 and died in Ransom Oct. 12, 1877. Her parents were Jacob and Susan (Singer) Siglin. To the union of Jacob and Dolly Huthmaker four children were born, namely: Susan, Catherine, Mary and Thomas J.

OLIVER COURTRIGHT was born May 30, 1837 and a son of Benjamin and Sarah (Ace) Court-right. He was married Feb. 15, 1855 to Miss Caroline (b. Nov. 15, 1835—d. May 9, 1871), daughter of John and Eliza (Ace) Treible. Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Courtright were the parents of three children: H. Eliza, born May 17, 1857 and married Thomas J. Huthmaker. Horace, born June 26, 1860 and married Miss Minnie Clark and is living in Ransom: Celeste, born June 9, 1862 and married I. T. Shuster and are living in West Pittston. Oliver Courtright is living with his daughter, Mrs. Thomas J. Huthmaker.

moved the first day of April, 1910. His mother died August 20th the same year.

Mr. Huthmaker has nine acres of flat land along the Susquehanna River where he raises tomatoes, cabbage, cucumbers, corn, etc., which he sells to Scranton dealers, making three and four trips a week during the summer months.

DAVID M. HUTHMAKER was born Sept. 24, 1833 on the Cunningham farm, now owned by Louis Seible, above the Ransom Home. He taught school in his younger days. His first wife was Miss Barbara Dershiemer, who died several years ago. She was the mother of four children, namely: Frank, Mrs. Ada Hopkins,



ROY H. HUTHMAKER'S RESIDENCE, TEAM AND WAGON.

This picture was taken in September, 1911, just after Mr. Huthmaker had finished loading his wagon with tomatoes, sweet corn and cabbage for Scranton. This is a fair specimen of the thousands of loads of produce that are taken from Newton and Ransom townships to Scranton and Pittston. This house was built in 1864 by Jacob Bertels for a store, which was purchased by Fred Sandway in 1866, who kept a store and postoffice here for fifteen years or more. It has been used for a private dwelling for several years, until purchased from Mr. Huthmaker by J. P. VanOstrand in April, 1912. Since then it has been occupied by Mr. VanOstrand for a store and postoffice.

### ROY HARLOS HUTHMAKER

Mr. Huthmaker is a son of David M. and Anna (Harlos) Huthmaker. He was born June 22, 1889 in Ransom, on the farm now owned by W. A. Hantz. He attended the Ransom Valley school until fourteen years of age. In September, 1904, he entered the West Pittston High School for one term. On September 20, 1905, he entered Wyoming Seminary, where he attended three years, the first two years taking a college preparatory course and the last year a commercial course. After his school days he returned to the old farm where he helped his aged father until his death. After his father's death, Roy and his mother purchased the property known as the Sandway place, opposite the Ransom depot, where they

Mrs. Alice Jenkins and Mrs. Dora Maas, all living in West Pittston. His second wife was Miss Anna Harlos, daughter of Philip Harlos, Sr., of Mountain Valley. She was born Nov. 30, 1861 and died Aug. 20, 1910. She had one son, Roy H., the subject of this sketch.

David M. Huthmaker was elected justice of the peace in 1867, which office he held until his death, Dec. 22, 1909. He had the honor of holding office longer (over 42 years) than any other person in Lackawanna and adjoining counties.

### FRANCIS MARION IVES

Mr. Ives is a son of William L. and Mary A. (Kern) Ives. He was born Oct. 9, 1854, in Ransom township, on the farm now owned by





RESIDENCE OF FRANCIS M. IVES.

Jephtha C. Richards. He received a common school education, his early school days being spent in the old log school house near the Ransom Home, and his first teacher was Peter K. Richards. He learned the carpenter's trade when about twenty-two years of age. About 1894 he purchased the "Plymouth Star," which

WILLIAM L. IVES, father of our subject, was born in Plymouth, Dec. 28, 1821 and died at Ransom, May 19, 1897. He was a cabinet maker by trade, which occupation he followed until about 1861. He then purchased the ferry at Ransom, which he operated until his death. His wife was Miss Mary A. Kern, daughter of



RESIDENCE OF MICHAEL G. KRAUSS

he published for about six years. He now owns and operates the Ransom Ferry. He was married July 24, 1901 to Miss Marilla, daughter of John and Anna Akens of Wyoming.

Mrs. F. M. Ives was born in Canada, Aug. 12, 1857 and came to the United States with her parents when about eighteen months old.

George and Elsie Kern. She was born in West Pittston Sept. 28, 1828. She is the mother of six children, three of whom are living: Mrs. Anna Stamback and Mrs. Flora Gardner of Pittston and Francis M. Mrs. Ives died in Ransom, Jan. 11, 1912, of injuries received from a fall a few days before.

## MICHAEL G. KRAUSS

Mr. Krauss was born in Baverien, Germany, July 11, 1868 and came to this country in May, 1884 to the home of his parents in Scranton, on Cedar Avenue, who came to this country about a year earlier. He began working in May for the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company, where he worked for nearly ten years. In September, 1893 he began working for the D. L. & W. Company in the Hampton Breaker as outside laborer. Here he worked about thirteen years, and in December, 1906 he changed to the Continental Lumber Yards, which belong to the same company, where he has since worked.

Michael Krauss was married January 24, 1891 to Miss Margaret Metzner. She was born

Michael, Lawrence, John and Margaret. Mrs. George Krauss died Nov. 22, 1904, and Mr. Krauss is living in Cedar Ave., Scranton.

## ALVY KROUSE

Mr. Krouse is a prosperous farmer and carpenter of Mountain Valley. He was apprenticed to the carpenter's trade when eighteen years of age, working the first year for sixty cents a day for E. B. Trivley, a first-class carpenter. Mr. Krouse soon gained a thorough knowledge of the occupation which he followed for over forty years. Since 1907 he has devoted his time to farming, and for several years has been road supervisor, which has taken much of his time.



RESIDENCE OF ALVY KROUSE

July 6, 1871 in Germany, near the birthplace of her husband, and came to this country in April, 1888, when nearly seventeen years of age. She has one sister living, Catherine, who married John Krauss, brother of our subject. Her brother, Conrad, died when ten years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Krauss are the parents of eight children, namely: (1) John A, born Dec. 20, 1891. He is a cabinet maker. (2) Kathryn M., born May 28, 1894. (3) Leonard W., born Feb. 2, 1896. He was caught in the machinery at the Hampton Washery, where he was employed, and fatally injured, Oct. 17, 1912, and died the same day. (4) Henry J., born Nov. 18, 1898. (5) George F., born Apr. 19, 1901. (6) Margaret E., born Aug. 27, 1906. (7) Louise G., born June 15, 1908. (8) Ruth M., born Oct. 13, 1911.

Our subject is a son of George and Margaret (Reuther) Krauss. They are the parents of six children, four of whom are living, namely:

Mr. Krouse is a son of Joseph and Catherine (Hudlmaker) Krouse and was born Aug. 14, 1849 in the log house on the farm now owned by Horace Courtright. With the exception of four years spent in Wilkes-Barre, from 1869 to 1873, he has lived continuously in Ransom township. His early years were full of sad and trying experiences. At the age of eight he lost his mother by death, and two years later his father. After his mother's death he went to live with Peter Petty, but two years later his guardian, Geo. M. Trivley, took him to his home, where he lived until eighteen years old. Here he was treated as their own child. In 1876 he purchased part of the Geo. M. Trivley farm.

Mr. Krouse was married May 1, 1875 to Miss Mary Etta, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Ace) Michael of Monroe county. Mr. and Mrs. Krouse united with the Evangelical Church in 1877, and have since been active in church and Sunday-school work.



JOSEPH KROUSE, our subject's father, was born in 1813 and died Aug. 15, 1859. His wife, Catherine Huthmaker, was born in 1821 and died Sept. 1, 1857, aged 36 years, 8 months and 26 days. They settled on the farm now owned by Horace Courtright, about 1840.

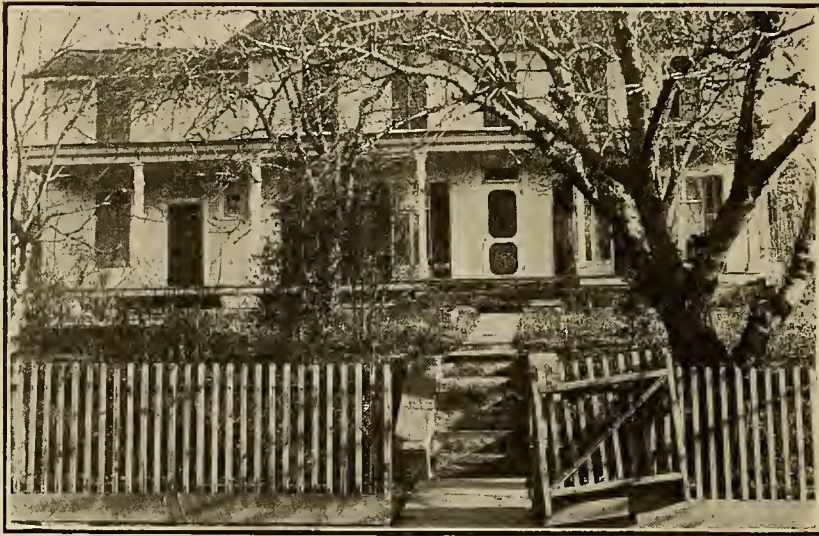
### JAMES M. LACOE

Mr. Lacoe is one of the progressive farmers of Ransom township. He is a son of William A. and Sybil (Ash) Lacoe and a grandson of Anthony Lacoe. (*See Newton*).

Mr. Lacoe was born June 6, 1856, in Newton township, on the "homestead farm," now owned by J. F. Lacoe. He came to Ransom township in March, 1880, moving on the farm now own-

coe moved from near Pittston to Nicholson township about 1851. Here he lived five years. He owned and ran a saw-mill on the Tunkhannock creek. He moved from here to Newton April 1, 1856.

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Lacoe had a large family of eleven children, namely: (1) Amelia, married Ostrander Richards of Mountain Valley. (2) Lewis S. is living in Michigan. (3) Ira. (4) William A., Jr. (5) Henry C. (Ira, William A. and Henry C. are living in Kansas). (6) Charles E. (7) James M. (8) John F. (9) Mary A., married Milton W. Petty and living in Milwaukee. (10) Joseph A. (11) Ada, died when ten years of age. Charles, John and Joseph are living in Newton



RESIDENCE OF JAMES M. LACOE

ed by Joseph B. Munson. He moved to his present home Feb. 19, 1887.

Mr. Lacoe was married March 2, 1878 to Miss Barbara M., daughter of Philip and Susan (Dersheimer) Barrier of Ransom. Mr. and Mrs. Lacoe have a family of two children, namely: Clarence D. and Grace M.

Mr. Lacoe produces from 8,000 to 15,000 heads of cabbage, 900 to 1,500 bushels of potatoes, 400 to 1,000 bushels of apples a year. This last year he raised about 600 bushels of oats. He also sets from 4,000 to 6,000 tomato plants each year. Mr. Lacoe is the largest producer of apples in the township, having an orchard of 350 trees. He is assessor of Ransom township, being elected in February, 1909. He has held several other township offices.

WILLIAM A. LACOE was born Jan. 30, 1820 and died Feb. 23, 1910. He was a son of Anthony Lacoe, of Newton township. He married Sybil Ash, daughter of Ira Ash. Mr. La-

### CLARENCE D. LACOE

Mr. Lacoe was born Sept. 1, 1878 in Ransom township. He is a son of James M. and Barbara (Barrier) Lacoe.

Mr. Lacoe entered Scranton Business College when seventeen years of age (November, 1896). Here he attended four winter terms of four months each, taking a commercial course. He lived with his parents until twenty-six years of age, when he was married March 9, 1904 to Miss Elizabeth May, daughter of Martin and Polly (Keeler) Swartwood of Falls township. Since his marriage he has continued working for his father.

Mrs. Lacoe was born May 6, 1883 in Pittston. Mr. and Mrs. Lacoe have a family of three children: Ellsworth A., born Jan. 10, 1905; De Witt J., born April 17, 1906 and Gladys M., born Oct. 29, 1908.

MARTIN SWARTWOOD, born in Exeter, Luzerne county, June 28, 1857; a son of Alexan-

der and Ruth Swartwood. He married Miss Polly Keeler, daughter of Stearn and Lydia Keeler. Mrs. Swartwood was born Nov. 15, 1857.

#### LEWIS A. LANDSIEDEL

Mr. Landsiedel was born near the Ransom Home, Jan. 20, 1878, and has been a lifelong resident of this township. His father died when Lewis was seven years of age, and when only thirteen began working out on a farm. He was married Jan. 28, 1902 to Miss Emma, daughter of Conrad and Caroline (Stermer) Maas of Mountain Valley. Mr. and Mrs. Landsiedel have three children. (*See Directory.*)

ton. He is a carpenter. (2) Jacob F., born July 14, 1864 and married Miss Hattie Blackwell. She died March 2, 1900, leaving one son, Willard F., born May 8, 1898. He is living with his uncle, Lewis Landsiedel. (3) George H., born Oct. 10, 1871. (4) Emma, born April 29, 1873 and married our subject. Conrad Maas settled on the farm now owned by Lewis Landsiedel in 1861, purchasing seventy-two acres for \$800.00, which was then a wilderness. He died Nov. 17, 1892. His wife died April 24, 1905.

HENRY LANDSIEDEL, the father of our subject, was born in 1847 in Germany and came to this country about 1870. He was married in



RESIDENCE OF LEWIS A. LANDSIEDEL

CONRAD MAAS, JR., was born in Hiesendarmstaad, Germany, Sept. 22, 1832, and came to this country about 1846, with his parents, Conrad and Catherine (Hines) Maas. Conrad and Catherine Maas were the parents of four children: John, Julia (Mrs. Fred Weiscarger) Conrad, Jr. and Wentzel. Conrad Maas, Jr. was married March 8, 1862 to Miss Caroline Stermer, who was born Jan. 27, 1840 and came from Baden, Germany in 1860 to West Pittston. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Maas, Jr. four children were born, namely: (1) William F., born Dec. 8, 1862 and married Miss Dora Huthmaker and living in West Pitt-

1875 to Miss Gertrude Brookhouse. She was born in Germany, Oct. 30, 1848 and came to this country about 1870. Their family consisted of three children: Andrew, born in Feb., 1877 and died in May the same year; Lewis A., our subject, and John, born in September, 1875 and died when about six months old. Henry Landsiedel died Jan. 27, 1885. His widow is living with her son.

#### THOMAS H. LEWIS

Mr. Lewis was born in Baglan, South Wales, Jan. 2, 1869. He is a son of Henry and Eleanor (Evans) Lewis of South Wales. Henry



Lewis is living in South Wales, aged 77 years. His wife died Nov. 6, 1897, aged 66 years.

Our subject received a common school education in his native country. In 1899 he took a mining course in the International Correspondence Schools. He was married Jan. 23, 1890 to Miss Mary Jane, daughter of David and Margaret (Thomas) Rowlands. Mrs. Lewis was born Oct. 12, 1870 in Glynneath, South Wales.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis came to this country Oct. 13, 1894, and lived in Scranton until Nov. 1, 1904, when they moved to Spring Brook, moving from there to Ransom township Nov. 1, 1907. Mr. Lewis is a miner by trade.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis have a family of eight children living. (*See Directory*). One daughter, Maria Jane, born Dec. 25, 1892, died Sept. 30, 1894, and is buried in South Wales.

Charles Mayer was a Civil Engineer, working over twenty years for the D., L. & W. Coal Co. where he worked until his death, March 11, 1905.. He was instrumental in getting a school-house and an election board on this side of the mountain, and one of the promoters of the public road from the corner at the Continental to the old "blind man's road" in Ransom township, in 1896.

Mr. and Mrs. Mayer's family consisted of fifteen children, and all are living excepting four, namely: Julia and Julius (twins), born Feb. 13, 1882 and died about a week later. Mary and Charlie (twins), born Jan. 26, 1880 and died a few days later. Eleven children are living, the two oldest being born in Germany, namely: (1) Anthony, born Sept. 5, 1878. In 1896 he enlisted in the 13th Regiment at the time of the Spanish-American War. He re-



RESIDENCE OF MRS. MARY MAYER

### MRS. MARIA MAYER

Mrs. Mayer and her husband were among the early settlers of Mount Dewey, this portion of Ransom township being a wilderness when they moved here in 1889, and only five families were living here (John Moor, Frederick Biere, John Jones, Adam Rach, and Geo. Witzel). Mr. Mayer cleared the farm and erected the buildings. Mrs. Mayer was born May 7, 1859 in Austria. She is a daughter of Andrew and Josephine (Hartenschinder) Scheuster.

CHARLES MAYER, her husband, was born Aug. 11, 1854 in Austria. They were married in the old country Oct. 29, 1877; came to this country in May, 1882, to Pittsburg, and moved to Duryea the same year, and one year later to Scranton, where they lived until 1889, when they moved to their present home.

turned in 1898 and was married in June, the same year, to Miss Emily James. He is a foreman in the National mines. (2) Victor, born May 19, 1880, and is working the home farm. He was appointed Census Enumerator in 1900, and again in 1910. (3) Charles, born Dec. 17, 1884 in Duryea, and was married June 5, 1907 to Miss Anna Jones. He is a brick layer, living in Hyde Park. (4) Ernest, born Nov. 28, 1886 in Scranton, and married June 8, 1907 to Miss Veronia Sheridan. He is a conductor, working for the Scranton Railway Co. (5) Josephine, born Feb. 23, 1888. (6) August, born Dec. 4, 1890 and is weigh master at National mines. (7) Robert, born Nov. 5, 1892 and is a carpenter. (8) Pauline, born Jan. 23, 1895. (9) Grace, born Sept. 18, 1896. (10) Joseph, born Nov. 29, 1898. (11) Otto, born Jan. 6, 1911.

## JOHN P. MAAS.

The Maas' were among the early settlers of Ransom township.

Our subject, John P. Maas, was born on the old homestead, March 25, 1868. He was married October 30, 1890 to Miss Mary, daughter of Philip and Adiliah Stoft, of Ransom. To this union two children were born: John, who died in infancy, and David, born June 7, 1893. Mr. Maas was again married September 10, 1907, to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Charles and Anna (Merrihew) Grose of Laceyville. By this marriage two children were born, namely: Lucy, born August 3, 1909 and Truman B.,

and was exceeding popular. Mr. and Mrs. John Maas were the parents of nine children: Mrs. Julia Schultheis, Mrs. Elizabeth Hoffman, Mary, who died when about nine years old, Mrs. Catherine Ayers, Mrs. Rose Coolbaugh, Wentzel, who died November 12, 1909, Mrs. Anna Desky, John, our subject, and Mrs. Margaret Harlos.

CHARLES GROSE was born October 18, 1834, and died December 12, 1907. His wife, Anna Merrihew, was born August 1, 1847, in Milford, N. J., and is living with her daughter, Mrs. John P. Maas. She has been an invalid for eleven years.



RESIDENCE OF JOHN P. MAAS.

born October 2, 1910.

JOHN MAAS came to Ransom with his parents about 1846, and settled on the farm now owned by our subject. John Maas was born in Neiderweisel, Hessen Darmstadt, Germany, October 4, 1826 and died in Mountain Valley, Oct. 13, 1892. He was married about 1853 to Miss Catherine Barth, who was born in Germany November 3rd, 1825 and died September 22, 1909. She came to this country when about seventeen years of age. John Maas was held in high esteem by all who knew him. He was honest, industrious and frugal,

## JAMES McCABE

Mr. McCabe is the oldest of a family of ten children, six of whom are living. He was born in Longford county, Ireland, June 3, 1860. When seven years old he came to this country with his mother, landing in New York City, May 23, 1867. His father came two years earlier. They came to Black Walnut, Wyoming county, in June the same year. When only nine years of age he carried water to the laborers, who were building the Lehigh Valley Railroad at that time where he earned \$165.00 at \$1.00 per day, which was no small sum for a boy of his age. In March, 1874, before he was



fourteen years of age, he was employed by the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company as a laborer on the section. Here he worked for six years, after which he was promoted to section boss, July 1, 1888. He has held this position for over thirty-one years.

Mr. McCabe has been twice married. His first wife, Miss Ellen Foley of Wyalusing, was born Sept. 11, 1850 and died May 13, 1894. They were married Sept. 21, 1881, and to this union five children were born, namely: Mary, born May 21, 1883 and married June 19, 1910 to Joseph Mulhern, a prominent young lawyer

was born in New York City, June 7, 1870, and came to Wyalusing township with her parents when about seven years of age. She attended school in Wyalusing until 1880 when she entered the Catholic School at Towanda, from which she graduated two years later. To this union six children, four sons and two daughters were born. Their names and date of birth may be found in the Directory. Both, Mr. McCabe's father and grandfather, were named James, and Mr. McCabe has a son having the same name, keeping the name in the family for four successive generations.



RANSOM STORE.

Occupied by J. P. VanOstrand when picture was taken, but since May 1, 1912, by Charles Getz.

of Wilkes-Barre, and they have one daughter, Marion, born in May, 1911; Alice, born June 14, 1884, and is a trained nurse at Clifton Springs, N. Y.; James, Jr., born Jan. 15, 1886, and enlisted in the U. S. Navy in October, 1909. He is a machinist on the U. S. Ship Panther; David, born May 22, 1887 and died in February, 1901; Leo, born Oct. 19, 1888 and is a machinist at Kingston, N. Y.

Mr. McCabe was married again, July 19, 1901 to Miss Anna Burk, daughter of Michael and Ellen (Phinney) Burke of Homet's Ferry, she living on the same place where Mr. McCabe's first wife lived when they were married. She

JAMES McCABE, SR. was born in Ireland, Aug. 15, 1840, being the only child. He was married in May, 1859 to Miss Catherine Daley (born Nov. 19, 1842) to whom ten children were born, six of whom are living, namely: James, the subject of this sketch; Mary, born Feb. 14, 1863; Jane, born March 30, 1868; Dennis, born Oct. 19, 1870; Michael, born Sept. 1, 1872; Margaret, born July 12, 1879.

Mr. McCabe came to this country in April, 1865, when James, (the subject of this sketch) was only five years of age, and two years later his family followed. They were thirty-eight days making the voyage in a sailing vessel.

Mr. McCabe was a section boss on the Lehigh Valley R. R. at Skinner's Eddy for twenty-six years. He died in Sayre, Jan. 22, 1907 and his wife died June 14, 1911, and both are buried in Sayre.

#### PETER S. METZGAR

Mr. Metzgar was born in Monroe county Dec. 16, 1847. He came to Lackawanna county when nineteen years of age. He is a son of Barnett D. Metzgar. He was married Dec. 24, 1885 to Miss Ada, daughter of William and Margaret (Ace) Blackwell. Mr. and Mrs. Metzgar have only one son living: William H., born Sept. 14, 1886, and is living with his parents. Two children died when small, namely: John C., born

the close of the Rebellion. His family consisted of seven children, namely: Peter S., Edward M., George L., Mary Ann, Henry, Joseph and Cyrus. Only three are living: Peter, George and Joseph.

WILLIAM BLACKWELL was born in Wilkes-Barre Jan. 17, 1830. He was a son of Israel and Sarah (Bates) Blackwell, who were the parents of eight children, only one of whom is living, Charles of Avoca. William Blackwell was married Dec. 25, 1852 to Miss Margaret, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Walter) Ace. (*See Geo. W. Ace.*)

Mr. and Mrs. William Blackwell were the parents of eight children, namely: (1) Sarah, born Aug. 12, 1853 and married Joseph Brezee. (2)



RESIDENCE OF PETER S. METZGAR.

Aug. 12, 1888 and died Feb. 19, 1902: Nellie May, born May 12, 1897 and died Feb. 22, 1901.

The Metzgar's formerly came from Germany. Our subject's greatgrandfather, Joseph Metzgar, was born in Germany about 1741 and came to Monroe county. His family consisted of six children.

Our subject's grandfather, Peter Metzgar, was born in Monroe county. He married Miss Hannah Sobers, to whom seven children were born: Timothy, Maria, Hannah, Isaac, Ferdinando, Barnett and Joseph.

BARNETT D. METZGAR, father of our subject, born in Monroe county about 1825 and died in Wyoming county in 1894. He married Miss Eleanor, daughter of Samuel and Mary Ann (Felker) Evans of Monroe county. Mr. Metzgar enlisted the first time in October, 1861, serving for one year. He re-enlisted and served to

Mary E., born Sept. 24, 1854 and married Edward M. Metzgar. (3) John M., born March 20, 1857 and married Miss Ellen N. Miller. (4) Georgia Ann, born July 5, 1859 and married Stephen Lake. (5) Emma D., born Oct. 4, 1861 and married Christopher Landside. (6) Ada, born April 25, 1864 and married Peter S. Metzgar. (7) Matilda, born March 4, 1867 and died April 10, 1879. (8) Harriet G., born Aug. 4, 1870 and married Jacob Maas.

About 1868, Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell settled on the farm now owned by Frederick Hoffman, above Milwaukie. Mr. Blackwell died July 19, 1906. Mrs. Blackwell was born Sept. 24, 1832, and is living with her daughter, Mrs. Peter S. Metzgar.

#### EDWIN S. MILLER

Mr. Miller is one of Ransom's most progressive agriculturists, owning a productive farm



in Mountain Valley. He is one of the largest dairymen in the township, keeping a dairy of forty cows. He has a retail milk route in Moosic and Avoca, where he has run a wagon every day since May, 1905.

Mr. Miller sold the first milk from Ransom township in Scranton, in May, 1890. His barn is well equipped, and his milk house is supplied with running water, from a cool, pure and never-failing spring.

In connection with the milk business, Mr. Miller produces about 4,500 quarts of blackberries, 15,000 heads of cabbage, 500 to 600 bushels of potatoes, and a quantity of hay and corn each year.

Our subject is a son of Peter B. and Ellen (Miller) Miller of Monroe county.

moved to Ransom on the John Patterson farm, where part of the Coal Storage Plant is now located, and the house is now used by the Company for an office. In 1889 they moved to Newton township on the Kern Farm (now owned by Peter Corselius), where they lived until 1905. Then they returned to Ransom township and purchased the farm where they now live near Milwaukie.

Joseph B. Munson was married May 25, 1904 to Miss Blanch M., the only daughter of Samuel J. and Catherine (Barrier) Winters. (*See Samuel J. Winters.*)

Mr. and Mrs. Munson purchased and moved to their present home in November, 1905. Their family consists of three children, namely: Kathryn C., born July 21, 1907; Helen J., born



RESIDENCE OF CHARLES MUSSELMAN.

#### ADAM B. MILLER

Mr. Miller is a son of Edwin S. and Sarah (Michaels) Miller of Mountain Valley. Adam B. was born Sept. 21, 1884. He has a common school education. He was married Nov. 28, 1906 to Miss Edna Grace, daughter of Thomas J. and Eliza Huthmaker of Milwaukie. (*See Thomas J. Huthmaker.*)

Mrs. Miller was born July 2, 1886 on the homestead farm. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have two children: Edwin S., born Nov. 5, 1907, and Norman Earl, born Aug. 29, 1910.

Mr. Miller is working for his father on the home farm.

#### JOSEPH B. MUNSON

Mr. Munson was born Dec. 6, 1881 in West Pittston. Here he lived until five years of age, when his parents, John and Pernilla Munson,

born June 17, 1909, and Mildred, born May 23, 1912.

#### CHARLES MUSSELMAN

Mr. Musselman is the only son of Charles, Sr. and Hannah (Musselman) Musselman. He was born in Hamilton, Monroe county, Dec. 13, 1857. His father was born in Germany, and was one of the best shoemakers in Monroe county. He died in 1858, and his wife was married twice again. Her second husband was Edward Setzer, and her third marriage was to Henry Able. She died in Monroe county, March 12, 1909. She was the mother of two children, one by her first husband, who is the subject of this sketch, and Edward Setzer, Jr., who is living in Bangor.

Our subject received a common school education in Monroe county. His father died when Charles was only six months old. He was

brought up by his maternal grandparents, who like many others of their day, had a large family of fourteen children, and Charles began working out when only ten years of age. When nineteen years of age, he left Monroe county and came to Exeter township, Luzerne county. Here he worked for E. A. Corey (across the river from Ransom) about four years. He was married May 12, 1879 to Miss Matilda Gardner, daughter of Samuel and Margaret (Smith) Gardner of Ransom. (*See Elias A. Gardner*).

Mrs. Matilda Musselman was born in Ransom, Sept. 7, 1862. She received her education in the district schools.

moved to Pittston, where he rented a large farm. About 1843 he moved to South Wilkes-Barre and purchased a grist mill which he ran until about four years before his death, when he returned to Wilkes-Barre. Here he died about 1866, aged 82 years. While he was living in Monroe county, he was married to Miss Lydia Stroh. She died in 1883, aged 86 years. Her parents came from Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Petty had four children: Peter, born April 1, 1816 and died Nov. 16, 1874; Levi, born 1818 and died in Colorado; Naomi Wagner, born in 1821 and died 1904; Mathias, born in Wilkes-Barre in 1830 and died at Berwick in February, 1908.



RESIDENCE OF MILTON W. PETTY.

Mr. and Mrs. Musselman are the parents of seven children, namely: Edgar, born Sept. 26, 1877 and married Miss Laura Ewing, and have one daughter, Grace. They are living in Philadelphia; Eva, born Dec. 22, 1880 and married Peter Bedell and have four children, and living in Ransom; James, born May 22, 1883 and married Agnes Bloser and living in Wilkes-Barre; Florence B., born March 20, 1890 and died July 26, 1890; Viola and Jola, the twins, born July 28, 1892. Jola died Aug. 2, 1892 and Viola died Aug. 3, 1893; Victor Dewey, born Aug. 16, 1897, is living at home.

Mr. Musselman has been employed by the Lehigh Valley Railroad Co. for over twenty years.

#### THE PETTY FAMILY

The Petty's are of French ancestry. William Petty came from Connecticut about 1804 and settled in Monroe county, Pennsylvania. Several years later he moved to Luzerne county and lived on a farm near Wilkes-Barre. Later he

PETER PETTY was born in Monroe county, April 1, 1816 and came to Luzerne county when a boy with his parents. He was married in 1837 to Miss Sarah, daughter of Christian and Sarah (Stoekel) Nagle of Northampton county. Mrs. Petty was born March 7, 1819 in Hanover township and died Nov. 19, 1896 in Milwaukie.

Mr. and Mrs. Petty moved from Pittston to Milwaukie in 1852, where they purchased the farm now owned by their son, Milton. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Jennie, born Sept. 17, 1838 and died Nov. 1, 1882; Sarah Ann, born Dec. 29, 1839 and married N. G. Reed and lives in Milwaukie; William J., born Feb. 20, 1841 and died in August, 1845 at four years of age; Leander, born March 8, 1843 and died in August, 1845, only two or three days after the death of William; Amy A., born Feb. 3, 1846 and married Samuel Decker, and is living in Nicholson with her son, Dr. V. C. Decker; Lydia E., born March 11, 1849 and married Samuel Rose and is living in Worthington, Minn.; Mildred N. and



Milton W., (twins), were born June 29, 1859. Mildred married William Klipple and is living in Milwaukie. Milton is living on the old homestead in Milwaukie.

#### MILTON WAGNER PETTY

Mr. Petty is one of the largest truck and fruit growers in Ransom and Newton townships, and about the first to produce berries this side of the mountain. About 1880 he started with raspberries, and a few years later produced over four hundred bushels of strawberries in a season. He has a vineyard of about three hundred fine grape vines and over one hundred and fifty pear and plum trees.

Mr. Petty was born June 29, 1859 on the farm where he now lives, which has always been his home. He is a son of Peter and Sarah (Nagle) Petty. (*See Peter Petty*). He was married Sept. 20, 1880 to Miss Mary, daughter of William A. and Sybil (Ash) Lacoe of Newton township. (*See Newton History*).

Mr. and Mrs. Petty have a family of six children living, namely: Oswald W., William C., Frank, Mildred N., Sybil R. and George E. Two sons and one daughter died in infancy, namely: Ray, Homer and Minnie.

#### OSWALD WARD PETTY

O. W. Petty is a popular merchant in the village of Milwaukie, keeping a full line of groceries and general merchandise for a small town. In May, 1905, he was employed as clerk by J. C. Biesecker, and in March, 1906 purchased a half interest and the business was conducted for about a year under the firm name of Biesecker & Petty. In April, 1907, Mr. Biesecker sold his interest to William Petty, and for three years the store was run by Petty Brothers. On April 1, 1910 the partnership was dissolved and since that time, O. W. Petty has been the sole owner.

Mr. Petty is a son of Milton W. and Mary (Lacoe) Petty, and was born Feb. 7, 1883. He attended school at Milwaukie until about seventeen years of age; and in September, 1904 he entered the East Stroudsburg Normal School. Here he attended one term. He was married March 3, 1909 to Miss Mary, daughter of Chas. V. and Margaret (Klipple) Decker of Newton township.

Mrs. Petty was born in Flatbrook, Sussex county, N. J., Jan. 26, 1881, and came to Milwaukie with her parents when less than two years of age. She attended school at Milwaukie until ten years of age, when her parents moved to Newton township on the farm where they now live, where she attended the Lacoe school until about sixteen. In September, 1898 she entered East Stroudsburg Normal School.

where she attended one year. In September, 1899 she commenced teaching at the Cosner School, and after teaching one year she returned to the Normal School where she graduated in June, 1901. She then taught seven terms in Newton and Ransom. Mr. and Mrs. Petty have one son, Charles M., born March 8, 1909. A daughter was born Dec. 10, 1911.



O. W. PETTY

#### WILLIAM C. PETTY

Mr. Petty was born Nov. 5, 1884 on the homestead farm. He attended school at Milwaukie until about seventeen years of age. In September, 1906 he commenced a commercial course at the Scranton Business College, where he remained for three months. In January, 1907 he engaged in the mercantile business in partnership with his brother, Oswald. Here he remained for three years. He was married June 25, 1908 to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of George Rader. They have two children, Ruth, born Sept. 12, 1909 and William M., born June 29, 1911.

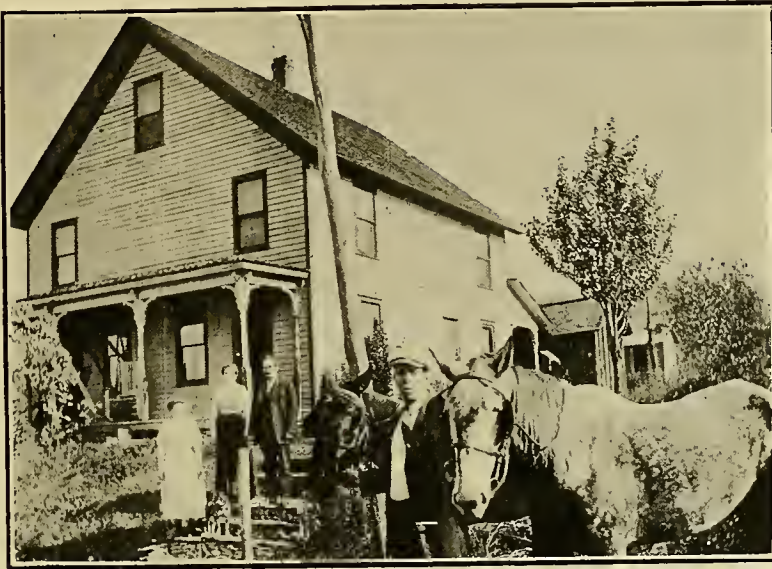
#### LEWIS E. POWELL

Lewis E. Powell was born May 22, 1867 in Oxford, N. J., and when six months old his parents moved to Scranton. When eight years of age he began working in the Hampton coal breaker (one of the oldest breakers in Scranton), picking slate. When ten years of age his parents moved to Taylor, where he worked in the Taylor breaker for two years. When only twelve years of age he began working in the mines as door boy. Two years later he advanced to mule driver, and gradually worked his way up to the different stations of the work in the mines, until 1889, when twenty-two years of age he began mining coal. Twenty-

five years of his life were spent working in and around the mines. He moved to his present home April 5, 1898, where he is a prominent truck grower. He was elected tax collector in February, 1893 and reelected in 1896.

Mr. Powell attended day school only one term, when seven years old. When seventeen years of age he entered Woods Business College in Scranton, where he attended nights for nearly five years, where he finished his education. He was married to Miss Gertrude Chambers, daughter of James and Martha (Williams) Chambers of Scranton. Mrs. Powell was born February 9, 1869 in Pittston. Her parents moved to Scranton when she was about two years of age, where she attended school until sixteen.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Powell were the parents of thirteen children, seven sons and six daughters, namely: (1) Lewis E., our subject; (2) William H., born August 14, 1868 and married Miss Anna May Bennett, and have one child, Walter. They are living in Taylor; (3) David D., born May 2, 1870 and married Miss Hattie Fraley, daughter of William and Caroline (Baker) Fraley. They have three children: Hazel, William and Norman. They also live in Taylor; (4) Ida, born June 2, 1872, and is living in Hyde Park; (5) John, born October 30, 1874, and married Miss Anna White, and have two children living and reside in Taylor. She is a daughter of James White of Moosic; (6) Lizzie, born December 18, 1876, and is living in Michigan; (7)



RESIDENCE OF LEWIS E. POWELL

Mr. and Mrs. Powell have one son and a daughter, namely: Eugene C., born December 30, 1889; Myrtle J., born July 4, 1897.

WATKIN J. POWELL, our subject's father, was born in Wales, February 22, 1844, and came to this country when about eight years of age, with his parents. He was married September 1, 1866 to Miss Margaret, daughter of David D. and Rachel (Davis) Evans of Wales. Mrs. Watkin Powell was born August 17, 1848 in Scranton, and died as stated above, October 31, 1890. Her father, David D. Evans, was born in 1822 and died in Michigan in 1909, and his wife, Miss Rachel Davis, was born in 1825 and died in 1910. Mr. and Mrs. David D. Evans' family consisted of five daughters and three sons, namely: Margaret, John, Jemmima, Evan, Mamie, Sarah, Priscilla and William, all being born in Scranton.

Fanny, born April 30, 1879, and married Thomas Robinson and have three children: Edward, Elmer and Helen. They also live in Hyde Park. Thomas is a son of Isaac Robinson: (8) Arthur, born in September, 1881, and died in October, 1882. The five youngest, (9) Walter, (10) Rachel, (11) Martha, (12) Mamie and (13) Margaret, and the mother died within five months, from June 5 to October 31, 1890. The mother died of a broken heart after the death of her five children, and the father and husband was nearly driven frantic with grief.

Martha died June 5th of black diphtheria, aged eight years. Rachel, aged ten, after the death of her sister, pined away, and died two weeks later, June 21st. Margaret, aged fourteen months, died in July of membranous croup, and three weeks later Mamie, aged six years, died with the same disease. The first



of September. Walter, aged eleven, jumped from a load of hay, causing hemorrhage of the lungs, dying two weeks later. Mrs. Powell, the mother, died October 31st. No sadder picture could be painted.

JAMES CHAMBERS, father of Mrs. Lewis Powell, was born February 27, 1846 in Ireland, and came to this country with his parents, when a small child, and settled on a farm where Scranton is now located. Although born in Ireland, he and his parents were not Irish, and were staunch Methodists. He was barn boss at the Archibald mine for several years before his death. He was a man with many friends, and was honest and upright in all his dealings.

gust 28, the following year. Mr. Chambers died October 25, 1900. Mrs. Chambers is living with her daughter, Mrs. Powell.

#### GEORGE W. RADER

Mr. Rader was born on German Hill in Ransom, October 26, 1859. He is a son of John Rader, who was born in Germany April 2, 1818 and sailed across the ocean about 1836 and came to Luzerne county. He worked in Exeter township, near Harding, about three years. He then came to Ransom and bought a farm on German Hill, where he built a log house in the wilderness. Later he was married to Miss Catherine Walters, daughter of Henry and Catherine (Kress) Walters. She (Mrs. Rader)



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE W. RADER.

Mr. Chambers enlisted March 15, 1864, in Irwin Bacon's Company M, 11th Pa. Cavalry, and participated in the following battles: Jarrrett's Station, Va., May 7, 1864; City Point, Va., May 17, 1864; Petersburg, Va., June 9 and June 15, 1864; Staunton Bridge, Va., June 27, 1864; Fair Oaks, Va., September 29, 1864; Reams Station, Va., August 25, 1864; James River, Va., October 3, 1864; Darbytown Road, October 7, 1864; Richmond, Va., October 30, 1864; New Market Heights, Va., December 10, 1864; Five Forks, Va., April 1, 1865; Deep Creek, Va., April 3, 1865. Discharged July 16 1865. He was never wounded in battle. He was married July 3, 1866, to Miss Martha Williams. She was born in Milwaukie, September 15, 1848, and a daughter of Peter and Mary (Ace) Williams of Scranton. Mr. and Mrs. James Chambers were the parents of two children: Gertrude, the wife of our subject, Mr. Powell, and Jennie, born August 6, 1871, and died Au-

gust 28, 1892 in New Jersey and died April 17, 1892 on German Hill. Mr. Rader died April 9, 1899. They had a family of eight children, namely: Phillip, born Nov. 3, 1849 and died Jan. 27, 1902; Mary., born July 27, 1851 and married Horace Holcomb May 10, 1893; Henry, born May 23, 1853; Emma, born June 10, 1855 and married Peter Bedell, April 19, 1874 and died May 31, 1901; Rosanna, born Nov. 12, 1856; John, born March 7, 1858 and died April 2, 1865; George W., born Oct. 26, 1859; William, born Dec. 18, 1862 and died Dec. 30, 1906.

George W. Rader received a common school education. He has always followed farming. He was married Sept. 23, 1885 to Miss Catherine, daughter of Christopher and Elizabeth (Klipple) Zeiss of Milwaukie. Mr. and Mrs. Zeiss were born in Germany and were married April 30, 1848 and July 6th the same year, they sailed for this country.

Mr. and Mrs. Rader have three daughters: Elizabeth, born Aug. 16, 1886 and was married June 25, 1908 to William C. Petty of Milwaukee; Catherine M., born Aug. 29, 1887 and Marion R., born May 20, 1896. One son, Christopher, born April 11, 1891 and died May 11, 1893. Two daughters died in infancy.

#### JEPHTHA C. RICHARDS

Mr. Richards is one of the leading agriculturalists of Ransom township, owning one of the best producing farms in this section. His main crops are hay, potatoes and cabbage; cutting over fifty tons of hay, and producing from 900 to 1,200 bushels of potatoes a year. This

Business College, is working on the farm with his father. James L., a student at Wyoming Seminary, preparing for a physician; and William N.

PETER K. RICHARDS was born September 13, 1832. He was the first steward of the Ransom Home. His wife was born March 10, 1838. She was a daughter of Peter Corselius, Sr. Mr. and Mrs. Richards' family consists of four sons and two daughters, namely: Floyd P.; Jephtha C., the subject of this sketch; Jessie (Mrs. Nathan Sutton), Dorcas (Mrs. Earl Decker); Charles G., a Presbyterian minister in Auburn, N. Y.; Parke K., also a Presbyterian minister, is located in Waverly, N. Y.



HOME OF JEPHTHA C. RICHARDS.

year he raised about 16,000 heads of cabbage, and former years from 10,000 to 12,000 heads. He also raises about 200 bushels of rye and from 300 to 400 bushels of oats a year. His farm is in first-class state of cultivation, and is increasing in fertility by the addition of about 200 loads of manure, which he buys in Pittston each year.

Our subject is a son of Peter K. and Rosina (Corselius) Richards, who are now living in West Pittston, but for many years lived in Ransom on the farm now owned by Amos Learn.

Jephtha C. Richards was born March 30, 1861 in Ransom, and has always lived on a farm. He was married Oct. 16, 1889 to Miss Eleanor M., daughter of Charles and Mary (Lanternman) Newman of Newton township. Mrs. Richards was born Oct. 11, 1863 and died Feb. 15, 1911.

Mr. Richards' family consists of three sons, namely: Russell C., a graduate of Wyoming

#### LESLIE FRANK RICHARDS

Mr. Richards is a progressive truck and fruit grower of Mountain Valley. He has a vineyard which produced nearly 300 half-bushel baskets of grapes this season, the three leading varieties being the Niagara, Warden and Concord. He is the largest grower of grapes and currants in Ransom township, producing over 300 quarts of currants in 1911, and setting 350 more plants. He is an extensive grower of strawberries, picking 1,300 quarts, and setting over 4,000 plants this year. He has 100 plum trees, which are beginning to bear. He has 150 prune trees, set in 1906. He produces from 600 to 900 bushels of potatoes, and from 150 to 200 bushels of onions a year. He also raises a quantity of tomatoes, cabbage, sweet corn, etc.

Mr. Richards was born Aug. 22, 1881, and is a son of Ostrander and Amelia M. (Lacoe) Richards. He attended school at Mountain



Valley until sixteen years of age. Since then he has been working his father's farm.

OSTRANDER RICHARDS, born March 20, 1836 in Newton township, on the farm now owned by B. F. Reed. He is a son of Nathaniel and Sarah (Ostrander) Richards. He was married Dec. 31, 1861 to Miss Amelia M., daughter of William A. and Sybil (Ash) Lacoe. (See *Joseph A. Lacoe of Newton*).

Mr. and Mrs. Ostrander Richards had a family of seven children, namely: (1) Ella S., born Dec. 13, 1862, and married Charles Williams, July 28, 1882, and are living on a farm near Dalton.. They have five children, namely: Pearl, Isabell, Walter, Myrtle and James.. (2) Mary A., born Sept. 1, 1867 and died Oct. 14,

Lizzie, daughter of John and Catherine (Kurtz) Herman of West Scranton.

Mr. Richter, our subject, began picking slate in the coal breakers when only eight years of age. He worked in the mines for several years, until 1909, when he moved to the John Koster farm at Mountain Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Richter have five children. (See *Directory*).

FREDERICK RICHTER was born in Germany March 22, 1853. After coming to this country he worked in the mines in Scranton and vicinity for over twenty years, and the last ten years he has been employed in Klutz Silk Mill in Green Ridge. His wife, (Miss Sophie Becker) was born March 7, 1858. They have



RESIDENCE OF OSTRANDER RICHARDS.

1878. (3) William O., born July 9, 1870 and died Jan. 30, 1883. (4) Addie L., born Nov. 30, 1873 and married Dec. 31, 1891 to Eugene Miller, son of Peter Miller. They are living on a farm near Falls and have three children living: Willard P., Raymond M. and Eugene. (5) Ora N., born Aug. 26, 1876 and died Aug. 2, 1893. (6) Leslie F., born Aug. 22, 1881 and living with his parents, working the home farm. (7) Jennie A., born January 15, 1884 and married Sept. 21, 1910 to John Poston and living in Pittston. They have one son, Leslie J. Mr. Poston is a carpenter.

#### CHARLES F. RICHTER

Mr. Richter was born Nov. 17, 1878 in Germany, where he lived until about one year of age, when his parents sailed for this country. He is a son of Frederick and Sophie (Becker) Richter. He was married Dec. 8, 1896 to Miss

a family of eight children, namely: Charles, Anna, Fred, Lizzie, Minnie, William, Emma and John.

JOHN HERMAN was born in 1831 in France and died Oct. 18, 1896 in Scranton. His wife, Miss Catherine Kurtz, was born in 1845 in Germany and died in July, 1886. They had a family of eight children, namely: Baltz, Lena, Mary, George, Margaret, Lizzie, Louis and Emma.

#### GEORGE H. RIFENBARY

Mr. Rifenbary has been superintendent of the Ransom Home since April 1, 1897. He was born in Sussex county, New Jersey, and is a son of Benjamin and Seanea (Hough) Rifenbary. He was married June 22, 1876 to Miss Eva, daughter of Isaac O. and Marilla (Place) Bunnell of Meshoppen.

Mr. and Mrs. Rifenbary have a family of two

daughters, namely: Zida E., married Sept. 24, 1908 to Edward Kircher of Newton; Oelo, married May 18, 1911 to Truman K. Biesecker of Newton.

Mr. Rifenbary owned and lived on a farm at Lake Winola several years, which he sold about 1895.

### JOHNSON ROSENKRANS

Johnson Rosenkrans was born March 22, 1855 in Newton township, on the farm now owned by his brother, Amos. He obtained a fair education at the Lacoe school. After he became of age, until thirty-two years old he worked by the month for several farmers. Then he

grandson of Levi Rosenkrans. (*See Amzi Rosenkrans of Newton*).

### CHARLEY SAMES

Mr. Sames is a son of Henry C. and Frances (Lewert) Sames. He was born Feb. 14, 1876 at 1005 Cedar Ave., Scranton. He was married June 22, 1904 to Miss Catherine A., daughter of Andrew and Margaret (Roeszler) Landsiedel of Ransom township.

Mr. Sames lived in Scranton until March 29, 1910 when he moved to his mother's farm on German Hill, where he is now living.

Mr. and Mrs. Charley Sames are the parents of three children. (*See Directory*).



RESIDENCE OF JOHNSON ROSENKRANS

was married, March 1, 1887 to Miss Emma Taylor, daughter of James and Martha (French) Taylor. After his marriage, Mr. Rosenkrans worked out seven years. April 1, 1894, he purchased the farm where he now resides of Mrs. Eliza Williams, widow of Andrew Williams.

Mrs. Rosenkrans was born in England, Feb. 13, 1866. She came to this country with her parents when about two years of age. She attended school at Scranton, Old Forge and the Pine school-house. She learned dressmaking, which she followed before her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Rosenkrans have had a family of seven children, namely: Harriet and Martha (twins), born July 15, 1889; Agar James, born April 26, 1895; Norvison Johnson, born Dec. 1, 1897; Jennie, born April 24, 1900 and died Jan. 1, 1901; William Taylor, born June 1, 1902 and died Feb. 15, 1903; Jennie Corinnie, born March 5, 1904.

Mr. Rosenkrans is a son of Brittau and a

HENRY C. SAMES, father of our subject, was born April 30, 1842 in Wardorf, Germany and died April 16, 1907 in Scranton. He came to this country when about twenty-five years of age and married two years later to Miss Frances, daughter of Godfred Lewert of Scranton. She was born May 10, 1849 in Germany, and came to this country about 1867. Mr. and Mrs. Sames were the parents of seven children, namely: Elizabeth and Lena died in infancy; Henry, born July 26, 1873; Charley, our subject; Catherine (Mrs. David Morris), born Feb. 24, 1880; Frances, died when fifteen months old; John, born Dec. 10, 1887. In 1870 Henry Sames purchased a lot and erected a residence at 1005 Cedar Ave., Scranton. In 1882 he remodeled the first floor of his residence for a store where he kept groceries and provisions, and June 8, 1889 he added the milk business. In 1901 he enlarged this building to make room for the increasing milk business, having three wagons for delivering the milk. It was then named



the "Maple Dairy," which name it now bears. Since Mr. Sames' death in 1907, Mrs. Sames and her three sons have conducted the business. They now have five milk wagons to deliver milk and an extra wagon for delivering groceries.

### SCHEUER BROTHERS

#### "SUNNY SIDE FARM," MOUNT DEWEY

John Scheuer, Sr., the father of the owners of the above farm, was one of the pioneers of Scranton. He came from Germany in 1849 with his father, Conrad Scheuer. They settled in Slocum Hollow. John procured employment with Scranton & Co., later the Lackawanna Iron & Coal Co. Later he rented the Slocum

drive to and from their place of business in Scranton, night and morning, it only taking forty-five minutes to drive to the farm. This is the finest summer residence section so near Scranton. All parts of the city and valley can be seen from the farm.

### ANTHONY SCHULTHEIS

Mr. Schultheis is a son of Conrad and Dorothy (Engel) Schultheis. He was born Nov. 22, 1853, in Pittston, and when two years of age his parents moved to a farm near Taylor, where he obtained his education. In 1873 he came with his parents to Milwaukie to the farm where he is now living, where he has since lived. He was married January 30,



"SUNNY SIDE FARM," SCHEUER BROS., THE BAKERS, SUMMER HOME, MOUNT DEWEY.

Farm, on the banks of the Stafford Meadow Brook, where he conducted a dairy and milk business. Mr. Scheuer has the distinction of being the first milkman in Scranton, and was the first man to receive milk shipments over the D. L. & W. R. R. This milk was shipped about 1860 by a Mr. Morrow from Humphreysville, now Glenburn, Pa.

Mr. Scheuer always had a desire for farming, which was the reason for the purchase of "Sunny Side Farm" by his sons. After Mr. Scheuer retired from the Baking business, which he established in 1874, being succeeded by his sons, he took charge of and developed the farm to its present high state of cultivation.

Mr. Scheuer died in April, 1911, aged 82 years. Since then, his son, Henry, is managing the farm, and the other brothers, George and John, have their summer residence there, each occupying cottages on the farm. They

1875, to Miss Julia Maas, a daughter of John Maas of Mountain Valley. She was born October 20, 1854, in Wilkes-Barre and died May 7, 1906.

Anthony Schultheis was elected school director about 1893, holding the office for nine years, and assistant assessor one term.

To Mr. and Mrs. Schultheis were born ten children, namely: (1) Rose, born February 12, 1876 and was married August 1, 1899 to Arthur Snover, and living in Scranton; (2) Lewis A., born February 19, 1877 and is a carpenter, working at Taylor; (3) John C., born August 7, 1878 and was married October 25, 1905, to Miss Mary E. Courtright of Milwaukie. They have one daughter, Luella, born in October, 1906. They are living in Taylor; (4) Dorothy E., born April 10, 1880 and married September 29, 1909 to Wesley J. Lewis and living in Exeter; (5) Henry, born Novem-



SCHEUER'S BREAD BAKERY.

Pittston Avenue, Hemlock and Front Streets.

Germany, November 3, 1825 and died September 22, 1909.

CONRAD SCHULTHEIS, our subject's father, was born in Germany March 25, 1819 and was married in 1843 to Miss Dorothy Engel, daughter of Anthony and Maggie (Ott) Engel. Mr. and Mrs. Schultheis came to this country in 1851, being sixty-nine days on the water. They were the parents of six children, four being born in Germany. Mary, the oldest, married Casper Oberdofer; Lewis, living in Pittston; Catherine, married Adam Reinhardt, and died in June, 1907; Eliza, married Henry Schultheis and died June 30, 1907; Anthony, our subject; John, who died when nine years of age. Conrad Schultheis died May 3, 1890. His wife was born December 16, 1822, and is living on the old homestead, with her son, Anthony. She is the oldest resident of Ransom township, aged 90 years.

RESIDENCE OF ANTHONY SCHULTHEIS AND HIS MOTHER,  
MRS. CONRAD SCHULTHEIS.

ber 19, 1881 and married September 18, 1907 to Miss Martha Whitlock of Newton; (6) Augusta, born August 19, 1883 and married Jan. 23, 1907 to Charles Stine of Milwaukie. They have two children, Mannie E. and Rose M.; (7) Elizabeth, born January 12, 1887 and is living at home; (8) Frank, born January 6, 1889, and is working on the farm for his father; (9) Catherine, born July 11, 1891, and is a stenographer and bookkeeper in Scranton; (10) Charles A., born August 21, 1894.

JOHN MAAS was born in Germany October 4, 1826, and died in Mountain Valley, October 13, 1892. He came to this country with his parents about 1846, and later settled on a farm in Mountain Valley, now owned by his son, John Maas, Jr. He was married about 1853 to Miss Catherine Barth, who was also born in

### STEPHEN SCHMIDT

Mr. Schmidt is a mine surveyor for the D. L. & W. Coal Company, where he has been employed for over twenty-seven years. He was born in Austria on Christmas, Dec. 25, 1860, and came to this country with his parents in October, 1882, living in Taylor two years, moving from there to Duryea, where his father lived until death.

Stephen Schmidt was married Jan. 7, 1888 to Mrs. Julia (Gardener) Friedman, widow of Frank Friedman, who died Sept. 3, 1886. She was a daughter of Goerge and Mollie (Ross) Gardener, who were born in Tyrol, Austria. She (Mrs. Schmidt) came to this country June 1, 1884 and married to her first husband, March 7, 1885. She has two sisters and one brother living, namely: Sophia (Mrs. Julius Fabri),



Matilda (Mrs. Chas. Bartosch) and August. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Friedman were the parents of one daughter, Emily M., born Dec. 6, 1886 and married June 29, 1904 to Henry Leuthold a veterinary surgeon, living at Taylor. They have three children, namely: Helen, Henry and Clifford.

Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt are the parents of nine children: Hedwig S., born Sept. 30, 1888, and married Sept. 11, 1907 to William A. Albrecht, a bookkeeper in Scranton. The other eight children are living at home, and their names may be found in the *Directory*. Hedwig and Frank are twins. Frank is a bricklayer and August, a carpenter. Ernestine, Pauline and

13, 1841 on the farm now owned by Mrs. Smith, where he died June 4, 1900. He was a son of Peter A. and Sarah (Compton) Smith.

PETER A. SMITH was born Feb. 5, 1816 and died in January, 1892, and a son of Elias and Harriet (Ayers) Smith, who were among the pioneer settlers of Newton township. Mr. Smith married Miss Sarah Compton, who was born March 11, 1808 and died Oct. 27, 1887.

Mrs. Catherine Smith is the mother of eight children, namely: (1) Mary E., born Feb. 17, 1867, and married David Shook and living in Newton township. (2) Clara, born May 31, 1869 and married Patrick Lowler, and living in Pittston. (3) Elhora, born Oct. 20, 1871,



RESIDENCE OF STEPHEN SCHMIDT.

Mary are working for Theo. A. White Mfg. Co., an overall factory in Linden street, Scranton.

Mr. Schmidt is a son of John and Dorothy (Sipple) Schmidt.

JOHN SCHMIDT was born May 15, 1831 in Austria and died July 5, 1902. He was a miner. His wife was born in February, 1837 in Austria, and is living at the old home in Duryea. Their family consisted of four sons and two daughters, namely: Andrew, John, Stephen, Ferdinand, Mary and Elizabeth. Only Elizabeth and Stephen are living.

#### MRS. CATHERINE SMITH

Mrs. Smith was born Feb. 19, 1845 in Newton township, and is a daughter of Jacob and Salinda (Walters) Jacoby. (*See Arthur Jacoby of Newton*). She was married March 13, 1866 to Noah P. Smith, who was born March

and died Sept. 25, 1883. (4) William T., born April 15, 1874 and married Miss Anna Stevenson and living in Pittston. (5) Sarah, born Nov. 3, 1876 and died Aug. 22, 1877. (6) Peter A., born July 4, 1878. (7) Jennie, born July 22, 1881 and died Sept. 21, 1884. (8) Jacob, born Dec. 7, 1885. Peter and Jacob are living with their mother, working the farm.

#### BERT W. SINGER

Mr. Singer was born Jan. 31, 1874 in Newton township. He is a son of George and Julia (Smith) Singer. George Singer died in September, 1909.

Bert W. Singer attended school at Newton Centre until about nineteen years of age. Then he entered Scranton Business College, attending two winter terms. He was married Dec. 15, 1897 to Miss Mammie E., daughter of Abraham and Mary (Huthmaker) Stine of Milwaukee. (*See Stine Family*).



RESIDENCE OF BERT W. SINGER

Mr. Singer is a truck farmer, selling his produce at retail in Scranton.

Mr. and Mrs. Singer have two children, namely: Mary J., born October 24, 1901 and Charles S., born Oct. 25, 1904.

Mrs. Stewart have two children living, Willard L., born Jan. 9, 1909, and Letitia, born March 22, 1912. Another son, William, was born Jan. 20, 1911 and died Feb. 8, the same year. (*See William Bowen*).



HOME OF HILEY W. STEWART

Owned by Mrs. Stewart's mother, Mrs. William Bowen.

### HILEY WENZEL STEWART

Mr. Stewart was born April 25, 1883 in Hyde Park. He is a son of Willard L. and Laura L. (Snow) Stewart.

Our subject was married Sept. 30, 1907 to Miss Martha G., daughter of William and Letitia (Gilbert) Bowen of Mt. Dewey. Mr. and

WILLARD L. STEWART was born in Hobart, N. Y., July 4, 1865. His wife was Miss Laura L., daughter of Johiel Snow of Great Bend. She was born June 6, 1865 and died Jan. 25, 1911 near Jermy. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart six children were born, namely: Frank, Nettie, Harry, Charlie, Hiley and Nel-



lie. Only the three youngest are living: Charlie, born in 1881 and married Miss Bertha Wallace of Scranton. Hiley, our subject. Nellie, born Jan. 1, 1891.

### THE STINE FAMILY

The Stines were among the early settlers of Ransom township. They are of German descent.

ABRAHAM STINE was born in New Jersey, Aug. 4, 1777 and a son of John and Phebe Stine. He came to Ransom township about 1825 and settled on the farm where Charles A. Stine is now living, which he purchased from William Brink, who settled the farm about

daughter of William and Eleanor Brezee. She was born Dec. 15, 1815 and died Nov. 1, 1887. To the union of Frederick and Mary A. Stine eight children were born, namely: Tobias, Elizabeth, Abraham, Martha, Frederick, Ellen, Sarah and Harriet.

ABRAHAM STEIN, a son of Frederick and Mary A. Stein, was born on the old homestead farm near Milwaukie, April 11, 1842, where he lived until his death, Jan. 12, 1907. He was married Nov. 7, 1865 to Miss Mary, daughter of Jacob and Dorothy (Siglin) Huthmaker. Mr. Stein was a prominent Odd Fellow, and attended lodge every Saturday night, not missing a meeting for thirteen years. He was a kind father and husband, and a man with



CHARLES STINE'S RESIDENCE

1820, and built a log-house. Abraham Stine was married Jan. 29, 1804 to Elizabeth Pickel. She was born Aug. 18, 1773 in Roxbeary, Morris county, N. J., and a daughter of Frederick (died April 6, 1820) and Elizabeth (died Dec. 9, 1821) Pickel. To the union of Abraham and Elizabeth Stine seven children were born, namely: Phebe, born Jan. 4, 1805 and married Joseph LaTier; Charity, born June 1, 1806 and married Chas. Wilson; Mary, born March 21, 1808 and married Ethan Scott; Susanna, born March 8, 1810 and died Oct. 9, 1820; Frederick, born Jan. 6, 1812 and married Mary Ann Brezee; John, born Oct. 23, 1813 and died Feb. 8, 1814; Elizabeth, born Jan. 2, 1815 and died Feb. 4, 1817.

FREDERICK STINE was born in New Jersey Jan. 6, 1812 and died Nov. 16, 1896 in Ransom township, near Milwaukie on the homestead farm. He was a son of Abraham Stine. He was married Aug. 5, 1837 to Miss Mary A.,

many friends in the community where he was born, reared and died. He was born in a log house across the road from where his son, Charles, is now living. He was very fond of his home.

The longest he was ever away at a time, was one week, when attending court at Scranton. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Stine four children were born: Katie S., born July 8, 1869 and died Nov. 24, 1876; Jacob H., born Dec. 23, 1871 and died Nov. 9, 1876; Mammie E., born Nov. 16, 1877 and married Bert W. Singer; Charles A., born Sept. 17, 1880 and married Augusta Schultheis.

### CHARLES A. STINE

Mr. Stine is a son of Abraham and Mary Stine. He was born Sept. 17, 1880 on the homestead farm. He attended school at Milwaukie until about fifteen years of age. He was married Jan. 23, 1907 to Miss Augusta, daughter of Anthony and Julia (Maas) Schul-

theis of Ransom township. Mr. and Mrs. Stine are the parents of two daughters: Mamie, born Feb. 29, 1903 and Rosa, born March 7, 1910.

#### WILLIAM J. TAFT

Mr. Taft was born in South Gibson, Pa., June 20, 1876, and came to Ransom in 1898. He is a car inspector for the Lehigh Valley Railroad Co. at the Coxton yard.

Mr. Taft was married Nov. 21, 1900 to Miss Sarah Stout, daughter of John and Lydia J. (Harris) Stout of Ransom. Mrs. Taft was born Aug. 28, 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Taft are the parents of four children, namely: Martha M., born Oct. 13, 1901; Mildred M., born June 30, 1903; Freddie J., born Nov. 14, 1905 and William R., born July 7, 1908.



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM J. TAFT

#### FRANK C. THOMPSON

Mr. Thompson is a son of William E. and Elizabeth (Klipple) Thompson, and a grandson of John and Harriet (Smith) Thompson. Frank C. was born in Newton township Sept. 3, 1872. He attended school at Newton until about sixteen years of age. He then entered Keystone Academy, where he attended two winter terms. He helped his father on the farm until twenty-six years of age. He was married May 31, 1899 to Miss Minnie W. Smith.

In April, 1905, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson moved to Clarks Summit where he secured a position as foreman of the Newton, Ransom and Lake Winola Telephone Company (now the Merchants). On March 27, 1906 he was employed by the Lehigh Valley Coal Company at their Storage Plant at Ransom, working first as helper, and later was promoted to engineer, and for over a year has been electrician.

Mrs. Thompson was born in Pittston and is one of seven children of Richard and Maria (Bates) Smith.

Mrs. Thompson taught five successive terms of school in Newton township before her marriage and one term after. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have two children, one son, William E., born March 22, 1902, and one daughter, Alta E., born October 19, 1909. Both were born in Newton.

RICHARD SMITH was born in England Oct. 26, 1846, and came to this country when about ten years old. He is a jeweler by trade, but for over twenty years has been a C. S. B. in the Christian Science Church, and is now located at Lancaster, Pa. Mrs. Smith was a daughter of Solomon G. and Angeline (Ward) Bates.

and was born in Tunkhannock, Feb. 12, 1857 and died in Scranton Aug. 22, 1887. Mr. Smith was again married in April, 1902 to Miss Mira Hockaday of Decatur, Ill.

#### JAMES B. WALTER

Mr. Walter is a prominent carpenter living in Mountain Valley. He was born Oct. 8, 1857 in Smithfield township, Monroe county, and came to Ransom March 17, 1880. He worked for Jacob Bedell on the farm two years. In 1882 he began learning the carpenter's trade with George Davis, which occupation he has since followed.

Mr. Walter is a son of Hiram and Sarah (Lee) Walter.

Our subject, James B. Walter, was married Oct. 7, 1882 to Miss Lydia A., daughter of Robert and Mary (Michaels) Davis. (*See Ira E. Davis*).



Mrs. James B. Walter was born June 10, 1860 in Milwaukie on the farm now owned by William Reed.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter are the parents of four children: (1) Robert D., born Dec. 1, 1886 and married June 22, 1909 to Miss Florence Denithorne of Old Forge, who was born in October, 1889. He is a carpenter by trade. They have one daughter, Mildred Ann, born Nov. 5, 1911. (2) Earl H., born Aug. 9, 1893. (3) Benjamin F., born Aug. 31, 1895. (4) Leah A., born July 22, 1897. Earl and Benjamin are both learning the carpenter's trade.

HIRAM WALTER was born in April, 1829 in Smithfield township, and since 1908 has lived in Pike county. His wife was born in April,

she moved to Wilkes-Barre with her parents. In 1857 they moved to Newton township and three years later to Milwaukie.

Mrs. Wilson was married Feb. 20, 1864 to David Williams, son of Pennington and Adah (Stage) Williams, and a grandson of John C. Williams. David Williams was born Feb. 25, 1838 and died December 5, 1875.

Mrs. Wilson had five children by her first husband, namely: (1) Adah E., born Sept. 12, 1865. She was married June 11, 1884 to Royal H. Holbert. They have a family of seven children: Archie E., born Jan. 21, 1886, and married Miss Bessie Wheeler of Scranton; Mattie E., born July 15, 1889; Ethel E., born June 28, 1895; Robert C., born Feb. 2, 1900; Royal H., born July 17, 1901; Melba C., born April 20,



RESIDENCE OF JAMES B. WALTER

1828 and died in July, 1898. Their family consists of ten children: Susan, John, Ellen, Michael, James, Abraham, Josephine, Henry, Eliza and Edward. Only five are living, namely: James B., our subject; Abraham, born in 1859 and married Miss Emma Miller and living in Wilkes-Barre; Henry, born in 1861 and married Mrs. Mary Waldron for his last wife. They are living in Hyde Park. Eliza, married Fred Hudfecker, and living in Pike county; Edward, married Miss Sarah Plattenburg, and living in Wilkes-Barre.

#### MRS. CATHERINE WILSON

Mrs. Wilson is a daughter of David F. and Helen (Kivler) Thatcher. She was born Mar. 3, 1845 in Newport township, Luzerne county, where she lived until seven years of age, when

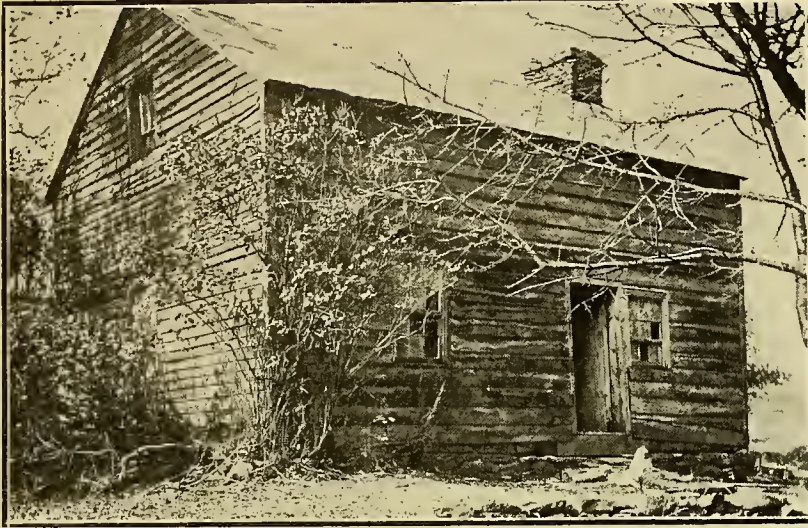
1904 and Joseph David, born May 3, 1907. Royal H. Holbert was born in Mast Hopt, Pike county, Sept. 25, 1861. He is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Stoutenburgh) Holbert. Royal H. Holbert is a painter by trade. Mr. and Mrs. Holbert have lived in Scranton, at 515 North Garfield avenue, since 1890. (2) John L., born July 25, 1867 and died Aug. 9, 1875. (3) Daniel L., born in February, 1869 and died in January, 1870. (4) Martha M., born Oct. 21, 1872, and married John T. Evans of Pittston. He is a graduate from Chatham Military Academy. She died Mar. 22, 1907. (5) Bertha E., born Jan. 11, 1875 and married Thos. Jenkins. She died March 21, 1902.

Mrs. Wilson was married the second time, June 5, 1884 to Jacob Wilson, son of Charles and Susan Wilson of Ransom. He was born June 15, 1848 and died Jan. 9, 1905.

JOHN C. WILLIAMS was born in Philadelphia. He took out a patent for Breeches Pond (now Lake Winola) and the surrounding land. Here he built a log-house, and then returned to Philadelphia, where he married Miss Martha M. Pennington. After their marriage they loaded their household goods on a cart, drawn by a yoke of oxen, and came to their new home. Thus, they made their wedding trip from Philadelphia to Lake Winola. He died in 1869. The Williams formerly came from Holland.

in April 1870 came to Ransom and later purchased the farm where they now live.

Mr. and Mrs. Winters are the parents of five children, namely: Willard M., born April 12, 1868 and married Miss Elsie Bennett and living in Pittston; Philip B., born Aug. 26, 1871 and married Miss Bessie Drake and living in Newton township. They have three daughters, Alma, Zida and Helen; Frank A., born June 5, 1873 and married Miss Margaret Hopkins and died Aug. 20, 1900; Harry B., born April



LOG-HOUSE BUILT BY JOSEPH KROUSE ABOUT 1840

Now owned by Horace Courtright.

### SAMUEL J. WINTERS

Mr. Winters was born Dec. 23, 1843 in Newton township, near the Ransom line, where Frank Petty is now living. He is a son of Bainbridge and Eliza (Brink) Winters to whom four children were born: Terrisa, born Feb. 12, 1840 and married Enos Beemer and living in Kansas; Harriet, born March 6, 1842; and married Alva Thompson and died Feb. 24, 1890. Samuel J., the subject of our sketch and Mary E., born Jan. 17, 1850 and died Oct. 18, 1865.

BAINBRIDGE WINTERS was born Oct. 13, 1817 in Orange county, N. Y., and died March 21, 1900. His wife, Eliza Brink, was born Dec. 11, 1817 in New Jersey and died Dec. 4, 1897 in Newton. Bainbridge Winters was a son of Jacob Winters.

Our subject, Samuel J. Winters, was born and reared on a farm. He was married July 6, 1867 to Miss Catherine, daughter of Philip and Susan (Dersheimer) Barrier. After their marriage they lived three years on the farm where Ed. Ward now lives in Newton township,

12, 1881, married Miss Nellie Fahs and living on his father's farm. They have two sons, Frank L. and Ralph; Blanche M., born July 19, 1884, married Joseph B. Munson and living in Ransom. They have two daughters, Katherine and Helen.

Mr. Winters enlisted in Co. B, 143 Regt. Pa. Vol. and served until the close of the war.

He was twice elected assessor in Ransom, and was elected supervisor for one term.

### JOHN WITZAL

Mr. Witzal was born April 8, 1855, near Stroudsburg. He lived at home, helping his father on the farm, until twenty-four years of age. When ten years of age his parents moved to Scranton (Providence) and in May, 1877 they purchased the farm in Mount Dewey, now owned by George Kellou. Mr. Witzal is a son of Andrew and Margaret (Knauser) Witzal.

ANDREW WITZAL was born in Germany, and came to this country when twenty-seven years of age. He was a stone mason by trade. He was twice married, the first time soon after he came to this country, to Miss Margaret Knauser.



She was born in Germany, where she became acquainted with Mr. Witzal. They were married in Hawley, Wayne county, and were the parents of five children: Elizabeth, Mary, John, Minnie and Polly. Mrs. Witzal died in 1862 in Cresco. Mr. Witzal was married again, raising a family of six children by his second wife, namely: Louise, Nora, George, Andrew, Jr., William and Belle. George died in June, 1908. Mr. Witzal died a few years ago. Mrs. Witzal is living with her daughter, Belle, in New Jersey.

John Witzal, our subject, was married May 21, 1879 to Miss Margaret Getz. She was born

31, 1893 and died Nov. 28, 1899. (5) Margaret G., born Aug. 30, 1895 and died a year later. (6) Elmer A., born July 25, 1897 and died when nine months of age.

#### ROY W. ZEISS

Mr. Zeiss is a son of William and Catherine (Freuhan) Zeiss, and born Dec. 18, 1880 in Milwaukie on the farm where his father lives. He attended school at Milwaukie until about eighteen years of age. He remained at home with his parents until twenty-two years of age, when he was married April 30, 1903 to Miss



RESIDENCE OF JOHN WITZAL.

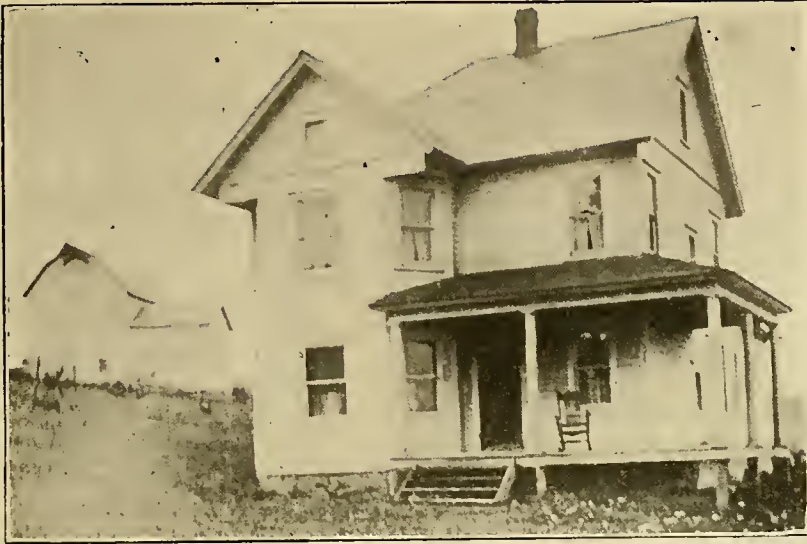
in Germany, Dec. 11, 1851, and came to this country when nine years of age. Her father died about 1852. Her mother, Mrs. Barbara Getz, was born Oct. 1, 1832 and died Nov. 1, 1898. Her second husband was Wandel Klotz, who died about 1903.

To Mr. and Mrs. Witzal a family of six children were born, namely: (1) Frank, born Feb. 27, 1880 and died July 6, the same year. (2) Emma S., born June 3, 1882 and married Feb. 22, 1906 to Burton Hartman of Scranton. They have one son, John E., born May 9, 1911. (3) William M., born March 5, 1884 and married Miss Emma Boswaler. They have one daughter, Lillian. (4) Karl A., born March

Grace A., daughter of Charles H. and Jennie (Vandeburg) Biesecker of Bald Mount. (*See Newton History*).

Mr. and Mrs. Zeiss lived in Bald Mount the first year after their marriage. In April, 1904 they moved to Milwaukie. He worked nearly a year for John Holmes in the lumber woods. In April, 1905 he began working for his father on the farm, by whom he was employed for two years.

April 1, 1907, Mr. Zeiss rented his father's farm on shares, in partnership with his brother, Christopher J., which they have continued to work until the present time. They are exten-



RESIDENCE OF ROY W. ZEISS

sive truck and hay growers, and the largest producers of sweet corn in Ransom and Newton townships, their crop in 1911 amounting to over 70,000 ears, which were grown on seven acres of land. The same year they produced over

## HENRY ZILK

Mr. Zilk was born near Cumberland, Md., Oct. 18, 1860. When twenty-two years of age he came to Durysa, where he lived for thirteen years. In 1894 he purchased the farm where



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM ZEISS.

2,000 baskets of tomatoes, 26,000 heads of cabbage and 65 tons of hay, also a quantity of cucumbers and potatoes.

In 1907 Mr. Zeiss purchased an acre of land from his father and erected a nine-room residence, which they occupied Sept. 2, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Zeiss have one daughter, Mary L., born May 23, 1904.

he is now living. In June, 1905 he sold his farm and moved his family to California, living in Oakland at the time of the earthquake, April 18, 1906. Nine days after the earthquake he and his family returned to Pennsylvania, and in August repurchased the farm which he owned before going West.

While in the West, Mr. Zilk traveled through



and visited several states, spending much time in California, Oregon and Washington. Mr. Zilk, being a survivor of the terrible earthquake, can give a very interesting account of the destruction of San Francisco and the suffering of those who escaped death and were left homeless and penniless.

Mr. Zilk worked in the coal mines in Maryland and Duryea. He never did farm work until he came to Ransom township. He was married in Duryea, Jan. 21, 1884 to Miss Sally V., daughter of Henry and Mary Rutledge of Old Forge. She was born Sept. 25, 1858 in Baltimore. Mr. Rutledge fought for the Union, enlisting at the beginning of the war and serving until the close.

Mr. Zilk is a son of John and Harriet (Rice) Zilk.

JOHN ZILK was born in April, 1836 in Germany and died in November, 1901. He came to this country in 1856. His wife was born in April, 1840 in Bedford county, Md., and died in July, 1889 in Duryea. They had a family of five children, namely: Henry, Joseph, Elizabeth, Frances and George.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Zilk have a family of six children. (*See Directory*). Two children, Nettie and Frank died in infancy.

There are only eighteen persons in the United States by the name of "Zilk."

#### OFFICERS OF RANSOM TOWNSHIP

**Justice-of-the-Peace**—Horace Holcomb.

**Constable**—Chas W. Blackwell.

**Assessor**—James Lacoe.

**Collector**—Horace Holcomb.

**Road Supervisors**—Peter Bedell, Sr., James M. Lacoe and Chas. W. Blackwell.

**School Directors**—Clarence D. Lacoe, president; Harry S. Corselius, secretary; Albert R. Davies, treasurer; Peter Bedell, Jr., and Willis L. Reed.

**Auditors**—Martin Sickler, Geo. C. Coon and William W. Ricketts.

**Health Officer**—Horace Holcomb.

**Treasurer**—Roy W. Zeiss.

#### District No. 1

**Judge of Election**—Harry A. Courtright.

**Inspectors**—William Blackwell and Harry B. Winters.

#### District No. 2—Mt. Dewey

**Judge of Election**—William Bowen.

**Inspectors**—William Gaul and Arnold Busch.

#### OFFICERS OF NEWTON TOWNSHIP

**Justices-of-the-Peace**—Gould Whitlock and J. F. Lacoe.

**Assessor**—William A. Hice.

**Collector**—Charles V. Decker.

**Road Supervisors**—Geo. W. Beemer, Chas. H. Biesecker and Ira Drake.

**School Directors**—Chas. H. Kresge, president; Wm. H. Newman, secretary; W. E. Larue, treasurer; B. F. Reed, vice-president, and Paul Aten.

**Auditors**—Wm. D. Ayers, Geo. L. Coon, William J. Biesecker.

**Judge of Election**—Oscar O. Britton.

**Inspectors**—Sam'l W. Beemer and Harlan Jacoby.

**Constable**—Amzi Rosenkrans.

**Treasurer**—Chas. H. Biesecker.

**Health Officer**—Horace Holcomb.

#### OLD HOUSES OF RANSOM AND YEAR BUILT

John Witzal .....	1832
Edward E. Ace .....	1840
Mrs. Margaret Ott .....	1842
Charley Sames (owned by his mother) .....	about 1844
Anthony Schultheis .....	about 1845
John Crowell, est .....	about 1845
Mrs. Sarah Kunsman .....	1848
Edwin S. Miller (occupied by Adam Miller) .....	abt 1848

#### OLD HOUSES OF NEWTON AND YEAR BUILT

Amzi Rosenkrans .....	1825
Thaddeus M. Roth .....	1839
Lewis Phillipsky .....	1840
Arthur R. Hollenback .....	1841
Lewis B. Ayers, Sr. ....	about 1844
Andrew S. Collum .....	1848
Peter C Winters .....	1853
Adam Thompson .....	1856

#### NEWTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterian church at Newton Centre was torn down in October, 1912 (since the article on page 91 was printed), and has been moved to Old Forge and rebuilt.

## DIRECTORY OF NEWTON TOWNSHIP

**EXPLANATION**—The head of the family is printed in boldface type, which is followed with his postoffice address, school district in which he lives, a brief history of the farm or house, and the name and date of birth of each member of the family, who are living at home. An asterisk (\*) preceding head of the family indicates that the farm or property is owned by either the husband or wife, and not rented.

The following abbreviations are used: a, acres; b, born; bro, brother; c, cow; dan, daughter; h, horse.

### A

- \*Aten, Mrs. Eliz.**, (Bates). Bald Mt., Newton School; b. in Tunkhannock Oct. 12, 1859; came to N. about 1885; taught 16 terms of school in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties, until married Aug. 6, 1892 to Chas. Aten, who died April 29, 1894. Mrs. Aten served as postmistress at Bald Mount for ten years, from 1895 to 1905, and attended the local telephone exchange for about five years. Her daughter Mable is attending the East Stroudsburg State Normal School, preparing for a teacher.
- Mable I., dau., b. Jan. 6, 1894.
- \*Aten, Paul W.**, general farmer Ransom, RD1, Shook School, b April 6, '52; 70a, 5c, 3h, 3 hogs.
- Hattie (Bates), wife, b. July 20, 1861.
- Paul R, son, b Aug 22, 1888.
- Helen M, dau, b Nov 28, 1891.
- \*Aten, Wm.**, farm laborer, Ransom, R. D. 1, Newton School, b. Jan. 5, 1879; 6a.
- Rhoda (Dorsheimer), wife, b. Dec. 31, 1883.
- Hazel G, dau, b Dec 4, 1904.
- \*Ayers, Lewis B.**, farmer and carpenter; Ransom, R. D. 1; Port Royal School; b Nov 25, 1830. Part of house built about 1844 by Andrew Compton. 21a, 1c, 1h, 1 pig.
- Phebe A (Collum), wife; b July 6, 1833.
- Note**—Mr. Ayers sold farm June 26, 1912 to Lewis Phillipsky.
- Ayers, Wm. D.**, laborer; Clarks Summit, R.D.2; Newton School; b in Newton April 20, 1869; son of Jacob; rents from Mrs. Julia A. Singer. 22a.
- Matilda L (Munson), wife; b July 25, 1875.
- Emma, dau, b Ang. 23, 1897.
- Elmer, son, b Mar 2, 1899.
- Katherine, dau, b Oct 26, 1900.
- Arthur, son, b Feb 18, 1903.
- John, son, b Nov 15, 1909.
- School; b Oct 2, 1866. Son of John. 85a, 2c.
- Dora (Foss), wife, b April 18, 1875.
- Lloyd, son, b June 17, 1898.
- Leah, dau, b Nov. 14, 1900.
- Norma, dau, b Nov. 13, 1902.
- Carl, son, b Feb 6, 1905.
- Jessie, dau, b Sept 14, 1907.
- Earl, son, b April 6, 1910.
- Beemer, Geo. W.**, superintendent of Hillside Home, Clarks Summit, Fire Proof School; b April 14, 1848 in Newton, on the farm he now owns, which is part of the farm settled in 1819, by Henry Beemer. First house built abt 1856 by Elias Beemer, a son of Henry and father of George W. This house burned about 1882, which was rebuilt in 1884 by the present owner. Arthur C. Stevens is living on the farm and working for Mr. Beemer. 19a, 10c, 5h, 29 sheep.
- Jennie (Young), wife, b July 24, 1854.
- Floyd D, son, b Aug 5, 1888.
- Beemer, Samuel W.**, store keeper at Hillside Home, Clarks Summit, Fire Proof School; b Nov 18, 1855; son of Elias and grandson of Henry Beemer. Married Jennie Thomas, who died in 1895.
- Bellersheim, Charles**, teamster, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Cosner School; b in Scranton, Jan 19, 1879; came to Newton in 1911. Rents of John Collins. 18a, 1h.
- Jennie (Perigo), wife; b Aug 8, 1869.
- Edna, dau, b Feb 3, 1901.
- Hazel, dau, b July 3, 1902.
- Verna, dan, b Nov 13, 1904.
- Frances, dan, b Feb 20, 1909.
- Perigo, George, father-in-law; b July 3, 1831.
- \*Biesecker, Chas H.**, retired farmer, Bald Mt, Newton School; b Oct 3, 1850; 150a, rented to Wm. J. Biesecker; 1h.
- Elsie J. (Stevens), wife, b Feb 2, 1857.
- Carl H, son, b Jan 22, 1892.
- Nora F, dau, b Sept 4, 1886.
- \*Biesecker, George W.**, farmer. Clarks Summit, RD2, Newton School; b in Newton Feb 2, 1855. 155a, 15c, 5ho.
- Gertrude R (Knapp), wife, b Dec. 24, 1856.
- Truman K, son, b Feb 4, 1889.
- Biesecker, George W.**, Ransom, R. D.1, Shook School; b Oct 1, 1825; living with his daughter, Mrs. David Nafus.
- Biesecker, Wm J.**, general farmer, Bald Mount, Newton School; b in Newton Mar. 7, 1881; son of Chas. H.
- Mable (Reed), wife, b Jan 17, 1885.
- Helen M, dau, b Jan 2, 1908.
- Zida E, dau, b Mar 25, 1909.
- \*Bowman F. E.**, nursery and seed agent, Bald Mt, Newton School; b in Sussex Co, N. J., July 31, 1840 and came to Newton April 2, 1894; son of George. 1a, 1h.
- Huldah A (Pittenger), wife; b Oct 10, 1849.
- \*Britton, Oscar O.**, carpenter, Schultsville, Schnltzville Sc; b Jan 9, 1873; came to Newton in 1896; son of John. 20a, 3c, 2 pigs.
- Carrie (Rozelle), wife, b June 21, 1873.
- Hngh A, son, b Dec 6, 1894.
- Bnrlette J, son, b Jan 30, 1898.
- Regina W, dau, b Mar. 28, 1900.
- Valera A, dau, b Jan 13, 1902.
- Lanrella E, dau, b Nov 29, 1903.
- Alice, dau, b April 21, 1907.
- Emily F, dau, b Sept 2, 1910.
- Rexford, son, b Jan 29, 1912.
- \*Busteed, Richard**, farmer, Bald Mount, Port Royal School; b in Ireland in Dec, 1827 and came to this country Nov 10, 1856. He married Bedelia Coleman in 1856, who died Dec 24, 1894. In May, 1895, he married Miss Mary Toomey, by whom he has had eight children. The oldest was born when Mr. Busteed was about 70 years of age. Mr. Busteed is now (1912) 85 years old and has a family of eight children, all living at home, and the oldest only 15 years of age. This farm was first set-

### B

- \*Beck, Geo A.**, carpenter and farmer, Ransom, R. D. 2, Lacoe



tled about 1815 by Zeptha Mit-tan, it has been cleared by the present owner, who purchased farm in 1868 and built house. 42a, 1c, 2h, 2 pigs.

—Mary (Toomey), wife, b Aug 16, 1873.

—William, son, b Jan 17, 1897.

—Margaret, dau, b June 17, 1898.

—Richard G, son, b Mar 5, 1900.

—Bessie, dau, b Nov 21, 1902.

—Thomas A, son, b Apr 24, 1904.

—Francis J, son, b May 14, 1906.

—Robert N, son, b Nov. 16, 1908.

—Ruth, dau, b Aug 27, 1911.

\***Butterfield, John S**, dairy farmer, Schultsville, Schultsville School; b in Newton Nov 2, 1859. 106a, 17c, 4 ho.

—Bertha (Winter), wife.

### C

\***Cahoon, Judson J**, butcher, Clarks Summit R.D.2, Newton School; b in Abington June 26, 1834; came to Newton about 1860. Married Caroline McCloskey Dec 14, 1870, who died Jan. 31, 1902. 2a.

—Amanda J (Smith-Ayers), wife, b July 16, 1848.

Ayers, Isaac, stepson; b March 18, 1882.

**Carpenter, John L**, general farmer, Schultsville, Schultsville School; b Aug 21, 1872 in Factoryville and came to Newton April 1, 1912; son of Porter and Rosetta (Shaw) Carpenter. Farm set by Sidney Beemer about 1844 and built framed house across road from present house, which was built about 1870 by Mr. Beemer. Mr. Carpenter was married March 28, 1894 to Miss Carrie M Swartz, dau of William P. and Cynthia A. (Sickler) Swarts. Farm owned by Samuel Lasher. 50a, 11c, 2h, 2 hogs.

—Carrie M, wife, b May 1, 1873.

—Aimee A, dau, b Jan 12, 1895.

—George L, son, b June 28, 1897.

—Elmer G, son, b May 5, 1905.

—Doris B, dau, b March 12, 1911.

**Carpenter, Wm L**, general farmer, Schultsville, Schultsville Sc; b in Pittston June 4, 1880; came to New Apr 1, 1911; son of Porter. Rents farm of Philip Harlos. 60a, 12c, 2h, 2 pigs.

—Myrtle (Shotwell), wife, b Dec 4, 1890.

—Addaline, dau, b Oct 26, 1910.

\***Collum, Andrew S**, postmaster at Bald Mount since April 1, 1905, Newton School; b in Newton July 24, 1843. The first, or post-office part of house, built in 1848 by Chauncey Sherwood, and new part in 1856.

—Eliza (Follett), wife, b Apr 17, 1839.

**Comstock, Judson C**, retired car-penter, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Newton School; b in Carbondale Nov 23, 1836; came to Newton

with his father, Zebulon (about 1840), who was a son of Zebu-lon Comstock, Sr., one of the pioneer settlers of Newton.

—Giles N, brother, b Mar 9, 1846.

\***Cook, John**, farmer, Schultsville, Schultsville School; b in Ger-many Mar 10, 1840, and came to U. S. in 1872 and to Newton about 1888. 52a, 5c, 2h, 2 hogs.

—Dorothy (Chonbech), wife, b Dec 19, 1840.

\***Coon, Everett G**, general farmer, Ransom, RD1, Shook School; b in Newton Feb. 1, 1865; son of Levi; married Miss Minnie Lasher June 4, 1896, who died Dec 20, 1909. 115a, 4c, 2h.

—Inez M, dau, b April 25, 1897.

—Edith V, dau, b Nov 14, 1898.

—Eliza H, dau, b May 17, 1902.

—Marjory, dau, b June 2, 1905.

—Genevieve, dau, b May 28, 1909.

\***Coon, Galusha A**, general farmer, Ransom, R.D.1, Shook School; b in Newton Sept 19, 1868; son of Levi. 115a, 2c, 3h, 2 hogs.

—Minnie H. (Fenstermaker), wife, b April 9, 1873.

—Raymond G, son, b March 17, 1899.

—Laura G, dau, b Oct 11, 1900.

—Harold A, son, b Oct 7, 1910.

\***Coon, George Lester**, farmer, Clarks Summit R. D. 2; Cosner School; b July 7, 1861, son of Merritt Coon. 90a, 4c, 2h, 1 hog.

—Ella A (Bailey), wife, b Feb 18, 1864.

—Etha E, dau, b Jan 30, 1890.

—Ernest W, son, b Aug 9, 1897.

\***Coon, Geo. Levi**, general farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Newton School, son of John; b in Vir-ginia Sept. 22, 1858; came to Newton in 1860. 161a, 15c, 3h, 2 mules. This farm was set-tled by Joseph Coon.

—Margaret (Smith), wife, b Feb 6, 1864.

—Bessie, dau, b Feb. 7, 1893.

—Winifred, dau, b Mar 13, 1898.

—Angeline (Fassett), stepmother, b Aug 11, 1829.

**Coon, Oscar D**, farm laborer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Newton School; b Oct 26, 1890 on the farm owned by his father, Geo. L. Coon. Oscar D. was married June 8, 1911 to Miss Lillian G, daughter of Charles V. and Mar-garet (Klipple) Decker of New-ton. Mr. Coon is working for his father. House owned by George L. Coon.

—Lillian G, wife, b July 22, 1887.

\***Cooper, Friend H**, wheelwright, Bald Mount, Newton School; b in Newton July 14, 1855. House and lot. 1h.

—Hattie (Vanderburg), wife, b Aug 10, 1854.

—Frank, son, b June 25, 1893.

—John, father, b Dec 4, 1828.

\***Cornell, Chas F**, general farmer, Ransom, RD1, Schultsville Sc; b in Wyoming Co, Feb 28, 1858;

came to Newton April, 1864; son of William and grandson of Clark, 125a, 17c, 4h, 2 pigs.

—Mary, mother, b Sept 25, 1825.

\***Corselius, Peter**, farmer, Ransom, R.D.2, Lacoe School; b in New-ton Feb 2, 1843; son of Peter Corselius, one of the early set-tlers from Sussex county, N. J. 130a, 3c, 2h, 4 mules; married Octavia E Fitch, May 14, 1869, who died Feb 7, 1905.

\***Cosner, Lewis**, farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Cosner School; b Nov 15, 1849. 112a, 9c, 3h.

—Lillian (Bennett), wife, b April 6, 1871.

—Lewis, Jr, son, b Aug 20, 1892.

**Cosner, S. Howard**, farmer, Scranton, West Branch, P.O.Box 424, Cosner School; son of Seldon S; b in Newton June 22, 1884; farm owned by Seldon S and worked by his two sons, Howard and Arthur. 235a, 5c, 1h, 4 mules, 3 hogs.

—Maud E (Lacoe), wife, b April 20, 1886.

—Kermit Quintin, son, b April 14, 1905.

—Charles S, son, b May 29, 1806.

—Arthur D, son, b Mar 26, 1908.

—Carl W, son, b Jan 23, 1910.

**Cosner, Seldon S**, farmer, Scranton, West Branch, P.O.Box 424, Cosner School; son of David and Grandson of Lewis, one of the pioneer settlers; b Jan 22, 1853. 110a; owned by Martha L. Cosner. 9c, 1 h, 2 mules, 20 hogs. Farm settled by Lewis Cosner in 1816.

—Martha L (Reed), wife, b Oct 30, 1852.

—D Arthur, son, b Dec 22, 1881.

—Edna R, dau, b Mar 23, 1892.

### D

**Decker, Andrew**, truck farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Newton School; b in Overfield township, Wyoming Co, Jan 27, 1864; came to Newton about 1900; son of Isaac. 70a; owned by Thos. Veety. 4c, 2h.

—Esther (Mead), wife; b March 31, 1867.

—Frances, dau, b Aug 24, 1895.

Mead, Elvira, stepdau, b March 6, 1897.

—Willie, stepson, b Feb 4, 1900.

\***Decker, Chas V**, truck and berry grower, Ransom, R.D.2, Lacoe School; b in Sussex co, N.J. Nov 25, 1852; came to Newton in 1856. 34a, 4c, 2h, 3 pigs.

—Margaret (Klipple), wife, b Dec 11, 1853.

—Katherine, dau, student, b June 17, 1890.

**Del Melia, Michael**, laborer, Bald Mount, Newton School; b in France, May 11, 1867; came to this country about 1890 and to Newton in July, 1897. His first wife, Mary Genor, died Oct 3, 1909.

—Florence (Cethcart), wife, b Oct 30, 1885.  
—Mary Frances, dan, b Feb 12, 1898.  
—Anna Louise, dau, b Nov 14, '11  
Cethcart, Charlie, stepson, b Mar 6, 1909.

\***Drake, Ira**, dairy and truck farmer, Ransom, R. D. 1, Shook School, b in Ransom May 13, 1852; came to Newton about 1880, and in April, 1892 moved to his present home, which he purchased from Amzi Myers. Farm settled by Adam Taylor about 1825, who built a log-house near the spring, above house now occupied by Philip Winter. Farm was purchased by Joseph Rozelle and his wife, Hettie, in Dec, 1838, and May 4, 1840 was sold to Geo. Myers for \$1,164. 190a, 24c, 5h, 5 hogs.

—Mary A (Blackwell), wife, b May 24, 1850.

\***Drake, Jennings L**, carpenter, Bald Mount, Newton School; b July 5, 1873 in Ransom; son of Ira. House and lot.

—Dean (Lasher), wife, b June 10, 1866.

—Ira A, son, b July 4, 1900.

\***Dunlap, A Perrington**, dairy farmer, Clarks Summit, R.2, Fire Proof School; b Feb 10, 1843 in Falls township; came to Newton about 1875; purchased farm in 1893 from Andrew Singer; farm settled by Mr. Singer's father, 20a, 10c, 2h, 4 pigs.

—Eva, dau, b Feb 10, 1864.

\***Dunlap, Edgar B**, general farmer, Clarks Summit, R.2, Fire Proof School; b Aug 4, 1864 in Falls township, Wyoming Co; farm settled by Edward Rozelle and was purchased by John Ringsdorph in 1860, who willed the same to his sons, William and Adam. William Ringsdorph sold farm to Frank W. Tennant about 1906, who sold to present owner June 21, 1911. Mr. Dunlap moved to farm Feb 15, 1912. House built about 1845 by Ed. Rozelle. 93a, 12c, 4h, 4 pigs.

—Emma R (Alger), wife, b May 28, 1865.

—Earl A, son, b June 26, 1893.

—F. Howard, son, b Mar 5, 1907.

## E

\***Eckel, Fred, Jr**, farmer, Ransom, R.D.1, Port Royal School; b Sept 13, 1873; moved to Newton in 1906. 91a, 7c, 2h, 1 mule, 2 pigs. Farm settled about 1820 by Jonas Fuller.

—Lena (Schaffer), wife, b Nov 11, 1877.

—Clara, dau, b Feb 24, 1904.

—Phennie, dau, b Nov 11, 1906.

—Carolina A, dau, b Apr 3, 1908.

\***Edwards, Chas S**, general farmer, Schultzville, Schultzville School; b in Dalton Oct 10, 1859; came

to Newton in Mar, 1908. 24a, 3c, 1h, 1 hog.

—Jessie C (Hiorns), wife, b July 2, 1870.

—Richard S, son, b Nov 16, 1898.

—Christine W, dau b Dec 13, '02.

## F

\***Fahs, Chris**, farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D. 2, Schultzville School; b in Germany Oct 23, 1842. 22a, 4c, 2h.

—Dora (Fauldenhaust), wife, b Feb 26, 1844.

**Fahs, John**, attendant at Hillside Home, Clarks Summit, Schultzville School; b in Newton Oct 25, 1888; son of Christopher; living in part of Philip Harlos' house.

—Helen (Bardwell), wife.

—**Farnam, Walter**, teamster, Clarks Summit, R2, Cosner Sc; b Feb 8, 1887 in Wyoming co; came to Newton in May, 1909; driving team for Geo Alger, and living in his house.

—Nettie M (Swarts), wife, b Aug 7, 1887.

—Dana, son, b Apr 17, 1911.

\***Finkler, Mrs. Lena (Miltenberger)**, Ransom, R. D. 2, Lacoe School; b in New York city Apr 15, 1837; came to Newton in 1867; widow of Peter Finkler, 252a, 6c, 4h, 3 hogs.

—Charles A, son, b Jan 20, 1882.

—Agnes (Simonson), daughter-in-law, b Feb 20, 1887.

\***Fitzsimmons, Mary (Riley)**, Schultzville, Schultzville School, b in Ireland Dec 20, 1848; came to Newton in 1867; married Patrick Fitzsimmons June 16, 1867, who died Oct 17, 1898. 113a, 20c, 3h.

—Philip V, son, farmer, b April 20, 1879.

—Nellie R, dau, b Jan 10, 1886.

—Matilda R, dau, b Oct 28, 1890.  
Taylor, Isabela M, grand dau, b Nov 5, 1898.

—Gertrude, granddau, b May 5, '00

\***Ford, John**, farmer, Schultzville, Schultzville School; b in Ireland Jan 6, 1839 and came to U. S. in 1860 and to Newton in 1866. 135a, 2c, 2h.

—John, son, b in Newton.

Manning, Mrs. Elizabeth, dau.

—Joseph, grandson, b Mar 22, '08.

\***Framney, Anthony J**, miner, Ransom, R.D.2, Lacoe School; b in Scranton Mar 31, 1879; came to Newton May 10, 1906. 17½a, 2c, 1h.

—Nora (O'Malley), wife, b Jan 17, 1879.

—Thomas, son, b May 23, 1903.

—Harry, son, b June 29, 1904.

—Dorothy, dau, b Mar 5, 1906.

—James, son, b Feb 4, 1908.

—Kathryn, dau, b Oct 2, 1909.

—James, father, b in Ireland Apr 14, 1849.

\***Fuller, A D**, farmer, Bald Mount, Newton School; b Aug 20, 1844

in Newton near Christopher Van Buskirk's residence; son of Edward and Lucinda (Ayers) Fuller and a grandson of Jonas, who settled in Newton about 1820 on the farm now owned by Fred Eckel. A D Fuller married Miss Mary M, daughter of Chas and Susan Wilson. 12a, 1h.

—Mary M, wife, b in Ransom.

\***Fuller, John**, farmer, Bald Mt, Newton School; b in Newton May 20, 1848; son of Aaron A. One son living, Dr. E. A. Fuller, a dentist, living in Dalton. 25a, 2c, 2h.

—Lucinda (wife), b May 24, 1852.

**Fuller, Cora H**, Bald Mount, Newton School; b Nov 8, 1870; living with her mother, Mrs. Phebe Vanderburg.

## G

\***Garrison, Lewis D**, general far, Clarks Summit, R. D. 2, Cosner School; b in Newton Sept 16, 1841; son of Eder. 25a, 3c, 3h.

—Violet (LaRue), wife, b Apr 10, 1858.

—Albert E, son, b Jan. 31, 1893.

Ayers, Cora M, dau, b Oct 4, 1885.

—Violet J, granddau, b June 15, 1902.

—Ada H, granddau, b Oct 20, '03.

\***Garrison, Wm**, farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D. 2, Cosner School, b near Scranton Feb 4, 1838; came to Newton with his father, Eder Garrison, when only one year old. 23a, 2c, 1h.

Griffin, Martin, cousin, carpenter; b July 21, 1865.

\***Goodwin, John K**, farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Cosner School; b Oct 3, '33. 78a, 2c, 1h, 4 pigs.

**Green, Miss Elizabeth M**, Ransom, R.D.1, Shook School; b Apr 1, 1857 near Dushore and came to Newton in 1910 and living with her cousin, Mrs. Horton Vaughn. Daughter of Edmund and Anna (Heisz) Green.

\***Griffin, John B**, general farmer, Schultzville, Schultzville School, b June 30, 1853; son of Pelham Griffin. 69a, 12c, 3h.

—Louisa (White), second wife, b Aug 8, 1872.

—Stanley R, son, b July 18, 1890.

—John E, son, b Sept 12, 1908.

White, Wm, stepson, b Jan 27, 1890.

**Griffin, Walter**, carpenter, Schultzville, Schultzville School; b Sept 27, 1885; son of J B Griffin. 3c.

—Grace (Brower), wife, b Sept 26, 1882.

—Chas B, son, b April 19, 1909.

## H

\***Harlos, Philip**, farmer and merchant, Schultzville, Schultzville School; b in Ransom Mar 11, 1848 and came to Newton about 1861; son of Philip, Sr; married Mary A Howey Aug 22, 1865, who died May 20, 1906. Mr.



- Harlos owns the J B Schultz farm. 113a, 25c, 3h, 3 hogs.  
 —Christina, dau, b Sept 1, 1879.  
 \*Harris, Thomas, farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Cosner Schol; b in Morris Run, Nov 15, 1863. 73a, 2c, 2h.  
 —Louisa (Sealey), wife, b June 17, 1868.  
 —Sarah, dau, b Oct 24, 1900.  
 —Sylvia, dau, b Dec 8, 1902.  
 \*Hice, Wm A, truck farmer, Ransom, R.D.2, Newton School; b in Newton Sept 2, 1865; son of John. 108a, 4c, 4h., 5 pigs.  
 —Winifred (Swartz), wife, b July 2, 1881.  
 —Burson J, son, b June 13, 1896.  
 —Clarence W, son, b Oct 6, 1900.  
 Swartz, Alfred E, stepson, b Jan 4, 1898.  
 —Rexford C, stepson, b Sept 24, 1900.  
 Hiorns, Emily F (Beecher) Schultzville, Schultzville School; widow of Rev Richard Hiorns, a M E minister, who died Oct 24, 1901. Mrs. Hiorns was b Feb 2, 1844 in Tioga Co, N Y; now living with her son-in-law, Charles S. Edwards, Schultzville.  
 Hopkins, Harry W, general farmer, Schultzville, Schultzville School; b Nov 17, 1884 in Newton. 50a, owned by his father, Judson D. 6c, 3b, 1 pig.  
 —Avis (Dorsheimer), wife, b Oct 20, 1887.  
 —Judson D, father, farmer.  
 \*Hopkins, Ruth M, far'r, Schultzville, Schultzville Sc; born July 12, 1832; widow of Solomon Hopkins, who died Aug 17, '84. 16a, 2c, 1 pig.  
 Zimmerman, William, hired man, b Dec 12, 1848.  
 \*Hopkins, Mrs Nettie, widow of Peter Hopkins, who died Oct 25, 1898; Schultzville; Schultzville School; b May 8, 1846; dau of Philetus Havens, of Bradford co. 50a, 4c.  
 —Ida E, stepdau, b Sept 15, 1866.  
 \*Hollenback, Arthur R, gen farmer, Ransom, R.D.1; Shook School; b Feb 8, 1859 in Falls township and came to Newton in March, 1898. Farm settled by William Lane and William Brink about 1825; house built in 1841 by Amos Learn. 130a, 3c, 4h, 3 hogs.  
 —Lydia E (Trauger), wife, b Jan 8, 1864.  
 —Lovell L, son, b April 12, 1896.  
 Hollister, Amos G, dairy farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Schultzville School; b in Bath, Pa, Sept 7, 1879; came to Newton in 1900. 100a, 30c, 3h.  
 —Ruth (Lower), wife, b July 26, 1889.  
 —Bonno, son, b Aug 4, 1905.  
 \*Holmes, John G, general farmer, Ransom, R.D.1, Shook School; b Sept 22, 1852 in Sullivan co, and came to Newton in June, 1904. Farm settled by Silas Sutton, and originally was part of the farm now owned by Horton Vaughn. House built by Mr. Holmes in 1905. 100a, 15c, 2 mules, 3 hogs.  
 —Lillie P (Morton), wife, b Jan 25, 1858.  
 —Ray V, son, b March 5, 1892.  
 —Hazel M, dau, b Aug 23, 1894.  
 J  
 \*Jacoby, Arthur, truck farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Newton School; b in Newton May, 1844. Son of Jacob. House built about '40 by Mr Albright. 26a, 3c, 2h.  
 —Ida (Ayers), wife, b Nov 8, 1862.  
 —Ralph, son, b June 5, 1882.  
 —Ernest, son, b April 9, 1886.  
 —Kate, dau, b Dec 18, 1893.  
 —Jacob, son, b Dec 31, 1897.  
 Jacoby, Benj, farmer, Bald Mount, Newton School; b May 31, 1863.  
 —Catherine (Ayers), wife, b Dec 19, 1867.  
 —Howard, son, carpenter, b May 25, 1886.  
 —Helen, dau, b Feb 19, 1908.  
 \*Jacoby, Harlan, truck farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Newton School; b in Newton Dec 26, 1866; son of Jacob; farm settled in 1832 by Henry Walter; house built in 1900 by Mr. Jacoby. 48a, 3 h, 2c.  
 —Eva (Rosenkrans), wife, b Apr 13, 1871.  
 —George E, son, b Nov 14, 1892.  
 —Ruth M, dau, b April 29, 1894.  
 —Gertrude E, dau, b June 17, 1896.  
 —Eric H, son, b Dec 13, 1897.  
 K  
 \*Keller, Chas, farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Fire Proof School; b in Moscow May 9, 1848; son of John. 50a, 11c, 3h, 2 hogs.  
 —Martha (Decker), wife, b June 22, 1849.  
 Keller, James, farmer; son of Charles, and living in part of his fathers house, b Mar 22, '76.  
 —Gertrude (Goodwin), wife, b Oct 6, 1876.  
 —Charlie, son, b Nov 10, 1902.  
 —Clara M, dau, b Sept 2, 1905.  
 —Ruth E, dau, b April 28, 1907.  
 —Martha H, dau, b Dec 19, 1909.  
 \*Kern, Edward A, far, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Cosner School, b July 9, 1864. 60a, 4c, 3h.  
 —Arenia A (Lesh), wife, b Dec 27, 1869.  
 —Alfred B, son, b Feb 16, 1893.  
 —Mable C, dau, b Jan 9, 1895.  
 —A Laurence, son, b Dec 6, 1896.  
 Kintzel, John, farm lab'r, Schultzville, Schultzville School; b in Germany March, 1879; came to Newton about 1905.  
 —Etta (Freeman), wife, b June 26, 1883.  
 —Edna, dau, b Mar 17, 1906.  
 \*Kircher, Edward, general farmer, Bald Mount, Port Royal School; b Sept 10, 1884. Farm settled by Jno K Reed about 1820; h'e built by Peter Rutan about 1850. 97a, 3c, 3h, 3 hogs.  
 —Zida E (Rifenbary), wife, b May 12, 1883.  
 —D Arline, dau, b Feb 21, 1910.  
 \*Koerner, Chas H, brakeman on D. L. & W. R. R., Clarks Summit, RD2, Newton School; son of George; b in Monroe co. Sept 12, 1869; came to Newton Mar 11, 1908. 37a, 4c, 3h.  
 —Katie (Shaller), wife, b May 6, 1872.  
 —Clara Mae, dau, b Aug 27, 1895.  
 —George S, son, b Aug 11, 1897.  
 —Emma E, dau, b Mar 27, 1903.  
 Shaller, Jacob, brother-in-law, b May 21, 1882.  
 \*Kresge, Chas H, dairy and truck farmer, Schultzville, Schultzville School; b Oct 24, 1875 House built in '63 by Israel Rozelle. 100a, 20c, 9h, 3 hogs.  
 —Fannie E (Blewitt), wife, b Oct 22, 1863.  
 —Emorgene, dau, b Jan 17, 1904.  
 —William B, son, b Feb 21, 1906.  
 \*Kresge, Thomas M, general farmer, Ransom, R.D.1, Shook School; b May 11, 1872 in Falls township, and came to Newton with his parents in April, 1893. This farm is part of a 500 acre tract owned several years ago by Elijah Rosenkrans and about 1860 it was purchased by Benjamin Young, and later it was divided into smaller farms. The first house was built in 1869 by Thomas Kresge, Sr, grandfather of the present owner. In 1900, David Kresge built the house across the road. The farm was purchased by present owner in 1911, and same year he purchased part of the Vanderburg farm. 200a, 18c, 3 h, 2 mules.  
 —Georgiana, wife, b Jan 1, 1873.  
 —Ralph D, son, b Dec 29, 1904.  
 —Donald T, son, b Dec 11, 1906.  
 —Elsie M, dau, b Aug 2, 1911.  
 —David, father, b Dec 19, 1845.  
 L  
 \*Lacoe, Chas E, farmer, Ransom, R.D.2, Lacoe School; b in Nicholson May 18, 1854. 100a, 6c, 4h, 4 pigs.  
 —Huldah C (Rosenkrans), wife, b Oct 26, 1857.  
 —Bert B, son, b Sept. 9, 1888.  
 —Hice J, son, b Aug 6, 1890.  
 —Helen V, dau, b Feb. 16, 1900.  
 Lacoe, Ira A, farm laborer, Ransom, R.D.2, Newton School; b July 23, 1881 in Newton township; son of Charles E and Huldah (Rosenkrans) Lacoe; married Dec 2, 1902 to Miss Sadie B, dau of Christopher H and Rachel (Roth) Klipple of Milwaukee; living in Presbyterian parsonage.  
 —Sadie B, wife, b Oct 25, 1882.  
 —Christopher C, son, b July 4,

1904.  
 —Gustavus R, son, b May 9, '06.  
 —Chester B, son, b Sept 9, 1907.  
 —John H, son, b Dec 2, 1909.  
 —Elwood I, son, b Sept 3, 1911.  
 \***Lacoe, John F**, general farmer, Ransom, R.D.2, Lacoe School; b in Newton July 18, 1858. 130 acres in Newton and 50a woodland in Ransom. 10c, 4h, 8 pigs.  
 —Nelson S, son, carpenter, b Sept 4, 1884.  
 —Martha L, dau, teacher, b June 16, 1886.  
 \***Lacoe, Joseph A**, farmer, Bald Mount, Lacoe School; b in Newton Oct 1, 1862. 203a, 18c, 6 horses, 4 pigs.  
 —Jennie S (wife), b Feb 8, 1862.  
 —William A, son, b Jan 7, 1887.  
 —Archie G, son, b July 13, 1891.  
 —Ralph D, son, b Mar 1, 1895.  
 —Harry S, son, b Sept 23, 1898.  
 —James Wallace, son, b June 7, 1904.  
 —Joseph Wendell, son b June 7, 1904.  
**LaGrange, Grace (Butterfield)**, Schnltzville, Schnltzville School —b in Newton. 12a.  
 —Mary J, dau, b Aug 12, 1895.  
 \***LaRue, Mrs Abigail A (Warren)** Clarks Summit, RD2, Cosner School; widow of Daniel W, b June 15, 1833. Farm settled about 1812 by Zebulon Comstock. 248a; worked by Wm. E. Larue.  
 —L. May, dau, b Aug 24, 1872.  
 \***LaRue, Willie E**, general farmer and Contractor, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Cosner School; son of Daniel W; b in Newton Jan 28, 1870. 128a, 6c, 6h, 18 pigs.  
 —Nellie (Dailey), b June 8, 1875.  
 —Harry A, son, b Oct 4, 1895.  
 —Walter E, son, b Oct 31, 1904.  
 —Emily A, dau, b Aug 8, 1906.  
**Learn, Tracy**, photographer, Bald Mount, Newton School; b in Ransom May 25, 1873; came to Newton June 27, 1908 from Forty Fort; had scarlet fever when 3 years old, which left him deaf and dumb; on Oct 22, 1883 he entered Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf, corner Pine and Broad Sts. in Philadelphia, where he remained until June 10, 1893. He is a son of Harvey Learn.

**M**

**Major Chas. E**, farmer, Schultsville, Schultsville School; b in 1856; came to New from Scranton March, 1910. 65a, 1c, 2h, 2 pigs. Purchased farm from L. J. Stonier.  
 —Eliza (Ware), wife, b Aug 17, 1856.  
 —George J, son, b June 20, 1889.  
 —Fred C, son, b Sept 14, 1894.  
**McNanamon, Patrick J**, engineer, Clarks Summit, Fire Proof School; b March 10, 1878 in Providence and came to Newton

July 16, 1905; son of James and Bessie (Gaffney) McNanamon; married Oct 17, 1905 to Miss Mildred, daughter of Peter and Amelia (Knopf) Sherrer of Moosic. Mr. McNanamon has been engineer at Hillside Home since July, 1905. House owned by Hillside Home, and built about 1855 by John Seeley. Part of farm settled by Edward Rozelle.  
 —Mildred, wife, b Jan 22, 1887.  
 —Mildred, dau, b Aug 12, 1906.  
 —William, son, b Oct 5, 1910.  
**Manning, Mrs. Elizabeth**, Schultsville; living with her father, John Ford; b in Newton.  
 —Joseph, son, b Mar 22, 1908.  
**McNay, Mrs. Catherine**, Clarks Summit, R. D 2, Fire Proof School; b Nov 27, 1838 in Ireland and came to this country in 1860, and to Newton in Mar, 1911. This farm was first settled in 1803 by Barronet Rodney, which was the second farm settled in the township. House built about 1855 by Theodore Stone, who owned the farm fifty-two years. This place has been known as "Stone's Corners" for several years. Farm owned by Thomas McDonald of Scranton. 37a, 1c, 2h.  
 —Thomas F, son, b Feb 6, 1877.  
**Metzgar, Elizabeth (Blackwell)**, Bald Mount, Newton School; b Sept 24, 1854; married Edward Metzgar (b Mar 17, 1848), Jan 12, 1884, who d. Dec 28, 1897.  
 —Ira M, son, carpet weaver, b Oct 14, 1892.  
 \***Michaels, Dennis**, general farmer, Newton School; b in Exeter twp. Jan. 1, 1842, and came to Newton about 1892. Farm settled in Nov, 1832 by Horace Collum. Mr Michaels married Miss Samantha, dau of Jacob and Elizabeth (Walters) Ace. 96a, 7c, 4h, 5 pigs.  
 —Samantha, wife, b Mar 21, 1844.  
 —George W, son, b Dec 10, 1877.  
 —Sadie (Benedict), daughter-in-law.  
**Mitteer, Chas H**, blacksmith, Bald Mount, Newton School; b near LaPlume, June 7, 1889; came to Newton Jan 16, 1911; son of John L. House and lot, belongs to John Fuller. 1h.  
 —Stella (Brown), wife, b Aug 28, 1885.  
 \***Morrow, Frank N**, dairy farmer, Schultsville, Schultsville School; b in Abington twp May 6, 1860; came to Newton in 1885; son of Solomon, who came from Sussex co, N J about 1830 with Peter Richards. 90a, 15c, 2h.  
 —Louisa (Beck), wife, b June 25, 1860.  
 —Mary L, dau, Sept 16, 1888.  
 \***Munson, John H**, piano tuner, Clarks Summit, R2, Fire Proof School; b May 3, 1874 in Dalton; came to Newton in 1907,

when he purchased farm of Jesse Ware; son of John B and Minerva (Brooks) Munson of Dalton; married Miss Anna, dau of William H and Mary J (Hauldeman) Fry. 8a, 2c, 1h, 2 hogs.  
 —Anna, wife, b Dec 2, 1878.  
 —Horace S, son, b Sept 15, 1899.  
 —J. Gray, son, b Mar 9, 1902  
 —Ezra B, son, b Feb 2, 1906.  
 —Minerva, dau, b Oct 24, 1907.  
 —Florence A, dau, b Jan 16, 1909.  
 —Nevada, dau, b April 2, 1911.

**N**

\***Nafus, David**, farmer and carpenter, Ransom, R1, Shook Sc; b Sept 16, 1866. 20a, 3c, 1h.  
 —Annie (Biasecker), wife, b Mar 9, 1866.  
 —Ira E, son, b Jan 25, 1901.  
 —Bertha, dau, b Jan 20, 1903.  
 Biasecker, George W, father-in-law, b Oct 1, 1825.  
 \***Newman, John C**, general farmer, Ransom, R.D.1, Shook School; b in Newton April 25, 1865; son of Chas H, who settled farm and built house in 1859. 112a, 2c, 2h, 49 sheep.  
 —Estella (Frisbie), wife, b Jnly 6, 1885.  
 —Charles H, son, b Dec 5, 1898.  
 —Mary E, dau, b Aug 12, 1901.  
 —Florence D, dau, b May 17, 1905.  
 —Lester, son, b June 5, 1911.  
 \***Newman, Wm H**, physician, Bald Mount, Newton School; b in Newton Aug 13, 1871; son of Chas H; house and lot. 3h.  
 —Alice B (Coon), wife, b June 1, 1877.  
 —George C, son, b Aug 16, 1905.  
 —Marion J, dau, b Nov 9, 1906.  
 —William H, son, b Nov 15, 1907.

**O**

\***Osterhout, Erastus F**, truck farmer, Schultsville, Schultsville School; b in Monroe co, Aug 30, 1858 and came to Newton about 1891. 20a, 2c, 1h.  
 —Laura (Kittle), wife, b May 29, 1867.  
 —Nora May, dau, b Sept 12, 1901.  
 —Pearl, dau, b July 7, 1906.

**P**

\***Padden, Patrick**, farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Cosner School; b in Ireland. 60a, 12c, 3h.  
 —Hannah (Flynn), b Nov, 1843.  
 —Thomas, son, b Dec, 1880.  
 —Anna L, dau, bookkeeper, b Feb, 1876.  
**Parker, Archabald**, laborer, Clarks Summit, R. D. 2, Fire Proof School; b in Orange co, N Y Dec 26, 1845; house owned by Frank Slate. Mr. Parker, on the morning of Oct 20, 1910, while hunting, shot himself above the right ankle, and the same day his leg was amputated just below the knee.  
 —Dora (Rogers), wife, b Aug 5, 1876.



- James, son, b Mar 23, 1896.  
 —Archie, son, b Aug 25, 1898.  
 —Lavern, son, b Jan 14, 1901.  
 \***Peters, Abram**, farmer, Bald Mt, Port Royal School; b Jan 18, 1870; came to Newton from Scranton in 1892; purchased farm in 1910 of Benjamin Jacoby. 50a, 2c, 2h.  
 —Rosanna (Tucker), wife, b Apr 10, 1873.  
 —Elery T, son, b Oct 16, 1894.  
 —Henritta, dau, b Nov 20, 1895.  
 —Byron J, son, b March 7, 1907.  
 \***Pedrick, Forrest M**, farmer, Ransom, R.D.1, Shook School; b June 21, 1871. 46a, 2h.  
 —Anna M, (Hines), wife, b March 24, 1871.  
 —Merritt W, son, b Mar 30, 1896.  
 —Henry W, son, b June 11, 1900.  
**Petty, J. Francis**, farm laborer, Ransom, R.D.2, Newton School; b in Milwaukie Jan 3, 1887 and came to Newton in April, 1910; son of Milton, of Ransom; working for his father.  
 —Hannah M (Decker), wife, b Aug 2, 1886.  
 —Mary, dau, b Nov 26, 1909.  
 —Florence M, dau, b March 26, 1911.  
 \***Phillipsky, Lewis**, farmer, Ransom, R.D.1, Port Royal School; b in 1862. 94a, 14c, 4h. (Polish family. House built in 1840 by Andrew Compton; settled by Andrew Compton in 1815.  
 —Lizzie, wife, born in 1865.  
 —Agnes, dau, b Oct 15, 1891.  
 —Peter, son, b Sept, 1895.  
 —Victoria, dau, b Dec 25, 1900.  
 —Mike, son, b Sept, 1902.  
 —Helen, dau, b April 6, 1904.  
 —Stella, dau, b Sept, 1906.  
 —John, son, b Dec 8, 1909.
- R**
- Racht, John S**, farm laborer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Newton School; b March 25, 1879 in Canaan township, Wayne county, and came to Newton Apr 20, 1912. Son of Sebastian and Catherine Racht, who were born in Germany; married Sept 9, 1908 to Miss Clara M, daughter of John and Catherine (Bubser) Rose of Cherry Ridge twp., Wayne co. Farm owned by Mrs. Hattie Lesh of Bald Mount. 18a.  
 —Clara M, wife, b Dec 3, 1881.  
 —Paul J, son, b Aug 7, 1909.  
 —Robert A, son, b Jan 31, 1911.  
 \***Reed, B. Frank**, farmer and berry grower, Ransom, R.D.2, Lacoe School; b in Milwaukie Mar 13, 1859. 89a, 6c, 3h, 3 pigs.  
 —Mary (Klipple), wife, b Sept 5, 1859.  
 —Ethel H, dau, b June 5, 1888.  
 —Anna E, dau, b Sept 10, 1891.  
 —Pauline E, dau, b Aug. 29, 1893.  
 —Marjorie, dau, b Apr 16, 1896.  
 —Nicholas E, son, b Aug 27, 1899  
**Reed, James**, carpet and rug weaver, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Cosner School; house owned by Lewis Cosner, b July 29, 1864.  
 —Cora (Mack), wife, b Nov 2, 1879.  
 —Roy A, son, b Mar 21, 1897.  
 —Maud E, dau, b Aug 12, 1899.  
 —Lucy, dau, b Sept 16, 1903.  
 —Benjamin J, son, b Sept 4, 1905.  
 \***Reed, George Jr.**, dairy farmer, Clarks Summit, R. D. 2, Cosner School; b Oct 10, 1876. 50a, 13c, 3h, 3 hogs.  
 —Anna (Walsh), wife, b Jan 13, 1877.  
 —Geo. J, son, b June 16, 1908.  
 —Eugene, son, b July 12, 1910.  
 \***Regan, Peter**, farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Cosner School; b in Ireland. 15a.  
**Richards, Aseneath (VanSickle)**, Ransom, R. D.1, Shook School; b Sept 6, 1843; widow of Orin B Richards; daughter of Wm. and Rachel (Beemer) VanSickle of N J; house owned by her son, C. S. Richards.  
 \***Richards, Christopher S**, truck and dairy farmer, Ransom, R. D.1, Shook School; b Nov 23, 1861 in Wantage twp, Sussex co, N J; came to Newton in Apr, 1881; son of Orin B and Aseneath Richards; purchased farm containing 120 acres from John Kresge, in Dec, 1895. This farm was settled in 1832 by Timothy Drake. In May, 1911, Mr. Richards purchased 100 acres of D. W. Richards, which is part of farm settled in 1832 by Peter Richards. Mr. Richards has a peach orchard containing 650 trees.  
 —Sarah Jane (Snover), wife, b Aug 9, 1861.  
 —Frank E, son, b July 10, 1893.  
 \***Richards, Daniel W**, retired farmer, Ransom, R. D.1, Shook School; b Feb 22, 1839; part of farm settled in 1832 by his father, Peter Richards; house built about 1860 by Jacob B. Richards. 80a, 1h.  
 —Anna (Mahoney-Richards), wife b Sept 13, 1857.  
 \***Richards, Elmer E**, laborer, Bald Mount, Newton School; b in N. June 13, 1861; son of Jacob B; house and lot purchased in 1894  
 —Alice (Harris), wife, b in Wales, April 5, 18—.  
 —Maud E, dau, b Aug 20, 1893.  
 \***Roach, John**, far, Schultsville, Schultsville School; b in Ireland June 25, 1837; came to Newton in 1872, 63a, 8c, 2h, 2 hogs.  
 —Julia (Gilmore), wife, b June 6, 1855.  
 —James A, son, b June 28, 1892.  
 —Celia V, dau, b May 13, 1882.  
 \***Roche, James E**, dairy farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Schultsville School; b in Ireland June 22, 1842; came to Newton about 1868. 90a, 22c, 4h.  
 —Margaret (Walsh), wife, b Sept 18, 1865.  
 —Martin C, son, b Oct 29, 1873.  
 —Katherine E, dau, b April 14, 1880.  
**Roloson, Mrs. Elizabeth**, Bald Mt, Newton School; b Feb 26, 1815 in Sussex co, N J, and came to Newton Mar 31, 1839. She is living in part of A. S. Coilum's house. Mrs. Roloson is the oldest inhabitant of Newton twp.  
 \***Rosenkrans, Amos**, farmer, Ransom, R.D.2, Lacoe School; b May 28, 1850. 103 a (owned by Amos, Alice and Amanda), 3c, 2h, 5 pigs, 2 yearlings.  
 —Alice, sister, b Jan 28, 1864.  
 —Amanda, sister, b Feb 16, 1866.  
 \***Rosenkrans, Amzi**, general farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, N. School; b June 10, 1847 in Milwaukie on the farm now owned by William Zeiss and came to Newton with his parents about three years later. Farm settled by a Mr. Bazzle in 1818. House built in 1825 by Adam Beemer. This is the oldest house in the township, that is now occupied by a family. In this house, Hosey Phillips, deputy U. S. Marshal, was shot and killed by Noah Smith in February, 1865. This farm was purchased from Adam Beemer by Levi Rosenkrans, grandfather of the present owner, in 1847. Amzi Rosenkrans purchased farm about 1878. This farm produced the tallest and best quality timothy grass exhibited at the World's Columbian Exposition, held at Chicago in 1893. This grass was 7 feet and 2½ inches high. 42a, 2c, 1h, 5 pigs.  
 —Earl B, son, b Sept 23, 1888.  
 —Belva (Stark), daughter-in-law, b July 28, 1889.  
 —Jennie M, dau, b Nov 21, 1890.  
**Rosenkrans, Elmer A**, living on farm with his father, Laton; b Dec 17, 1881.  
 —Ethel (Singer), wife, b Oct 11, 1882.  
 —Mable, dau, b Aug 7, 1906.  
 —Willard, son, b Mar 11, 1910.  
**Rosenkrans, Jndson**, stone mason, Ransom, R.D.1, Newton School; b Mar, 1846; son of Levi Rosenkrans, who was one of the early settlers in Newton from New Jersey; married Emma Castlin for first wife, who died Aug 10, 1901, aged 56 years; married Mrs. Susan Johnson April 29, 1903. 3a.  
 —Susan (Walters-Johnson), wife, b Oct 13, 1850.  
 \***Rosenkrans, Laton**, farmer, Ransom, R.D.2, Lacoe School; b in Ransom Feb 2, 1843; came to Newton with his father, Levi, in 1848. 85a, 10c, 5h, 2 hogs.  
 —Ruth Ann (Garrison), wife, b Aug 27, 1846.  
 —Gusten, son, b Oct 12, 1869.  
 \***Ross, John W**, farmer, Ransom, R.D.1, Schultsville School; b in Wyoming co, Feb 24, 1837; son of James; came to New'n 1906.

- 20a, 2c, 2h, 2 hogs. Married Margaret Hallstead for first wife. 10 children.
- Lydia A (Ruland), wife, b Dec 29, 1855.
- Nellie, dau, b April 3, 1887.
- Lena, dau, b June 12, 1891.
- Robert R, son, b Aug 6, 1895.
- \***Ross, J. Sterling**, farmer, Clarks Summit, R. D. No. 2, Fire Proof School; b Mar 6, 1834; son of John Ross. 83a, 5c, 2 pigs.
- Harriet (Casterline), wife, b March 13, 1834.
- Joseph, son, b Sept 17, 1868.
- \***Roth, Thaddeus M.**, general farmer, Bald Mt, Newton School; b in Monroe co. Nov 15, 1867; came to Newton Mar 17, 1890. 105a, 12c, 4 h, 2 hogs; married Anna Kern Winter.
- Anna M (Kern), wife, b Sept 21, 1857.
- Winter, Claud G, stepson, b June 8, 1886.
- Leona E, stepdau, teacher, b Nov 21, 1889.
- \***Rozelle, Giles B.**, farmer, Clarks Summit, R. D. 2, Schultzville School; b in Newton Aug 14, 1853; son of Israel. 51a, which is part of the tract settled by Henry Beemer in 1818. House built by Israel Rozelle about 1872.
- Lizzie (Rifenbary), wife, b Oct 5, 1850.
- Celia S, dau, b April 18, 1892.
- Rozelle, Lewis R.**, general farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Schultzville School; b March 23, 1878 near Schultzville, where Giles B. Rozelle is now living. Farm owned by Amzi Rozelle estate, which is part of the tract settled by Henry Beemer in 1818. House built in 1885 by Amzi Rozelle. 67a, 3c, 3h, 2 hogs.
- Eva M (Clancy), wife, b Dec 30, 1890.
- \***Ruger, Robert L.**, carpenter, Clarks Summit, Newton School; b Sept 16, 1860; house and lot. 1 c, 1 h, 1 pig.
- Elizabeth M (Beebe), wife, b May 16, 1864.
- Lydia A, dau, b May 7, 1892.
- Helen M, dau, b June 9, 1895.
- Eleanor M, dau, b June 30, 1903.
- Alice, dau, b Oct 9, 1906.
- S**
- \***Saxe, Elizabeth (Beck)** Ransom, RD1, Newton School; b Oct 14, 1859; widow of Irwin H Saxe. 96a, 14c, 2h, 2 pigs.
- A Boyd, son b Sept 23, 1891.
- Harry I, son, b Oct 10, 1895.
- Sara E, dau, b July 24, 1899.
- \***Scutt, William H.**, general farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Newton School; b April 10, 1871 and came to Newton with his parent when about seven years of age. Purchased farm in February, 1912, of Benjamin Jacoby. Son of Wm H and Mary (Hus-
- man) Scutt. Married May 12, 1903 to Miss Esther, daughter of Allen and Rachel (Bewig-house) Crothamel of Scranton. 61a, 2c, 2h, 2 pigs.
- Esther, wife, b Dec 27, 1870.
- Mary E, dau, b Mar 3, 1904.
- William H, father, b Mar 7, '29.
- \***Sealey, William**, farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Cosner School; b in England Nov, 1842; came to U. S. in 1870 and to Newton in May, 1901. 110a, 5c, 2h, 2 pigs.
- Sylvia (Pipperel), wife, b April 10, 1841.
- George H, son, b Sept 16, 1870.
- Seamon, Augustus**, miner, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Cosner School; b in Dunmore Sept 11, 1848. Came to Newton in April, 1910. 107a, owned by Elias Smith est., 2ho.
- John, son, farmer, b Oct 6, 1872
- William, son, farmer, b in 1883.
- Seese, Wm S.**, farm laborer, Clarks Summit, R. D. 2, Fire Proof School; b in Monroe co Sept 16, 186—; came to Newton in Apr. 1906. 1a, owned by Lester Van Campen.
- Margaret A (Teel), wife, b Apr 19, 1872.
- Evelyn, dau, b Apr 2, 1895.
- Nettie, dau, b Dec 4, 1896.
- Clarence, son, b July 17, 1899.
- Margaret, dau, b Dec 29, 1901.
- Ina, dau, b Aug 11, 1905.
- Samuel, son, b Sept 28, 1907.
- Wayne, son, b Oct 4, 1909.
- Edgar son, b Nov 30, 1911.
- Emafine, dau, b Nov 30, 1911.
- \***Shelley, George M.**, general farmer, Ransom, R. D. 1, Shook School; b Jan 11, 1855 on the farm where now living; son of William and Matilda (Corey) Shelley. Farm settled about 1830 by William Brink (moving from farm now owned by Arthur Hollenback), who built a log-house. John Shelley, grandfather of the present owner, purchased farm about 1840, and built a framed house near site of the present residence. Wm Shelley purchased farm about 1850, built the barn about 1867, residence about 1870. Mr. Shelley was married Nov 15, 1877 to Miss Sarah M, daughter of Dr. H. S. Cooper of Newton. 131a, 2c, 4h, 38 sheep, 21 hogs.
- Sarah M, wife, b July 29, 1855.
- Kenneth G, son, b Apr 11, 1891.
- \***Sherman, Geo.**, merchant, Schultzville, Schultzville School; b May 17, 1845; son of John C.
- Mary E (Snyder), wife, b Nov 22, 1852.
- Louis, son, clerk, b June 4, 1880
- Myrtle (Drake), daughter-in-law, b Aug 20, 1884.
- Leo, grandson, b Feb 10, 1908.
- Shook, David A.**, general farmer, Ransom, R.D.1, Shook School; b Aug 31, 1866. 79a, owned by John Shook. 4c, 2h, 4 pigs.
- Mary E (Smith), wife, b Feb 17, 1867.
- Leota E, dau, b Dec 9, 1900.
- \***Shook, John**, implement dealer, Ransom, R.D.1, Shook School; b Dec 27, 1841. Farm worked by his son, David. 100a, 1h.
- Maria (Swartswood), wife, b Jan 1, 1840.
- \***Singer, Mrs. Julia A.**, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Newton School; b in Newton Oct 28, 1847. Daughter of David M. Smith and widow of Geo. W. Singer, who died Sept 19, 1909, aged 63 years. Parents of five children, Lloyd, Cora, Bert, John and Ethel.
- \***Slate, Frank A.**, general farmer, Clarks Summit, R. D. 2, Fire Proof School; b Oct 10, 1873. 135a, 18c, 6h.
- Ida M (Dunlap), wife, b Jan 15, 1874.
- Naomi A, dau, b Oct 12, 1901.
- Madden, John, farm laborer, b Mar 24, 1867.
- \***Smith, Curtis P.**, farmer and lumber dealer, Clarks Summit, R. D.2, Newton School; b in Newton July 23, 1863. Grandson of Elias, the pioneer settler. House built in 1905; farm settled in 1816 by Elias Smith. 102a, 3h.
- Margaret (Jones), wife, b Sept 24, 1867.
- Ralph M, son, b Sept 2, 1898.
- Smith, David**, farmer, Bald Mount, Newton School; b in Newton Oct 19, 1841. Son of Elias Smith, who came to Newton from New Jersey, and a nephew of Elias, the pioneer settler. Rents from Albert Klines of Scranton. 20a, 1h.
- Thena (Garrison), wife, b Nov 3, 1844.
- \***Smith, Elias J.**, farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Cosner School; son of Elias A; b Sept 17, 1875. 42a, 1h.
- Carrie (Roesler), wife, b March 7, 1876.
- John, son, b Sept 16, 1894.
- Freda A, dau, b Dec 3, 1897.
- Elias J, son, b Feb 3, 1899.
- Andrew, son, b Nov 18, 1901.
- Daniel, son, b Oct 14, 1905.
- \***Smith, John B.**, painter, Bald Mt Newton School; b in Falls twp April 20, 1874; son of Henry. House and lot.
- Mrs Frederica, mother, b Dec 7, 1836.
- Smith, Marcus J.**, carpenter, Schultzville, Schultzville School; son of Wm N Smith; b Aug 22, 1878. 65a, owned by William N Smith.
- Rebecca M (Westcott), wife, b June 23, 1881.
- Alverda M, dau, b Sept 24, 1899
- William F, son, b Apr 27, 1902
- \***Smith, Wm N.**, an old soldier, Schultzville, Schultzville School; son of Madison Smith, and grandson of Elias Smith, one of early settlers of Newton; b Mar 6, 1844. Married Maggie



- Neary in 1867, who died May 7, 1887. 65a. Mr. Smith also has a home at 967 Providence Road, Scranton, where he lives part of the time.
- \***Smith, Wm H.**, farmer and fruit grower, Clarks Summit, Cosner School; son of Elias A; b in Newton Aug 9, 1869. 123a.
- Eva (Cooper), wife, b Dec 2, 1879.
- Victor P, son, b July 8, 1898.
- Helen B, dau, b Feb 10, 1902.
- Anna M, dau, b July 13, 1903.
- William, son, b Feb 4, 1905.
- Raymond, son, b July 17, 1906.
- Snover, Edwin**, farmer, Ransom, R.D.1 Shook School; b in Newton May 15, 1869; son of Geo S. Living on and working John Shook's farm. 4c, 3h.
- C. Lizzie (Shook), wife, b Oct 14, 1871.
- Beatrice M, dau, b Sept 20, 1907
- Snover, John S.**, farm laborer, working for C S Richards, Ransom, R.D.1, Shook School; son of George Snover. Living in C S Richards tenant house.
- Jennie (Weir), wife, b Jan 6, 1885.
- Ruth, dau, b Nov 3, 1901.
- Dorothy H, dau, b Aug 23, 1906
- Spencer, Miles**, laborer, Clarks Summit, Schultzville School; b July 14, 1856.
- Nancy, mother, b Nov 27, 1829.
- \***Spencer, Wm H.**, general farmer, Schultzville, Schultzville School; b in Wyoming co Feb 19, 1864; son of Wm Spencer, Sr. 130a, 26c, 4h; came to New in 1900.
- Bridget (Kelly), wife, b 1864.
- Robert J, son, b June 13, 1893.
- Harry S, son, b Aug 11, 1895.
- Leo, son, b Aug 12, 1897.
- Mary E, dau, b July 21, 1908.
- Stevens, Arthur C.**, farm laborer, working for Geo W Beemer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Schultzville School; son of Benj.; b in Jenningsville, Mar 18, 1884; came to Newton in May, 1908.
- Esther (Mead), wife, b Nov 13, 1886.
- Clarence, son, b Mar 10, 1908.
- \***Summerhill, Henry**, truck far, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Cosner School; b in England Dec 19, 1854. Came to Newton in 1888 from Scranton. Farm settled about 1835 by Jacob C. Lesh. 37a, 1c, 3h, 3 mules.
- Bertha (Roth), wife, b Dec 6, 1852.
- Benjamin G, son, b Nov 11, 1882.
- William J, son, b Oct 12, 1884.
- Gertrude (Harris), wife of William J, b Feb 14, 1888.
- Swartz, Elmer G.**, truck and dairy farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Cosner School; b in Old Forge July 13, 1862; came to Newton in April, 1910. Farm settled about 1812 by Parley VonCleveland. 76a, owned by Anthony McArthur of Scranton, 8c, 3h.
- Edith (Shaw), wife, b Feb 21, 1863.
- Jasper, son, b Aug 9, 1889.
- Lelan, son, b Feb 1, 1897.
- Ivan, son, b July 3, 1900.
- Abram, son, b Nov 5, 1905.
- William, son, b Feb 5, 1911.
- Sweet, Wm.**, farm laborer, Bald Mount, Lacoe School; b in England April 23, 1878; came to Newton Feb 27, 1909. working for Wm. J. Biesecker.
- Elizabeth (Rice), wife, b June 5, 1876.
- Hubert, son, b Sept 15, 1897.
- Gertrude M, dau, b Feb 10, '02.
- Margaret A, dau, b July 29, '06.
- T**
- \***Thompson, Adam**, laborer, Bald Mount, Newton School; b Jan 14, 1840 on the farm now owned by his son, Leslie. House built in 1856 by Mrs. Jane Thompson. 1a.
- \***Thompson, F. Leslie**, dairy and truck farmer, Schultzville, Schultzville School; b Mar 31, 1866 on farm where now living. Son of Adam and Kate (Smith) Thompson. Farm cleared by Andrew Thompson, grandfather of present owner, which originally included the farm now owned by William N Smith. The first log-house was built in 1825, about twenty-five rods in the field above the present house where the road ran at that time. In 1844 a large framed house was erected by Andrew Thompson across the road from the present residence. This was the first framed house between Buttermilk Falls and Abington (now Glenburn). After the death of Andrew Thompson, the farm was owned by his son, Adam. It was purchased by the present owner in 1890 who erected the present residence in 1910 and the barn in 1907. 167a, 25c, 5h.
- Agnes B (White), wife, b Sept 8, 1869.
- Maurice H, son, b Aug 15, 1893.
- Robert J, son, b Mar 14, 1897.
- Thompson, George E.**, farm laborer, Schultzville; b Sept 11, 1845 in New Milford and came to Newton about 1902. Son of Jas. and Almira (Betts) Thompson.
- Thompson, Jesse H.**, chief engineer at Hillside Home, Clarks Summit, Fire Proof School; b March 28, 1874 in Newton. Son of Alva and Harriet (Winters) Thompson. Married June 17, 1903 to Miss Henrietta, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Rupp) Scherer of Mountain Valley. Mr. Thompson has been employed at the Hillside Home since 1891. House built by Abraham Polhamus about 1858, and is now owned by Hillside Home.
- Henrietta, wife, b Feb 20, 1871.
- Harold L, son, b Feb 21, 1906.
- Anette, dau, b April 22, 1908.
- \***Thompson, John I.**, truck farmer, Ransom, RD2, Newton School; b in the house where he now lives July 22, 1880. Son of William E. 50a, 2c, 2h, 2 hogs.
- Blanche (Lacoe), wife, b April 28, 1885.
- J Ivan, son, b Dec 10, 1908.
- Clara M, dau, b May 18, 1910.
- \***Thompson, Wm E.**, farmer, Ransom, R.D.2, Newton School; b in Newton. Son of John, and grandson of Adam, one of the pioneer settlers. 126a.
- Lizzie (Klipple), wife.
- V**
- \***Van Baskirk, Christopher**, dealer, Bald Mount, Newton School; b in Forty Fort Mar 1, 1831. Came to Newton in 1854. Son of Christopher, Sr. 38a, 2c, 1h.
- Asenath (Williams), wife, b May 2, 1835.
- VanBuskirk, Oscar**, dealer in wagons and machinery, Bald Mount, Newton School; b in Newton June 3, 1859. Living in house with his father, Christopher.
- Anna J (Fowler), wife, b Dec 8, 1866.
- \***Vanderburg, Mrs Katharine (Noone)**, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Schultzville School; b in Scranton Oct 10, 1883; came to Newton in 1902; married Eugene McCarthy June 29, 1904, who died Mar 31, 1908. Married Harry Vanderburg May 4, 1909, who died Nov 20, 1910. 15a, 1c, 1 pig.
- Eugene J, son, b April 11, 1905.
- J Raymond, son, b May 7, 1906.
- Lester L, son, b June 23, 1910.
- \***Vanderburg, Mrs. Phebe E.**, dress-maker, Bald Mount, Newton School, b Feb 17, 1844. House and lot.
- Fuller, Cora H, dau, b Nov 8, 1870
- VanCampen, Anson H.**, general farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Fire Proof School; b in Falls township Dec 27, 1865. Farm owned by his brother, Lester VanCampen, 120a, 3h.
- Ida (Johnson), wife, b Mar 2, 1866.
- Mabel, dau, b Mar 29, 1898.
- Orla B, dau, Feb 4, 1903.
- VanFleet, Hayden**, farmer, Ransom, R.D.2, Newton School; b in Fleetville, June 8, 1878, and came to Newton in April, 1910. Living with his father-in-law, Wm. E. Thompson.
- Katherine (Thompson), wife, b Mar 16, 1877.
- Olin, son, b Jan 12, 1911.
- \***VanSickle, Solomon**, mail carrier, Bald Mt, Newton School; son of James; b May 13, 1844. 25a, 1c, 1h.
- Ellen J (Vosburg), wife, b June
- Mary M, dau, b July 16, 1867.
- \***Vaughn, Horton B.**, general farmer, Ransom, R.D.1, Shook

School; b Apr 17, 1863. 108a, 12c, 2 mules, 3 hogs, 21 sheep.  
—Elizabeth (Holmes), wife, b May 18, 1856.  
—Claud B, son, b June 28, 1891.  
—Ella W, dau, b May 2, 1897.  
\***Veety, Andrew**, dairy and truck farmer, Ransom, R.D.1, Port Royal School; came to Newton when 3 years old; b Oct 20, '80. 80a, 14c, 8b, 3 pigs.  
—Anna K (Eckle), wife, b Sept 28, 1882.  
—Bessie M, dau, Sept 12, 1904.  
—Laura A, dau, b Sept 20, 1906.  
—Andrew F, son, b Mar 12, 1909.  
—William, brother, laborer, b Mar 4, 1885.

\***Veety, Thomas**, farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Cosner School; b in Ireland July 12, 1839; came to U S in 1867, and to Newton about 1880 from Scranton, where he worked in the mines. Married Bessie Smith for first wife, who died April 19, 1896, to whom seven children were born. 21a, 1c, 1h.  
—Sarah (Dudley), wife, b Mar 5, 1842.  
—Catherine, dau, b May 7, 1889.

\***Vosburg, Peter P**, truck farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Fire Proof School; b in Luzerne co, Aug 31, 1873; came to Newton in 1897. 51a, 3c, 3 h.  
—Maye (Kircher), wife, b Oct 7, 1874.  
—Alta Mae, dau, b Aug 21, 1909.  
Kircher, Susan, mother-in-law, b Jan 29, 1847.  
Jones, Chas W, b Jan 31, 1888.

\***Vosburg, Israel**, farmer, Bald Mt, Newton School; b in Hyde Pk, May, 1841; came to Newton about 1889. 22a, 1c, 2h.  
—Mary (Bates), wife, b Mar 10, 1855.  
—Israel, Jr, son, b Nov 1, 1890.

## W

\***Wall, Joseph A**, farmer, Schultzville, Schultzville School; b Nov 8, 1863; son of Joseph B; came to Newton April, 1908. 125a, 7c 2 h, 17 pigs.  
—Elizabeth (Cornell), wife, b Apr 13, 1862.  
—Helen E, dau, b Sept 1, 1893.  
—Herald H, son, b Jan 30, 1897.  
\***Walter, Samuel**, farmer, Ransom, R.D.2, Lacoe School; b in Newton March 11, 1854. Son of John and grandson of Henry, who settled in Newton about 1832. 30a, 3c, 2h, 4 hogs.  
—Elizabeth (Scherer), wife, b Feb 5, 1857.  
—William, son, carpenter, b Oct 28, 1876.  
—Arthur, son, farm laborer, b March 28, 1878.  
—Wesley, son, b May 10, 1888.  
—Malvern, son, b Aug 22, 1891.  
—Bert, son, b Feb 26, 1893.  
—Jennie May, dau, b May 14, 1895.

\***Ward, Ernest R**, truck farmer, Ransom, R.D.2, Newton School; b in Old Forge Aug 4, 1869 and came to Newton in 1873. Son of John J. 48a, 1c, 2h.  
—Anna (VanBuskirk), wife, b Aug 24, 1873.  
—Merle E, son, b July 16, 1903.  
—Leah, dau, b April 18, 1911.  
—Florence, sister.

\***Ward, John E**, general farmer, Ransom, R.D.2, Newton School; b in Tunkhannock Aug 12, 1857 and came to Newton in April, 1873. Son of John J. 72a, 2c, 2h, 4 hogs.  
—Minnie (LaRue), wife, b Feb 17, 1868.

—John D, son, b June 18, 1895.  
—Charlie E, son, b May 3, 1903.  
\***Ware, Jesse**, farmer, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Cosner School; b in England Feb 28, 1871. 50a, 2c, 2h.  
—Alice (Rice), wife, b July 19, 1871.  
—Floyd J, son, b June 28, 1903.  
—Leia, dau, b Dec 6, 1910.

**Weichel, Chas P**, farm laborer, Ransom, R.D.1; b in Germany. Sept 20, 1864 and came to this country in 1871 and to Newton in July, 1908. Working since July, 1908, for Galusha A Coon.

\***White, James M**, truck and berry grower, Clarks Summit, R.D.2, Fire Proof School; b near Moosic, April 27, 1867; came to Newton in April, 1873. 149a, 16c, 3h.  
—Edith P (Smith), wife, b Sept 9, 1863.

—J VanNoy, son, b Feb 3, 1895.  
\***Williams, Horace**, general farmer, Ransom, R. D. 2, Lacoe School; b in Ransom Feb 22, 1846; came to Newton in 1874. Son of James Williams, one of the pioneer settlers. 54a, 1c.  
—Mallie (Milligan), wife, b Aug 19, 1849.

\***Whitlock, Gould**, fruit grower, Bald Mount, Port Royal School; b Mar 27, 1839 in Luzerne co; came to Newton about 1878. Son of Enoch and Mary (Sickler) Whitlock. Married in May, 1869 to Miss Samantha, daughter of Horace and Sarah Collum of Newton, who died July 27, 1893. House built in 1890 by present owner. Mr. Whitlock has been Justice of the Peace in Newton since 1879. 40a, 2c, 2h, 2 hogs.

—Frank A, son, school teacher, b Sept 8, 1869.

\***Winston, Sarah**, farmer, Ransom, R.D.1, Shook School; b in Wales Mar 20, 1857 and came to this country when about four years old, and purchased the farm in Newton in April, 1900, where she has lived part of the time since. Her husband was Thomas J. Winston, who died Nov 21, 1906. 74a, 1c, 1h.  
—Arthur M, son, b Sept 2, 1896.

**Winters, Daniel**, blacksmith, Clarks Summit, Fire Proof School; b Dec 15, 1880 in Milwaukee and came to Hillside Home about 1902, where he is employed as blacksmith. Son of Manley and Minnie (Ace) Winters. Married Sept 18, 1907 to Miss Belle, daughter of Solomon and Amelda (Decker) Avery of Mill City. House owned and built by Hillside Home about 1897.

—Belle, wife, b Feb 24, 1886.  
—Harold W, son, b Aug 13, 1908.  
—Gwendolin A, dau, b Sept 24, '10  
\***Winter, Peter C**, farmer, Bald Mount, Newton School; b on the farm where he is now living Feb 9, 1863. Son of Merritt. 90a, 3c, 3h.  
—Georgia A (Fulkerson), wife, b June 22, 1870.

**Winters, Philip B**, farm laborer, Ransom, R.D.1, Shook School; b Aug 26, 1870. 1c.  
—Bessie M (Drake), wife, b Mar 27, 1883.  
—Alma, dau, b Dec 18, 1905.  
—Zida, dau, b April 27, 1907.  
—Helen, dau, b Aug 13, 1908.

**Winter, Wesley A**, blacksmith, Schultzville, Schultzville School; b in Milwaukee Jan 7, 1875. Came to Newton July 17, 1900. Son of Manley. House and lot and shop.  
—Mary (Fabs), wife, b Nov 3, 1877.

—Gertrude, dau, b Mar 20, 1901.  
—Stella, dau, b Nov 25, 1902.  
—Dorothy, dau, b Dec 28, 1907.

**Wolcott, Rev Wallace C**, minister, Bald Mount, Newton School; b May 19, 1875 in Delphi, N Y, and came to Newton in April, 1912. Pastor of Bald Mount charge of the Methodist Episcopal church, preaching at Bald Mount, Schultzville and Milwaukee. 1h.

—Anna B (Snyder), wife, b May 19, 1875.  
—Harold, son, b Mar 21, 1907.

—Mildred, dau, b April 14, 1911.  
**Wood, Otis**, farm laborer, Schultzville, Schultzville School; b Feb 25, 1872 in Glenwood, Susquehanna co. Son of George and Lucinda (Ayers) Wood. House owned by Leslie Thompson. Mr. Wood came to Newton with his parents when a small boy.

## Y

**Young, Wm**, dairy and truck farmer, Schultzville, Schultzville School; b in England March 16, 1877, and came to U S about 1881, and to Newton April 1, 1910. Rents farm of Frank Dickson of Falls township. 98a, 10c, 3h.  
—Isabelle (Ross), wife, b June 14, 1881.  
—Lucy, dau, b Mar 24, 1902.  
—Martha, dau, b Dec 5, 1908.  
—Baby, dau, b Mar 23, 1911.



# DIRECTORY OF RANSOM TOWNSHIP

**EXPLANATION**—The head of the family is printed in boldface type, which is followed with his postoffice address, school district in which he lives, a brief history of the farm or house, and the name and date of birth of each member of the family, who are living at home. An asterisk (\*) preceding head of the family indicates that the farm or property is owned by either the husband or wife, and not rented.

The following abbreviations are used: a, acres; abt, about; b, born; bro, brother; c, cow; car, carpenter; con, contractor; d, died; dai, dairy; dau, daughter; far, farmer; gen, general; h, horse; lab, laborer; mar, married; pres, present; pur, purchased; set, settled; sis, sister; tr, truck; Mil, Milwaukie; Mt Dew, Mount Dewey; Mt Val, Mountain Valley; R, Ransom; R Val, Ransom Valley; Sc, school.

## A

\***Ace, Edward E**, truck farmer, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b Jan 31, 1869 on the farm where now living. Farm settled and first house built in 1840 by Jacob Ace, grandfather of Edward E. Moses Ace rebuilt the house in 1886. Purchased by present owner Feb 14, 1908, which then contained 100 a, who sold 29a to Chas Blackwell. 71a, 6c, 5b, 2hogs.

—Mary E, wife, b June 27, 1871.  
—Moses E, son, b July 27, 1893.  
—Maggie A, dau, b Sept 28, 1897.  
—Wilda J, dau, b Jan 12, 1900.  
—Sarah I, dau, b Oct 3, 1905.  
—Abram W, son, b Mar 9, 1908.

**Ace, Elwood Laverne**, general farmer, working his father's farm on shares, b in house where now living, June 20, 1880. Son of George W. Ace. Married Mar 13, 1907 to Miss Lizzie L, daughter of Edward and Elizabeth (Davis) Davis of Taylor.

—Lizzie L, wife, b Feb. 6, 1882.  
—George E, son, b Dec 5, 1907.  
—Pearl E, dau, b Oct 18, 1910.

\***Ace, George W**, general farmer, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b Dec 6, 1841 in R twp in the house where Edward Ace now lives. Farm settled about 1840 by Jacob Ace. House built about 1871 by the present owner. 54a, 2c, 3h, 8 hogs.

—Susanna (Ace), b Nov. 10, 1841.

\***Ace, Geo C**, car repairer for Lehigh Valley R R at the Coxton yard, Ransom, R Sc; b Mar 18, 1868 in Milwaukie; son of Solomon and Catherine (Prentzman) Ace; married July 4, 1884 to Miss Etta, dau of John and Kultura (Milligan) Weiss of Pittston. House built about 1876 by Fred Sandway.

—Etta A, wife, b Oct 7, 1868.  
—Helen G, dau, b April 11, 1894.

## B

**Baumgartner, Walter E**, station agt for L V R R at Ransom, R Sc; b Oct 20, 1892 in Mildred, Sullivan co; came to R May 26, '10. Son of Edwin S and Matilda (Walters) Baumgartner. Boarding with H G Burgess.

\***Bedell, Abram**, retired far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b April 28, 1844 in Milwaukie. Son of Za-

chariah. Married April 13, 1864 to Miss Ellen A Swartz, dau of Henry and Malissa (Miller) Swartz of New twp. Mr. Bedell moved to his present home in April, 1903, and built house the same winter and spring. Mr. and Mrs. Bedell have nine children living: Carrie, Bertie, David, Kate, Arthur, Brice, Addie, Tempie, Robert. Two, Dolly and Eva, died when young. 2½a.

—Malissa (Miller), b Mar 8, '48.

**Bedell, David H**, rural mail carrier, Ransom, R2, R Val Sc; b Sept 9, 1872 in Milwaukie; farm settled about 1870 by John Shorber, who built house, which was enlarged by M Bowin of Pittston, the present owner. Mr. Bedell is mail carrier on Rural Route No 2, starting from Ransom, which was established Mar 16, 1907. He was the first carrier on this route. 70a, 3c, 4h, 5 hogs.

—Mary C, wife, b Nov 21, 1873.  
—Walter A, son, b Feb 5, 1894.

\***Bedell, Jacob**, retired far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b Mar 6, 1838 in Ransom twp, where he has always lived except three years when in Michigan. Son of Zachariah and Margaret (Drake) Bedell. Married Feb 23, 1868 to Miss Ellen, dau of William C and Anna (Smith) Ayers of Bald Mt. House built about 1850. 3 children born, 2 died in infancy and Zachariah died when 22 yrs of age. 1h.

—Ellen (Ayers), b Feb. 18, 1837.

\***Bedell, Peter**, farmer, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b in R Dec 7, 1854 and was married April 19, 1874 to Miss Emma Rader who died May 31, 1901. Son of Zachariah 60a, 2c, 2h.

—John, son, b Oct 22, 1888.  
—Hazel, dau, b Aug 23, 1896.  
—Howard, son, b April 25, 1898.

\***Bedell, Peter, Jr**, rural mail carrier on route No 1 from Ransom, R Sc; b Sept 14, 1876 in Milwaukie. Son of Peter. Married Mar 25, 1903 to Miss Eva, dau of Chas Musselman. Mr. Bedell was the first rural mail carrier in the twp, commencing Feb 1, 1907. 5a, 1c, 1h, 2 hogs.

—Eva (Musselman), b Dec 22, '80.  
—Grace, dau, b Jan 13, 1904.  
—Ralph, son, b Nov 18, 1906.

—Charles, son, b Sept 19, 1907.  
—Margaret, dau, b Jan 8, 1910.

\***Behlke, Theo G**, lab, 2767 Frink st, Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b Sept 7, 1854 in Germany, and came to this country in 1873; came to Ransom to his present home, May 17, 1892. House built by Andrew Butterworth abt 1889, who sold to present owner in May, 1892 for \$1,000.00. Mr. Behlke remodeled and enlarged house in fall of 1903. 6a, 2c, 4 hogs.

—Catherine I, wife, b Nov 30, 1860  
—Louise G, dau, tailoress, b Feb 1, 1885.

—Herman E, son, carpenter, b May 4, 1887.

—Jacob A, son, plasterer, b July 5, 1889.

—Elizabeth M, dau, seamstress, b July 10, 1891.

—Christine C, dau, Aug 6, 1893.

—William G, son, tiler, b Dec 18, 1896.

**Bender, Robert**, mine lab, Scranton, care Continental Mine office, Mt Dew Sc; b Jan 23, 1872 in Ohio and came to Ransom abt 1901; property belongs to Mrs. Bender's mother, Mrs. Rose Pinnock of Taylor. 5a.

—Mercie S, wife, b Dec 1, 1882.  
—Robert R, son, b Jan 6, 1909.

\***Beyrent, John**, truck and dairy far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b in Alsace-Lorraine, Germany, May 30, 1865; came to this country in 1880 and to R in April, 1890. House built in 1854 by Jacob Drake. Set in 1825 by Joseph LeTier. 70a, 12c, 4h.

—M Elizabeth (Finkler), b Aug 18, 1867.

—Nicholas J, son, b Dec 9, 1890.

—John, son b Nov 14, 1892.

—Mary E, son, b Oct 5, 1894.

—Charles, son, b Aug 19, 1898.

—Anna, dau, b Sept 16, 1902.

—August, son b Sept 9, 1905.

—Joseph A, son, b Nov 29, 1908.

\***Blackwell, Charles W**, truck and dairy farmer, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b Nov 22, 1853 on farm where now living. Son of Matthias, who came from New Jersey and settled on the farm in 1842, which he purchased April 2, 1851 of Samuel Bell, containing 154 acres, for \$450.00. A log house was erected by Frederick Stine before 1838, and in

- 1842 Mathias Blackwell built a log house across the road from the present house, near where the watering trough now stands. A plank house was built where the present house stands in 1853 by Matbias Blackwell, which was torn down and an eight-room residence erected in 1909 by the present owner. 155 acres, 10c, 5 h, 3 bogs.
- Christina, wife, b Dec 5, 1858.
  - Abram, son, b Feb 23, 1882.
  - Josephine, dau, b Feb 19, 1884.
  - William, son, b Sept 13, 1888.
  - Mary, dau, b July 1, 1891.
- Blackwell, Ebner W.**, carpenter, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b June 19, 1884 in the house where Adam B. Miller is living. Living in part of Mrs Susanna Mosier's house. 1 horse.
- Louise, wife, b July 13, 1886.
  - Helen L, dau, b Mar 16, 1910.
- Blackwell, John M.**, farm laborer, Ransom, R 2, Mil Sc; b Mar 20, 1857 near Pittston, and came to Ransom with his parents, about 1868. House and lot owned by Mrs. Susannah Mosier. House built abt 1881 by Jacob Court-right. 1 acre.
- Ellen N, wife, b Nov 30, 1862.
  - Layton, son, b Oct 4, 1888.
  - Alice, dau, b Dec 22, 1890.
  - John C, son, b Oct 23, 1892.
  - Harry, son, b Jan 13, 1895.
  - Della M, dau, b Jan 9, 1897.
- Blackwell, Mrs. Margaret**, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b in Monroe co, Sept 24, 1832; came to Newton in 1839, and two years later to R. Dau of Jacob Ace. Married Dec 25, 1852 to Wm Blackwell. Living with her son-in-law, Peter S Metzgar.
- \***Blishiak, Mrs. Anna**, Scranton, care Continental Mine Office, Mt. Dew Sc; b in 1861 in Austria and came to this country in 1883 and purchased present home about 1895.
  - Anna, dau, b Feb, 1895.
  - John, son, b Nov, 1902.
  - Michael, son b Oct, 1892.
- \***Bonetto, William T.**, farmer, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b in England Sept 26, 1863 and came to this country with his parents in 1866, and to Ransom April 1, 1903, when he purchased farm of Ignatz Bosker. Farm settled by Ethan Scott about 1840. Married Jan 6, 1897 to Miss Mary, dau of John and Elizabeth Pearce. 101a, 2c, 2 mules, 2 pigs.
  - Mary, wife, b May 29, 1866.
  - William T, son, b July 12, 1899.
  - Beatrice M, dau, b Nov 28, 1900.
  - Bessie E, dau, b June 12, 1903.
  - Margaret J, dau, b Sept 22, 1905
- \***Bowen, William**, mine lab, 2767 Frink st, Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b Nov 13, 1857 in S Wales, and came to this country abt March 20, 1887 and purchased present home in 1892 from Wm. F. Canferbury, who built a two-room house a short time before. Mr. Bowen erected residence about 1902. 2a, 1c, 1h, 1 hog, 12 pigs.
  - Letitia, wife, b Mar 10, 1855.
  - Margaret, dau, b Jan 6, 1885.
  - Ada, dau, b July 8, 1889.
  - Charles, son, b Nov 12, 1890.
  - Polly, dau, b June 9, 1892.
  - Letitia, dau, June 23, 1894.
  - Agnes, dau, b Aug 13, 1895.
  - Susan, dau, b Aug 11, 1896.
  - Winifred, dau, b Apr 25, 1898.
  - Ann, dau, b Aug 1, 1899.
- \***Brezee, Mrs. Sarah J.**, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b Aug 12, 1853 in Pittston, and came to Ransom about 1868. Dau of Wm and Margaret (Ace) Blackwell. Married May 13, 1871 to Joseph, son of Tobias and Mary (Blackwell) Brezee, who died Feb 13, 1906. Twelve children, eight of whom are living (See Edward Ace). House built about 1886 by Joseph Brezee. 3 acres.
  - William A, son carpenter, born Sept 21, 1884.
  - Bertha B, dau, b July 11, 1891.
  - Pearl E, dau, b Oct 22, 1893.
- \***Burgess, Henderson G.**, truck far and road sup. Ransom, R Sc; b Aug 3, 1867 in Forkston, and came to Ransom in Mar, 1899. Son of Elmer and Lena (Burgess) Burgess of Forkston. Married Sept 13, 1888 to Miss Maud, dan of Eber and Samantha (Garey) Inman of Jenningsville. House built by Samuel Gardner in 1878. Mr. Burgess was elected road supervisor in Feb, 1908. 75a, 4c, 3h, 2 mules, 3 hogs.
  - Maud, wife, b Nov 25, 1868.
  - Beryl H, son, b Mar 29, 1891.
- \***Busch, Arnold**, miner, 914 Keyser Ave, Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b May 23, 1865 in Austria and came to this country in August, 1901, and came to Ransom in 1902 and purchased present home Aug 8, 1904 from Valentine Erbauch, who built house in 1899. Married Apr 21, 1890 to Miss Pauline Starobetzky.
  - Pauline, wife b Aug 31, 1865.
  - Anna, dau, b Feb 14, 1891.
  - Elsie, dau, b Oct 20, 1892.
  - Paul, son, b June 23, 1900.
- C
- \***Canterbury, Wm F.**, miner, 112 S Keyser ave, Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b Oct 21, 1867 in Scranton and came to Ransom abt 1896. Lot purchased Oct 27, 1888 from Thomas Edwards by Wm. Gilbert for \$50.00, who built house same fall. Mr. Canterbury, the present owner, purchased the property Nov 18, 1896 for \$800, and enlarged the house about 1899. Mr. Canterbury purchased two acres from Richard Strauch, Sept 24, 1897 for \$300. 1 cow, 1 horse.
  - Mary Ann, wife, b Jan 13, 1872.
- William A, son b Mar 27, 1891.
  - Ruth, dau, b Aug 27, 1897.
  - Edith M, dau, b Nov 1, 1897.
  - Verna, dau, b June 25, 1900.
  - George E, son, b June 5, 1902.
  - Helen, dau, b Nov 7, 1904.
  - Anna May, dau, b Feb 4, 1907.
  - Ralph, son, b Feb 2, 1910.
  - Claude, son, b Mar 24, 1912.
  - Clayton, son, b Mar 24, 1912.
- \***Coolbaugh, Johnson B.**, truck and dairy farmer, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b Sept 22, 1854 on a farm where Duryea is now located, and came to Ransom in 1865, with his parents, who settled on the farm where he is now living, and built part of the house now standing about six years earlier. About 1902 the present owner remodeled and enlarged the house.
  - Rosa, wife, b Aug 4, 1861.
  - Elmer, son, b Nov. 24, 1882.
  - Archie, son, b June 10, 1887.
  - William W, son, b Sept 10, 1889
  - Nelson J, son, b Aug 21, 1899.
- \***Coon, Frank H.**, gen far, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b Mar 16, 1873 where now living. Farm settled about 1840 by Alfred Aten, who built a log-house. John Coon pur farm in 1866, who sold to his brother, Geo C Coon, Apr 1, 1869. It was pur by Frank H Coon in the spring of 1912. House built about 1873 by Geo C Coon. About 1903, the barn and contents were burned. The barn was rebuilt the same year. 106 a, 7c, 5b.
  - Marie F, wife, b Sept 13, 1872.
  - Samuel, son, b Dec 26, 1900.
  - Rnth, dau, b Dec 22, 1906.
  - George C, father, b Mar 6, 1848.
- \***Corsehus, Harry S.**, truck and dairy far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b on farm where he now lives Feb 7, 1877. Son of Peter, who built house abt 1886. 126a, 8c, 4h, 2 hogs.
  - Mand E (Bedell), b July 22, 1879.
  - Mary H, dau, b Sept 23, 1900.
  - George B, son, b April 25, 1907.
  - Floyd S, son, b June 9, 1909.
- \***Coslett, Lewis W.**, mine track layer, W Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b Sept 24, 1871 in Taylor and came to Ransom Dec 2, 1909, and pur present home in Sept, 1909 from Mrs. Thos. Harris. The first house was built about 1889 by Isaac Sidebottom, and burned Aug 5, 1909. The new house was built in 1910 by Mr. Coslett. 1 acre.
  - Sarah J, wife, b June 6, 1870.
  - William T, son, b Dec 4, 1895.
  - George P, son, b June 5, 1899.
  - Arthur L, son, b Sept 2, 1903.
  - Grace I, dau, b Oct 14, 1905.
- Contright, Harry A.**, blacksmith in Milwaukie, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b May 14, 1886 at Keyser Valley; came to Ransom April 1, 1895. Rented John C. Kunsman blacksmith shop Sept 1, 1910. House owned by Horace Hol-



comb, and was built about 1850 by Peter Bedell.

—Margaret (Bedell), b Jan 20, '87.

\***Courtright, Horace**, truck and dairy far, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b June 6, 1860 in Monroe county and came to Ransom in Mar, 1887 and Nov 28, 1904 he purchased his present home from Jacob Bedell for \$4,000. Farm settled about 1840 by Joseph Krouse, who built the log-house now standing on the place. It was purchased by Jacob Bedell, Mar 30, 1875. House built by Jacob Bedell in 1884. 110a, 16c, 5 h, 8 hogs.

—Willard H, son, b Nov 24, 1887.

—Mabel E, dan, b Aug 29, 1889.

—Anna S, dau, b May 28, 1891.

—Laura B, dau, b Sept 20, 1893.

—Howard L, son, b June 20, 1895.

—Walter, son, b Oct 3, 1896.

—Christian K, son, b Feb 16, 1899.

—Albert W, son, b Dec 20, 1901.

\***Courtright, Mrs. Phebe**, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b Oct 13, 1850 in R twp. House built about 1850 by Seeley Rosenkrans.

—Pearl L, dau, b Aug 6, 1893.

## D

\***Davies, Albert R**, truck far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b at Russell Hill, Wyoming co July 29, 1872; came to R Apr 1, 1902. House built abt 1884 by Brittan Williams. 44a, 2c, 3h.

—Arminda E. (Sweet), b Aug 26, 1874.

—Horace H, son, b Aug 30, 1897.

—Albert F, son, b May 22, 1902

\***Davis, Ira E**, blacksmith and wheelwright, Ransom, R2; Mil Sc; b in Columbia co Oct 7, 1857 and came to R in 1858 with his father, Robert D. House built in 1894 by present owner. 7a, 3c.

—Hattie E (Rozelle), b Nov 6, '54.

—Robert J, son b April 11, 1884.

—Mary I, dan, b Oct 10, 1887.

—Clarence I, son, b June 9, 1892.

—Frances W, dan, b June 18, '98.

—Arthnr Z, bro, carpenter, b July 16, 1878.

\***Depeake, George**, lab, Scranton, care Con. Mine Office, Mt Dew Sc; b Oct, 1882 in Austria, and came to this country in 1906, pur present home June 22, 1911

—Anna, wife, b Aug 25, 1887.

—Mary, dau, b Feb 28, 1908.

—Helen, dau, b Oct. 12, 1910.

## E

**Edwards, John**, mine bratticeman, W Side Sta, Box 394, Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b July 15, 1872 in Wales and came to this country Oct 31, 1910 and to R one day later. Brother of Thomas Edwards. Married Dec 26, 1895 to Miss Annie Dimmick, who was born in Frome, Somersetshire, England. House owned by Wm. Canterbury and built abt 1898 by John Holcom. 2 acres.

—Annie, wife, b Aug 7, 1875.

\***Edwards, Thos E**, 2d asst mine foreman, Box 394, W Side Sta, Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b Nov 23, 1858 in Wales and came to this country April 29, 1882. Purchased lot abt 1888 from Richard Strouch, and built house 2 years later. Son of Edward and Elizabeth (Williams) Edwards. Thos. Edwards' first wife was Sarah Gilbert, who died Mar 17, 1897. She was the mother of nine children. Mr. Edwards was married again Oct 13, 1904 to Mrs. Isabella (Mead) Murray of Oxford, N.Y. 1½ acres.

—Isabella, wife, b Apr 15, 1854.

—Clarence, son, b Nov 21, 1894.

—Emily, dau, b Nov 18, 1897.

\***Engleman, Louis**, car insp, Ransom, R Sc; b Mar 12, 1868 in Pittston and came to R in Mar, 1890. Working for L Val R R Co in the Coxton yard. House built by Sterling Griffin about 1875. 1a, 1h.

—Charlotte A (Stout), b Oct 23, '70

—Matilda May, dau, b Aug 6, '02.

## F

\***Fabrie, Julius**, mine lab, 914 Keyser ave, Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b April 12, 1869 in Austria and came to this country in July, 1898. Pur house and lot of Valentine Erbauch in 1904. House built in 1899 by Mr. Erbauch. Mr. Frabie was married May 23, 1891 to Miss Sophia Gardner, who was b in Austria. 1 acre.

—Sophia, wife, b May 10, 1871.

—Charlie, son, slate picker, b April 3, 1894.

—Catherine, dau, b Nov 1, 1896.

—Matilda, dau, b Jan 30, 1899.

—William, son, b June 2, 1904.

—Pauline, dau, b Mar 7, 1907.

—Frank, son, b Oct 6, 1909.

\***Felker, Howard L**, car repairer, Ransom, R Sc; b Feb 14, 1879 in Monroe co, and came to R about 1889 with his parents, Louis and Lydia (Featherman) Felker. Married Aug 10, 1905 to Miss Anna, dau of Anthony and Barbara (Ferris) Richards of Pittston. House built about 1872 by I D. Willis. 1h.

—Anna V, wife, b Apr 21, 1877.

—Lewis W, son, b Sept 22, 1907.

## G

\***Gardner, Elias A**, far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b in R near the ferry April 18, 1847 and a son of Samuel and a greatgrandson of John, the first settler in Ransom. Farm settled by Chas. Wilson. House built by Elias Gardner in April, 1887. 97a, 1c, 1h, 1 hog.

—Martha (Cooper), b Mar 11, '51.

**Gardner, Jas**, stone mas, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b Mar 2, 1852 in R. Son of Samuel and Margaret (Smith) Gardner. Married

July 3, 1878 to Miss Rosa, dau of Daniel Garey of Silver Lake, Susquehanna co. She died in Aug, 1890. Living with his bro, Elias.

**Gardner, Jas S**, lab, Ransom, R Sc; b Nov 5, 1866 in Newton twp, and came to R in 1891. House owned by the Granhan est of Pittston, and built by Samuel Vanderbnrg, Jr, about 1893.

—Stella, wife, b Mar 14, 1861.

—Vivian D, son, b Dec 25, 1894.

—Luzon O, son, b Sept 29, 1899.

—Faith, adop dau, b Mar 31, '07.

**Gaul, Frank W**, carpenter, Scranton gen del, W Side, Mt Dew Sc; b July 31, 1884 in Hyde Park, and came to R July 15, 1901. Living in part of father's house.

—Emma, wife, b Nov 22, 1886.

—Howard F, son, b Oct 13, 1909.

\***Gaul, Wm A**, car and con, Scranton, W Side P O, Mt Dew Sc; b June 14, 1854 in Dunmore. In 1901 he pur present home from Geo R Wandel for \$600, where they moved July 15, the same year. The first house, a small 3-room bldg, was erected about 1891 by Geo R Wandel, and in 1902 it was remodeled and enlarged by the pres owner. This property contains 2 famous never failing springs, one known as the old "Indian Spring." When the typhoid fever epidemic broke out in Scranton in the winter of 1906 and 1907, Mr. Gaul began bottling and selling the water in Scranton, doing quite an extensive business. 4a.

—Sophia, wife, b May 15, 1858.

\***Geary, Joseph**, stone mason and far, Ransom, R2, R Sc; b April 3, 1846 in Jessup twp, Susquehanna co, and came to R about 1867. House built in 1873 by Mr. Geary. Enlisted Mar 19, 1864 in Co H, 141st Pa Vol and served until war closed. Married Apr 23, 1867 to Miss Harriet Smith, dau of Peter A and granddan of Elias Smith, one of the pioneer settlers of Newton twp. Mr and Mrs Geary have five children living and two dead; Charles W was killed by lightning June 29, 1906. 50a, 2c, 2h, 1 hog.

—Harriet (Smith), b Aug 2, 1848.

—Geo W, son, b Feb 23, 1889.

**Grose, Mrs. Anna**, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b Aug 1, 1847 in Milford, N J. Living with her son-in-law, John P Maas. Married Charles Grose, who died Dec 12, 1907.

## H

\***Hantz, Anthony**, gen far, Ransom, R2, R Val Sc; b June 1, '68 in Germany, and came to this country in April, 1884. He moved to his present home Apr 1, 1911. Farm settled by John McMillan abt 1800. About 1840 it was pur by Jacob Dershimier, and later by David M Hnth-



maker, who built residence 1890. 85a, 2c, 2h, 3 hogs.  
 —Mary, wife, b Feb 1, 1866.  
 —William, son, b Jan 22, 1891.  
 —Mary, dau, b Feb 2, 1893.  
 —Leo, son, b April 5, 1895.  
 —Jennie, dau, b July 14, 1901.  
 —Helen, dau, b Sept 3, 1902.  
 —Anthony, son, b Oct 29, 1906.  
 —Stanley, son, b April 8, 1909.  
 —Margaret, dau, b July 9, 1911.  
 \*Harder, Arthur, far, Ransom, R Sc. House built about 1876 by Joseph Osborn.  
 —Ella, wife.  
 —William, son.  
 —Emma (Shook), dau-in-law.  
 \*Hoffman, Frederick, tr farmer, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b Dec 24, 1876 in Mil. Purchased farm May 28, 1907 from Wm. Blackwell est. Farm set and house built by Mr. Blackwell abt 1868. Mr Hoffman was married Mar 26, 1892 to Miss Maggie E, dau of Joseph and Sarah (Blackwell) Brezee. Mr Hoffman is a son of John and Elizabeth (Maas) Hoffman of R. 25a, 2c, 1h, 3 hogs, 7 pigs.  
 —Maggie E, wife, b Sept 27, 1875.  
 —Joseph J, son b March 28, 1904.  
 \*Hoffman, John, tr far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b Oct 28, 1851 in Germany, and came to Scranton with his parents, May 28, 1860, and in the autumn of the same year to R twp, and to the farm where he now lives, Sept 28, '74. This was the last farm set in R twp, which was set by Martin Hoffman in 1874, who built the house and barn the same year, which have since been enlarged. 84a, 4c, 5h, 4 hogs.  
 —Elizabeth (Maas), b Feb 12, '58.  
 —John J, son, b July 30, 1884.  
 —Elnora C, dau b May 26, 1886.  
 —Mildred, dau, b Aug 11, 1888.  
 —William, son, b Dec 13, 1890.  
 —Ruth M, dau, b Mar 29, 1904.  
 —Martin, father, b Feb 10, 1826.  
 \*Holcomb Horace, justice-of-the-p, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc, b Dec 13, 1844 in Great Falls, N H; came to Wilkes-Barre in 1886 and to R in '04. Married May 10, 1893 to Miss Mary, dau of John Rader of R. House built in 1904 by Mr Holcomb. Elec Justice-of-the-p in Feb, 1908. 3a, 1h.  
 —Mary (Rader), b July 27, 1851.  
 Howells, Moses, moterman, 2767 Frink st, Scranton. Boarding with Hiley W. Stewart; b Mar 18, 1891 on Winton Mountain. Son of David B and Jemmia (Erobison) Howells.  
 \*Hufford, Henry, lab, Ransom, R Sc; b in Monroe co, Mar 7, 1854 and came to R in 1877. Son of Nathan and Elizabeth (Decue) Hufford. House built in 1874 by Corridon Barber. Mr. Hufford was mar Jan 18, 1879 to Miss Amanda, dau of Abraham and Julia Ann (Miller) Neyhart of Monroe co. Mr. and Mrs.

Hufford have three children: Grace, b April 22, 1882 and mar Ulysses Kresge and living in Dunmore; Walter H, b June 26, 1884 and mar Mabel McNeal and living in Montana. 1a.  
 —Amanda, wife, b Aug 29, 1854.  
 —Edna, dau, b April 2, 1889.  
 Huggler, Emil, tr far, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b April 6, 1862 in Switzerland and came to this country about 1863. Mar Sept 4, 1881 to Miss Emma Eggler of Liberty, N Y. Moved to R in Oct, 1909. Farm set by Philip Harlos, Sr about 1840, who built the stone house about '61. 100a, 4c, 2h, 4hogs, 7 pigs.  
 —Emma, wife, b Feb. 22, 1864.  
 —Charles, son, b April 4, 1891.  
 —Fred, son, b June 20, 1893.  
 —William, son, b June 10, 1895.  
 —Leona, son, b July 30, 1897.  
 —Walter, son, b Feb 15, 1899.  
 —Oscar, son, b Oct 6, 1903.  
 —Enil, son, b Nov 27, 1905.  
 \*Huthmaker, Roy H, tr far, Ransom, R Sc; b June 22, 1889 in R near R Home. House built about 1864 by Jacob Bertels for a store, which has been enlarged several times. 14a, 3h.  
 \*Huthmaker, Thos J, tr far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b Aug 1, 1847 in Ransom. Farm set by David Huthmaker, who built barn abt 1840, and the house was built about '60 by Jacob Huthmaker. 160a, 5c, 4h, 2 hogs.  
 —H. Eliza, wife, b May 17, 1857.  
 —Thomas E, son b June 4, 1892.  
 —Rhalda R, dau, b Feb 26, 1899.  
 Dornblazer, Blanche E, granddau, b Aug 7, 1899.

I

\*Ives, Francis M, car and wood worker, Ransom, R Sc; b Oct 9, 1854 in R on the farm now owned by Jephtha C Richards. Mr. Ives owns the old Gardner Ferry property, which was built about 1795 by Richard Gardner and deeded to his son, Samuel and grandson, Geo W, May 24, 1851: to Mrs Mary A Ives Aug 13, 1866 and to Francis M Ives Nov 1, 1910. House built about 1878 by Wm L Ives. 1 acre.  
 —Marilla E (Akens), b Aug 12, '57

K

Klalie, Mrs Regina B, Mt Dew Sc; living with her dau, Mrs Joseph Long; b Oct 3, 1839 in Germ'y.  
 —Gottlieb, son b April 3, 1870.  
 \*Klipple, Christopher H, truck far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b July 17, 1851 in Wilkes-Barre; came to farm where now living with his parents, when nine months old. House built in Aug, 1856, by his father, Wenzel Klipple. Married Nov 25, 1880 to Miss Rachel Roth of Scranton. They have three children: Sadie, mar Dec 2, 1902 to Ira Lacoe. She was born Oct 25, 1882. 85a, 2c, 4h,

3 hogs.  
 —Rachel (Roth), b Mar 20, 1854.  
 —Theresa, dau, b May 10, 1885.  
 —John W, son, b Aug 25, 1888.  
 Klipple, Walter M, farm lab, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b Jan 5, 1885 in Milwaukie. Son of William: married April 22, 1909 to Miss Sadie M. dau of Mrs Phebe Courtright. Home built about 1840 by Peter Petty, and remodeled in 1909 by Wm Klipple, the present owner. 1c, 2h, 2 hogs.  
 —Sadie M, wife, b Feb 26, 1888.  
 \*Klipple, Wm, tr far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b Aug 20, 1856 in R twp. Son of Wenzel; married Feb 27, 1883 to Miss Mildred Petty, dau of Peter Petty of Milwaukie; two dau and one son. Walter is married and living in Milwaukie. House built in 1881 by Wenzel Klipple. Barn built abt 1840 by Jacob Dersheimer. Wm Klipple moved on farm in Mar. 1889. 52a, 3c, 1h, 3 hogs.  
 —Mildred (Petty), b June 29, '59.  
 —Sarah E, dau, teacher, b Sept 6, 1887.  
 —Mary I, dau, b June 20, 1891.  
 \*Korishar, Stephen, miner, 914 S Keyser ave, Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b Aug 14, 1854 in Austria and came to this country May 30, 1887 and to R July 6, 1898. Pur 4½ a of Chas Mayer for \$300 and built house in 1898. Son of John and Mary Korishar. Married Sept 4, 1877 to Miss Mary Starobetzky, who was born in Austria. Five children, two of whom are married: William, born May 2, 1885 and married Jan. 21, 1908 to Miss Minnie Riske and living in Scranton; John, born June 22, 1889 and married Aug 3, 1910 to Miss Agnes Worbliska. 4½ acres.  
 —Mary, wife, b June 15, 1859.  
 —George, son, b Aug 3, 1893.  
 —Helen, dau, b June 8, 1897.  
 —Mary, dau, b June 6, 1879.  
 \*Krauss, Michael G, lab, Scranton, care of Continental Mine Office, Mt Dew Sc; b July 11, 1868 in Germ'y; came to this country in 1884, and to R in Dec, 1893. Pur land at \$80 per acre, from John Mayer, Sept 2, 1893 and built house same year. 7½a, 1c, 2 hogs.  
 —Margaret, wife, b July 6, 1871.  
 —John A, son, b Dec 20, 1891.  
 —Katheryn M, dau, b May 28, '94.  
 —Leonard W, son, b Feb 2, 1896.  
 —Henry J, son, b Nov 18, 1898.  
 —George F, son, b April 19, 1901.  
 —Margaret E, dau, b Aug 27, '06.  
 —Louise G, dau, b June 15, 1908.  
 —Ruth M, dau, b Oct 13, 1911.  
 \*Krouse, Alvy, car and far, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b Aug 14, '49 in the log-house now standing on farm of Horace Court-right. Farm set by Geo M Trivley about 1842, who built a log-house across the road, and about



five rods down the hill from the present house. About 1855 Mr. Trivley built the present home. In 1876 the farm was divided, Alvy Krouse pur 40a for \$3-700. In 1897 Lewis Powell pur the other part for \$2,500. 40a, 1 horse.

—Marietta, wife, b July 2, 1839.

\***Krynisky, Victor S**, far, Ransom, R2, R Val Sc; A Polish family of five or six, but the writer could obtain no information.

\***Kunsman, John C**, blacksmith, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b Nov 27, 1871 in Georgetown, Del, and came to R April 13, 1883 with his uncle, Tobias Stine. Son of John M and Elizabeth (Stine) Kunsman. Married Feb 15, '96 to Miss Lulu M, dau of Peter and Emma (Rader) Bedell. House built about 1891 by L. M. McCluskey.

—Lulu, wife, b Jan 31, 1875.

—Albert B, son, b Dec 26, 1896.

—Peter J, son, b April 21, 1906.

—Karl F, son, b Dec 18, 1910.

\***Kunsman, Mrs. Sarah**, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b Oct 3, 1836 in New Jersey; came to Mil March 1, 1899. Widow of Jacob Kunsman who died in 1878. House built in 1848 by Henry Barker. 5a, 1 h.

—Jacob B, son, b May 5, 1869.

Finkley, Charles, grandson, b Mar 23, 1896.

## L

**Lacoe, Clarence D**, far lab, Ransom, R1, R Sc; b Sept 1, 1878 in R. Working for his father, James M. House and farm owned by James M. Lacoe, being the David Learn farm which was purchased by Mr Lacoe in spring of 1910. 71a, 1c, 2 pigs.

—Elizabeth M (Swartwood), b May 6, 1883.

—Ellsworth A, son, b Jan 10, '05.

—DeWitt, J, son, b April 17, 1906.

—Gladys M, dau, b Oct 29, 1908.

\***Lacoe, James M**, tr and gen far, Ransom, R1, R Sc; b June 6, 1856 in Newton twp, where J F Lacoe is living; moved to R twp in Mar, 1880, and to present home, Feb 19, 1887, which he pur Nov 4, 1886. D M Huthmaker pur this farm May 1, '65 of Jno N Conyngham of Wilkes-Barre. Mr Huthmaker cleared abt 15 acres, and sold to Amos Learn, Mar 25, 1868. His son, Harvey Learn, built the first buildings, the house in 1878 and the barn in 1882. Mr Lacoe enlarged barn in 1890, and the house in 1901 and 1908. 116a in this farm and 71a in the David Learn farm, making a total of 187a, 4c, 5h, 5 hogs.

—Barbara M (Barrier), b July 28, 1857.

—Grace M, dau, b Nov 27, 1882.

\***Landside, Christopher**, tr far, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b in

Germany Oct 20, 1858 and came to this country in May, 1873. Pur this farm in April, 1904, of Mrs Jacob Courtright. Son of Henry and Margaret Landside of Germany. Married Mar 30, 1884 to Miss Emma D, dau of Wm and Margaret (Ace) Blackwell. Farm set about 1851 by Solomon Ace, who built part of house in 1865. The main part was built about 1870 by Mathias Blackwell. 65a, 3c, 2h, 4 hogs.

—Emma D, wife, b Oct 4, 1861.

—Flosse J, dau, b July 18, 1891.

—Wm H, son, b July 22, 1893.

—Bessie M, dau, b Oct 3, 1895.

—Grace Agnes, dau, b April 20, '98

—George C, son, b April 5, 1904.

\***Landsiedel, Lewis A**, tr far, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b Jan 20, 1878 in R twp. Farm set in 1861 by Conrad Maas (father of Mrs. Landsiedel), who built a log-house, and during summer of 1871 he built the present residence, and the barn in 1868. Farm pur by present owner Dec 3, 1906 for \$3,600. 72a, 3c, 3h, 3 hogs.

—Emma, wife, b April 29, 1873.

—Gertrude C, dau, b Sept 18, '02.

—Clarence W, son, b Aug 14, '04.

—Edna M, dau, b May 19, 1910.

—Gertrude (Brookhouse), mother, b Oct 30, 1848.

\***Landsiedel, Mrs Margaret**, Ransom, R2, R Val Sc; b June 24, 1847 on the farm now owned by John Roeszler. Dau of Chas. and Elizabeth (Rader) Roeszler. Married Apr 9, 1864 to Andrew Landsiedel, who was b Jan 1, 1839 in Germany and died Aug 26, 1900. They had a family of five children: Elizabeth, Chas, Emma, Harry and Catherine. Charles died in infancy. Farm set by John Shallenberger abt 1842, and the house built in 1865 by Andrew Landsiedel, and was enlarged in 1884. 80a, 1c.

—Elizabeth, dau, b July 5, 1866.

\***Learn, Amos C**, far, Ransom R1, R Val Sc; b Aug 5, 1855 in N twp on the farm now owned by Arthur Hollenback, and came to R in 1900. He was mar Apr 23, 1885 to Miss Mary E, dau of Theron and Miranda (Miller) Brown of Falls twp. Mr. Learn is a son of Amos and Margaret (Shook) Learn, who came from Monroe co; set in Newton twp about 1834. Farm set about 1770 by Peleg Comstock. Later it was owned by John M Cunningham, who sold to P. K. Richards in June, 1869. Mr. Learn pur farm in 1907 and enlarged house same year, which was first built by P K Richards. This farm, when first settled, was a part of the farm now owned by Jesse P Richards. The farm was divided when owned by P K Richards. 75a, 2c, 3h, 1 mule, 7 sheep, 2 hogs.

—Mary E, wife, b June 13, 1856.

**Learn, T Thos**, far, Ransom, R1,

R Val Sc; living with his father,

Amos C Learn; b in Newton,

May 8, '88; came to R in 1900.

Married Miss Kathryn, dau of

Geo and Etta (Wiess) Ace of R.

—Kathryn, wife, b June 9, 1889.

—Louise, dau, b July 19, 1907.

\***Legg, Wm**, far, Ransom, R2, Mt

Val Sc; b Aug 27, 1860 in York-

shire, England and came to this

country in 1894 and moved to

R in May, 1910. Son of James

and Anna (Hutchinson) Legg.

Married Oct 4, '85 to Miss Mag-

gie, dau Geo and Mary (Ryan)

Jackson. Farm set abt 1840 by

Scott Carey. 35a, 3c, 2 mules,

4 hogs.

—Maggie, wife, b March 11, 1867.

—Tessie, dau, b June 19, 1894.

—William, son, b Oct 23, 1896.

—George, son, b Dec 13, 1902.

—Helen, dau, b Oct 8, 1905.

—John, son, b Jan 4, 1911.

**Lewis, Thos H**, miner, Box 434 W

Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b Jan 2,

1869 in S Wales and came to

this country in Oct, 1894, and

to R Nov 1, 1907. Farm set

and house built by Wm Lloyd

about 1880. Pur by Wm T

Jones, the present owner, about

1904. 45a, 5c, 2h, 1 hog, 1 sheep

—Mary Jane, wife, b Oct 12, 1870.

—Margaret E, dau, b Dec 26, '90.

—John T, son, b March 15, 1895.

—Hannah M, dau, b June 7, 1897.

—Henry E, son, b Jan 1, 1900.

—Elizabeth, dau, b June 11, 1902.

—Ethel J, dau, b April 25, 1905.

—Thomas D, son, b Feb 15, 1908.

—Emlyn, son, b Aug 25, 1910.

\***Long, Joseph**, lab in brewery, ad-

dress in care of E Robinson's

Brewery, Scranton, Mt Dew Sc;

b June 22, 1879 in Germany

and came to this country with

his parents when three years of

age. Farm set and house built

in 1888 by John Moor. Pur by

present owner Nov 7, '10. Mar

Miss Anna M Klaile, who was b

in Germany and came to this

country in 1890. 20a, 1c, 1h,

2 hogs.

—Anna M, wife, b Oct 4, 1881.

—Frank J, son, b July 2, 1903.

—Irene M, dau, b April 21, 1905.

## M

\***Maas, John P**, tr far, Ransom,

R2, Mt Val Sc; b Mar 25, '68 in

the house where he now resides,

where he has always lived.

Farm set about 1846 by Conrad

Maas; house built about 1850

by John Maas, Sr. 120a, 3c,

2h, 3 hogs.

—Elizabeth, wife, b Mar 25, 1870.

—David, son, b June 7, 1893.

—Lucy, dau, b Aug 3, 1909.

—Truman B, son, b Oct 2, 1910.

\***Maas, Wesley**, far, Ransom, R2,

R Val Sc; b Dec 21, 1884 on the

farm now owned by Chas Rich-

ter. Farm set by John Thurber,

who built the stone house. The farm was later pur by Oscar Englebrick. About 1891 it was sold to Rudolph Troub, and one year later pur by Mrs. Wenzel Maas, and in Feb, 1911 it was sold to Wesley Maas, son of Wenzel and Mary (Swartz) Maas. Wesley Maas was mar Dec 24, 1908 to Miss Susie, dau of John and Ellen (Miller) Blackwell. 50a, 2c, 2h, 2 hogs.

—Susie, wife, b Oct 17, 1886.  
—Albert W, son, b Jan 14, 1910.  
Note—Mr. Maas sold farm Dec 8, 1911 to Wm Toczko, of Pittston.

\***Major, Thos F**, engineer at the Lehigh Val Coal Storage Plant at R, R Sc; b Nov 18, 1871 in Hull-upon-Humber, England, and came to this country when four years of age and to R in 1901. Son of Thomas F, Sr, of Pittston. Mar Oct 24, 1893 to Miss Susan, dau of Wm and Ann Polly of Pittston. House built about 1879 by Theo Hatten. 2a.  
—Susan (Polly), b Mar 5, 1875.

\***Mayer, Mrs Mary**, far, 914 Keyser ave, Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b May 7, 1859 in Germany and came to this country in 1882, and to R in 1889. Her husband, Chas Mayer, pur land from Ellis Freeman & Snyder in the spring of 1889, and erected house in May, which was enlarged by Mrs. Mayer in 1909. 20a, 2c, 1h, 3 hogs.

—Victor, son, b May 19, 1880.  
—Josephine, dau, b Feb 23, 1888.  
—August, son, b Dec 4, 1890.  
—Robert, son, b Nov 5, 1892.  
—Pauline, dau, b Jan 23, 1895.  
—Grace, dan, b Sept 18, 1896.  
—Joseph, son, b Nov 29, 1898.  
—Otto, son, b Jan 6, 1900.

**McCabe, James**, sec foreman for L V R R Co at R, Ransom, R Sc; b June 3, 1860 in Ireland, and came to this country in Wyoming co in June, 1867 and to R in Mar, 1908. House belongs to Martin Myers of Barbertown, and was built about 1870 by Rev S I Sharters.

—Anna (Burk), b June 7, 1870.  
—Harry, son, b Mar 25, 1902.  
—Ellen, dau, b Feb 18, 1904.  
—Francis, son, b Oct 6, 1905.  
—John, son, b Feb 23, 1906.  
—Katherine, dau, b May 21, 1909.  
—Charles, son, b Oct 20, 1910.

\***Metzgar, Peter S**, tr far, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b Dec 16, 1847 in Monroe co and came to R in 1892 and pur house and lot from Wade Clark; pur present home May 16, 1911 of Mrs. J Koster and Geo Hartman of Scranton. Farm settled by John Koster about 1870, who built present house about 1879. 50a, 1c, 2h, 4 hogs.

—Ada, wife, b April 25, 1864.  
—William H, son, b Sept 14, 1886.  
Blackwell, Mrs. Margaret, mother-in-law, b Sept 24, 1832.

**Michael, Mrs Elizabeth**, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b in Middle Smithfield twp, Monroe co and came to R in April, 1873. She is a dau of Samuel Michael. She mar David J Michael, who died a few years ago. She is living with her dau, Mrs Edwin S Miller.

**Miller, Adam B**, far lab, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b Sept 21, 1884 in R twp. Farm first pur by Jacob Drake about 1842 and later was settled by Wm Mosier, who built the present residence about 1848. Adam B is working for his father, Edwin S. Miller, who pur farm of Mrs. Susannah Mosier, May 13, 1902. This farm contains 100 acres.  
—Edna G (Huthmaker), b July 2, 1886.

—Edwin S, son, b Nov 5, 1907.  
—Norman E, son, b Aug 29, 1910.

\***Miller, Edwin S**, tr and da far, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b Sept 8, 1861 in Jackson twp, Monroe co, and came to Ransom in Apr. 1872, and to present home April 1. 1894. Pur farm of David Z Michaels. Farm set about 1840 by Fritz Michael, who built first house, which was burned Sept 29, 1882, and was rebuilt the next year by David Z Michael. Mr. Miller remodeled and enlarged house in 1907. Mar Miss Sarah M, dau of David and Elizabeth Michaels. 165a, 40c, 9h.

—Sarah M, wife, b Dec 1, 1865.  
Michael, Mrs. Elizabeth, mother-in-law.

\***Miller, Irwin**, farmer, Ransom, R Sc; b May 9, 1833 in Tunkhannock and came to R March 25, 1911. He owned and lived on a large farm in Exeter twp, for over forty years, until he moved to R. Son of George and Polly (Jenkins) Miller. Married Jan 28, 1862 to Miss Falla Sharps, dau of Peter and Elizabeth (Breese) Sharps of Exeter. Four children, two sons and two daughters.

—Falla, wife, b Aug 22, 1840.  
—George S, son, b Jan 5, 1870.

\***Mosier, Mrs Susannah**, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b July 6, 1849 in Jackson twp, Monroe co, and came to R in 1870. Dau of Peter and Sarah (Bieshline) Miller. Married Nov 12 '71 to Wm Mosier, who was b Feb 18, 1822 in Smithfield twp, Monroe co, and died Aug 11, 1893. Farm first owned about 1842 by Jacob Drake and was pur about 1847 by Mr Mosier, who built the present house in 1884. The farm contained 104a until 1902, when Edwin S Miller purchased 100 acres. 4a.

\***Moss, Henry**, farmer, 912 Keyser ave, Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b Oct 25, 1848 in Cheshire, Eng, and came to this country June

25, 1872, and pur present home in Nov, 1904 of John Jones, who built house abt 1899. Married July 1, 1896 to Miss Rushia, dau of Milton and Angeline (Bartlow) Swingle of Wayne co. 25a, 1h, 3 hogs, 11 pigs.

—Rushia, wife, b Aug 9, 1869.

\***Munson, John**, tr far, Ransom, R1, Mil Sc; b Dec 9, 1833 in Sweden, and came to this country about 1870 and to R in 1866 and three years later moved to Newton twp on Kern farm, where Peter Corselius now lives, and in June, 1905, returned to R. His son, Peter B, pur the farm where he now lives of Andrew Hopkins. Son of Mun Munson. In Aug, 1911, Peter B Munson erected a cider mill on the place and installed the press and mill owned and operated for several years by Elias Smith of Newton twp. 100a, 2c, 4h, 2 hogs.

—Pernilla (Nelson), b May 2, '43.

—Peter B, son, b Feb 23, 1870.

—John A, son, b June 9, 1879.

—Archie, son, b Jan 17, 1885.

\***Munson, Jos B**, tr far, Ransom, R1, Mil Sc; b Dec 6, 1881 in W Pittston and came to R with his parents in 1886. Son of John and Pernilla (Nelson) Munson, of Mil. Farm set about 1840 by Alex Beemer, and in 1858 it was pur by Philip Barrier. Mr Munson moved to his present home Nov 17, 1905, which he pur from the Lewis McClusky est. 79a, 6c, 2h, 2 hogs.

—Blanche M, wfe, b July 19, '83.

—Kathryn C, dau, b July 21, '07.

—Helen J, dau, b June 17, 1909.

—Mildred, dau, b May 23, 1912.

NOTE—Mr Munson sold this farm Nov 8, 1911 to John Stevenson of Pittston.

\***Musselman, Chas**, car repairer, Ransom, R Sc; b Dec 13, 1857 in Hamilton, Monroe co, and came to R about 1880. House built in 1889 by present owner.  
—Matilda, wife, b Sept 7, 1862.

—Victor D, son, b Aug 16, 1897.

## N

**Newman, Mrs Mary L**, Ransom, R1, lives with her son-in-law, Jephth C Richards; b in Deckertown, N J, April 19, 1834 and came to Wyoming co, when three years old and to Newton twp in 1859. Married Mar 2, 1859 to Chas H Newman, who died Mar 20, 1897.

\***Neyhart, Miss Amanda**, Ransom, R Sc; dan of David and Sarah Neyhart; house built by David Neyhart about 1868.

—Miss Susan, sister.

\***Nicholas, Harry**, miner, 112 S Keyser ave, Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b May 7, 1870 in Wales and came to this country in Jan, 1888 and pur present home in Feb, 1903 from Thos Howells, who built



house about 1897. Mr Nicholas was mar Aug 17, 1890 to Miss Catherine Roberts of Wales. Son of Ira and Eliza (Davis) Nicholas. 3 1/2 acres.

- Catherine, wife, b April 8, 1874.
- Edward, son, b Dec 14, 1893.
- Margaret, dau, b Sept 18, 1893.
- Ira, son, b April 18, 1896.
- Albert, son, b July 24, 1898.

## O

- \***Ott, Margaret**, Ransom, R2, R Val Sc; b Jan 8, 1844 on the farm where now living. Dau of Andrew and Anna (Harold) Ott, who set farm and built log-house in 1842, which is the only log-house in the twp occupied by a family. Andrew Ott was b in Germany in 1802 and died Sept 19, 1853. 100a, 1c, 2h.

## P

- Park, Mrs Ellen D**, h keeper, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b in Bradford co Dec 4, 1837 and came to R April 1, 1906. Married John B Park who died Mar 7, 1903. Dau of Andrew J Hunt. Mrs Park is living with Martin Sickler.

- \***Parker, Edward P**, miner, 303 Quay ave, Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b Oct 10, 1861 in Hastings, Eng, and came to this country in '80. Moved to present home Oct 15, 1894. Pur land of Mrs Andrew Witzal, and built house in 1894. Mr Parker is a son of Philip and Sarah (Cook) Parker of Eng. Married Aug 29, 1887 to Miss Alice Mills. 1 1/2 a, 1 horse.

- Alice, wife, b May 20, 1863.
- Fred, son, b Jan 5, 1894.
- Frank, son, b May 20, 1899.

- \***Petty, Milton W**, tr far and fruit grower, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b June 29, 1859 on the farm where living. First house built about 1840 by Barney Dersheimer. During the summer of 1908 Mr Petty tore down most of old house and built the present home, containing ten large rooms. 90a, 2c, 3h, 2 hogs.

- Mary A (Lacoe), b Aug 18, '60.
- Mildred, dau, b Mar 5, 1893.
- Sybil R, dau, b July 21, 1897.
- George E, son, b June 27, 1899.

- Petty, Oswald W**, merchant in Milwaukie, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b Feb 7, 1883 in Mil. House owned by Wm Klipple, and was built by Jacob Courtright in 1907. 3h.
- Mary B, wife, b Jan 26, 1881.
- Charles M, son, b Mar 8, 1909.
- Baby, dau, b Dec 10, 1911.

- Petty, William C**, tr far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b Nov 5, 1884 in Mil. Living with George W Rader, and working farm in partnership.

- Elizabeth (Rader), b Aug 16, '86.
- Ruth, dau, Sept 12, 1909.
- William M, son, b June 29, '11.

- \***Powell, Lewis E**, tr far, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b May 22, 1867

in Oxford, N J, and came to R April 5, 1898 from Scranton, where he worked in the mines for 24 years. Farm set about 1842 by George M Trivley, being part of the farm now owned by Alvy Krouse until 1876, when Mr Krouse purchased 40a for \$3,700. The first house was built on the part now owned by Mr Powell abt 1860 by Edward B Trivley, size about 16x22 ft. About 1866 it was enlarged to 26x54 feet for a hotel, which was kept by Mr Trivley until abt 1870; he moved to Wilkes-Barre. The post office at Mt Val was established in this bldg Aug 7, '68; discontinued June 25, '94. This building was consumed by fire June 5, 1898. The present home was built by Mr Powell, and first occupied Nov 1, 1898. Mathias Trivley owned the farm from 1870 to 1897, when it was pur by Mr Powell for \$2,500. 75a, 3c, 4h, 2 hogs.

- Gertrude, wife, b Feb 9, 1869.
- Eugene C, son, b Dec 30, 1889.
- Myrtle J, dau, b July 4, 1897.

**Pulver, Andrus P**, lab, W Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b June, 1862. Came to R Oct 28, 1908. House built in 1877 by Andrew Witzal. This farm is part of the tract set in 1832 by Mr Woolsey, and is now owned by Geo Kellou of Green Ridge. 28a, 1h, 1c, 2 hogs, 7 pigs.

- Mary, wife, b June 17, 1858.

## R

- \***Rader, Geo W**, tr far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b in R on German Hill Oct 26, 1859. House built about 1860 by Ed Clark. 60a, 3c, 2h, 2 hogs.

- Catherine (Zeiss), b Mar 7, '60.
- Catherine, dau, b Aug 29, 1887.
- Marion R, dau, b May 20, 1896.
- Rosanna, sister, b Nov 12, 1856.

- \***Raife, Levi**, gen far, Ransom, R1, R Val Sc; b Jan 30, 1846 on the farm where now lives. Son of Conrad and Margaret (Rader) Married Dec 29, 1872 to Miss Caroline, dau of Daniel and Julia (Willis) Honeywell. House built 1890 by pres owner. 60a, 4c, 2h.

- Lydia, Caroline, w, b June 15, 1849.

**Ransom Home** (Pittston Poor Farm), Ransom, R2, R Val Sc;

- Geo H Rifenburg, supt.
- Mrs Geo H Rifenburg, matron.
- Frank Avery, foreman.

- Mrs Frank Avery, asst matron.

**Reed, Willis L**, far, Ransom R2, Mil Sc; b Jan 18, 1863 in Mil. Living in part of his father's house and working the farm. Son of N G Reed. Married Feb 20, 1895 to Miss Minnie E, dau of Ziba and Bethana (Hallstead) Ross of Lenoxville. 3c, 3h, 5 hogs.

- Minnie E, wife, b Sept 17, 1868.

- Mildred A, dau, b Nov 19, 1896.
- Ralph L, son, b Feb 22, 1906.

\***Reed, Nicholas G**, far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b Dec 15, '27 in what is now Glenburn, and came to Mil in May, 1852. Son of Benj W. Married Jan 27, 1857 to Miss Sarah Ann, dau of Peter and Sarah (Naugle) Petty. Three living children: Frank, Willis L and Mrs. Mary E Hopkins. Roscoe died when two years old. Mr Reed was appointed the first postmaster at Mil. July 16, 1855. He was Justice-of-the-peace in R for 40 years. House built in spring of 1883 by Mr Reed. 70a.

- Sarah Ann (Petty), b Dec 29, '39.

\***Regan, Mrs Mary**, Ransom, R Sc; b in Ireland and came to this country about 1855. Dau of Cornelius Hartnett. Married Daniel Regan who died July 25, 1900. House built in 1870 by Daniel Regan. Seven children living. 2a.

- Kate, dau, b in Ransom.

**Richards, H Wells**, gen far, Ransom, R1, R Val Sc; b Mar 22, 1881 in the house where now living. Mr Richards is a son of Jesse P and Margaret (Marshall) Richards of Pittston, and a grandson of Peter Richards. Mr Richards was mar Oct 18, 1905 to Miss Harriet E. dau of Theron and Miranda (Miller) Brown of Falls twp. Farm set by Peleg Comstock about 1770, when it was part of the farm now owned by Amos C Learn. It was later owned by John H Cunningham. In June, 1869 it was sold to P K Richards. A few years later it was purchased by Jesse P Richards, the present owner. House built by Jesse P Richards in 1880 and remodelled about 1900. 100a, 1c, 2h, 2 mules, 46 sheep.

- Harriet E, wife.

\***Richards, Jephth C**, gen far, Ransom, R1, R Sc; b in R Mar 30, 1861. Farm set in 1853 by Wm L Ives, who bought the farm for the taxes, the whole tract containing 280 acres. About ten years later Mr Ives sold, and after being sold two or three times, it was pur in 1867 by Abram Polhamus, who cleared and sowed 80 acres to wheat the first year. He built the house in 1868, and in the fall of the same year sold to Horace Litts, who built the barn. About 1871, Jas Wilbur pur the farm, and about seventeen years later sold to John Maas, who sold it to the present owner in March, 1894. 125a, 4c, 4h, 3 hogs.

- Russell C, son, b Jan 25, 1891.
- James L, son, b Aug 10, 1892.
- William N, son, b Aug 28, 1902.
- Newman, Mrs Mary L, mother-in-law, b April 19, 1834.

\***Richards, Ostrander**, far and frt grower, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b Mar 20, 1836 in Newton twp, on the farm where B F Reed is living; came to R in 1878. Purchased farm of Dennis Michaels, April 29, 1878. The farm is part of the tract settled about 1840 by Joseph Krouse, but now owned by Hor Court-right. The 25 acres owned by Mr Richards was sold to Dennis Michaels April 6, 1876, it being pnr from Jacob Bedell. House built in 1876 by Dennis Michaels. Farm is now worked by Mr. Richards' son, Leslie F. 25a, 2c, 3h, 3 hogs.

—Amelia M, wife, b Dec 15, 1843.

—Leslie F, son b Aug 22, 1881.

\***Richter, Chas F**, tr far, Ransom, R2, R Val Sc; b Nov 17, 1878 in Germany; came to this country with his parents when about one year old. Came to R in Apr, 1909. Purchased farm March 1, 1911 from Wentzel Maas estate. Farm settled in 1841 by John Banmgardner and purchased in 1846 by Conrad Maas. 129a, 4c, 2h, 3 hogs.

—Lizzie, wife, b Mar 10, 1877.

—William C, son, b May 1, 1898.

—Sophie M, dau, b Sept 16, 1901.

—Carl F, son, b May 31, 1904.

—Leroy, son, b July 17, 1906.

—Bertha H, dau, b June 27, 1911.

**Ricketts, Wm W**, clerk at the Coal Storage Plant, Ransom, R Sc.

**Rifenbary, Geo H**, supt of the Ransom Home, Ransom, R2, R Val Sc; b in Sussex co, N J; came to R April 1, 1897.

—Eva (Bunnell), b in Meshoppen.

**Rizzo, John**, fireman, Pittston, R Val Sc; b in Italy.

—Mary, wife.

**Robinson, George M**, far lab, Ransom, R Val Sc; b Sept 25, 1862 in Bradford co and came to R April 1, 1911 and working for Louis Seibel of Pittston, the owner of the farm. Son of Eli-kam and Mary (Wandall) Robinson. Married July 4, 1883 to Miss Sarah, dau of John and Rhoda (Morey) Northrup of Mehoopany. Three child'n. House built in 1868 by Sebastian Dersheimer. 120a, 5c, 2h, 4 pigs.

—Sarah M, wife, b July 19, 1863.

—Pearl M, dau, b Mar 15, 1890.

\***Roeszler, John**, gen far, Ransom, R2, R Val Sc; b Feb 24, 1844 in R twp on the farm now owned by Victor S Krynisky. In April, the same year, his parents set on the farm where he is now living, when a log-house was built by his father, Chas Roeszler. About 1863 Chas Roeszler built the house where his son, John, is now living. Abt 1873 John Roeszler built another house on the farm near the road. He was married Jan 6, 1867 to Miss Margaret Lore, who died April 1, 1905. 60a, 1c, 2h.

—Andrew, son, b Jan 31, 1878.

—John, son, b Nov 4, 1881,

**Rosenkrans, Emerson**, lumberman, Ransom, R2, R Val Sc; b March 9, 1875 in Newton twp; came to R about 1900. Son of Laten Rosenkrans. Married Nov 7, 1894 to Miss Dora, dau of John and Margaret (Lore) Roesler. Living with John Roesler.

—Dora, wife, b April 26, 1872.

—Margaret M, dau, b Aug 6, 1895.

—Tresia, dau, b June 18, 1897.

—Mamie, dau, b Nov 11, 1899.

—Elmer, son, b April 13, 1904.

—Laten, son, b Aug 15, 1906.

—Emerson, son, b Mar 31, 1908.

—Lester, son, b Nov 7, 1909.

—Evaline Dorthie, dau, b May 3, 1912.

\***Rosenkrans, Johnson**, far, Ransom, R2, Mt Sc; b in Newton twp Mar 22, 1855; came to R in 1890. House built by Andrew Williams about 1850. Farm set by James Williams. 58a, 4c, 2h.

—Emma (Taylor), b Feb 13, 1866.

—Harriet, dau, b July 15, 1889.

—Martha, dau, b July 15, 1889.

—Agar, son, b Apr 24, 1895.

—Norvison, son, b Dec 1, 1897.

—Corinne, dau, b Mar 5, 1904.

S

**Sames, Charley**, far and milk dealer, Ransom, R2, R Val Sc; b Feb 14, 1876 at 1005 Cedar ave, Scranton; came to R on the farm where now living Mar 29, '10. Farm owned by his mother, Mrs Frances Sames, 414 Maple st, Scranton. Farm settled and house built abt 1844 by Philip Shallenberger, and about 1881 it was pur by Andrew Landsiedel, and Dec 6, 1909 it was pur by Mrs Frances Sames. Mr Sames and his three brothers own the Maple Dairy in Scranton. 44a, 1c, 2h, 6 hogs.

—Catherine A, wife, b Mar 9, '77.

—Carl H, son, b Aug 31, 1906.

—Alfred A, son, b Aug 19, 1909.

—Robert G, son, b May 21, 1911.

\***Schener Brothers Farm**, Mt Dew Sc. Farm pur in 1890 from Ellis & Co for \$1,700, by Geo, John, Jr, Henry, Philip and Peter Scheuer. They built the house the following year. The whole farm was then a wilderness. In 1905 they built "Shady Side" cottage and a year later "Sunny Side." The barn was erected about 1892. The farm is the summer home of the Scheuer Bros, who are the owners of the Pennsylvania Baking Co, located at 341-347 Brook st, Scranton and proprietors of Scheuer's Bread Bakery, corner Hemlock st and Pittston ave, Scranton. 68a, 2c, 4h.

\***Schmidt, Mrs Elizabeth**, Luzerne st, Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b Dec 29, 1870 in Pittston; came to R in 1897. Dau of Peter and Nettie (Conrad) Coon. Married Sept 20, 1891 to Ferdinand, son of John Schmidt. Mrs Schmidt's husband and two little girls, aged 7 and 12 years, were burn-

ed with the house and contents, Sept 9, 1906. Her oldest son died June 10, 1908. The first house was built in 1897 by Mr Schmidt, and the present house in 1906 by Mrs Schmidt. 4a.

—Anna M, dau, b July 20, 1895.

—Stephen F, son, b Oct 4, 1897.

—Walter G, son, b Dec 9, 1902.

—Julius H, son, b Jan 22, 1906.

\***Schmidt, Stephen**, surveyor, 914 Keyser ave, Scranton; b Dec 25, 1860 in Austria; came to this country into Taylor in October, 1882, and to his present home Sept 12, 1889. First part of house built in 1886 by Frederick Biere, and enlarged by present owner in 1894, and porch added in 1905. When Mr Schmidt moved here in 1889 there was a log road to his home, and it was necessary to cut trees to make this road wider for the wagon. Mr Schmidt pur nearly 20 acres, but in '93, sold 10 acres to John Bartosch, being the place now owned by Charles Wroblisky. 10a, 2c, 1h, 5 hogs.

—Julia, wife, b May 17, 1867.

—Frank C, son brick layer, b Sep 30, 1888.

—August F, son, carpenter, b Aug 28, 1890.

—Ernestine M, dan, garment w'kr, b April 9, 1892.

—Paupline E, dau, garment w'kr, b May 28, 1894.

—Mary L, dau, garment w'kr, b Mar 26, 1896.

—Julia J, dau, b May 2, 1898.

—William S, son, b Feb 12, 1906.

—Arthur A, son, b Aug 28, 1909.

\***Schultheis, Anthony**, tr far, Ransom, R2, Mt Sc; b Nov 22, 1853 in Pittston; came to R with his parents in 1873. Farm settled and house built about 1845 by Peter Hufford. 145a, 4c, 4h, 2 hogs.

—Elizabeth, dau, b Jan 12, 1887.

—Frank, son, b Jan 6, 1889.

—Catherine, dau, b July 11, 1891.

—Charles A, son, b Aug 21, 1894.

—Dorothy, mother, b Dec 16, '22.

**Serene, Umberto**, sec lab, Ransom, R Sc; b in Italy and came to this country about 1910.

—Maria, wife.

—Jim, son.

—Arbine, dan.

\***Setzer, Mrs Dorinda**, Ransom, R Sc; b Mar 4, 1835 near Clarks Green; came to R about 1869; dau of James and Olive (Hall) Ross. Mrs Setzer's first husband was Isaac Reed, who died several years ago. Her second husband was Ezra Setzer who died Dec 16, 1907. House built abt 1870 by the present owner. 3a.

\***Sharps, Freeman B**, Ransom, R Sc; b July 15, 1844 in W Pittston; came to R the last time in 1906. Son of Peter and Elizabeth (Breese) Sharps. Married in Oct, 1894 to Mrs Mary Stephenson, dan of Wm Martin. House built about 1870 by John



- Oyster. 2½a, 1h, 2 pigs.  
 —Mary, wife, b October, 1851.  
 \***Sickler, Martin**, miller, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b in Falls twp, Mar 20, 1841; came to R April 1, 1897, and was married Sept 21, 1863 to Miss Savannah Place of Falls twp, who died Feb 14, '03. Son of John. 10a, 1c, 2h.  
 —Theresa, dau, b April 13, 1868.  
 \***Singer, Bert W.**, tr far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b in Newton, Jan 31, 1874; came to R in Dec, 1897. House built in 1908 by present owner. 30a, 2c, 1h.  
 —Mamie E (Stine), b Nov 16, '77.  
 —Mary J, dau, b Oct 24, 1901.  
 —Charles S, son, b Oct 25, 1904.  
**Smith, Walter E.**, pastor of the United Evangelical Church, Ransom, R Sc; b July 4, 1882 in Hagerstown, Md; came to R in Mar, 1911. Son of Joseph and Margaret (Walls) Smith. Married Dec 3, 1908 to Miss Stella, dau of John and Mary (Asper) Delp of Goodyear, Pa. Parsonage built about 1900, during the pastorate of Rev F F Mayer.  
 —Stella, wife, b Aug 12, 1882.  
 —Mildred E, dau, b April 16, '10.  
 \***Smith, Mrs Catherine**, farmeress, Ransom, R2, R Val Sc; b Feb 19, 1845 in Newton and came to R in March, 1866. House built about 1884 by Noah Smith. 75a, 3c, 3h, 3 hogs.  
 —Peter A, son, b July 4, 1878.  
 —Jacob J, son, b Dec 7, 1885.  
**Stark, Isaac**, sta engine fireman, Ransom, R Sc; b in Newton Aug 28, 1863; came to R in March, 1900; son of Daniel and Noyma (Hoover) Stark. Married April 13, 1886 to Miss Anna E, dau of Gailen and Mary (Berew) Haupt. House owned by M Bolin of Pittston, which was built by Richard Gardner, and where he died. This house was used for several years by the Evangelical Church society for services.  
 —Anna E, wife, b May 24, 1870.  
 —Clarence E, son, b Nov 18, 1895.  
 —Alfred G, son, b Nov 23, 1900.  
 —Blanche E, dau, b Dec 10, 1904.  
 —Russell E, son, b July 11, 1910.  
 \***Stephens, John**, miner, P O address, Scranton, Pa, care Continental mine Office, Mt Dew Sc; b March 19, 1858 in Cornwall, Eng; came to Canada in 1876 and to this country three years later, and to R Oct 26, 1911. Land pur from Richard Strauch in 1909, and house built 1911 by present owner. Son of Richard and Mary (Penny) Stephens. Married April 23, 1881 to Miss Rachel, dau of John and Mary (Evans) Reynolds of Drifton, Luzerne co. Nine children living: John, b July 11, 1884 and mar Miss Margaret Reed. 10a.  
 —Rachel, wife, b July 26, 1862.  
 —Mary, dau, b Dec 19, 1881.  
 —Benjamin H, son, b Jan 2, 1889.  
 —Raymond, son b July 5, 1891.  
 —William, son, b Sept 4, 1893.  
 —Anna, dau, b Dec 18, 1895.  
 —Reynold, son, b Apr 18, 1898.  
 —Earl, son, b Sept 5, 1900.  
 —Norvin, son, b May 25, 1906.  
**Stewart, Hiley W.**, teamster, 2767 Frink st, Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b April 25, 1883 in Hyde Park; came to R in Oct, 1907. House owned by Mrs Stewart's mother, Mrs Wm Bowen, and built by Mrs Henry Carter about 1900. Purchased by present owner in Aug, 1906 for \$600. 1½ acres.  
 —Martha G, wife, b Oct 28, 1884.  
 —Willard L, son, b Jan 9, 1909.  
 —Letitia, dau, b Mar 22, 1912.  
 \***Stine, Chas.**, tr far, Ransom R2, Mil Sc; b in house where now living Sept 17, 1880. House built in 1863 by Frederick Stine, grandfather of present owner. This place and the one where Tobias Stine lives were set before 1820 by Wm Brink, who sold to Abraham Stine, then to his son Frederick, then to his son Abraham, Jr, then to his son, the present owner. 53a 2c, 2h.  
 —Augusta (Schultheis), b Aug 19, 1883.  
 —Mamie, dau, b Feb 29, 1903.  
 —Rosa, dau, b Mar 7, 1910.  
 \***Stine, Tobias**, truck far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b on the farm where C W Blackwell now lives, Oct 30, 1838. Son of Frederick. House built in 1868 by present owner. Part of farm set by Wm Brink sometime before 1820. 50a, 2c, 2h.  
 —Harriet (Carey), b Mar 16, '40.  
 \***Stoff, Mrs Adiliah**, Ransom, R1, R Sc; b in Germany Jan 3, '44; came to this country June 6, '68 and to R April 1, 1884. Widow of Philip Stoff, Sr, who died Nov 6, 1899. 105 acres; worked by her son, Philip. House built abt 1863 by John Smith.  
**Stoff, Philip**, far, Ransom, R1, R Sc; b in Pittston Feb 27, 1878; came to R with his parents in April, 1884. Son of Philip, Sr. Married Mar 8, 1905 to Miss Elsie, dau of Theodore Ace of R. Living on his mother's farm. 105a, 3c, 2h, 10 sheep, 3 hogs.  
 —Elsie (Ace), b Dec 15, 1872.  
**Stout, Albert**, lab, Ransom, R Sc; b in R Jan 21, 1875. Son of John. Living with his brother-in-law, Louis Engleman.  
 —Wesley R, air brake inspector, b Sept 1, 1877. Son of John. Living with Louis Engleman.  

**T**

 \***Taft, Wm J.**, car inspector for L V R R Co at the Coxton yard, Ransom, R Sc; b in S Gibson, Pa, June 20, 1876; came to R in 1898. 5a, 1c, 1h, 2 hogs.  
 —Sarah R (Stout), b Aug 28, '80.  
 —Martha M, dau, b Oct 13, 1901.  
 —Mildred M, dau, b June 30, 1903.  
 —Freddie, son, b Nov 14, 1905.  
 —William R, son, b July 7, 1908.  
 \***Taylor, James**, far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b in Eng Oct 1, 1840; came to this country in 1868. Mar Miss Martha, dau of Daniel and Harriet (Jenkins) French. Farm set by James Williams, being part of farm now owned by Johnson Rosenkrans. House built in 1909 by Geo Richardson and Frank Sweet. James Taylor purchased farm in Feb, 1910. 71a, 2c, 2h, 3 hogs.  
 —Martha, wife, b Sept 3, 1843.  
 —William, son, b Sept 19, 1870.  
 —Richard, son, b July 26, 1875.  
**Thompson, Frank C.**, electrician, Ransom, R2, R Val Sc; b Sept 3, 1872 in Newton. Mr Thompson owns a small farm in Newton twp, but since Mar 27, 1906 he has been employed by the L V Coal Co at their Storage Plant in Ransom.  
 —Minnie W (Smith), b Mar 20, '76.  
 —William E, son, b Mar 22, 1902.  
 —Alta F, dau, b Oct 19, 1909.  
**Turner, Mrs Lillie**, clerk at J P VanOstrand's store, Ransom, R Sc; b in Pittston; came to R abt 1875 with her parents, John B and Mary Ann (Jones) Crowell. Married Nov 13, 1890 to George Turner who died July 20, 1900. House built about 1885 by John B Crowell, and is now owned by his estate.  
 —Mary Elizabeth, dau b Nov 19, 1891.  
 —George C, son, b Oct 24, 1893.  

**V**

**Volker, Henry**, far lab, 912 Keyser ave, Scranton; b Feb 11, 1861 in Germany; came to this country in 1883; moved to R Nov 4, 1910. House owned by Nels Persson, 118 N Grant avenue, Scranton, who pur place from Henry Borgison in Jan, 1911. House built about 1897 by John Auer and remodeled and enlarged in 1911 by present owner. Mr. Volker married Miss Madeline Messner, Mar 3, 1887. 1a.  
 —Madaline, wife, b Oct 9, 1863.  
 —Henry F, son, b Jan 2, 1893.  
 —Lillian, dau, b Feb 24, 1898.  
 —Clara, dau, b Jan 9, 1901.  
**Vanderburg, Samuel**, lab, Ransom, R Sc; b June 18, 1852 in Pittston and came to R about 1882. Son of Samuel and Hannah Vanderburg. Married Mar 16, 1882 to Miss Minerva A, dau of Corridon and Hettie (Rozelle) Barber of Ransom. Three children dead, namely: Jessie, John and Lizzie, and two living: Meriam, b June 28, 1888, married Bennie Stephens and living near Mehoopany; and Charles, living at home. House owned by John Crowell est, and was built about 1845. Fred Sanway kept a hotel in this building for several years; then he sold to Jacob Bertels. 2 pigs.  
 —Minerva A, wife, b Dec 31, 1862.  
 —Charles H, son, b May 13, 1890.  
 \***VanOstrand, James P.**, merchant, Ransom, R Sc; b June 22, 1877 in W Danby, N Y; came to R

July 17, 1901. Son of Peter J and Lucinda (Davenport) Van Ostrand. Has conducted the store in R since 1904, being in partnership with W W Ricketts for about four years; since Jan 27, 1908 has run the business alone. Has been postmaster at R since Mar 7, 1904. 2 horses.

W

**Wallace, James W**, pig and poul raiser, 910 S Keyser ave, Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b Oct, 1855 in England; came to this country Jan 3, 1869; to R Jan 3, 1910. He was married in 1878 to Miss Jennie Webber, who died Dec 25, 1905. Three sons, namely: William H, Ira W and Herold V. Prop belongs to Thos. Lewis. 4a, 1h, 22 pigs, 12 hogs.

\***Walter, James B**, carpenter, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b Oct 8, 1857 in Smithfield twp, Monroe co; came to R Mar 17, 1880. Farm settled by Robert Davis in 1858, who built part of the house about 1868, which was enlarged in 1908 by present owner. 19a, 1c, 2h, 5 hogs.  
—**Lydia A (Davis)**, b June 10, '60.  
—**Earl H**, son, b Aug 9, 1893.  
—**Benjamin F**, son b Aug 31, '95.  
—**Leah A**, dau, b July 22, 1897.

**Walter, Lorey W**, far lab, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b Aug 13, 1865 in Overfield twp, Wyoming co; came to R in July, 1910, working for F H Coon. Son of B E and Sarah (Cannon) Walter.

\***Wickizer, Alonzo J**, far and team, W Scranton, Mt Dew Sc; b June 3, 1854 near Auburn 4 Corners; came to his present home with his parents in April, 1881. First house built by Wm Canterbury (father of Wm Canterbury, Jr of Mt Dew) about 1869. Present home built about 1900 by Mr. Wickizer, who purchased farm in 1880. This farm is located on the old Newton Turnpike, which was built in 1869 from Scranton to Kern's Corners in Newton twp, where P P Vosburg is living. The road was built by Plum Page, a contractor. A tollgate was located at the cor of Jackson st and Crisp ave; Jos. Mehlbaum was gatekeeper. Mr. Wickizer was married Dec 25, 1880 to Miss Nettie Stewart, dau of Thomas and Abbie (McGowtey) Stewart. 80a, 1c, 2h, 2 mules.

—**Nettie**, wife, b May 1, 1861.  
—**Sadie**, dau, b Aug 17, 1887.  
—**Harry**, son, b June 27, 1889.  
—**John**, son, b April 5, 1890.  
—**Lulu**, dau, b Sept 8, 1891.  
—**Ruth**, dau, b Sept 13, 1896.  
—**Edith**, dau, b April 11, 1901.  
—**Helen**, dau, b April 25, 1902.

\***Williams, John M**, tr far, Ransom, R2, Mt Val Sc; b in Sussex co, N J Aug 1, 1842; came to R in 1860; purchased his present home in the spring of 1876 of John Michaels est. Son of Mat-

thew and Sarah (Ellot) Williams. Married Mar 9, 1865 to Miss Emaline, dau of Jacob and Elizabeth (Walter) Ace of Mt Valley. Mr and Mrs Williams have three children living: Ida M, b Mar 17, 1869 and married Wm Ames and living in Hyde Park; Cora I, b Aug 5, 1871 and married Wentzel Maas, who died in Dec. 1909. She is living in Taylor; Elizabeth, b Feb 23, '74 and married John Richards and living in Ohio. Farm set about 1842 by John Michaels. 80a, 2c, 3h, 4 hogs.

—**Emeline**, wife, b in Monroe co, Oct 30, 1836.

\***Wilson, John**, laborer, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b Oct 14, 1837 in R twp. Son of Charles. Married Dec 21, 1859 to Miss Margaret Hartzel of Wilkes-Barre, who died in 1872. Mr Wilson married again in Feb. 1874 to Miss Emma Khuns of Milwaukee, who died in Feb. 1875. Mr Wilson has one dau, Florence. She was married Nov 14, 1890 to E W Davis of Milwaukee, who died May 24, 1898. Mrs Davis and dau, Lydia W are living with Mr Wilson. House built in 1879 by Mr Wilson. 1½a.  
—**Davis**, Mrs Florence, dau, b July 26, 1866.

—**Lydia W**, dau, b Nov 21, 1894.

\***Wilson, Mrs Catherine A**, 914 S Keyser ave, Mt Dew Sc; b Mar 3, 1845 in Newport twp, Luzerne co; came to Mil with her parents in 1860. House built in 1890 by her husband, Jacob Wilson. 6 acres.

**Winters, Harry B**, gen far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b April 12, 1880 in house where now living. Son of Samuel J. Married June 22, 1904 to Miss Nellie, dau of Christian and Dora (Fadenholtz) Fals of Newton. Living in part of his father's house

—**Nellie M**, wife, b Dec 12, 1885.

—**Frank L**, son, b May 14, 1905.

—**Ralph**, son, b Jan 5, 1910.

\***Winters, Samuel J**, far, Ransom, R1, Mil Sc; b Dec 23, 1843 in Newton twp; came to R in 1870. Son of Bainbridge. Married July 6, 1867 to Miss Catherine Barrier, dau of Philip and Susan (Dershiemer) Barrier. H'se built in 1872 by present owner. Farm worked by his son, Harry B. 126a, 6c, 2h.

—**Catherine**, wife, b Mar 22, 1847.

\***Winters, Mrs Margaret**, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b May 9, 1868 in R twp. Dau of David and Martha (Bedell) Hopkins. Married Mar 22, 1900 to Frank Winters, who died Aug 20, 1900. House built by Ezekiel Bennett about 1850. 100a, 1h.

\***Witzal, John**, mine lab, P O address, Scranton, Pa, care Continental Mine Office, Mt Dew Sc; b April 8, 1855 near Stroudsburg; came to Scranton in 1865 and to R with his parents in

May, 1877. Part of house built in 1832 by a Mr Woolsey, who was the first settler on the east side of R twp, owning 160 acres. Woolsey owned the farm for abt twenty years and sold to Kirby Fellers. About 1880 it was sold at Sheriff's sale to Matthew Dale for \$1600. The same year it was divided in three tracts, Andrew Witzal, 40 acres; Adam Rach, 60 acres and Geo Switche, 60 acres. The lot now owned by John Witzal is part of the Adam Rach tract. Adam Shrack sold his 60 acres to Otto and Richard Strauch, Sept 22, 1883, and Otto Strauch sold his part to his brother, Richard, Feb 14, 1888, and later it was divided in smaller lots, and now owned by John Witzal, Thomas Edwards, Wm Canterbury, Harry Nicholas, Michael Krauss, Nels Persson, John Stephens, Richard Strauch and others. John Witzal purchased five acres containing the house and barn, Nov 8, 1892, and enlarged and remodeled the house in 1906. 5a, 1c, 1h, 2 hogs.

—**Margaret**, wife, b Dec 11, 1851.  
\***Wroblisky, Charles**, mine laborer, Scranton, care Continental Mine Office, Mt Dew Sc; b in 1852 in Poland and came to this country about 1880. Land purchased in 1893 from Stephen Schmidt, by John Bartosch, who built house same year. Purchased by present owner in April, 1905. 10a, 1h.

—**Mary**, wife, born in 1849.

Z

\***Zeiss, William**, far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b in Wilkes-Barre Jan 18, 1851; came to R with his father, Christopher, in April, 1852, who purchased the farm where Christopher Klipple is now living. 75a, 1c, 1h.

—**Katherine (Freuhan)**, b Jan 22, 1856.

—**Elizabeth**, dau, b July 29, 1875.

—**Christopher**, son, b May 18, '83.

\***Zeiss, Roy W**, tr far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b Dec 18, 1880 in Mil, where his father, Wm Zeiss, now lives. House built by Roy Zeiss in 1907. Working his father's farm in partnership with his brother, Christopher. 1a, 1c, 2h.

—**Grace A (Biesecker)**, b Dec 31, 1883.

—**Mary L**, dau, b May 23, 1904.

\***Zilk, Henry**, tr far, Ransom, R2, Mil Sc; b Oct 18, 1860 near Cumberland, Md; came to R in 1894, when he purchased farm from Geo Chamberlain, built house and cleared the land. Mr Zilk was the first settler on the farm. 108a, 2c, 2h, 1 hog.

—**Sally**, wife, b Sept 25, 1858.

—**Alice**, dau, b June 24, 1887.

—**John**, son, b June 19, 1889.

—**Elizabeth**, dau, b Dec 4, 1893.

—**Jessie**, dau, b Jan 30, 1896.

—**Harry**, son, b Dec 28, 1898.

—**Helen**, dau, b Jan 31, 1902.



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