

## WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

WASHINGTON, occupying the northwestern corner of the county, is, with regard to territorial area, one of the smallest of Fayette's townships; but it is one of the largest with regard to population, if we include with it the boroughs of Belle Vernon and Fayette City, both of which lie within its boundaries. The population of the township proper, however, was but twelve hundred and fifty-seven by the census of 1880, while that of the two boroughs was by the same census two thousand and thirty-one, Belle Vernon having eleven hundred and sixty-four, and Fayette City eight hundred and sixty-seven inhabitants.

The boundaries of Washington township are the Westmoreland County line on the north, Jefferson township on the south, Jefferson and Perry on the east, and the Monongahela River on the west. The assessed valuation of the township in 1881 was \$413,460, or a gain of \$15,000 over the valuation of 1880. Rich in agriculture, Washington has also valuable coal deposits, that await only the creation of railway transportation within the township borders to be made available. At present coal-mining is confined to the river district, where the mining and shipment of coal has been a profitable business for upwards of forty years. The only noticeable mill-stream in Washington is the Little Redstone, which empties into the Monongahela just above Fayette City.

Important by reason of his connection with the history of Washington township and Fayette County, and also with that of the nation, Col. Edward Cook deserves first mention in the chronicle of Washington's early settlement. He was born in Chambersburg in 1741, and in 1770 made his first journey west of the mountains in search of lands, for he was at that time the possessor of considerable means. He brought with him also a stock of goods. When he made his location, near the present line between Fayette and Westmoreland Counties, he built a log cabin near the present home of his grandson, John Cook, and in one corner of it opened a small store. The country was new then and stores were not easy to reach, so that when the opening of Cook's store became known among settlers within a radius of many miles they gladly gave to him their patronage. Cook kept also a house of entertainment, where such few travelers as happened that way might find rest and refreshment. Under the law he charged six and a half cents for a horse's feed, and twelve and a half cents for feeding

a man. In 1772 he began the erection of a pretentious mansion, constructing it entirely of the limestone that was found in abundance on his land. In 1776 he moved his family into it, and there it still stands a substantial edifice. After Col. Cook's death, his son James occupied the mansion as his home, and now James' son, William E., lives in it.

Edward Cook was one of the most extensive of land-owners in Southwestern Pennsylvania. He had altogether about three thousand acres, located in Washington, Westmoreland, and Fayette Counties, and occupied now in part by the farms of Joseph Brown, John B. Cook, William E. Cook, Mrs. John Brown, Mr. Montgomery, the site of Fayette City, and numerous other tracts. The patent for the tract called "Mansion" was issued to Col. Cook, and described the tract as four hundred and two acres, situated in Fayette and Westmoreland Counties, surveyed in pursuance of a warrant issued to Col. Cook, Dec. 17, 1784. A patent for "Mill Site," on the forks of William Lynn's run, was issued in 1796. Col. Cook was a resident of the county from 1771 until his death, in 1812, and during that time achieved considerable public distinction. He was a member of the Provincial Congress convened in Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia, June 18, 1776, that drafted the first declaration of independence presented to Congress, June 25, 1776 (see "Journal of Congress," vol. ii. p. 230); was a member of the State Constitutional Convention that convened Sept. 28, 1776; was the first commissioner of exchange, and appointed sub-lieutenant of Westmoreland County March 21, 1777. He was one of the founders of Rehoboth Church, a member of its first session, its first representative to the Redstone Presbytery, and the Presbytery's first representative to the General Assembly. Jan. 5, 1782, he was appointed lieutenant<sup>1</sup> of Westmoreland County, to succeed Col. Archibald Lochry (who had been captured and killed while on an Indian expedition). It was from this appointment that Col. Cook received his military title. He aided in fixing the boundaries of Fayette County, and was a member of the commission that located the county-seat. Nov. 21, 1786, he was appointed justice of the peace, with a jurisdiction that reached into Washington County. April 8, 1789, he

<sup>1</sup> This office gave him command of the militia of the county and the management of its military fiscal affairs.

was appointed president of the Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions; was associate judge of Fayette County in 1791, and from 1796 to 1798 treasurer of Westmoreland County.

It will be seen that Col. Cook's public record was a remarkable one for that or any day, and in its brief chronicle tells in unmistakable terms that he must have been very high indeed in public esteem to have won such distinction. He was one of the foremost men of his time in Southwestern Pennsylvania. His landed and other interests were extensive, and these he looked after closely despite the pressure upon his time by his official cares. He built a saw-mill and grist-mill on Cook's Run, laid out Freeport (afterwards Cookstown, and now Fayette City), and was largely engaged at his home-farm in distilling. He was conspicuous in the Whiskey Insurrection, and having been prominent in some of the meetings of the insurgents, his arrest was ordered, but in the mean time, before any action could be taken, he appeared (Nov. 6, 1794) before Thomas McKean, chief justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and in presence of William Bradford, Attorney-General of the United States, voluntarily entered into recognizance to the United States for his appearance before the justices of the Supreme Court of the United States at the next special session of the Circuit Court held for the district of Pennsylvania, "then and there to answer to such charges of treasonable and seditious practices and such other matters of misdemeanor as shall be alleged against him in behalf of the United States, and that he will not depart that court without license." Having taken this bold and honorable course, he quietly awaited the result, which was simply that nothing was found against him, and he was not molested in person, but some cavalymen belonging to the army that came out to quell the insurrection visited his home, and did considerable damage, nearly demolishing his distillery, knocking in the heads of the liquor casks, and spilling a vast amount of whisky.

Col. Cook was one among Gen. Washington's personal friends, and on two occasions at least entertained Washington in the old stone mansion now the home of William E. Cook. On one of the occasions named Washington was journeying that way to visit his lands in Washington County, and stopped at Col. Cook's for a brief rest. Cook was at that time engaged in reviewing a body of militia near by, and knew nothing of the arrival of his distinguished guest. Word of the arrival was whispered to the men before it reached the colonel, and when he, observing the commotion, learned what was in the wind, he relaxed all discipline and set off unceremoniously for the house. The militiamen followed at the double-quick, and hurrahing enthusiastically for Gen. Washington, brought him to the porch, and evoked from him in reply a good-natured, fatherly speech, which the soldiers cheered to the echo.

Col. Cook had but one son, James, who married Mary Bell. The colonel's yearning ambition was to become a grandfather, and when the news came to him that he had a grandson his joy knew no bounds. In the exuberance of his delight he waited upon his old friend, Joseph Downer, and insisted upon his drafting a will, in which all the Cook estate should be left to the grandson Edward, and it was only by persistent effort that Downer persuaded him from the project, and convinced him that as there might be more grandchildren such an act would be one of injustice.

Col. Cook died in the old stone mansion, Nov. 6, 1812, and his remains rest in Rehoboth churchyard. His widow survived him twenty-five years. She died in 1837, aged upwards of ninety. Col. Cook's son James had a family of six sons and one daughter. The daughter, Martha, lives now in West Newton. Of the sons, Edward, James, Joseph, and Michael are dead. John B. and William E. occupy portions of the homestead farm.

One of Col. Cook's early friends and neighbors was Andrew Lynn, who made his first settlement in Southwestern Pennsylvania, on the Redstone, about 1761. He was driven away by the Indians, but returned not long afterwards to remain permanently. He bought land not only on the Redstone, but a tract below there, in what is now Washington township, and lived a while upon the last-mentioned tract. The Washington land, now owned and occupied by Denton Lynn, was sold to old Andrew by Thomas Pearce, and conveyed to him by deed dated Aug. 20, 1769. Thomas Pearce entered an application for the tract April 3, 1769. A warrant was issued to Pearce. An order of survey was issued to Andrew Lynn June 3, 1788, and a patent for one hundred and thirty acres granted March 1, 1790. The tract was called Sedgy Fort, from an Indian or prehistoric fort that stood on it.

This fort was located upon an elevation close to the present site of Denton Lynn's barn. There was a large space inclosed, having within it a spring and some Indian graves. Near at hand was a fine sugar-bush, whose near presence may have accounted for the location of the fort upon that site. The field was called, and is yet called, "Old Fort Field." Indian relics and skeletons have been frequently turned up from that field by Mr. Denton Lynn. In 1859 he came upon several skeletons, and upon investigation concluded that the bodies must have been buried two deep. Each body appeared to have been surrounded with earthenware dishes, composed of baked mussel-shells and clay. One of the skeletons proved to be that of a man fully eight feet in height. Some of the skeletons were so placed as to give the impression that the bodies had been interred in a sitting position. When Andrew Lynn came to the place (in 1774) the line of the old fort was marked by a growth of thick bushes and straggling stone heaps. Andrew Lynn,

Jr., son of the Andrew Lynn first named, inherited the lands to which he came with his father in his eighth year, or in 1774. He told the present Denton Lynn, his grandson, there was then no clearing on the tract. Being out in a field with Denton one day, Andrew, Jr., said to him, "Denton, in this field was built the first cabin put up on the Lynn farm." Denton replied, "Well, grandfather, it seems queer to me that, whoever the man was, he should have put up his house here upon low ground, while he could have chosen a dozen higher and better spots." "The reason was," remarked old Andrew, "that the man had only his wife to assist him in putting up the cabin, and his chief desire, therefore, was to get where trees were handy. That's why he selected a low spot." The first Andrew Lynn increased his original lands by the purchase of an adjoining tract that had been tomahawked by William Lynn,—not related to Andrew. The entire farm of four hundred and fifty acres came into the possession of Andrew Lynn, Jr., who lived upon it from 1774 until his death in 1855, at the age of eighty-nine. Three hundred and twenty of the four hundred and fifty acres are now owned by Denton Lynn.

Andrew Lynn, Jr., was a man of local note, and among other things was distinguished for having served as justice of the peace forty years. He built in 1790 a stone mansion, fashioned after the one built by Col. Edward Cook in 1772, but it did not turn out to be as durable an edifice as Cook's. The latter stands yet and serves its original purpose, while Lynn's, abandoned as a human habitation in 1866, is fast falling to ruin. Near the Lynn mansion stands a famous locust-tree, under whose wide-spreading branches Gen. Washington, Andrew Lynn, and Col. Edward Cook are said to have met and tarried for some time in social intercourse. The tree is reckoned to be at least one hundred and sixty years old. Its circumference near the ground is nearly twenty feet. Its lower branches, blown down some years ago, measured fully one hundred feet from tip to tip.

About 1783, Joseph Downer, a resident of Boston, Mass., moved westward in search of a location for trade, and finding it on the Monongahela River at Elizabethtown, opened a store there and sold goods until 1794, when he came to Washington township and bought a tract of land of Col. Edward Cook, situated on a fork of the stream now called Downer's Run. Here he set up a store near Col. Cook's. In 1799 he built a mill and began to make flour on the present Cooper mill-site, about a mile below the Col. Cook mansion. When the mill was fairly in operation he gave up his store business and devoted himself exclusively to milling. He had not been on the spot long before he concluded to move farther down the stream to Col. Cook's newly laid-out village of Freeport, and on the present Hamer mill-site erected a second grist-mill, and still below there put up a saw-mill, of which the ruins may yet

be seen. The grist-mill he equipped with the machinery of the first mill, and moved his family into a house that he built in Freeport, on the site now occupied by the Roscoe Thirkield mansion. About 1820, Downer sold the abandoned mill on the Cooper place to John Roe, an Englishman, who agreed to fit it up as a cotton-factory, and upon his part Downer agreed to take an interest in the enterprise through his son. Samuel Roe made the start as agreed, but failing to make the payments to Downer as contracted was obliged to relinquish the property to the latter. Samuel Downer thereupon conducted the business for his father, but the work proving unprofitable was given up after a few years. Mr. Downer died in Cookstown in 1838. Further notice of Mr. Downer will be found in the history of Fayette City borough.

Mention of the Downer organ is called for, however, here. Mr. Downer possessed all his life a strong musical taste, as well as much mechanical genius. When he left Boston for the West he carried with him a crude impression of the mechanism of a pipe organ, intending when he reached his new home to construct one for his own use. Upon settling at Elizabethtown he selected a lot of black walnut timber and seasoned it thoroughly. During such odd hours as he could snatch from his business duties he spent his time in the construction of the organ, and at the end of about a year finished it. It measured ten feet in height and five feet across each side. Every part of it was composed of black walnut, even to the keys and pipes, of which latter there were three hundred and sixty-five. The face of it was handsomely ornamented with scroll-work, the which he fashioned with a pocket-knife. To all the country round about it was an object of curious interest, and from far and near people frequently came to see it and to hear Mr. Downer play upon it. It possessed an excellent tone and volume, and to play it was one of Downer's greatest delights.

The organ is still in the possession of Mr. Downer's daughter, Mrs. Thompson, of Fayette City, and although nearly a hundred years old is not only an ornament, but yet makes very good music. Mr. Downer constructed also for Col. Cook a small pipe-organ containing a chime of bells, now in the possession of Eliphalet Downer, of Monongahela City. His art ran also to painting, and as achievements in that direction he painted his own portrait from a looking-glass reflection, and executed also what were called most excellent portraits of Col. Cook and his wife.

Adjoining Andrew Lynn, Jr., on the river lived a colored man known as London Derry, who in company with Andrew Lynn and about sixty others went on a land-looking expedition to Marshall County, Va. They were attacked *en route* by a body of Indians, and compelled to seek safety in a flight which included the swimming of the Ohio. Lynn's escape was so narrow that he lost a portion of his scalp,

while Derry saved himself by burrowing beneath the roots of a tree.

Michael Springer, likewise one of Andrew Lynn's near neighbors, was a German. He bought his land from the man who had tomahawked it, and gave in exchange a shot-gun and a hog.

Levi Stephens, of Bucks County, was a government surveyor, who in 1769 assisted in surveying Southwestern Pennsylvania. He was so well pleased with the land lying along the southern border of what is now Washington township that he made a purchase there of a large land tract, and there concluded to make his home. Although after that busily engaged on his land, he found opportunities to do considerable surveying from time to time as his services were called for. The compass used by Mr. Stephens is still in the possession of his descendants. His sons were four in number, and named Nathaniel, John, Levi, Jr., and Thomas. Of Nathaniel's sons Nathaniel, Jr., Levi, and Joshua are living. Of Levi, Jr.'s, sons the living are Jehu, Israel, Johnson, and James. David is the only living son of Thomas. The widow of Levi Stephens, Jr., now resides in Washington township, aged eighty-five years. Nathaniel, the eldest son of Levi Stephens, the surveyor, was a noted river trader. The Stephens were long-lived. Levi, the surveyor, died in 1808, aged sixty-four, two years after the death of his father, John, who lived to be ninety-one; Levi Stephens, Jr., was eighty-seven at his death in 1878; and Nathaniel eighty-seven when he died in 1869. All those named were buried in the cemetery at Little Redstone Methodist Episcopal Church.

Contemporaneous with Levi Stephens in Washington was John Reeves, who served as a colonel in the Revolution, as did also his father. John lived on the farm now occupied by Jehu Stevens, upon which once stood a famous red oak that measured eleven feet in diameter.

John Brightwell, a Marylander, lived where J. B. Stephens now resides. Brightwell's wife was a brave-hearted woman, and although ninety-nine years old at her death was active and hearty to the last. During her early life in Washington she not only crossed the mountains once or twice to visit Eastern friends, but made a memorable horseback-trip to Cincinnati alone, and brought her niece with her on the return journey. Such an undertaking, involving a ride of about six hundred miles through a wild and unsettled country for a great part of the way, was no trifling task. Its accomplishment was something unusual for even a pioneer's wife. Along with the Stewarts, the early settlers in the Stephens neighborhood included the Piersols (one of whom captured the last bear seen in this section), William Nutt, Thomas Coon, Thomas Taggart, the Jeffries, Parkers, Peter Marston, and Jacob Harris. Robert Galloway, one of the early settlers on Dunlap's Creek, was also an early comer to Washington. He bought the mill-site originally

owned by Col. Cook, and later by Mr. Kyle and Andrew Brown, and for years was known as the proprietor of Galloway's Mills. The Houseman place, adjoining Galloway's, was the home of John Patterson some little time before 1800. Just when he became a resident is not known, but it is remembered that Patterson was fond of telling how there was not, when he came, a clearing "big enough to lay the broad of his back on." Patterson built the stone house now on the Joseph Houseman place, and inscribed over the door "J. P. 1800," yet to be seen. He was a blacksmith by trade, and had a shop on his farm. For strength, endurance, and rapid work in the harvest-field he was noted. He worked hard and saved his money until he was looked upon as a wealthy man. In an evil hour he joined others in the glass-manufacturing business at Perryopolis, and lost all he had. In his old age he was very poor. Not only he but other well-to-do farmers in Washington were ruined by the disastrous results attendant upon the Perryopolis glass-works enterprise. William Nichols lived near Patterson, but nothing has been preserved to show who he was or what he did.

Joseph Patton was the owner of a large land tract over towards the Perry line, where his grandchildren now live. In 1780 Andrew Brown bought of Col. Edward Cook the place upon which his grandson, Andrew Brown, now lives. Brown bought also the adjoining mill-site, and carried on the mill some years, as well as a distillery near by. Mr. Brown's children were seven daughters and three sons. Of the latter only John lived to grow to manhood. He died on the old farm April 15, 1872, and there his widow still lives with her son Andrew.

In 1771, John Willson landed in Virginia from Ireland, and from Virginia in 1788 he removed to Washington township, Fayette Co., to occupy a two-hundred-acre tract bought for him by his sons Hugh and John, living respectively in Allegheny County and Perry township, where they had then been residing some time. The two hundred acres, lying on the line between Westmoreland and Fayette Counties, were bought for Willson from one Jones, and into the house Jones had put up Willson moved with his family. In 1804, Mr. Willson replaced the Jones cabin with the log house now standing on the place. Three sons came with him in 1788. They were James, Robert, and David. James died in Washington in 1827, Robert moved to Ohio, and David, inheriting the homestead, died there in 1863, at the age of ninety years, after a residence of seventy-five years on the farm. John, the father, died in 1807, aged eighty-two years. It is worthy of mention that three of his sons—Hugh, John, and Robert—saw service in the Revolution. Of the children of David, the living ones are John R., Mary J., and James M.

Allen Farquhar (a Quaker) came from Maryland about 1790, and located upon a farm of which his grandson, Robert Farquhar, now owns a portion.

With Allen Farquhar came his three married sons, Robert, William, and Samuel. Allen, the father, bought two hundred and nineteen acres of Levi Stephens, and divided the tract between his three sons. Robert, the only one to remain permanently in Washington, died in 1823. His brothers William and Samuel moved to Ohio, and died there. Robert had nine children, of whom three were sons,—Joseph, Robert, and William. Joseph died in his youth, Robert and William settled and died in Washington.

David Hough, one of the early millers in Fayette County, built a mill on the Little Redstone, but moved, after a brief time, to Jefferson, where he died. In 1801, John Hough bought one hundred and eight acres of Hieronimus Eckman for £220 18s. 9d. Two years before that Eckman bought the land for \$100. The patent for the tract was granted in 1788 by the State to Josiah Kerr, who had previously built a saw-mill upon it and called it "Minoria." Martin Lutz settled about 1800 on Lutz's Run, near the Westmoreland County line. There he died. His six sons were named George, Martin, David, Henry, Barnet, and William. All but George and William are still living. John McKee, traveling westward in 1809, stopped on one of Col. Cook's farms, and remained there as a renter. McKee was an ex-Revolutionary soldier, and boasted an honorable record of service. His son John, aged nearly ninety, is still a resident of Washington township. On the place occupied by J. B. Gould, near Belle Vernon, the Wiley family lived as early as 1800, and after them George Haselbaker, who lived in a log house on the bank of the river. Farther up was his brother Jacob, a shoemaker, and beyond Jacob was John Dinsmore. J. B. Gould, who was teaching school at Cookstown in 1828, bought the Wiley place that year, and since then has made it his home. Mr. Gould is now in his eighty-sixth year. In 1810 he came to Fayette County with his father, who settled then near the Red Lion, in Jefferson township, a noted tavern in its day, the fame of which penetrated even into far-off New England.

#### TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION AND CIVIL LIST.

Upon the division of the county into townships, at the December session of the Court of Quarter Sessions in 1783, the court ordered the laying out of "A township beginning at the mouth of Spear's Run; thence by the line dividing the counties of Westmoreland and Fayette to the mouth of Jacob's Creek; thence by the river Youghiogini to the mouth of Washington Mill Run; thence up the same to the head of the south fork; thence by a line to be drawn to the head of a small branch of Crab-Apple Run, known by the name of Hardistus branch; thence down the same to Crab-Apple Run; thence down Crab-Apple Run to Redstone Creek; thence down said creek and Monongahela River to the place of beginning; to be known hereafter by the name of Washington township." March, 1839, the court

created the township of Perry from portions of Tyre, Franklin, and Washington. In June, 1840, Jefferson township and Cookstown borough were erected from Washington, and Belle Vernon in 1863, leaving to Washington the territory it now contains.

Imperfect records forbid the presentation of a complete civil list for Washington. Such as could be obtained are here given, viz.:

#### JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

1840. Harvey Barker. James Cunningham.	1865. John R. Willson.
1845. Harvey Barker. John B. Gould.	1867. Samuel C. Griffith.
1847. Samuel Griffith.	1868. Samuel C. Griffith. John R. Willson.
1850. John B. Gould.	1869. J. N. Dixon. F. C. Herron.
1852. Samuel C. Griffith.	1873. John R. Willson. Levi J. Jeffries.
1855. James Springer. John B. Gould.	1874. J. S. Moss.
1857. Samuel C. Griffith.	1878. James Galloway. Joseph Brown.
1860. James M. Springer.	
1862. Samuel C. Griffith.	

#### ASSESSORS.

1840. John B. Gould.	1861. Samuel C. Griffith.
1841. Robert Baldwin.	1862. John B. Gould.
1842. Samuel Galloway.	1863. Thomas Patton.
1843. William B. Nutt.	1864. Samuel Galloway.
1844. James C. Cook.	1865. John B. Gould.
1845. John Thompson.	1866. John McClain.
1846. Thompson Turner.	1867. John Brown.
1847. John R. Willson.	1868. John B. Gould.
1848. John B. Cook.	1869. B. M. Chalfant.
1849. George Lutz.	1871. Joseph Galloway.
1850. Levi Stephens.	1872. William Patton.
1851. John B. Gould.	1873. Euclid S. Griffith.
1852. Samuel C. Griffith.	1874. C. P. Powers.
1853. Joseph Galloway.	1875. Levi J. Jeffries.
1854. John B. Gould.	1876. J. B. Houseman. John Stephens.
1855. Joseph A. Ebert.	1877. Robert G. Patton.
1856. Johnson R. Stephens.	1879. Samuel Galloway.
1857. Robert Farquhar.	1880. Alexander Luce.
1858. Jacob Houseman.	1881. J. Whetzel.
1859. Joshua N. Stephens.	
1860. E. C. Griffith.	

#### AUDITORS.

1840. Levi Stephens.	1859. John Lutz.
1841. Samuel C. Griffith.	1860. Robert Boyle.
1842. Joseph Krepps.	1861. James M. Springer.
1843. Abram P. Fry.	1862. John R. Willson.
1844. William D. Mullin.	1863. John B. Gould.
1845. Joseph Houseman.	1864. Levi J. Jeffries.
1846. William E. Frazer.	1865. William G. Huggins.
1847. John B. Cook.	1866. John B. Gould.
1848. Brazilla Newbold.	1867. John McClain.
1849. Roger Jordan.	1868. William G. Huggins.
1850. George Lutz.	1869. William Elliott.
1851. Levi Stephens.	1870. Hiram Patton.
1852. Roger Jordan.	1871. William Patton.
1853. George Lutz.	1872. John R. Willson. Samuel Galloway.
1854. Joseph Houseman.	1873. John R. Willson. Samuel Galloway.
1855. Solomon Speers.	Nathan B. Brightwell.
1856. John R. Willson.	1874. Levi J. Jeffries.
1857. Thomas Stephens.	
1858. John B. Gould.	

1875. Johnson Dinsmore.  
1876. John R. Willson.  
John Q. Adams.  
1877. L. P. Stephens.  
1878. Taylor Taggart.

1878. John Whetzel.  
1879. Jasper Coldren.  
1880. J. Q. Adams.  
1881. J. Shook.

## SCHOOL DIRECTORS.

1841. William Everhart.  
William Krepps.  
1842. Joseph Houseman.  
Samuel Larimore.  
1843. Edward Mansfield.  
Philip Lenhart.  
1844. John V. Layton.  
Isaac Banks.  
1845. Harvey Barker.  
James Hamer.  
1846. William D. Mullin.  
David Shearer.  
1847. Thomas Stephens.  
John B. Cook.  
1848. Thomas Patton.  
Johnson Cunningham.  
1849. John B. Gould.  
Robert Farquhar.  
1850. Joseph Houseman.  
Johnson Dinsmore.  
1851. Jesse Coldren.  
John R. Willson.  
1852. Joshua G. Newbold.  
Robert Patterson.  
1853. Johnson R. Stephens.  
Roger Jordan.  
1854. Samuel C. Griffith.  
John S. Van Voorhis.  
1855. James Davidson.  
Jacob Houseman.  
1856. Philip Linhart.  
Daniel Forney.  
1857. Levi Stephens.  
William B. Nutt.  
1858. Thomas Patton.  
James Davidson.  
John Reeves.  
1859. Thomas Stephens.  
John Dinsmore.  
1860. Joshua N. Stephens.  
James Davidson.  
Abraham Hough.  
1861. John R. Willson.  
James Davidson.  
Joshua N. Stephens.  
1862. Levi J. Jeffries.  
John Bevans.

1863. John R. Willson.  
Samuel L. Smock.  
1864. David P. Stephens.  
John Coldren.  
1865. Levi J. Jeffries.  
A. B. Brightwell.  
J. K. Willson.  
1866. William G. Huggins.  
John R. Willson.  
1867. John Coldren.  
James McCrory.  
1868. John Annell.  
Johnson Dinsmore.  
Denton Lynn.  
1869. E. D. Stewart.  
D. M. Shearer.  
1870. Jehu Stephens.  
John Kennedy.  
1871. Levi J. Jeffries.  
William Huggins.  
James Montgomery.  
Samuel Galloway.  
1872. Israel Stephens.  
William E. Cook.  
Nathaniel S. Houseman.  
1873. John A. Bevans.  
Johnson S. Moss.  
William M. Lenhart.  
1874. Joseph Brown.  
1875. Jasper Coldren.  
N. S. Houseman.  
1876. David Jones.  
John P. Blythe.  
1877. James Montgomery.  
Frank Fields.  
1878. Denton Lynn.  
L. P. Stephens.  
Frank Fields.  
John Armell.  
1879. Andrew Brown.  
E. C. Griffith.  
L. C. Dinsmore.  
1880. William Leonard.  
William Cook.  
1881. M. Miller.  
Joseph McKee.

## EARLY ROADS.

At the September sessions in 1785 a petition for a road from Col. Cook's mill to his landing, and to the road to Cherry's Mills, was granted, as was the petition for a road from Col. Cook's to Thomas Fossett's. A report of a road from the mouth of Little Redstone to James Rankin's farm was made at the September sessions in 1795 by Thomas Patterson, James Finney, Francis Lewis, Chads Chalfant, and Samuel Davis. The road began at the Monongahela River, a little

below the mouth of the Little Redstone Creek, crossed the road leading from Col. Cook's to Uniontown and the road from Col. Cook's to Fossett's, and at James Rankin's intersected the road from Brownsville to the Broad Ford. September, 1796, a road from Barzillai Newbold's to the forks of the Little Redstone was reported as viewed by William Goe, George Espy, William Elliott, Michael Shilling, and Moses Davison. In June, 1797, a road from the mouth of the Little Redstone to the mouth of Spear's Run was viewed by William Cunningham, George Espy, Samuel Becket, Michael Shilling, John Seward, and Andrew Brown. The distance was reckoned at three miles and one quarter and sixty-nine perches.

## LITTLE REDSTONE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The only house of public worship in Washington township is the Little Redstone Methodist Episcopal Church, located at the forks of the road, just west of Jehu Stevens' residence. The neat and substantial brick edifice rears its modest front within a small but well-kept churchyard, where many of Washington's pioneers have slept for many years. The Baptists built a log church at that point forty years or more ago, and maintained an organization and periodical worship for some time. The Methodists held occasional meetings in the Baptist meeting-house, as well as at the neighboring school-house and houses of members. The first Methodist meetings were held at the houses of Nathaniel Stephens, Robert Stephens, and Hugh Ford. The brick church was built in 1857, and dedicated by Rev. J. G. Sanson, presiding elder of the Redstone Circuit. At that time the preachers in charge were Revs. Griffin and McIntyre. Some of the earliest preachers after 1857 were Revs. Wakefield, Mansell, Johnson, Kendall, and Stewart. The present pastor is Rev. Josiah Mansell, who preaches at Little Redstone every Sunday. The membership is now (May, 1881) sixty-five. The class-leader is Albert Gaddis. The trustees are David Stephens, Jehu Luce, John Smith, and John Taggart. The superintendent of the Sunday-school is Jehu Luce.

## COAL AND COAL-MINING.

The coal deposits in Washington are extensive and valuable, but lack of railway facilities forbids the development of the interest except along the river-front, where mining has been going forward for upwards of forty years.

In 1840, John Garr and Richard Knight opened a mine on the London Derry tract, above the Fremont Works, owned by the Clarks. The Clarks (Samuel being the first) began to mine at the latter place as early as 1847, and have mined there more or less ever since, although just now the works are idle.

Frazer & Frye, the largest operators on the river in Washington, have been engaged in mining at their present location since 1873, where coal was taken out

for shipment down the river in flat-boats as early as 1834. Frazer & Frye bought, in 1873, a tract of two hundred and twenty-three acres of coal, of which there are yet about one hundred and sixty acres undeveloped. They employ eighty-five men, pay out seven thousand dollars monthly for wages, etc., and take out seven thousand five hundred bushels of coal daily. They have on the river a front of one-third of a mile, running up from the mouth of the Little Redstone Creek. On their property they have a store and fourteen tenements.

J. H. Rutherford has been mining on the river since 1866. He is now operating in Washington township near Fayette City. He has forty acres of coal and a river-front of two hundred and fifty yards. Twenty-five to thirty men are employed, and three thousand bushels of coal mined daily.

The Connecticut Coal-Works, adjoining Rutherford's mines, have been idle since 1871. There are there about two hundred acres of coal, belonging to the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing-Machine Company. They came into possession in 1870, and after working there about a year abandoned the mines, and have suffered them to lie idle ever since. The property is as valuable as ever, but the company seems but little concerned about it.

#### BELLE VERNON BOROUGH.

On the east bank of the Monongahela, about forty miles above Pittsburgh, lies Belle Vernon borough, of which the population in June, 1881, was eleven hundred and sixty-four, its chief claim to distinction being the presence within its limits of the largest window-glass manufactory in America. The borough proper reaches to the Westmoreland County line, where it is joined by the borough of North Belle Vernon, located in the county last named, and possessing lumber-manufacturing and boat-building interests that contribute materially to the business prosperity of Belle Vernon. The business part of the town lies along the river bottom, at the foot of a stretch of hilly country, upon which many of the townspeople dwell, and from which may be obtained a fine prospect of river, hills, and plains. River packets plying between Pittsburgh and Geneva touch at Belle Vernon four times daily, and there is, moreover, railway communication with all points *via* the Pittsburgh, Virginia and Charleston Railroad passing along the western shore of the Monongahela. The town is an active business centre aside from its manufacturing enterprises, and maintains a private banking institution, founded by its present owners, S. F. Jones & Co., in 1872.

Belle Vernon was laid out by Noah Speer in 1813 upon a portion of a tract of land located by his father, Henry, in 1772, who with his wife came to the Monongahela in that year and bought considerable land, of which the greater portion, and his own home, were

in what is now Westmoreland County. Henry Speer was killed by the kick of a horse in 1774. As originally platted the town contained three hundred and sixty lots, and covered a considerable area in Westmoreland County. The streets were Water, Main, Solomon, Wood, Market, First, Second, Third, and Fourth. The alleys were Long, Pleasant, Locust, Strawberry, and Flint.

The following advertisement appeared in the columns of the *Reporter*, published at Washington, Pa. of July 12, 1812:

#### "TOWN LOTS.

"For Sale in the Town of Bellevernon.—They are laid out in Fayette and Westmoreland Counties; each lot is 75 feet in front and 100 feet back. The streets are 2300 feet in length and 40 in breadth, cross streets 40 and one 50 feet in breadth. Bellevernon is situated on that beautiful river bottom on the east side of the Monongahela River, two miles below Freeport. The bank is high, and water sufficiently deep for loaded boats at low-water mark. Outlots on a level soil will shortly be prepared for sale. Ground will be given gratis for a school-house; also it is nearly centrable to the four counties, and the most agreeable situation near the centre. If a new county should be struck off and laid thereon, ground will be given gratis for a court- and market-house, and the sum of 2000 dollars for the purpose of erecting public buildings, besides a generous subscription is expected from the neighboring citizens. There is also for sale 100,000 elegant brick of the best quality. . . . It is expected a steam-mill will be built on one of said lots, and the foundation to be raised this fall above common high-water mark, so that the work may go on early next spring. Those who wish to have a share in said mill are desired to meet at James Hazlip's, in Freeport, on Saturday, the 25th of July.

"NOAH SPEERS.

"June 22, 1812."

The first sale of lots was held April 18, 1814, and a premium of ten dollars was offered to the purchaser who should build the first house. Thomas Ward, a carpenter, of Westmoreland County, claimed the prize, having put up his house at the corner of Main and Second Streets. That, the first house erected in Belle Vernon, is now occupied by James Lewis. The second house was built by William Hornbeck at the corner of Main Street and Cherry Alley, and opened by him as a tavern. In the spring of 1816, Morris Corwin, a cooper, came from Westmoreland County, and built upon Main Street the third house in Belle Vernon. He constructed it of the lumber contained in the house that had been his home in Westmoreland County. Corwin set up a cooper's shop in a part of the house, and worked at his trade more or less until his death in 1835. His widow, hearty and active at the age of ninety-one, still lives in the old home.

When the Corwins became residents of Belle Vernon, the present business portion of the town was a fine sugar-camp. The village grew slowly, and during 1816 there were added but three families,—those of Nathaniel Everson, a cooper, Bud Gaskill, a gunsmith, and Joseph Billeter, a boat-builder. Before the year 1816, Billeter was living along the river below the town and building flat-boats. In 1816, Noah Speer



built the present Brightwell House, and started his son Solomon there as a store-keeper. Solomon was the village trader for many years, until his removal to the far West. Belle Vernon was for a long time a dreary village, and did not rise above the dignity of a backwoods settlement. The sugar-camp was not cleared until some time after 1813, and then in its place Noah Speer planted the town to corn, so that Main Street was that season nothing but a path through a corn-field, with other thoroughfares equally primeval and contracted. The next season rye and timothy covered the town-site, and made the place look like a farm with a half-dozen or more houses dotting it here and there. The inhabitants told Noah Speer that it was all very well for him to make a grain-field of the village, but they must have a few streets, and threatened to throw down fences so that there might be free communication at least from one part of the town to another. Speer heeded not their complaints, but when he found his fences pulled down again and again, he made up his mind that it would be perhaps well enough to open a few streets.

Mr. Hornbeck, who kept a poor sort of tavern and dealt largely in whisky, set up a carding-machine, but gave it up after a brief experiment. Thomas Ward, the pioneer settler in Belle Vernon, moved to the far West eventually. Rebecca Lenhart, his daughter, living now in the village, is Belle Vernon's oldest inhabitant,—that is, she has lived longest of any in the place. Next comes the widow of Morris Corwin, whose residence in the town covers a period of sixty-five years, or two years less than that of Mrs. Lenhart.

There was no store but Solomon Speer's for a long time. The second store was opened on Water Street by William Reeves. In 1816 the shoemaker for the village was Jacob Hazelbaker, who lived near J. B. Gould's present residence. His brother George, the hatter, lived in the house now the home of Rebecca Lenhart. William Rees established in 1830 the only tannery Belle Vernon ever had. It was owned successively by Alexander and John Bingham, John Nichols, J. P. Fry, J. W. Wright, and W. C. Drum. Mr. Drum sold it to George Lang, who uses it now as a storage-house.

In 1833, Solomon Speer and Morgan Gaskill built the first steamboat constructed at Belle Vernon. They were sub-contractors under Capt. Samuel Walker, of Elizabeth, who received the contract from Capt. James May. Gen. Isaac Hammet drafted the plan of the boat at Elizabeth, and "laid it down" on the floor of a stable in Belle Vernon, in the rear of where Alexander Brown now lives.

A ferry was established by Henry Speer at the Belle Vernon crossing as early as 1772. The first ferryman of whom there is any knowledge was Andrew Bryce, the shoemaker. The first ferryman after the town was laid out was Joseph Billeter. The first horse-boat was built at Fredericktown and named

the "Swan." The second horse-boat was called the "Belle Vernon," and received its motive-power from the chestnut horse Barney and the mouse-colored Davey. They grew old in the service, and became well-known animals in that part of the country. The "Belle Vernon" was succeeded by the steam ferry-boat "Polly South," built and run by Capt. James French, now a resident of Belle Vernon. The traffic was too small to make a steam ferry profitable, and as a consequence the present rope-ferry was put on. The ferry privilege at Belle Vernon has always been owned by a Speer, and is now in the hands of Noah Speer.

Belle Vernon languished until the founding of the glass-manufacturing industry in the village by William Eberhard in 1836. At that time Solomon Speer and William Reeves were the village store-keepers, and John Wright the tavern-keeper. Solomon Speer was the first postmaster at Belle Vernon, but when the office was established cannot now be told, probably not before 1830. In 1836, Speer was succeeded by Uriah Ward; to him succeeded William Eberhard, Robert Boyle, L. R. Boyle, and James Davidson, the present incumbent, who was commissioned in 1869. Since 1875 Belle Vernon has been a money-order office. Three mails are received and the same number dispatched daily.

The town enjoyed the luxury of a village newspaper for a brief season from April, 1874, to the spring of 1878, but the enterprise was at no time a profitable one. E. A. Hastings, who started the Belle Vernon *Patriot* in April, 1874, published it as an independent journal two years, and then gave up the undertaking as a losing one. J. T. McAlpin, thinking there might be profit in a local newspaper notwithstanding Hastings' experience, started the Belle Vernon *Courier*. Its fate was about the same as that of the *Patriot*, and when it terminated its career, in 1878, then terminated also the newspaper history of Belle Vernon.

Belle Vernon's first resident physician was Dr. Horner, the date of whose coming cannot be fixed. Succeeding him as village physicians were Drs. Kirk, Hubbs, Johnson, Eagan, and Roberts. Dr. John S. Van Voorhis came to the town to practice in 1847, and found here Dr. James Eagan and Dr. H. F. Roberts. After 1847 the list of physicians in Belle Vernon included W. L. Creigh, Charles B. Chalfant, David Fetz, H. B. Rupp, S. A. Conklin, J. A. Hazlitt, and J. B. Enos. With the exception of a three-years' absence, Dr. Van Voorhis has been in the constant practice of his profession at Belle Vernon from 1847 to the present time (1881). Besides him the borough physicians are J. A. Hazlitt and J. B. Enos.

The oldest merchant in Belle Vernon is Amon Bronson. Among other prominent village traders may be mentioned Schmertz & Co., J. L. Courtney, C. Reppert & Sons, J. B. Zeh, W. H. Brightwell, W. C. Kittle, J. C. Cunningham, C. A. Patterson, H.



Husher, A. Graham, L. M. Kyle, J. A. Piersol, J. B. Fournier, O. R. Springer, E. W. Kyle, S. M. Graham, L. Z. Birmingham, and J. A. Hazlitt.

#### BOROUGH INCORPORATION AND LIST OF OFFICERS.

Belle Vernon was incorporated a borough by an act of Assembly approved April 15, 1863, which after reciting in its preamble that, "Whereas the borough hereby incorporated is situated partly within the county of Fayette and partly within the county of Westmoreland, and therefore the courts of said counties have not the power to incorporate the same, therefore" proceeds to enact "that the town of Belle Vernon, partly in Fayette and partly in Westmoreland County, shall be and the same is hereby erected into a borough, which shall be called the borough of Belle Vernon, bounded and limited as follows: Beginning at a low-water mark on the Monongahela River at the mouth of Speer's Run; thence up said run to the stone bridge; thence in a direct line to the north corner of the public school-house lot; thence along the east line of said lot to the alley; thence along said alley to Gould's Run; thence down said run to the Monongahela River, and down said river at low-water mark to the place of beginning, and shall enjoy all the privileges and be subject to the limitations and restrictions of the general laws of this commonwealth relating to boroughs."

Following is a list of the principal borough officers of Belle Vernon from its erection to the present time, viz.:

- 1863.—Burgess, Amon Bronson; Council, Brazil Brightwell, William Sutton, Samuel Smock, Edward Martin, John R. Powell; School Directors, John S. Van Voorhis, James Davidson, James French, John W. Wright, Robert Boyle, Noah Q. Speer; Justices of the Peace, John Watson, Robert Patterson, John R. Powell; Auditors, Robert Boyle, James M. Springer, O. D. Johnston; Assessor, John W. Lindsey.
- 1864.—Burgess, Amon Bronson; Council, Allison Piersol, Edward Jordan, Jasper Haight, William Mackey, Curtis Reppert; Justice of the Peace, Amon Bronson; School Directors, Noah Q. Speer, James M. Springer; Auditor, James Corwin, Jr.
- 1865.—Burgess, John Watson; Council, David Springer, John R. Powell, John Reeves, Thomas Lowry, John S. Van Voorhis; School Directors, Robert Boyle, James A. Piersol; Auditor, Harvey B. Fry; Assessor, John W. Lindsey.
- 1866.—Burgess, John W. Lindsey; Council, James French, Robert Patterson, John Hixenbaugh, Peter Leyhew, W. F. Speer; Assessor, James N. McDivitt; School Directors, John S. Van Voorhis, John Watson, James Davidson, Curtis Rephart; Auditor, Robert Patterson; Justice of the Peace, John W. Lindsey.
- 1867.—Burgess, John W. Lindsey; Council, J. S. Van Voorhis, W. H. Jones, Peter Leyhew, J. A. Singley, James French, and C. Rephart; Assessor, George Amalong; School Directors, James M. Springer, O. D. Johnson, John S. Van Voorhis; Auditor, Alexander Brown.
- 1868.—Burgess, John W. Lindsey; Council, James Corwin, William Bronson; Assessor, George Amalong; Auditor, J. W. Corwin; School Directors, John Power, Jesse P. Sill.
- 1869.—Burgess, Arthur P. Lewis; Council, John W. Dean, Henry Haler; Assessor, Andrew Johnston; School Directors, James A. Pearsol, James French; Auditor, William Kyle.
- 1870.—Burgess, James French; Council, William P. Mackey, W. H. Jones; Auditor, Anson Bronson; School Directors, John Reeves, Henry Haler, William F. Speer; Justice of the Peace, J. F. Roley.
- 1871.—Burgess, John Reeves; Council, Peter Leyhew, Lewis Krepps, Robert Patterson; School Directors, Noah Q. Speer, Daniel Springer; Auditor, J. S. Van Voorhis; Assessor, George Amalong.
- 1872.—Burgess, J. W. Lindsey; Council, Joseph Reeves, J. A. Singley; Assessor, William H. Jones; School Directors, Alexander Brown, Amon Bronson, J. M. Springer, John W. Corwin; Auditor, J. B. Foulke.
- 1873.—Burgess (not recorded); Council, W. F. Speer, Amon Bronson; Assessor, W. H. Jones; School Directors, W. F. Speer, S. F. Jones; Auditor, A. S. Woodrow.
- 1874.—Burgess (not recorded); Council, A. P. Lewis, A. A. Taggart; Assessor, J. S. Clegg; Auditor, J. C. Cunningham; School Directors, Alexander Brown, C. T. Porter, R. J. Linton; Justice of the Peace, O. D. Johnson.
- 1875.—Burgess (not recorded); Council, John Call, J. H. Robbins; Treasurer, S. F. Jones; Justice of the Peace, Charles M. Call; School Directors, James Davidson, Amon Bronson, John S. Van Voorhis, Noah Q. Speer; Auditor, William J. Anderson.
- 1876.—Burgess, A. L. Brown; Council, W. J. Anderson, A. S. Woodrow; Treasurer, A. A. Taggart; Assessor, J. S. Clegg; School Directors, A. P. Lewis, W. H. Hoil; Auditor, A. S. Woodrow.
- 1877.—Burgess, L. Z. Birmingham; Council, J. W. Krepps, Jacob Hasson; School Directors, A. A. Taggart, Jas. M. Springer, Amos Bronson, James Davidson; Assessor, W. B. Roley; Treasurer, J. C. Cunningham; Auditor, William Kettle.
- 1878.—Burgess, J. T. Roley; Council, William Houseman, J. B. Courtney, J. C. Cunningham; Treasurer, J. S. Van Voorhis; School Directors, Wm. E. McCrory, J. S. Van Voorhis; Assessor, W. B. Roley; Auditor, W. J. Anderson.
- 1879.—Burgess, William Leyhew; Council, J. M. Howell, Jacob Singley; Justice of the Peace, Jacob Hassan; School Directors, W. P. Mackey, E. W. Martin, S. F. Jones, L. Z. Birmingham; Assessor, Wm. B. Roley; Auditor, C. W. Brown.
- 1880.—Burgess, Amon Bronson; Council, Wm. Leyhew, S. F. Jones; Assessor, George Patton; School Directors, R. J. Linton, Jas. Donnason, L. Z. Birmingham; Auditor, Matthew Arters.
- 1881.—Burgess, J. S. Van Voorhis; Council, John H. Robbins, J. B. Courtney; Auditor, W. H. Beazill; School Directors, J. B. Enos, Samuel Graham, Ephraim Lewis; Assessor, George W. Patton.

#### SCHOOLS.

For some time after Belle Vernon received its first inhabitants the village children were obliged to go a long distance to attend school. Morris Corwin thought something should be done to establish a school in the village, and announced that his wife would give up her kitchen to school uses if a teacher were provided. The proposition met with general favor, and in Mrs. Corwin's kitchen Belle Vernon's first school was started. The teacher was John Haselbaker, of Wash-

ington County. While teaching in Belle Vernon he lived in the village with his brother George (a hatter), whose house was the one now occupied by the Widow Lenhart. School was taught in the Corwin kitchen about three months. The next school was kept in a house on Main Street, built by Joseph Springer, and now occupied by William Mackey. The first teacher of that school was J. B. Gould, still living near Belle Vernon.

The first house built for school purposes was erected upon the lot adjoining Peter Leyhew's present residence. It was built of brick taken from old Rehoboth Church, that had been standing since 1803. Some of the brick are now in the sidewalk in front of William P. Mackey's residence. Solomon Speer and A. P. Fry raised the money for building by subscription. The second village school-house was the building now occupied as a residence by J. B. Gould, Jr. The brick in it came from the old Firney mill. In 1857 a third village school-house was built on a lot now occupied by R. J. Linton, at the corner of Speer Avenue and Short Street. It was a two-story brick, with two rooms on the first floor and one large room on the second. The building committee was composed of Revs. J. M. Springer and James Davidson. The brick-work was done by Solon Meredith, and the carpenter-work by Peter Snyder. The building was first occupied January, 1858, and cost, completed, sixteen hundred and twenty-seven dollars and eighteen cents. The first teachers were John Wright and Miss Tower. Upon the incorporation of the borough the school directors chosen were James Davidson, Robert Boyle, J. W. Wright, James French, N. Q. Speer, J. S. Van Voorhis. The first teachers in the borough were C. C. Douglass, Miss Hess, and Miss Allie D. Main.

The present school building was completed in 1873, and opened Jan. 12, 1874. The cost of the edifice was thirty thousand dollars. Coulter & Taggart were the contractors. It has two stories, with four rooms in the first and three in the second. In January, 1874, Professor J. W. Gibbons was the principal, and H. F. Bailey, Theodore J. Allen, and Miss Hattie Davidson, assistants. In April, 1881, Thomas S. Lackey was the principal, and C. E. Peck, Miss Sallie Williams, and Miss Kate Veech assistants.

The annual report for the school year ending June 7, 1880, furnishes details as follows touching the Belle Vernon schools:

Whole number of schools.....	4
Number of male teachers.....	2
"    female ".....	2
Average salaries of males per month.....	\$45.00
"    "    females ".....	\$30.00
Number of male scholars.....	134
"    female ".....	138
Average number attending school.....	214
Total tax levied for building and school purposes.....	\$3119.64
State appropriation.....	468.10
Receipts from taxes and all other sources except State appropriation.....	\$864.34
Total receipts.....	6332.44

Cost of school-houses—purchasing, building, renting, etc. ....	.....
Paid for teachers' wages.....	\$750.00
Paid for fuel and contingencies, fees of collectors, etc., and all other expenses.....	5311.00
Total expenditures.....	6061.00

#### CHURCHES.

##### BELLE VERNON METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Although it is not known who preached the first Methodist sermon in Belle Vernon, it is known that in 1830 Rev. J. G. Sanson, attached to the Redstone Methodist Episcopal Circuit, held church services in the village in the house now owned by W. P. Mackey, on Main Street. In 1834, on the 15th of October, Rev. J. H. Ebert, of the Redstone Circuit, organized a Methodist class in a house on Main Street, then belonging to Samuel Reeves, and now owned by James Davidson. The Redstone Circuit extended then from Elizabeth to Upper Middletown. Rev. Robert Hopkins (now of Pittsburgh) was the presiding elder, and Revs. J. H. Ebert, Warner Long, and Isaac N. Macabee the preachers in charge. The organizing members of the first class were Barnet Corwin, John Corwin, Eleanor Corwin, Sabina Gaskill, Morgan Gaskill, Catharine Ward, Jane Corwin, Rebecca Jacobs, and Grace McFall. The first and last named are still living in the vicinity of Belle Vernon. Rev. Mr. Ebert was the leader at first, and after him Robert Demain. Nov. 14, 1834, William Hutchinson joined the class and brought the aggregate membership up to ten. For the first Conference year the missionary contributions of the class amounted to seventy-three cents. In a little while the Belle Vernon class was joined by a class from the country, and both met in the village school-house. Jesse Fell was the leader for many years.

In 1841 a brick church was built at the lower end of Main Street, but the building proving short of the requirements as stipulated in the contract for its erection, the congregation gave it up to the contractor after meeting in it but a few times. In 1843 purchase was made of William Eberhard's warehouse on Water Street, and in that building, remodeled, worship was held until 1850, when a framed edifice was built on Water Street, above the old site, at a cost of \$1050. The church built in 1850 is now occupied by the Disciples.

In 1866, the congregation having grown in strength and wealth, measures were inaugurated looking to the erection of a costlier and more commodious house of worship. The result was the erection of the fine brick edifice now occupied. It cost \$15,000, and will seat five hundred people. June 10, 1867, the corner-stone was laid in the presence of a numerous assemblage by Mrs. Emma Weaver and the Misses Maggie, Emma, and Lydia Davidson. In that year the church society was first incorporated. The church property includes the church building and a parsonage. The entire indebtedness is but \$1200. In 1850, Belle Vernon and Cookstown were made a separate circuit. In 1870,

Belle Vernon was constituted a charge by itself. From 1850 to 1860 the preachers in charge were Revs. J. F. Nesley, P. F. Jones, J. Burbidge, D. H. Rhodes, John Williams, J. Horner, J. C. Brown, George Crook. Belle Vernon Church has now a membership of two hundred and forty, and four classes. The leaders are James Davidson, Amon Bronson (two classes), and C. Reppert. The pastor is Rev. A. P. Leonard, and the Sunday-school superintendent J. B. Zeh. The trustees are William Jones, James Davidson, Amon Bronson, N. Q. Speers, W. H. Brightwell, J. B. Zeh, John Reeves, D. P. Houseman, and Samuel Sutton.

#### FREE-WILL BAPTIST CHURCH.

April 22, 1843, a Free-Will Baptist Church was organized in the village school-house by Elders Joshua Newbold, S. G. Smutz, and David Smutz. The organizing members were Roger Jordan and wife, Isaac Free and wife, Mrs. Hannah Jordan, Eliza Baldwin, Daniel Springer, Rachel Springer, William Jacobs and wife, Lydia Springer, and Eliza Jordan. The first deacons were Isaac Free and Daniel Springer, and Daniel Springer the first superintendent of the Sunday-school. In September, 1844, a house of worship was built, and was dedicated by Rev. Mr. Newbold. It was used until 1872, and is now the residence of Mr. Morrison. In 1872 the house now in use was completed, and in April of that year was dedicated by Rev. James Coulter. Its cost was about \$5000. Rev. Joshua Newbold, the first pastor, has had as successors in the pastorate Revs. Edward Jordan, David Smutz, Mr. Winton, J. W. Planet, Patrick Reardon, Henry Cook, Mr. Blakely, James Springer, J. C. Nye, Wellington Joy, John Rogers, and B. H. Fish. Mr. Fish, the present pastor, returned in October, 1880, for his second term of service. The church membership was seventy in May, 1881. The deacons are John Hixenbaugh, J. W. Corwin, Christopher Amalong, James McCoy. The trustees are J. W. Corwin, Denton Lynn, and John Fell.

#### CHURCH OF CHRIST.

The Disciples at Belle Vernon met occasionally for worship as early as 1840, and engaging a preacher in conjunction with the brethren of Cookstown, had services once a fortnight. Of both churches the prominent members were J. B. Gould, of Belle Vernon, and James Hamer, of Cookstown. Hamer was about the only one who came regularly every other Sunday from Cookstown to church at Belle Vernon, and Gould the only one who attended regularly from the latter at the former place. In 1844 the Belle Vernon Disciples built a church, and in 1869 exchanged it to R. C. Schmertz & Co. for the old Methodist Episcopal Church building on Water Street, then owned by Schmertz & Co. The church built by the Disciples is now used by Schmertz & Co. as an office. Mr. Pool was the first preacher, and J. B. Gould, James Hamer, and James Ferry the first elders. Mr. Pool

is said to have been an eloquent man in the pulpit, but in ordinary life and conversation a far from impressive person. Asking a lady once what she thought of him, he received as a reply, "Well, when you are in the pulpit I often think you ought never to leave it, but when you are out I feel sure you ought never to enter it." There has been no regular preacher since 1876, the last one being Lyman Streater. The membership is now about forty. J. B. Gould, James Morgan, and Andrew Graham are the elders, and Charles Corwin, Thomas Fawcett, and James Hagerty the deacons.

#### BELLE VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

About 1836, or before, Rehoboth Church appointed Michael Finley and William Bigham to visit Belle Vernon and inquire into the propriety of erecting a church in that village. They reported adversely, but recommended occasional preaching in the town and neighborhood. Rev. Robert Johnson preached at long intervals at the house of Abner Reeves, whose wife was a member of the Presbyterian Church. Later, Rev. N. H. Gillett held occasional services in the old Eberhard warehouse on Water Street.

For some years the only member of the Presbyterian Church in Belle Vernon was William Hasson. In April, 1848, Dr. Van Voorhis and wife were received into the church, and then Belle Vernon held three members of that faith. Revs. James R. Hughes and L. Y. Graham preached successively in the house now used by the Disciples and then by the Methodists, but no further effort was made to organize a church until the summer of 1868, when Rehoboth appointed J. B. Cook, E. F. Houseman, and L. M. Speer to "go on and inquire into the expediency of building a house in Belle Vernon." The committee made a report favoring the project, but to this day no action has been taken by Rehoboth upon the report, nor has the committee yet been discharged. In 1869 members of Rehoboth living in Belle Vernon and vicinity took steps towards building a church, and August 7th of that year laid the first stone upon a lot donated by L. M. Speer, who gave also liberally toward the work of building, and himself provided for the completion of the spire. Dec. 19, 1869, the church was dedicated free of debt. Jan. 2, 1870, a Sabbath-school was organized with Dr. J. S. Van Voorhis as superintendent. It was not, however, until 1873 that a church organization was formed. In December of that year the Redstone Presbytery appointed Revs. G. M. Hair and Gailey and Elder Rankin to act as a committee to organize a church at Belle Vernon. The organization was accordingly effected December 11th, when the following were received on certificates from Rehoboth, to wit: D. B. Johnson, Sarah Johnson, James French and wife, Dr. J. S. Van Voorhis, E. S. Van Voorhis, L. M. Speer, F. L. Speer, C. G. Speer, S. F. Jones, S. E. Jones, R. J. Linton, C. S. Linton, Nancy Smock,

Ellen McFall, Margaret Garrison, Harriet Patterson, L. V. Cunningham, J. C. Hazlett, Samuel Clark, Anna Clark, Maria E. Hughes, Jennie French, W. F. Speer, M. T. Speer, W. P. Mackey, Samuel McKean, S. McKean, Aggie McAlpine, Mary Smock, Elizabeth Lucas, Nancy Sheats, Maggie McFall, Jane Hopkins, Alvira M. Furnier, Mary E. Cook, Susan C. Wise, James McAlpin, Mrs. McAlpin, John McAlpin, W. B. McAlpin, Jennie Jones, Sarah Barkman, Philip Smock, Olive Barkman, Laurena Smock, William McFall, Robert McFall, and Charlotte Hammett. From other churches, William F. Morgan and wife and Mary C. Alter. S. F. Jones, Samuel McKean, J. C. Hazlett, and R. J. Trinton were chosen elders, of whom Samuel McKean declined to serve. Rev. G. M. Hair, of Rehoboth, preached at Belle Vernon until April, 1874. In July, 1874, Rev. A. B. Lowes entered upon the pastorate, and still remains. The membership in 1881 was eighty-three. The elders first chosen are still in office. The trustees are William P. Mackey, Joseph Nutt, and W. F. Morgan. S. F. Jones is superintendent of the Sunday-school.

#### BELLE VERNON GLASS-FACTORY.

The interest of glass-manufacture is a very important one at Belle Vernon. It was founded in 1834, and has continued since 1836 to be a conspicuous element in the industries of the town. R. C. Schmertz & Co. have been the manufacturers at this point since 1865, and have there to-day the largest window-glass manufactory in the world. In 1834, George Kendall, of Cookstown, and Thomas Patton, of Perryopolis, began the erection of glass-works upon the site of Schmertz & Co.'s factory, but before they reached the point of manufacture failed and abandoned the enterprise. The buildings remained in an unfinished condition until 1836, when William Eberhard came into possession of the property, and promptly completing an eight-pot furnace engaged at once in the production of glass. At the first the largest rollers he made would flatten out a sheet measuring twenty-one by twenty-five. He made ninety-five rollers to a blower. His first glass-cutter was Griffith Wells, now residing at Fayette City. During Mr. Eberhard's possession he brought the works up to a capacity of sixteen pots. He appeared to be driving a flourishing business, and did doubtless for some years, but while pushing matters at what seemed a remarkably brisk rate, in 1853, he suddenly failed, to the great consternation of the community, and the loss of many who had looked upon the glass-works as upon a secure foundation. The failure was most disastrous, and from its effects the town was slow to recover. The property was not, however, suffered to remain idle very long. George A. Berry & Co. soon became the owners and speedily revived the old-time activity. In 1860 Berry bought out his partner, and

having an immense stock of glass on hand at the outbreak of the rebellion, made his fortune.

In 1865, Berry disposed of his interests to the present owners, R. C. Schmertz & Co., who remodeled the works and added a ten-pot furnace. Their factory covers now about two acres, and has in connection with it a fine store and thirty-six tenements. Lime and sand were formerly obtained at Belle Vernon, but these materials are now brought from Layton and Mapleton. Coke is burned near the works. Two hundred and thirty hands are ordinarily employed, and upwards of \$15,000 paid out monthly as wages. They have an aggregate of twenty-six pots, consume annually 300,000 bushels of coal, 80,000 bushels of coke, 2200 tons of sand, 650 tons of lime, 850 tons of soda, and 500 tons of other materials. One million feet of lumber are used yearly for the manufacture of boxes. Their freight tonnage each year is 1200 tons. The annual production of glass reaches about 80,000 boxes. Mr. Schmertz, the senior member of the firm, resides at Pittsburgh, but exercises a general supervision over the works at Belle Vernon, as well as over the firm's works at Columbus, Ohio. The managing and resident partner at Belle Vernon is Mr. R. J. Linton, who entered Mr. Schmertz's employ in 1855, and in a few years was admitted as a partner.

#### BELLE VERNON SAW- AND PLANING-MILL COMPANY (LIMITED).

Just over the borough line in Westmoreland County this company represents a valuable industry. The officers are Amon Bronson, president; William Jones, vice-president; A. A. Taggart, manager; S. F. Jones, treasurer; J. S. Jones, secretary. The main building is one hundred by forty feet. It contains a 66-inch circular saw, capable of sawing 30,000 feet of lumber in ten hours. Adjoining the mill is the boat-yard of William McFall, who turns out yearly a good many river craft of various kinds.

#### SOCIETIES AND ORDERS.

Belle Vernon Lodge, No. 656, I. O. O. F. This lodge was organized March 26, 1869, with seventeen members. The charter officers were John Wilkinson, N. G.; Noah Speer, V. G.; S. McKean, Sec.; John H. Weaver, Asst. Sec.; A. P. Lewis, Treas. Other charter members were R. C. Byers, J. S. Van Voorhis, J. M. Springer, J. B. Thompson, Michael Alters, G. V. Abel, John Caull, T. F. Lewis, and J. H. Lewis. In May, 1881, the membership was one hundred and three. The officers were William Vaughn, N. G.; L. R. Boyle, V. G.; S. McKean, Sec.; James Frost, Asst. Sec.; John Hackett, Treas.

Maple Grove Encampment, No. 243, I. O. O. F., was chartered Feb. 13, 1875. The first officers were John Wilkinson, C. P.; Samuel McKean, H. P.; John B. Thompson, S. W.; George Treasure, J. W.; A. P. Lewis, Sec.; J. H. Weaver, Treas.; John S.

Clegg, I. S.; J. C. Hixenbaugh, O. S. The members numbered thirty-five in May, 1881. The officers were W. A. McKean, C. P.; Ephraim Lewis, H. P.; G. Amalong, S. W.; W. H. Neil, J. W.; Samuel McKean, S.; John Hackett, Treas.

Accomac Tribe, No. 142, I. O. R. M., was organized on the 17th Cold Moon, 380. The charter members were J. F. Hixenbaugh, John Hutchinson, Dennis Riley, W. H. Hailor, Charles Dean, Abel Fewster, John Stewart, Thomas Hardwick, J. H. Robbins, H. M. Clegg, W. G. Kittle, Samuel Hilton, John Friser, Matthew Clegg, and W. H. Jones. The membership in May, 1881, was 100. The officers were John Evans, S.; William Fleming, S. S.; P. Rider, J. S.; William Wise, Sec.; A. Rupert, K. of W.; J. Stillwagon, P.

Bayard Post, No. 178, G. A. R., was organized June 24, 1880, with twenty-six members. The membership is now thirty-one. Meetings are held twice each month in Odd-Fellows' Hall. The officers are W. S. Harvey, P. C.; L. R. Boyle, S. V. P. C.; William Booth, J. V. P. C.; William Noble, Q. M.; J. W. Morgan, Adj.; Rev. A. B. Lowes, C.; John Thompson, O. of D.; Joseph Bell, O. of G.; John Reeves, S.

Belle Vernon Council, No. 531, Royal Arcanum, was organized in October, 1880. The officers in May, 1880, were John Haskett, R.; W. P. Mackey, V. R.; T. L. Daly, P. R.; J. E. Nutt, Sec.; J. S. Jones, Col.; J. L. Courtney, Treas.; James McAlpin, C.; W. B. McAlpin, G.; James Hutténover, W.; E. F. Springer, S. The members number nineteen.

#### FAYETTE CITY BOROUGH.

Fayette City, a thriving borough of about nine hundred inhabitants, located upon the Monongahela, twelve miles below Brownsville, ranks among the old towns of Fayette County. Founded about 1800 by Col. Edward Cook as Freeport, it was known as Cookstown from 1825 to 1854, when its name was changed by legislative act to Fayette City. It is a point of considerable shipment, *via* the Monongahela River, of apples, wool, grain, etc., and derives a brisk mercantile trade from the surrounding agricultural community and adjoining coal-mining districts. Manufacturers are confined to the product of window-glass and woolen goods. There is communication with all points *via* river packets that touch at the wharf four times daily, and by railway on the Washington side of the river.

The bottom lands upon which the chief portion of Fayette City lies were once the site of an Indian village. Col. Edward Cook, who in 1768 came to the neighborhood and bought a large tract of about three thousand acres, lying now in Washington, Westmoreland, and Fayette Counties, then became the owner of the site of Fayette City and the country about it for some distance. The first improvement of consequence upon the present site of Fayette City was

made by Joseph Downer, shortly after 1800. Mr. Downer, who had from 1794 been living near Col. Cook's, in Washington township, moved first to the present Cooper mill-site, and later to where James Hamer's woolen-factory now stands. At the latter point he built a flouring-mill, and lower down on the run a saw-mill, of which the ruins may still be seen. At the saw-mill he built a framed dwelling-house, on the site of the Thirkield mansion. The grist-mill Mr. Downer himself managed, while the saw-mill interest was in charge of his father-in-law, Stephen Hall.

At the time of Mr. Downer's location upon the village site, about 1806, there was upon the tract but one house, which stood on the river-bank, the log cabin of one Pankus, a boat-builder, who soon afterwards went to New Orleans, and was never heard of. Previous to 1807, Col. Cook had laid out a town where Fayette City now is and named it Freeport. Tradition has it that he and Mr. Downer surveyed the streets and marked off the lots with a clothes-line. The original plat of the town shows that fifty-one lots were set off, that the streets were named Fording, Market, Cook, Union, Front, Second, Third, and Fourth, and that the triangular piece of land upon which the school-house now stands was donated for public use. Upon the plat is written the following:

"Plan of the town of Freeport,<sup>1</sup> on the Monongahela River, in Washington township, Fayette County, State of Pennsylvania. Laid out by Edward Cook, Esq." The lots were made sixty feet by one hundred and twenty, but in order to prevent disputes in the measurement six inches were allowed by Mr. Cook in each line on the ground, so that the lots were actually sixty-six feet six inches by one hundred and twenty feet six inches. Market Street is forty-five feet wide; the other streets thirty feet wide. The first trader at Freeport was Andrew Hunter, who, not far from 1805, came to the place with his daughters, Jane and Margaret, and erected at the corner of Market and Front Streets a framed building, in which he opened a small store and made his residence. His daughter Jane was a woman of great force of character and good business talent. She soon became the owner of the store, and, with her sister Margaret, carried it on for many years. Before the advent of the Hunters, William D. Mullin (who in 1786, at the age of four years, had come with his adopted father, William Patterson, to Washington township) located in Freeport upon his marriage, in 1806, and set up a hatter's shop (his trade he had learned with Jones, of Bridgeport) on a lot he had bought of Morris Dunlevy. The deed for the property, now in the possession of R. G. Mullin, recites that for the consideration of twenty dollars Edward and Martha Cook conveyed to Morris Dunlevy lot No. 4 in Freeport, situated in the tract known as Whisky Mount, patented to Edward

<sup>1</sup> Name of the town changed to Cookstown about 1825.

Cook by the State in 1796. The deed bears date Nov. 12, 1802. William D. Mullin carried on the hat-making business until 1857. He died in Fayette City in 1876, aged ninety-one years. The house he lived in is now the residence of John Kennedy. The hat-shop that stood close to it long since disappeared.

In 1806, Alexander Crane kept on Water Street the principal store in Freeport. Aaron Bugher, who went to the Legislature afterwards, was a boat-builder, and in his yard built quite a lot of flat- and keel-boats. The first steamboat built at Freeport was launched about 1820 by James Woods. After an extended business career at Freeport, Bugher removed to Cincinnati, where he died. William Larimer, who succeeded him as a boat-builder at Cookstown, remained until about 1860. Since his departure but little in the way of boat-building has been done at this place.

Thomas Beard (an Irish refugee), one of the pioneer traders, kept a dry-goods store on Second Street near Union (where J. C. King's furniture-shop is), and Daniel Ferry kept a general store on Second Street. At the corner of Market and Second, James P. Stewart was an early trader, as was Job Kitts at the corner of Union and Water. U. C. Ford had a tannery at the corner of Market and Main Streets, on the site of McEwan's drug-store. About 1820, John Baldwin, a miller on the opposite side of the river, put on a ferry, much to the convenience of the people, for fording had previous to that been the common means of crossing. One Romans was Freeport's pioneer blacksmith. His shop was on Main near Market Street. James McCrory was one of the village blacksmiths about that time, and since then a McCrory has always been one of the blacksmiths of the place. Adam Weamer (with whom Samuel Larimer was an apprentice) was a cabinet-maker in a shop on the present Baldwin House lot. James Enos, living on the hill, was the first wheelwright as well as the first postmaster. William McBain was a shoemaker on Second Street, between Union and Market. James Hezlip kept the first tavern near the corner of Market and Second Streets.<sup>1</sup> The second tavern was opened by Henry Calver on Second Street. He was succeeded in that establishment by a Mr. McNab, Beriel Taylor, and Thomas McCrory. McCrory was its last landlord, and kept it for some years as McCrory's Inn, by which name it was widely and favorably known. In 1845, William Evans built the tavern now known as the Baldwin House. Justus Blaney had a pottery in the upper portion of the village now called Sisleytown. He made common ware and shipped it down the river to market. John Britson, another ancient worker in clay, made clay pipes in Cookstown as early as 1821.

In 1827, William E. Frazer (chosen to the State Senate in 1855 and canal commissioner in 1859) came to Cookstown from Luzerne township for the purpose

of following his trade as turner and wheelwright. Mr. Frazer says Cookstown had in 1827 three stores, of which the principal one was kept by Thomas Beard, near the corner of Second and Union Streets. Alexander Crane had a store on Water (or Front) Street, and the Hunters had one at the corner of Market and Water Streets. Daniel Ferry was a wagon- and plow-maker, and William Baldwin was the village tailor. Mr. Frazer opened a wheelwright's shop near to where he now lives, and remained seven years. He retired for a while to a farm, but soon returned, and still resides in Fayette City, a highly honored and worthy citizen.

R. G. Mullin, now the oldest of Fayette City's merchants, embarked in trade in 1837 upon the lot where he was born and where he has continued to live to this day. Next in rank as to date of establishment in the village comes William Troth, who came to Cookstown in June, 1847, and opened a saddler's shop. In 1849 he purchased William E. Frazer's hardware business, and in that trade has continued uninterruptedly ever since. The third oldest merchant, John Mullin, has sold goods in this town continuously since 1852.

Cookstown's first resident physician was Dr. David Porter, who lived when a lad with the family of Capt. Woolsey, of Westmoreland County. Dr. Porter practiced for a year or two in Freeport about 1815, and then retiring to the country, did not return until about 1836, when he opened an office on Water Street. After a stay of a few years he retired once more to a farm, and removing subsequently to Uniontown, remained there until his death in 1875. Dr. Joseph Thoburn, who succeeded Dr. Porter at Freeport, moved eventually to Wheeling. Dr. Nathan Hubbs was a practitioner in Freeport in 1822, and after a service of twenty-six years, died in the village in 1848. During Dr. Hubbs' time Dr. Thornton Fleming was one of the village doctors. He is especially remembered because of his sudden departure from the place. He is supposed to be living now at Galesburg, Ill. Dr. James Eagan came to the town in 1830, and in 1847 appeared Drs. Charles Conley and O. D. Todd. Dr. Todd, who lived opposite Cookstown, in Washington County, had an office in the village from 1847 until his death in 1880. Dr. J. M. H. Gordon, who located in Cookstown in 1849, has been in village practice continuously ever since. Dr. H. F. Roberts came as early as 1847, and practiced at irregular periods as a local physician until 1876. He lives now in Uniontown. Dr. F. M. Yost was in the field from 1852 to 1854. Drs. Reisinger and Penny were but briefly village practitioners. Dr. Conkling came in 1870, and died here in 1873. Besides Dr. J. M. H. Gordon, the borough physicians are John W. Gordon (here since 1877) and J. V. Porter (since 1880).

A post-office appears to have been established at Freeport as early as 1812. The first postmaster was

<sup>1</sup> Hezlip was licensed in 1797.

James Enos, the wheelwright, who lived on the hill. In 1820 he was succeeded by William D. Mullin, and Mullin by Samuel Larimer in 1829. Larimer served until 1840, when Job Kitts was appointed, and in 1840 gave place to Edward Martin. Following Martin, to 1860, the incumbents were R. G. Mullin, William R. Campbell, and John Stofft. Hugh Connelly had the office from 1860 to 1870, and Lewis K. Hamilton from 1870 to 1880. S. B. Hamilton, the present incumbent, was commissioned in 1880, although he has been the acting postmaster since 1870. Fayette City post-office was made a money-order office in July, 1875. Four mails are received and four forwarded daily.

Joseph Downer, already noticed as Freeport's first inhabitant, was a man of great business enterprise and much respected. Reference to his early settlement in Fayette County, and to some of his manufacturing enterprises on Downer's Run, will be found elsewhere in the history of Washington township, as also a notice of the somewhat famous Downer organ. After his removal to Freeport he lived on the lot now occupied by the residence of Mrs. Roscoe Thirkield, his granddaughter. There he lived until his death, Feb. 14, 1838. His children numbered thirteen, of whom six were sons. The last of the sons was James C. Downer, who died in Louisiana. Three of the daughters are yet living. They are Louisa Roberts, in Michigan; Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Thirkield, in Fayette City. Samuel Larimore, known prominently in connection with Cookstown's history, was an apprentice to Adam Weamer, the cabinet-maker, and all his life afterwards a carpenter in the town. He died in 1878, aged eighty years. His father, James, was one of Freeport's early boat-builders, and according to an old record still in the possession of Samuel Larimer's widow, was, on the 25th of July, 1798, "a member of the eighth class of the fifth company of Col. Thomas Johnson's battalion."

The manufacture of glass has been an important feature of Fayette City's industries since 1831. There were at one period no less than three glass-works within the limits of the town, but for many years the manufacture of glass at this point has been confined to one establishment. The business was founded here in 1831 by John Martin and John Baker, who in that year erected what were long known as the "upper works," containing an eight-pot furnace. Moderate success attended the enterprise from the first, but a change in proprietorship brought a change in fortune, and through various proprietary changes there were several failures until 1846, when the works were abandoned permanently. The buildings lay idle for years, until they were demolished to make room for the erection of dwelling-houses upon the site. In 1833 George Whiting built an eight-pot furnace on the "Point," and with William Eberhart, Sr., conducted the business for a short time. They were,

however, compelled by financial reverses to abandon the works to others. In 1850, Whiting again obtained control, and, in company with John Emery, carried on the business until 1850, when they failed. William Eberhard, Jr., succeeded them and continued until 1857, when he too failed. After that no one ventured to take hold of the enterprise, and its history ended with the close of the year last named.

The glass-works now owned and operated by George Wanhoff & Co., of Pittsburgh, were built by John Bezill and Samuel Kyle in 1844, the building contractor being Edward Mansfield. The furnace was supplied with eight pots, and, all told, about fifty hands were employed. Bezill sold his interest to Kyle, who in turn disposed of the works to William Eberhard, Jr. William Eberhard, Sr., succeeded in 1852, and continued until 1857. Adam Blair, previously an employé at the works, became proprietor, and after a three years' experience failed in 1860. After lying idle a time the factory was bought and revived by D. Harmany & Co., of Brownsville. In 1865 they were succeeded by Zimmerman & Co., who in 1872 sold out to Joseph Torrance & Co. In 1872, Torrance & Co. suspended work. John King & Co. were their successors, but stopped work in 1873. The Iron City Company were the next in possession, and in 1877 the present proprietors took the property. In 1879 they revived the works, and since that time have operated them with profitable success. Their employés number about sixty. Their weekly product of manufactured glass aggregates three hundred and fifty boxes, or nearly twenty thousand boxes annually. Their sand is obtained from Belle Vernon, and their lime from Tyrone. The annual consumption of materials in the manufacture is about one hundred thousand bushels of coal, twenty-five thousand bushels of coke, seven hundred tons of sand, two hundred tons of lime, two hundred and sixty tons of soda.

#### BOROUGH ORGANIZATION AND OFFICERS.

A petition for the erection of Cookstown into a borough was presented Dec. 5, 1839, and laid over until the March session of court. The report was then made by the grand jury favorable to the erection of the borough, and at the term held in March, 1840, the court confirmed the report of the grand jury and decreed that Cookstown should be erected into a borough or body corporate by the name and style of the borough of Cookstown, agreeably to the boundaries and draft annexed to the petition. September, 1847, a petition was presented to the court for an extension of the line of the said borough agreeably to certain designated courses and distances, and to change the day for the election of borough officers to the day prescribed by law for choosing township officers. A favorable report being made upon the petition the court confirmed the report, December, 1847.

Although the borough was organized in 1840, no mention can be found in either county or borough



records of the names of borough officials elected prior to 1847. From that period to 1854, when an act of Legislature changed the name of the borough from Cookstown to Fayette City, the following named have been chosen among the borough officials, the incomplete records giving, however, no mention of either burgess or councilmen except in 1848:

- 1847.—Justice of the Peace, William D. Mullin; Assessor, William Valentine; Constable, Alexander Fleming; Judge of Election, Aaron Bugher.
- 1848.—Burgess, Milton G. Ebert; Council, Alexander Fleming, Philip S. Kuhns, Basil Brightwell, John S. Wilgus, Ziba Whiting; Justice of the Peace, Justus L. Blaney; Auditor, Samuel Larimer; School Directors, William Krepps, Isaac Banks, Michael Slotterbeck; Assessor, J. V. Layton.
- 1849.—School Directors, John Cunnard, Philip S. Kuhns, William McFee; Assessor, Samuel Larimer; Constable, Alexander Fleming; Judge, John Tiernan.
- 1850.—Justice of the Peace, Isaac Banks, William T. Bealle; School Directors, John Tiernan, Francis McKee; Assessor, John G. Thompson; Judge, William E. Fraser.
- 1851.—School Directors, John V. Layton, Noah Jewell, John Long; Assessor, John V. Layton; Constable, Henry Hardesty; Judge, John Thirkiel.
- 1852.—School Directors, John Cunnard, Philip S. Kuhns; Assessor, John G. Thompson; Constable, John Wright; Judge, David P. Lutz.
- 1853.—Justices of the Peace, William R. Campbell, Francis McKee; School Directors, Samuel Larimer, Michael Slotterbeck; Auditor, Harvey Barker, Seneca McCrory; Assessor, George Whiting; Judge, John V. Layton.
- 1854.—School Directors, John Long, John V. Layton; Assessor, John Cunnard; Judge, John Tiernan; Constable, Samuel B. Hamilton.

An act approved April 11, 1854, and entitled "An Act to change the name of the borough of Cookstown, in Fayette County, etc.," provides that "the borough of Cookstown, in the county of Fayette, shall be hereafter known by the name of Fayette City, and under that name shall have all the rights and privileges to which said borough is now entitled by law, and shall be subject to all the restrictions and liabilities to which said borough is now by law subjected to."

The civil list for Fayette City from 1855 to 1881 is given below:

- 1855.<sup>1</sup>—School Directors, William Banks, Lewis Krepps, Philip S. Kuhns, John Cunnard; Assessors, Philip S. Kuhns, Joseph Evans; Judge, John Cunnard; Constable, Samuel B. Hamilton.
- 1856.—Burgess, William R. Campbell; Councilmen, Job Kitts, Ziba Whiting, Samuel Mansfield, William Krepps, Robert G. Mullin; School Directors, Edward Mansfield, Samuel Larimer; Assessor, George Whiting.
- 1857.—Burgess, R. G. Mullin; Council, Lewis Krepps, Sr., James Hutton, James Jacobs, Michael Alter, Samuel Mansfield; School Directors, James Daugherty, Michael Slotterbeck; Assessor, George Whiting.
- 1858.—Burgess, Griffith Wells; Council, William Haney, William Athey, W. E. Fraser, Jr., P. McPhelin, Wesley Larimer; Justice of the Peace, George Whiting; School Di-

rectors, Wesley Larimer, John Cunnard; Assessors, Samuel B. Hamilton, James Daugherty.

- 1859.—Burgess, James Johnson; Council, Wesley Larimer, Ziba Whiting, W. E. Fraser, Jr., David McBain, George P. Fulton; Justice of the Peace, Robert G. Mullin; School Directors, John Long, Harvey Barker; Assessor, John V. Layton.
- 1860.—Burgess, John Cunnard; Council, William Krepps, Edward Mansfield, William Troth, G. B. Cook, George P. Fulton; School Directors, William Krepps, James H. Gordon, R. G. Mullin; Justice of the Peace, John Branthaffer; Assessor, William Evans.
- 1861.—Burgess, John P. Tiernan; Council, William Krepps, William Troth, Lewis Krepps, Joseph C. King, George P. Fulton; School Directors, Henry F. Roberts, Lewis Krepps; Assessor, L. Baldwin.
- 1862.—Burgess, Harvey B. Fleming; Council, William E. McCrory, James Hutton, Edward Mansfield, John Stofft, J. C. King; Justices of the Peace, Robert L. Baldwin, Samuel B. Hamilton; Assessor, Ziba Whiting; School Directors, Samuel Mansfield, Wesley Larimer, Harvey Barker.
- 1863.—Burgess, John Cunnard; Council, James Johnston, R. G. Mullin, James Houseman, L. L. Whiting, Joseph A. McKee; Justice of the Peace, Wesley Larimer; School Directors, Van Buren Barker, George M. Geho; Assessor, Samuel Larimer.
- 1864.—Burgess, P. McPhelin; Council, J. H. Bugher, Edward Mansfield, John Pfeighardt, William E. McCrory, R. G. Mullin; Justice of the Peace, William Eberhart; School Directors, Joseph King, R. G. Mullin; Assessor, Daniel McDonald.
- 1865.—Burgess, George Whiting; Council, H. B. Fleming, Samuel Campbell, John Pfeighardt, Thomas Maude, Ziba Whiting; School Directors, James H. Gordon, William Campbell, Wesley Larimer, Charles Wilson; Assessor, William Eberhart; Justice of the Peace, George W. Geho.
- 1866.—Burgess, Thomas Jacobs; Council, John Pfeighardt, J. C. King, William Haney, Van B. Barker, Lewis Krepps; School Directors, John Stofft, Lewis Krepps, Van B. Barker; Assessor, William Eberhart; Justice of the Peace, George Whiting.
- 1867.—Burgess, William E. McCrory; Council, James H. Gordon, Samuel Campbell, William Williams, George Markle, James Reese; School Directors, William Campbell, R. G. Mullin, Joseph A. McKee, Michael Alter; Assessor, Daniel McDonald; Auditors, Samuel Mansfield, William Campbell, Calvin Mansfield.
- 1868.—Burgess, William McFee; Council, John Pfeighardt, William Lenhart, Thornton F. Baldwin, Isaac Sickman, Daniel Harmany, Ziba Whiting; Justice of the Peace, Samuel B. Hamilton; Assessor, R. L. Baldwin; School Directors, William E. Fraser, William E. McCrory; Auditors, James Todd, Peter McFeeland, M. Slotterbeck.
- 1869.—Burgess, Joseph A. McKee; Council, L. L. Whiting, F. F. Baldwin, Otho Furlong, Chas. Wilson; School Directors, James M. Gordon, James Measters, William Troth; Assessor, Samuel Larimer; Auditor, R. L. Baldwin.
- 1870.—Burgess, Louis Krepps; Council, Michael Slotterbeck, J. C. King, Joseph L. Cooper, George Geho, Robert Wilson; School Directors, R. G. Mullin, Michael Alter; Auditor, Samuel Mansfield, John B. Quay.
- 1871.—Burgess, R. B. Brown; Council, Otho Furlong, Chas. Wilson, Samuel Means, John Mullin, S. B. Hamilton; Assessor, H. P. Fleming; Justice of the Peace, William Campbell; School Directors, W. E. Fraser, Wm. E. McClory; Auditor, Thomas Brown.
- 1872.—Burgess, Joseph A. McKee; Council, R. W. Wilson, W.

<sup>1</sup> No record of the election of burgess or councilmen.

- C. Athey, John Pflughardt, J. P. Krepps, Allen Mansfield; School Directors, John Baldwin, I. Y. Sloan, H. B. Frye, L. L. Whiting; Assessor, William Troth; Auditor, William Troth.
- 1873.—Griffith Wells; Council, R. G. Mullin, W. A. McCune, J. I. McKenna, A. D. Bruce, J. C. King; Justice of the Peace, Samuel B. Hamilton; Assessor, H. H. Connelly.
- 1874.—Burgess, J. C. King; Council, H. B. Frye, James I. McKenna, J. L. Cooper, Edward Mansfield, William Troth, and Wesley Mullin; Justice of the Peace, Joseph A. McKee; School Directors, H. B. Fry, Allen S. Mansfield; Assessor, Samuel Larimer.
- 1875.—Burgess, William Beatty; Council, H. B. Frye, James Hamer, John Pflughardt, Samuel Mansfield, A. D. Barker, J. M. H. Gordon; School Directors, Joseph C. King, Isaac N. Cooper, Henry Barker, G. R. Thirkield; Auditor, William McKee; Assessor, Samuel B. Hamilton.
- 1876.—Burgess, William Reeves; Council, John Pflughardt, James Krepps, Thomas Maude, Charles Wilson, George W. Patton, William Barker; Justice of the Peace, Harvey Barker; School Directors, James Campbell, A. D. Barker, R. G. Mullin; Assessor, R. W. Wilson; Auditor, R. Lincoln.
- 1877.—Burgess, John H. Baldwin; Council, James McCrory, Leroy Fleming, Jos. L. Cooper, William Troth, H. B. Frye, I. N. Mullin; School Directors, H. B. Fleming, Daniel Pflughardt, John Barker, L. L. Whiting; Justice of the Peace, Joseph A. McKee; Auditor, S. B. Hamilton.
- 1878.—Burgess, Charles Wilson; Council, J. Q. McKenna; W. W. Whitsett, Thomas Maude, Lewis Billeter, William Reeves, Jacob Showerman; School Directors, J. L. Cooper, I. N. Mullin, John D. Carr, J. N. Cooper; Assessor, R. W. Wilson; Auditors, George Masters, George R. Wilson; Justice of the Peace, S. B. Hamilton.
- 1879.—Burgess, J. L. Cooper; Council, J. W. Gordon, Chas. Wilson, John Mullin, Samuel Mansfield, John H. Baldwin, James Q. McKenna; School Directors, John N. Barker, Thomas Maude; Assessor, L. L. Whiting; Auditor, L. K. Hamilton; Justices, G. M. Geho, L. J. Jeffries.
- 1880.—Burgess, J. L. Cooper; Council, R. G. Mullin, John Pflughardt, N. B. Brightwell, W. H. Patton, E. W. White, James Leonard; School Directors, S. Mansfield, J. M. H. Gordon, A. D. Barker, H. B. Frye; Assessor, A. S. Mansfield; Auditor, A. D. Geho.
- 1881.—Burgess, Chas. Wilson; Council, W. H. Binns, L. L. Whiting, Daniel Pflughardt, Isaac N. Cooper, Wm. Geho, J. C. King; Justice of the Peace, T. Mansfield; Assessor, G. W. Geho; Auditor, J. M. Briner; School Directors, H. B. Frye, J. D. Carr, Thomas Maude, J. M. H. Gordon.

#### SCHOOLS.

The children of Cookstown were taught in 1812, and before, in a stone school-house that occupied a spot upon the present site of Mount Auburn Cemetery, where at that time there was a graveyard. Three teachers now remembered to have presided there were De Wolf, Hazlip, and Bosely. In 1816 a school was established in the village in a building on Water Street near Union. The structure is now the residence of Mr. Ziba Whiting. Among those who taught there were Isaiah Alden, a Presbyterian preacher, and Maria Dinsmore. In 1818 the people of the town built upon the site of the present school-house a framed edifice, to be free for the holding of a school and

for the use of all religious denominations choosing to worship therein. Jacob Woods was the builder; William D. Mullin and U. C. Ford were the trustees. Some of the earliest teachers in that building were Mr. McCormick, Mr. Bosely, Thomas Tomlinson, Samuel Griffith, Francis McKee, John Wilson, and John B. Gould. Mr. Gould gave up teaching there in 1828, and removed to Belle Vernon, where he still lives at the age of eighty-six years. The house was used for school purposes until 1839, when a brick building was put up and used chiefly for a public school. The basement was used as a public hall. School was held in the brick house until 1870, when the present fine building was completed. It was commenced in 1869, and first occupied in the fall of 1870. Wesley Larimer was the contractor for the mason-work. The edifice is two stories in height, measures fifty by sixty feet, and is surmounted with a substantial bell-tower, whose top is seventy-four feet from the ground. The entire cost of the building was fifteen thousand dollars. There are six rooms and four school departments. In charge of these are Elisha Porter (principal), Miss Maria Larimer, Miss Mary Malone, and Miss Hattie Harmany. The school directors for 1881 are J. D. Carr, H. B. Frye, Samuel Mansfield, A. D. Barker, Thomas Maude, J. M. H. Gordon.

#### CHURCHES.

Cookstown had no regularly appointed place of worship until 1818, when the citizens built a framed house and set it apart to the free use of schools and churches, or members of any religious denomination desirous of having public devotional exercises.

#### THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

was doubtless the first religious organization effected in the town. A class was formed as early as 1815 and attached to the Redstone Circuit, and until 1820 meetings were held in the stone school-house on the hill, in Crane's old store-house on the river's bank, and in the houses of members. Among the most prominent of the latter were W. B. Mullin and wife, Adam Weamer, U. C. Ford, and Margaret and Jane Hunter. Mr. Mullin was one of the first class-leaders, and probably the first. In that capacity he officiated at times until his death. In 1820 the Union church building was occupied by the Methodists in common with other denominations, and until 1842 it was the place of meeting. In that year a brick Methodist Episcopal Church was built. Its dimensions are forty by sixty feet, and its seating capacity about six hundred. Among the early pastors of the church may be named Revs. James Sansom, Fleming, Slicer, and Brockcooner. The present pastor is Rev. Mr. Mansell; the class-leader, John Mullin; the Sunday-school superintendent, J. D. Carr; and the trustees, R. G. Mullin, John Mullin, J. D. Carr, Samuel Brown, and William Beatty. The membership is sixty-five.

## FREE-WILL BAPTIST CHURCH.

About 1820, Elder John Williams, who had before that been preaching to the Free-Will Baptists of Cookstown, organized them into a church, and after that preached to them in the Union church building. Under Elder Williams' ministrations the organization flourished apace, and in 1845 had grown so strong that upwards of a hundred people were regularly present in the congregation each Sabbath. In that year a house of worship was built, and matters went on prosperously. By and by Elder Williams found some disfavor among his people, who considered he was growing somewhat dictatorial and aggressive in some respects. Construing their expressions into signs of unwarranted interference with him and his methods, he exhibited a decided independence that eventually led to his retirement from the charge. In 1853 he resigned, after a service of upwards of thirty years. That Elder Williams was the mainstay of the organization after all, is proved by the fact that after his departure the church slowly but surely saw its strength and influence waning. Dissensions and differences multiplied, and as a result a final dissolution took place in 1860. The meeting-house was sold to the Presbyterians, and the Free-Will Baptist Church of this place became extinct.

## THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

was organized Oct. 9, 1836, by Rev. James Dorsey, in the village school-house. Who the organizing members were cannot now be told, but among the names appearing earliest upon the records may be given those of Ralph Whitsett, Abbia Allen, William Sowers, Daniel Torry, Nathan G. Hubbs, Edmund and Samuel Hubbs, Daniel Springer, Robert Stogdall, Sarah Sowers, Mary Hubbs, Sarah Stam, Polly Allen, Deborah Stogdall, Sister Whitsett, Sarah Springer, Rachel Hubbs, James Dorsey, William Munnell, Charlotte Allen, Maria Allen, Barbara Allen, and Elizabeth Hubbs. The records of the church history are vague and imperfect, and afford but little information. It is known that the Union church building was used as a meeting-house to 1869, and that in that year the present church edifice on Second Street was erected. The membership now aggregates about one hundred and twenty-five. The elders are Wesley Larimer, Edward W. White, Thomas Maude, Samuel Mansfield, and James Hamer; the deacons, George Whiting, John Coldren, James L. Krepps, and William W. Whitsett. Samuel Mansfield is superintendent of the Sunday-school.

## FAYETTE CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Presbyterian Church of Fayette City was organized about 1870 by members of Rehoboth Church, and purchase made of the house of worship built by the Free-Will Baptists and abandoned by them about 1860. Rev. Mr. Gailey was the first regular pastor. The subscribers to the fund for the support of the pastor in 1872 are named herewith, and in that list, it is fair to

assume, appear the names of all or nearly all of the church-members at that period. They were William Bank, Nancy J. Sisley, Mary Conrad, Mrs. Sisley, Dit Church, Dr. Stone, J. C. King, Celia McKee, M. Slotterbeck, Mrs. McKee, D. H. Hough, W. A. McCune, Daniel Pflughardt, Mrs. Fulton, Mrs. Stone, Dr. Conklin, Samuel Galloway, Samuel Clark, J. R. Wilson, George Clark, Nancy Wilson, Mr. Dunlevy, John Brown, A. Dunlevy, H. F. Blythe, H. Patton, Sarah Patton, S. Downs, K. B. Brown, Mrs. Torrence, Mrs. M. A. Kuntz, J. L. McFeter, Sallie Hunter, Eli Allen, L. J. Jeffries, R. C. Santee, William McCrory, R. G. Mullin, William Lenhart, Mrs. Mullin, J. Dinsmore, Cyrus Hough, W. McCrory, Hugh McKee, Joseph Brown, Mr. Powers, J. Wykoff. The pastor now in charge is Rev. A. B. Lowes, also in charge of the church at Belle Vernon. The elders are M. Slotterbeck and J. C. King. J. C. King is superintendent of the Sabbath-school. The church membership is thirty-two.

## FAYETTE CITY WOOLEN-FACTORY.

This manufacturing enterprise, located on Downer's Run, near the borough limits, was founded in 1840 by its present owner, James Hamer. In 1830, Mr. Hamer and James Pilling manufactured woolen goods at Cook's Mills, and in 1835, the firm dissolving, Hamer moved to the Little Redstone, and in 1840 to Cookstown. His manufactured product embraces chiefly woolen goods and yarns for local supply and country trade. The factory is supplied with three carding-machines, one spinning-jack, and one hundred and fifty spindles. Five hands are usually employed.

## BANK.

The only banking-house ever possessed by Fayette City was founded by Binns, Cope & Brown in 1875, who are still the owners of the institution. It is a private enterprise, but transacts a general banking business upon an ample capital.

## SOCIETIES AND ORDERS.

GUMERT LODGE, No. 252, F. A. M., was chartered Dec. 27, 1850, to Charles H. Conley, W. M.; Adam Shunk, S. W.; John Swearet, J. W. In 1856 the officers were George Whiting, W. M.; J. T. C. Ford, S. W.; Ziba Whiting, J. W.; Louis Krepps, S. D.; H. Westcott, J. D.; William Troth, Treas.; John Mullin, Sec.; M. Slotterbeck, M. C.; William Gaskill, Tiler. The membership May 1, 1881, was forty-four, when the officers were A. B. Troth, W. M.; J. D. Barnum, S. W.; George Treasure, J. W.; L. J. Jeffries, Treas.; Louis Krepps, Sec.; William Furlong, S. D.; M. Alter, J. D.; Henry Pendleton, Tiler; John Pflughardt, M. C.; A. S. Blair, H.

FAYETTE CITY LODGE, No. 511, I. O. O. F., was chartered Nov. 20, 1854. The first officers were Michael Alter, N. G.; James Houseman, V. G.; F. M. Yost, Sec.; E. D. McClellan, A. S.; John G. Martin, Treas. Although the lodge has contributed



*John B Cook*

materially to the organization of lodges at Greenfield and Belle Vernon, it has still (May 1, 1881) a membership of ninety-six. It is remarkably prosperous in every way, and boasts a fund of about six thousand dollars, represented by real estate and bonded investments. The officers now are Allen Byles, N. G.; Euclid C. Griffith, V. G.; William Beatty, Sec.; J. C. King, Treas.

JOPPA LODGE, No. 396, K. of P., was chartered March 25, 1873, to John A. Bivins, George Treasure, Albert Downer, M. Alters, S. R. Walters, T. F. Baldwin, William Vaughn, R. Jones, and T. V. Vaughn. The members numbered fifty in May, 1881. Then the officers were William Lindey, C.; Frank Bell, V. C.; Charles H. Mott, P.; John Pfliegardt, M. of E.; George Krepps, K. of R. and S.; W. P. Vaughn, M. of F.; John Pascoe, M. at A.

AGAPA LODGE, No. 63, A. O. U. W., was organized in 1873. In May, 1881, the membership was twenty. The officers were then as follows: Ralph Gray, M. W.; Lewis Kendall, P. M. W.; Charles Farquhar, Foreman; Frank Rutherford, O.; F. T. Baldwin, R.; J. T. Brightwell, Financier; H. B. Fleming, Guide; Henry Belter, O. W.

#### MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY.

This handsomely adorned home of the dead, located upon a commanding eminence that overlooks the town, is owned by Samuel Mansfield. It fronts the State road, and contains four acres, apportioned into three hundred and thirty-five burial-lots in the form of a parallelogram. The entrance is through an arched gateway surmounted with the figure of Hope. There are neatly-kept paths, bright-looking lawns, and many tasteful monuments.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

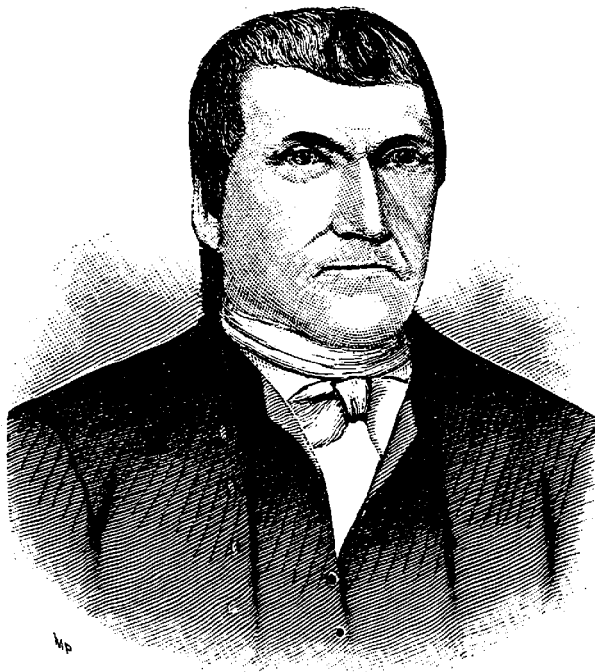
### JOHN BELL COOK.

John Bell Cook, of Washington township, is of the third generation of that name in this locality. He was born Aug. 26, 1808, upon the old Cook homestead in that township. His early education was received in the common schools. He learned the business of farming, and resided with his father until his marriage with Matilda Cunningham, of Washington township, Fayette Co., Oct. 18, 1837, and then moved to a farm on the Monongahela River near Fayette City, where he resided sixteen years. Here all of his children, below named, were born: James was born May 14, 1840, and followed farming until September, 1862, when he entered the army. He died at City Point, Aug. 16, 1864, from injuries received in the service. His remains were removed in November of that year to Rehoboth Presbyterian Cemetery. Sarah A. was born Aug. 23, 1842. She was educated

in the common schools and Blairsville Female Seminary, married Andrew M. Fulton, Esq., of Greensburg, Jan. 14, 1874, and died December 12th of the same year. William Johnson, the third child, was born July 4, 1844, and died in infancy. Joseph A. was born Dec. 11, 1846. He is a farmer, and resides with his father. He married Violette H. Elliott, of Jefferson township, Sept. 20, 1876; they have two children, Ada and Sallie. The youngest child, Robert Johnson, was born March 21, 1849. He received his early education in the common schools, entered Yale College in 1872, and graduated in 1876. He began the study of law in Greensburg with A. M. Fulton, Esq., in 1877, and completed his course in the office of Hon. John H. Baily, of Pittsburgh. He was admitted to the bar in 1878, and was married April 26, 1881, to Annie Wells, of Pittsburgh, and sailed for Europe. He is now in Leipsic, Germany, studying. They have one child, born in Germany. He was captain of the Yale boat crew from 1873 until 1876. He was sent by Yale to England in 1873 to learn the English stroke.

Mr. Cook has never held a political office outside of the township, and never sought one. He has been a member of the Presbyterian Church for many years. His father, James Cook, was born Aug. 13, 1772, upon the Cook homestead, and was a farmer. May 6, 1806, he married Mary Bell, who was born in Ireland, and emigrated to this country when eleven years old. They had six children,—five sons and one daughter. John was the second. The sons were all farmers. The daughter married a farmer. Only three of the children are living,—John B., William E., and Martha Hough.

Mr. Cook's grandfather, Col. Edward Cook, was the pioneer of civilization in this region. He moved here in 1770 from Conococheague, Franklin Co., where he married Martha Crawford. They had but one child, James Cook. To his character the legends of the times say that the inscription upon his tombstone (composed by the Rev. William Wylie, pastor of the Rehoboth Church of Rostraver township, Westmoreland Co., from 1803 to 1815), is a fitting tribute. It is, "In memory of Col. Edward Cook. He died on the 27th of November, 1808, in the seventy year of his age. Few men have deserved and possessed more eminently than Col. Cook the consideration and esteem of the people in the Western country. In public spirit, disinterestedness, and zeal for the general welfare he was excelled by none. In private life, his unsullied integrity, his liberality, and the amiable benevolence of his temper endeared him to his friends, and marked him as a sanctuary to which the poor might confidently resort for relief. Through a long life of piety and active exertion to promote the interests of the Christian religion he had learned to set his heart upon a nobler inheritance than that of this world. He therefore received the approach of his dissolution with resignation and com-



COL. EDWARD COOK.

posure, under a lively hope that the end of life here would be to him but the beginning of infinite happiness."

Col. Edward's wife was born Dec. 25, 1743, and died April 20, 1837.

John B. Cook possesses many of the virtues of his grandsire.

#### SAMUEL C. GRIFFITH.

Samuel C. Griffith was born in Westmoreland County, Pa., Nov. 28, 1795. When young his father moved to Washington township, Fayette Co., and located upon the farm which his son afterwards owned, and upon which his widow now resides. Mr. Griffith's early years were spent in farm-work, factory-work, and attending the district schools.

When seventeen years of age he engaged in school-teaching. For forty years he continued in this work during the winter season, only missing one winter. He was one of the best and most widely-known surveyors in the county, and spent much of his time, when not engaged in teaching, in surveying. His father, William Griffith, becoming involved by indorsing for some of his neighbors, the farm was sold by the sheriff, and Samuel bought it; that was in 1822. He was married March 27, 1823, to Esther Farquhar, of Washington township, Fayette Co., Pa. They had seven children, six of whom are living,—Mary, married to Levi B. Stephens; Elmira, married to David P. Stephens; Emlen B., married to Margaret A. Guffey, and again to Elizabeth Crouch; Euclid C., married to Martha Stephens; Sarah, married to Thomas Watson; and Esther F., married to Thomas C. Griffith.

Mr. Griffith was a member of the Quaker meeting till the time of his marriage. He was turned out for marrying out of the Society.

He was a justice of the peace for many years, and was a general business man, wrote and acknowledged many deeds, married people, wrote articles of agreement, etc.

His widow thinks his father's people came from Wales. His moral status, like that of all Quakers, was good. He was a jovial man, and a valuable and respected citizen. He was industrious, always engaged in some useful work. He was much above the average in intelligence, a great student of mathematics and history. He was a careful workman. His penmanship was elegant. All of his work was done well. He died July 11, 1873, mourned by the entire community. His remains rest in Little Redstone Methodist Cemetery.

#### LEVI B. STEPHENS.

Levi B. Stephens was born Oct. 28, 1821, on the old Stephens homestead, in Washington township, Fayette Co., Pa., where he grew to manhood. His education was limited to the district schools of his native township, where he laid the foundations for an active and successful business life. On the 10th day of April, 1845, he was joined in marriage to Miss Mary Griffith, daughter of Samuel C. and Esther (Farquhar) Griffith. She was born in Washington township, Fayette Co., Pa., Jan. 25, 1824. Their union has been blessed with three children, as follows: Elmira, born Jan. 26, 1846, married Jehu Luce, Oct. 19, 1865; Esther J., born Oct. 1, 1848, married June 29, 1870, to John W. Smith (Esther died Sept. 17, 1878); and Adeline, born March 14, 1851, married Dec. 6, 1877, to James H. McKnight. Arrived at man's estate, Mr. Stephens first bought the farm now owned by John Patterson, in Perry township. This he sold, and in 1850 moved upon the farm in Washington township, still belonging to his estate. He afterwards purchased another farm, which he owned at his death, which occurred Dec. 29, 1874. He is spoken of by his neighbors as a man of sterling qualities, one whose word was as good as a bond, and one who, in his dealing with his fellow-men, always remembered the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Mr. and Mrs. Stephens were for many years members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

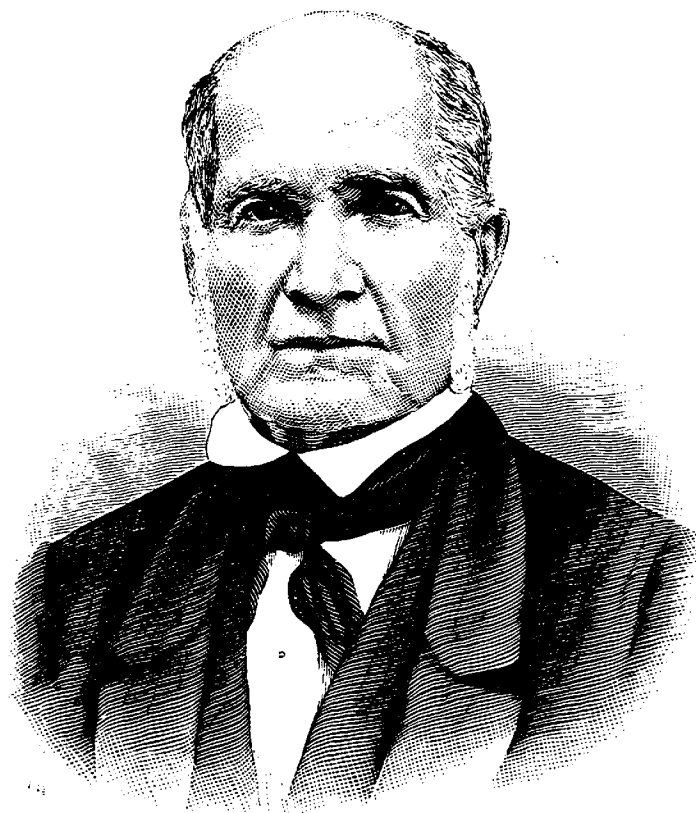
#### LEVI STEPHENS.

The Stephens family is one of the oldest and largest in Fayette County. The first of whom the family here have any account was one John Stephens, who emigrated from Wales when seventeen years of age, and settled in Eastern Pennsylvania, probably in Bucks County. He had a son Levi, who came to Fayette County when about eighteen years of age,



*Samuel B. Griffiths*

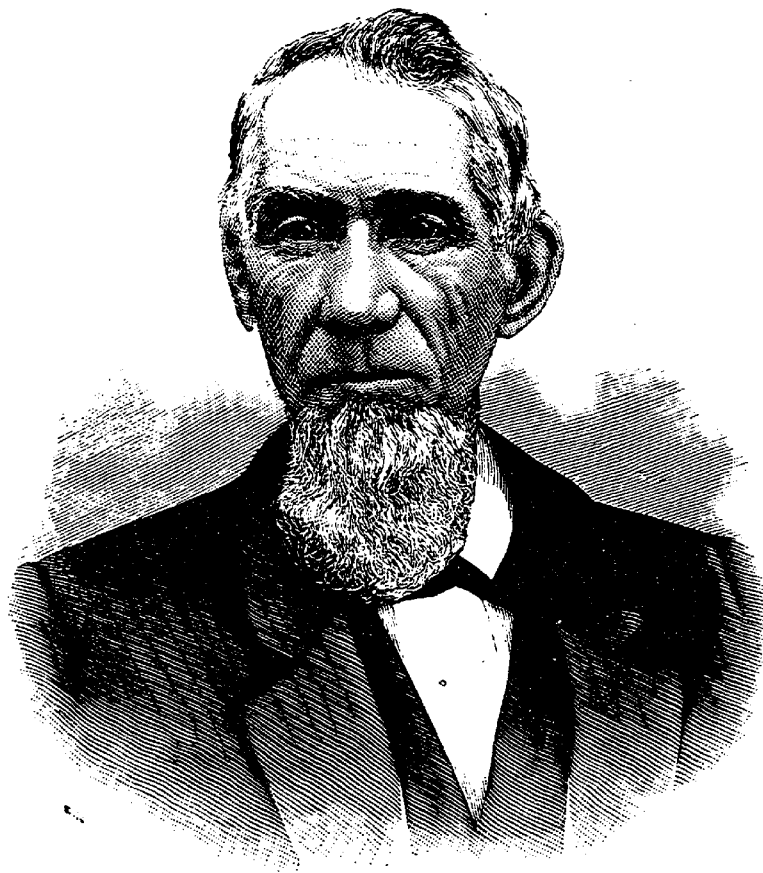




*Levi Stephens*



*Levi B. Stephens.*



DENTON LYNN.



*John Brown*

as a government surveyor. He took land for his services, and owned all the lands now in possession of his progeny. He married Elizabeth Brown, of Chester County, Pa. They had seven children,—Nathaniel, Sarah, John, Levi, Nancy, Elizabeth, and Thomas,—who grew to manhood and womanhood and married. Two of their children died in infancy.

Levi, the last surviving member of this family, was born Sept. 10, 1790. He spent his early life tilling his father's farm and attending the district school of the neighborhood. In 1813 he was married to Mary Farquhar, of Washington township, Fayette Co. They located upon the farm where his widow now resides, and his entire life was spent here as a farmer. He died Jan. 13, 1878. His widow survives him, aged eighty-six. They have had nine children. Six are now living. Robert, Esther, and Aaron are dead. Jehu, Israel, Johnson, Rachel, James, and Mary are living, married, and have families.

Levi Stephens never had time to hold an office. He was a busy farmer, and gave all his children a pecuniary start in life. He was an amiable, benevolent gentleman. He was not a member of the church, but his moral standing was excellent, according to the testimony of his discreetest neighbors.

#### JOHN BROWN.

The first of the family of the late Mr. John Brown, of Washington township, and who died April 15, 1872, of whom there is any special record at hand was Andrew Brown, who was born in Ireland in 1759. He emigrated to America in 1779, and settled on West Conococheague Creek, in Franklin County, Pa. His wealth at that time consisted of one shilling. He remained there just long enough to make the money to bring him to Fayette County. When he came here he settled on Mill Run, one and a half miles east of Fayette City, where he bought a farm from Col. Edward Cook. He engaged in farming, and continued in that occupation all his life. April 24, 1788, he married Jane Bigham, of Westmoreland County, Pa. They had seven daughters and three sons. Of the children, Hester and Andrew died young; Elizabeth married Hugh C. Ford; Nancy died single; Polly married Capt. Duncan Campbell; Jane married John Moore; Martha C. died single; Margaret married James Torrance.

John was the seventh child, and the only one of the sons who grew to manhood. He was born April 1, 1805. His early life was passed upon his father's farm. His opportunities for early education were limited, being confined to the common schools. The little learning he gathered there was supplemented by extensive reading in after-years. His father died in 1823, and the management of the farm devolved upon

him. He proved himself a successful manager, and although a liberal giver to all benevolent causes, he added largely to what he inherited from his father. He was married Dec. 12, 1844, to Sarah H. Power, of Allegheny County, Pa. They had five children. Ada and Anna died at two years of age; Nannie J. died at the age of twenty; Mary Emma, married to M. M. Willson, of Westmoreland County. They have one child living, Andrew Brown Willson.

Andrew Brown, the only son, resides with his mother upon the old homestead. John Brown held the office of justice of the peace for a number of years. He was a man of peace. He rarely charged anything for his services, and always counseled an amicable settlement of difficulties between neighbors. He was for many years an active member and liberal supporter of the Rehoboth Presbyterian Church. His family are all members of the same communion. He left his family valuable possessions, a good name, lands, etc.

His family and friends bless his memory, and love to tell of his charities, gentleness, lowliness of heart, and many other Christian graces. His virtues were many.

Andrew Brown, Sr., was for fifty years an elder in the Presbyterian Church of Rehoboth. He died March 27, 1823. Jane, his wife, departed this life April 7, 1833, aged sixty-nine years.

#### DENTON LYNN.

Denton Lynn, of Washington township, is of Irish descent, and was born upon the farm where he now resides fifty-one years ago. His education was received in the common schools. He early learned the business of farming, and has been engaged in it ever since. He was married Feb. 8, 1857, to Margaret A. Corwin, of Belle Vernon. She died May 22, 1881. There were born to them eleven children, all of whom are living,—Sylvania, married to Johnson Hough, Joanna, Olive R., John C., Charles Sumner, Joseph Denton, Robert Finley, Martha D., George E., Nellie, and Mary Emma.

Mr. Lynn has held the usual township offices. His father was John Lynn, who was born in 1794, and lived and died upon this farm. He married Drusilla Curry, of Fayette City. They had eight children. Denton is the youngest. His grandfather's name was Andrew Lynn. He was born on Town Creek, Allegany Co., Md., Sept. 23, 1766. When very young his father, whose name was Andrew, settled upon Big Redstone, in Redstone township, upon the farm which James M. Lynn now owns. Soon after settling there Andrew (1st) purchased the land owned now by Denton Lynn from the Indians. He added to his first purchase a farm of 130 acres, owned by one Pearce. The deed was made in 1790, and bears the name of Thomas Mifflin, first Governor of Pennsyl-

vania. Upon this tract are some of the largest locust-trees in the State, one, measuring twenty feet in circumference, and known to be nearly two centuries old, is probably the progenitor of all the living locusts of this region. It also contains the remains of "Fort Sedgy." The tract was known by that name. The fort consisted of a strong stone wall about four feet high, built in the shape of a horseshoe. Many relics have been found here, such as tomahawks, skeletons, etc.

One human skeleton here found measured eight feet in length.

Mr. Lynn's possessions are chiefly lands, and he has added considerably to what he inherited. He is a prudent business man, and has a comfortable home. He is noted for his sobriety, industry, and honesty.

Mr. Lynn's great-grandfather, Andrew Lynn, was a colonel in the Revolutionary war, and served during the entire struggle.