

PERRY TOWNSHIP.

PERRY is one of the northernmost townships of Fayette County, its northern line being a part of the boundary between this county and Westmoreland. On the east the township is bounded by Lower Tyrone and Franklin, on the south by Franklin, and on the west by Jefferson and Washington. Perry lies on both sides of the Youghiogheny River, which flows through the township in a general northwesterly course. Its other principal streams are Jacob's Creek, Washington Run, and Virgin Run. The last named enters the Youghiogheny from the south, and marks the southeastern boundary of Perry against the township of Franklin. Washington Run flows northeastwardly through the central part of Perry, past its principal town (Perryopolis), and falls into the Youghiogheny. Jacob's Creek enters the Youghiogheny from the eastward, and marks the northeastern boundary of Perry against Westmoreland County.

That part of the township which lies east of the Youghiogheny, and between it and Jacob's Creek, is mountainous, rising in some parts quite precipitously from both streams, and having but little bottom-land. In that part of the township which lies on the southwest side of the river the land rises to a considerable height from the Youghiogheny, then slopes back to what are called Washington Bottoms, which are drained by Washington Run. Where the village of Perryopolis is located is a moderate elevation of land, which from there has a gradual descent in all directions. This section is excellently adapted for the production of grain and grass, and nearly the whole township, particularly that part southwest of the river, embraces very fine lands for purposes of agriculture. The Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad—now generally known as the Baltimore and Ohio, because leased by that company—traverses the township along the right bank of the Youghiogheny River, and has within the boundaries of Perry two stations,—Layton and Banning's. The population of the township by the census of 1880 was fourteen hundred and seventy-six.

NAMES OF ORIGINAL PURCHASERS OF LANDS IN PERRY TOWNSHIP.

William Athel, 331 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres, Spring Run; warranted April 3, 1769; surveyed Oct. 27, 1769.
George Washington, 329 acres, Meadows; warranted April 3, 1769; surveyed Oct. 25, 1769.
Thomas Jones, 332 acres, Deer Range; warranted April 3, 1769; surveyed Oct. 26, 1769.

John Paty, 330 acres, Crab-Tree Run; warranted April 3, 1769; surveyed Oct. 27, 1769.

John Bishop, 319 acres, Flatt; warranted April 3, 1769; surveyed Oct. 28, 1769.

NOTE.—The five tracts above were surveyed to the original warrant-holders, Oct. 26 and 27, 1769, but were all patented to George Washington, Feb. 28, 1782.

George Brown, 326 acres; warranted April 3, 1769.

James Hunter, 276 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres; warranted April 19, 1769.

Eleanor Hunter, 326 acres; warranted April 19, 1769.

Hopewell Jewell, 82 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres; warranted April 17, 1794; surveyed Aug. 25, 1795.

John Jones, 224 acres.

J. Augustine Washington, 320 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, Fork; warranted April 3, 1769; surveyed October 28.

Laurence Washington, 320 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, Bear Hill; warranted April 3, 1769; surveyed October 28.

William Wilson, 205 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

Christopher Bealer, 298 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres; warranted Dec. 16, 1788; surveyed March 11, 1789.

Mary Higgs, Springfield; patented April 6, 1791.

John G. Zizing, 68 $\frac{1}{2}$ \times 158 acres; warranted March 10, 1819, and Feb. 25, 1822.

William Espey, 149 acres; warranted May 27, 1785; surveyed Oct. 31, 1811.

Hugh Espey, 113 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, June 27, 1809.

Robert Espey, 66 acres, 1815.

William Turnbull, 301 acres, Rocksbury; patented July 13, 1789.

William Turnbull, 219 acres, Springsbury; patented July 13, 1789.

Jacob Lawrie, 223 acres, Luton; patented Jan. 9, 1789.

Valentine Secrist, 108 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres; warranted Sept. 29, 1791; surveyed Oct. 26th.

EARLY LAND PURCHASES AND SETTLEMENTS.

The earliest as well as the most extensive purchaser of lands in what is now Perry township was Gen. (then Col.) George Washington, who received a warrant for lands here on the first day of the land-office of the proprietaries for the sale of tracts west of the mountains, April 3, 1769. Nearly two years prior to this, however, Washington had begun to entertain the idea of purchasing large tracts in this region, as is shown by the tenor of a letter written by him to Capt. William Crawford, of Stewart's Crossings (now New Haven), as follows:

"MOUNT VERNON, Sept. 21, 1767.

"DEAR SIR,—From a sudden hint of your brother's¹ I wrote to you a few days ago in a hurry. Having since had more

¹ The brother of William Crawford here referred as having given Washington his first hint concerning the obtaining of a tract of land

time for reflection, I now write deliberately and with greater precision on the subject of my last letter. I then desired the favor of you (as I understood rights might now be had for the lands which have fallen within the Pennsylvania line)¹ to look me out a tract of about fifteen hundred, two thousand, or more acres somewhere in your neighborhood, meaning only by this that it may be as contiguous to your own settlement as such a body of good land can be found. It will be easy for you to conceive that ordinary or even middling lands would never answer my purpose or expectation, so far from navigation and under such a load of expenses as these lands are incumbered with. No; a tract to please me must be rich (of which no person can be a better judge than yourself) and, if possible, level. Could such a piece of land be found you would do me a singular favor in falling upon some method of securing it immediately from the attempts of others, as nothing is more certain than that the lands cannot remain long ungranted when once it is known that rights are to be had.

"... It is possible, but I do not know that it really is the case, that the custom in Pennsylvania will not admit so large a quantity of land as I require to be entered together; if so, this may perhaps be arranged by making several entries to the same amount, if the expenses of doing it is not too heavy. If the land can only be secured from others it is all I want at present. The surveying I would choose to postpone, at least till the spring, when, if you can give me any satisfactory account of this matter, and of what I am next going to propose, I expect to pay you a visit about the last of April."

No information is found as to the preliminary steps taken by Capt. Crawford to select and secure these lands on behalf of Washington, but it is certain that on the opening of the land-office at the time above mentioned warrants were issued for lands in the present township of Perry, amounting to more than sixteen hundred acres, all of which came into possession of the general. The only tract in this township warranted to George Washington was one named "Meadows." The warrant bore date April 3, 1769, and the survey October 27th of the same year. There was, however, at the same time one tract called "Forks," warranted to John Augusta [Augustine?] Washington; one called "Bear Hills," to Lawrence Washington; one called "Spring Run," to William Athel; one called "Flatts," to John Bishop; one called "Crab-Tree Run," to John Paty; and one called "Deer Range," to Thomas Jones. The surveys, made with large allowance, gave the area of these several tracts as follows: "Meadows," 329 acres; "Forks," 320 acres; "Bear Hills," 320 acres; "Spring Run," 331 acres; "Flatts," 319 acres; "Crab-Tree Run," 330 acres; and "Deer Range," 332 acres. There is nothing found tending to show that either John A. Washington's "Forks" or Laurence Washington's "Bear Hills" tract ever came into the hands of George Washington; but that he did purchase

under Pennsylvania "rights" in the trans-Allegheny country was Valentine Crawford, who located upon Jacob's Creek, Westmoreland Co., Pa.

¹ By the Pennsylvania line Washington meant the boundary line between Pennsylvania and Virginia, which at that date was being run beyond the Allegheny Mountains. His understanding as to rights was erroneous, as will hereafter be seen.

or otherwise acquire all the other tracts above enumerated, amounting in the aggregate to 1641 acres, and that they were patented to him Feb. 28, 1782, is made certain by a recital to that effect in deeds given in the year 1802 by his executors. None of the names of the warrantees of the tracts above named as having been patented to Gen. Washington are found in connection with any later settlement or transfer, and therefore it is probable that they took up the lands in his interest; and it is certain that the warrants taken by them passed to him before the issuance of the patents.

Capt. Crawford, who selected these lands for Washington, acted also as his agent in locating many other tracts in what is now Washington County, Pa., in Ohio, and along the Ohio River Valley in Virginia. In 1770, the year next following the location and survey of these lands, Washington made a tour through this section, and down the Ohio to the Great Kanawha, and kept a journal of the trip. A part of that journal is given below, commencing on the date of his departure from Mount Vernon, viz.:

"October 5th.—Began a journey to the Ohio in company with Dr. Craik, his servant and two of mine, with a led horse and baggage. Dined at Towlston's, and lodged at Leesburg, distant from Mount Vernon about forty-five miles. Here my portmanteau horse failed. [Here follows the journal of six days' journey by way of Old Town, Md., and Fort Cumberland to 'Killman's,' east of Castleman's River.]

"12th.—We left Killman's early in the morning, breakfasted at the Little Meadows, ten miles off, and lodged at the Great Crossing (of the Youghiogeny at Somerfield), twenty miles farther, which we found a tolerably good day's work. . . .

"13th.—Set out about sunrise, breakfasted at the Great Meadows [Fayette Co.], thirteen miles, and reached Captain Crawford's about five o'clock. The land from Gist's [Mount Braddock] to Crawford's is very broken, though not mountainous, in spots exceedingly rich, and in general free from stone; Crawford's is very fine land, lying on the Youghiogeny, at a place commonly called *Stewart's Crossing*.

"14th.—At Captain Crawford's all day. Went to see a coal-mine not far from his house on the banks of the river. The coal seemed of the very best kind, burning freely, and abundance of it.

"15th.—Went to view some land which Captain Crawford located for me near the Youghiogeny,² distant about twelve miles. This tract, which contains about one thousand six hundred acres, includes some as fine land as I ever saw, and a great deal of rich meadow; it is well watered and has a valuable mill-seat, except that the stream is rather too slight, and, it is said, not constant more than seven or eight months in the year; but, on account of the fall and other conveniences, no place can exceed it. In going to this land I passed through two other tracts which Captain Crawford had taken up for my brothers Samuel and John. I intended to have visited the land which Crawford had procured for Lund³ Washington this day also, but, time falling short, I was obliged to postpone it. Night came on before I got back to Crawford's, where I found Colonel Ste-

² Referring to the tracts above mentioned, lying in the present township of Perry.

³ Meaning Laurence Washington, who was not a relative, or if he was, a very distant one, and who is mentioned in the general's will as an "acquaintance and friend of my juvenile years."

phen. The lands which I passed over to-day were generally hilly, and the growth chiefly white oak, but very good notwithstanding; and, what is extraordinary and contrary to the property of all other lands I ever saw before, the hills are the richest land, the soil upon the sides and summits of them being as black as coal, and the growth walnut and cherry. The flats are not so rich, and a good deal more mixed with stone.

"16th. At Captain Crawford's till evening, when I went to Mr. John Stephenson's, on my way to Pittsburg. . . . 17th. Dr. Craik and myself, with Capt. Crawford and others, arrived at Fort Pitt; distance from the Crossing forty-three and a half measured miles. . . ."

On the 20th, Washington, with Dr. Craik, Capt. Crawford, William Harrison, Robert Beall, and others, with some Indians, proceeded down the Ohio in a large canoe, having sent their servants back to Crawford's with orders to meet the party there on the 14th of November, but they did not reach there until ten days after the time appointed. The journal then proceeds,—

"Nov. 24th. When we came to Stewart's Crossing at Crawford's the river was too high to ford, and his canoe gone adrift. However, after waiting there two or three hours, a canoe was got, in which we crossed, and swum our horses. The remainder of this day I spent at Capt. Crawford's, it either raining or snowing hard all day.

"25th. I set out early, in order to see Lund Washington's land; but the ground and trees being covered with snow, I was able to form but an indistinct opinion of it, though upon the whole it appeared to be a good tract of land. From this I went to Mr. Thomas Gist's and dined, and then proceeded to the Great Crossings at Hogland's, where I arrived about eight o'clock."

From there he journeyed back to Mount Vernon by the route over which he came.

Except by the parties above mentioned as receiving warrants April 3, 1769, the only purchases made in the present township of Perry during that year were those of Eleanor and James Hunter, of Philadelphia, the tract of the former being 316 acres, and that of the latter 276½ acres. They were located on the waters of Virgin Run, and warranted April 19, 1769. Of all these purchasers of lands in the present township of Perry in the year 1769, none ever became settlers on them. And from that year until 1784 no other purchases of land were made within the present bounds of the township.

It is evident from the language of Washington's journal, above quoted, that the tracts of his brothers, Samuel and John A. Washington, were on the route from Capt. Crawford's (New Haven) to his own land, at and near the site of the present town of Perryopolis, but that Lund (Laurence) Washington's land lay some distance away from the direct route. It has not been ascertained to whom the title of these lands passed, nor their exact location.

In the extracts above given from Washington's journal of 1770 it will be noticed that he makes reference

to a mill-seat on the small stream (since named Washington Run) which flowed through his tract. It was his purpose to build a mill at this place, and preparations were soon after commenced for it by Gilbert Simpson, whom Washington sent out as manager of his property here. His first business, however, was to erect a log house, which stood adjoining the present residence of John Rice. This was the farmhouse which was the headquarters of the operations carried on by Simpson for the proprietor. The mill was built on the run, in the immediate vicinity of the present village of Perryopolis. From the time of its completion until the present (with the exception of a few years prior to 1790) a mill has been in constant operation on this site.

Between 1770 and 1774, Valentine Crawford (who had settled on Jacob's Creek) succeeded his brother, Capt. William Crawford, as Washington's financial agent in this region, Simpson being merely the manager of his farming and other operations on his lands in the present township of Perry. Below are given some extracts from letters written in the year last named by Valentine Crawford to Col. Washington, having reference to the improvements then being made under the direction of Simpson on the Washington tract, viz.:

"JACOB'S CREEK, April 27, 1774.

"I went to Gilbert Simpson's as soon as I got out and gave him the bill of scantling you gave me, and the bill of his articles. I offered him all the servants that he might take them to your Bottom until we got our crews at work; but he refused for fear they would run away from him. . . ."

"JACOB'S CREEK, May 6, 1774.

"As to the goods, I have stored them; and I went to Mr. Simpson as soon as I came up, and offered him some of the carpenters and all the servants; but he refused taking them,—the latter for fear they would run away; he has, however, now agreed to take some of both, the carpenters to do the framing for the mill, and the servants to dig the race. Stephens has agreed to quit, provided the Indians make peace, and it would be out of his power to get them back again, as he has no means of conveyance. I am afraid I shall be obliged to build a fort until this eruption is over, which I am in hopes will not last long. I trust you write me full instructions as to what I must do. Mr. Simpson yesterday seemed very much scared; but I cheered him up all I could. He and his laborers seemed to conclude to build a fort if times grew any worse."

"GIST'S, May 13, 1774.

"DEAR SIR,—I write to let you know that all your servants are well, and that none of them have run away. Mr. Simpson has as many of the carpenters as he can find work for, and has got some of the servants assisting about the seat for the mill until this storm of the Indians blows over."

"JACOB'S CREEK, May 25, 1774.

"From all accounts Capt. Connolly caught from the Indian towns they are determined for war. . . . I have, with the assistance of some of your carpenters and servants, built a very strong block-house; and the neighbors, what few of them have not run away, have joined with me, and we are building a stockade fort at my house. Mr. Simpson, also, and his neighbors have begun to build a fort at your Bottom; and we live in

hopes we can stand our ground till we can get some assistance from below."

A letter from Crawford, dated June 8th, informed Washington that Simpson had completed the fort at the Bottoms:

"JACOB'S CREEK, July 27, 1774.

"My wagon and team have been at work at your mill for some time, hauling timber, stone, and lime and sand for it. I went over to assist in hauling some of the largest of the timber, but the late alarming accounts of the Indians have stopped the workmen, and I have brought home my team. I consider it a pity that the mill was ever begun in these times. It appears to me sometimes that it will be a very expensive job to you before it is done. All the carpenters I brought out for you stopped work on the sixth of May, except some who were at work on your mill. These I pay myself. I shall observe your orders in regard to settling with the carpenters."

But it seems that the work on construction of the mill was delayed for some cause (doubtless the opening of the war of the Revolution), so that two years had elapsed from the time of its commencement before it was completed and put in operation, as is shown by a letter,¹ dated Sept. 20, 1776, written by Valentine Crawford to Gen. Washington when the latter was engaged in the operations of his army around the city of New York after the battle of Long Island. The following extract from that letter has reference to the building of the mill, and tells the time when it was first started, viz.:

"I this spring, before I came over the mountain, called at Simpson's to see your mill go for the first time of its running, and can assure you I think it the best mill I ever saw anywhere, although I think one of a less value would have done as well. If you remember, you saw some rocks at the mill-seat. These are as fine millstone grit as any in America. The millwright told me the stones he got for your mill there are equal to English burr."

From this time until 1785 little is known as to what was done with Washington's mill, or on his lands in this vicinity. On the 23d of September in that year he wrote to Thomas Freeman (who had succeeded Valentine Crawford as his agent) as follows:

"If you should not have offers in a short time for the hire of my mill alone, or for the mill with one hundred and fifty acres of land adjoining, I think it advisable, in that case, to let it on shares, to build a good and substantial dam of stone where the old one stood, and to erect a proper fore-bay in place of the trunk which now conducts the water to the wheel, and, in a word, to put the house in proper repair. If you should be driven to this for want of a tenant, let public notice thereof be given, and the work let to the lowest bidder, the undertaker finding himself and giving bond and security for the performance of his contract. The charges of these things must be paid out of the first moneys you receive for rent or otherwise. If I could get fifteen hundred pounds for the mill and one hundred acres of land most convenient thereto I would let it go for that money."

"G. WASHINGTON."

¹ This, as well as the extracts before given, is from the "Washington-Crawford Letters."

Gen. Washington, however, did not succeed in selling or otherwise disposing of his lands until the fall of 1789, when they were leased for a term of five years to Col. Israel Shreve,² who afterwards became their purchaser. He (Col. Shreve) emigrated to Western Pennsylvania in 1788 from New Jersey, leaving his old home in Hunterdon County in that State on the 7th of July. With him came others, forming a party of thirty persons in all, viz.: Israel Shreve and Mary, his wife, with their children,—Keziah, Hester, Israel, George, Greene, Rebecca, and Henry, with John Fox and James Starkey; William Shreve and Rhoda, his wife, with their children,—Anna and Richard (the preceding named traveling in three two-horse wagons and driving three cows); Joseph Beck and Sarah, his wife, with their children,—Benjamin, Rebecca, Elizabeth, Henry, Joseph, and Ann (in one three-horse wagon); Daniel Hervey, his wife, Sarah, their son Job, a mulatto boy, Thomas, Joseph, and Ann Wheatley, and John Shellow, the last-named seven traveling with one three-horse wagon, one two-horse wagon, and one cow.

They came over the mountains to Westmoreland County, Pa. Without pausing to follow the fortunes of other members of the party, it is sufficient to say that Col. Shreve stopped with his family in Rostraver township, occupying the house of Joseph Lenman for something more than a year, until he rented the Washington lands, as before mentioned. Soon after concluding the bargain, he wrote to his brother, Caleb Shreve, of Mansfield, N. J., a letter which shows what was the condition of the Washington lands at that time, as also the fact that the mill built by Gilbert Simpson was then in disuse, and too much out of repair to be again started without considerable expense. The letter³ referred to is here given, as follows:

"FORKS OF YOUGH, Dec. 26, 1789.

"DEAR BROTHER,—Having an opportunity to Philadelphia, I embrace it and mention my situation or intended one. Since I have been here, have worked to get Washington Bottom, and have at last obtained the whole tract on rent for five years.

"I wrote to the General by his Agent in this county, Col.

² Israel Shreve was born Dec. 24, 1739, at the Shreve homestead, Mount Pleasant, Mansfield, Burlington Co., N. J., but at a later period removed to Hunterdon County in the same State, where he was living at the outbreak of the Revolution. When the first two battalions were raised in New Jersey for the Continental army, he was appointed by the Congress (Oct. 28, 1775) lieutenant-colonel of the Western Battalion, William Maxwell being appointed colonel and David Ray major. These officers were commissioned Nov. 8, 1775, and the battalion was mustered into the regular Continental service in the following December, and marched to the vicinity of the city of New York, which was then occupied by the British.

On the reorganization of the New Jersey line he was made colonel of the Second Regiment, and remained in that command to the close of the war, serving in Maxwell's brigade, and taking part in many of Washington's most important battles, including that of Monmouth. His brother was colonel of the First New Jersey Regiment, and another brother (Samuel) lieutenant-colonel of the First Battalion of New Jersey in the Continental line.

³ This letter, as also the account of the party with which Col. Shreve emigrated from New Jersey to Western Pennsylvania, was published in the *American Magazine of History* in 1842.

Canon, who a few weeks ago returned from New York; the General was pleased to order Col. Canon to let me have the whole of the Bottoms so called at my offer. The old farm contains about 80 acres of improved upland and about 40 of the best kind of meadows, a bearing orchard of 120 apple and 100 peach trees, the buildings as good as most in this county, pretty well situated, and five other improved farms that at this time rent for £43 10s. I am accountable for the whole rent, which altogether is £60, so that I shall have the old place for £16 10s., to be paid either in money or wheat at 3s. per bushel.

"I considered that the land at the Miami settlement was rising fast, and that I had better pay this low rent for a well-improved farm than barter away my land at a low rate for land here. Land does not rise much in this place owing to the great emigration down the river. It seems as if people were crazy to get afloat on the Ohio. Many leave very good livings, set out for they know not where, but too often find their mistake. I believe this as good as any of the settlements down the river for the present. The Mississippi trade is open at this time, and all the wheat, whisky, bacon, etc., buying up by those concerned in it. The highest price for wheat is four shillings in trade, or three shillings nine pence cash, whisky three shillings cash, and bacon nine pence per pound cash. On the farm where I am going is as good a chance for a grist-mill as any in the whole forks, and a mill that can be set going for I believe fifty pounds, and a number of years given for the repairs. I am in hopes of being able to set it going, as it will produce more grain than all the six farms on the tract. I am to have possession the first of April next, and flatter myself I have as good a chance as any person in my circumstances could expect. I shall have nothing to attend to but my own private concerns. I think this way of life far preferable to any other. Richard Shrieve is to have one of the small farms. They contain of improved land as follows: One forty acres upland and five good meadows; one thirty-five acres upland and six good meadows; the other two twenty-five acres upland and five or six good meadows; the whole in fences, they being the year before last rented for repairs. Peggy Shrieve has a daughter. She and her husband have been very sickly this last fall, but have recovered. I am grandfather to another son. John and his wife are pretty well, as is our family at present, but except the measles, as it is in the school where our boys go. I hope you are well also.

"I am, with great respect and love,

"Your Brother, ISRAEL SHRIEVE."

On the 31st of July, 1795, Gen. Washington, by his attorney, James Ross, of Pittsburgh, entered into articles of agreement to sell and convey in fee simple to Israel Shreve, for the consideration of four thousand pounds, sixteen hundred and forty-four and a quarter acres of land with allowance, consisting of the five surveys before mentioned, viz.: "Meadows," "Deer Range," "Crab-Tree Run," "Flatt," and "Spring Run," for which patents had been issued Washington Feb. 28, 1782. Gen. Washington died in 1799, never having conveyed the tracts under the articles of agreement to Col. Shreve,¹ who also died in the same year.

¹ At one time, not long before the death of Washington and Shreve, the former, notwithstanding his great wealth, having become somewhat straitened for money, pressed Shreve hard for payment on the lands, and caused an execution to be issued against him, at the same time writing him a severe letter in reference to his delinquency; but at its close he relented, and said to his old comrade of Trenton and Monmouth, "Not-

Nearly two years after Gen. Washington's death his executors, George Steptoe Washington and Samuel Lewis, constituted James Ross, of Pittsburgh, their lawful attorney, to convey the five tracts in pursuance of the agreement of July, 1795; and accordingly, on the 17th of June, 1802, Ross did so convey the property to the heirs of Israel Shreve.

Col. Shreve had four sons,—Henry, John, Samuel, and Israel, Jr. Henry was a civil engineer, and was employed by the government to clear the channel of the Red River in Louisiana. He finally settled on that river at the present town of Shreveport, which was named in his honor. John Shreve lived in what is now the township of Perry, and represented the district in the Assembly with John St. Clair and Col. Henry Heaton. Samuel Shreve settled in Perry, and was one of the original proprietors of Perryopolis. Israel Shreve, Jr., also lived and died in Perry.

The heirs of Col. Shreve sold the greater part of the property purchased from Gen. Washington to Isaac Meason. In the division of the property after his death the Shreve homestead, containing one hundred and sixty-one acres, was set off to Mrs. Williams, of Greensburg, by whom it was sold to Caleb Antrim, a Quaker. He left it by will to his daughter Mary, Mrs. William Campbell, whose heirs sold it to the present owner, John Rice.

A tract of two hundred and thirty-six acres of the Washington lands was set off in the partition of the Meason estate to Alfred Meason. He sold to Benjamin Martin, who in turn sold in 1838 to Pierson Cope, who still occupies it. His father was one of the early settlers in Jefferson township, and he is himself one of the oldest living settlers of Perry.

Other purchasers of lands belonging to the original tracts of Gen. Washington were Isaac Sparks, one hundred and eighty-five acres; Ruel Sears, one hundred and fifty acres; and John Lloyd, one hundred and sixty acres. Of the latter, the heirs of Alexander Thom now own fifty acres. The tract of Isaac Sparks was purchased by James Fuller and John F. Martin, Jan. 19, 1831. James Fuller, of Dunlap's Creek, came to this township in 1817, and purchased two hundred acres of the Washington lands of the widow of Isaac Meason, and one hundred and fifty acres of Conrad Shultz, a merchant of Baltimore. He also purchased one hundred and twenty acres of Thomas Burns, it being a part of the Burns tract, which extended to the Youghiogheny River, and on which the Burns Ford was situated. David and John Fuller were two of the six sons of James Fuller.

withstanding what has been done, and in consideration of our ancient friendship, I give you further indulgence. Take this letter to Col. Thomas Collins, sheriff of Fayette County, and it will operate as a stay of execution." Col. Shreve took the letter to the sheriff as directed; further time was given, the payments were met (though with great difficulty) by Shreve, but both he and his great creditor passed from earth leaving the transaction uncompleted and the lands still unconveyed. The letter referred to remained in the possession of Sheriff Collins and his widow for many years.

A tract lying directly south of the town plat of Perryopolis, and containing one hundred and seventy-two acres of the Washington lands, was sold June 13, 1802, to Joseph Sayre. Of this, fifty-one acres was sold in 1806 to John Baldus, who sold in 1810 to John Kubbs. On the 11th of May, 1815, it was conveyed to Samuel Shreve, and on this was surveyed and laid out the outer tier of lots that was added to the town plat in 1815. The land comprising the original plat of the town was purchased before 1814 of George Meason by Samuel Shreve, Dr. Thomas Hersey, and Nathan Hersey.

The Washington Mill property passed to Powell Hough, and from him to John Strickler and Jacob Strawn. Strawn's heirs sold it to George Anderson, who repaired it in 1859, and later sold to Samuel Smith, in whose possession it still is. The site has been occupied by a mill in active operation for a period of one hundred and five years without intermission, except for a few years prior to 1790, during which it was out of repair and in disuse.

James Hunter and his wife, Eleanor, were among the owners of original tracts in this township, two hundred and seventy-six acres on Virgin Run being warranted to him, and three hundred and twenty-six acres to her, on the 19th of April, 1769. They were residents of the city of Philadelphia, and he a land speculator. It was said of him that he could ride from Philadelphia to Lake Erie and sleep every night on his own land. He and his wife were in the habit of riding through the country together to visit his lands. Pierson Cope says he remembers that when he was a boy James Hunter and wife came together to the house of his father (who was Hunter's agent) in a private carriage, with a white man for a driver. This driver had heard of sugar-trees, and asked young Cope to show him one. This he did, but the man after examining the tree remarked that he saw no signs of sugar upon it, whereupon the lad explained at length (and much to the driver's surprise) the process by which it was manufactured from the sap. Both the two tracts above mentioned became Mr. Hunter's property. He lived to a very advanced age, and in a codicil to his will (made Dec. 14, 1819) devised his lands in Perry township to his niece, Mrs. Eleanor H. Curwin. Afterwards the greater part of these lands were sold by Pierson Cope, as agent, to Obadiah Bowne, Sr., and John H. Blaney.

The Bowne tract was sold by order of court after the death of Mr. Bowne, Sr. The widow of Obadiah Bowne, Jr., had an interest of \$500 in the property by will if she married, and the whole of it if she remained single. She preferred matrimony, and in the course of time married James Blair, Jr., her manager. They bought in the farm, she paying one-half of the purchase-money and he the other half. Mrs. Blair by this last act helped to pay for the farm three times, —first, in assisting her husband in helping his father

pay for the place originally; second, in paying off legacies under the will of Obadiah Bowne, Sr.; and third, in the half-payment at the time of purchase by Mr. Blair.

The remainder of the Hunter tract was purchased by John H. Blaney, James Blair, Sr., John B. Blair, James Piersol, John Carr, John Hamilton, Samuel Johnson, and Ephraim Lynch. A brother of Ephraim, Robert Lynch, was a blacksmith and an axemaker. For a time he had a shop on the Israel Shreve farm, afterwards built on what is now the King farm. The coal to supply his forge was brought from Little Redstone. A few years later a vein of coal was found within a short distance of the forge.

The tract of land situated north of the Hunter tract, and running to the Youghiogheny River, contained over three hundred acres. Charles March became the possessor of the tract from the warrantee about 1790. It passed from him to his sons, John M. and James. The widow of the latter is now living on the place.

Christian Patterson became the owner of over one hundred acres of land before 1800. He sold to Benjamin Martin, who later conveyed it to Thomas Price, by whom the present brick house on the farm was built. The property now belongs to Mrs. Sutton.

The place where Aaron Townsend now lives was owned fifty years ago by his father, Aaron Townsend, Sr., who purchased of Joseph Radcliff. Freeman Cooper resides on a farm purchased by his father, Joel Cooper, of John Patterson.

Hugh Patterson is a son of James H. Patterson, of Franklin township. The latter purchased many years ago.

North of the Joseph Radcliff tract is land that formerly belonged to Patrick Robinson, who left it by will to his wife. She conveyed it to Robinson Murphy and Samuel Watson, who both live on the place. Adjoining this last tract on the northwest is four hundred acres of land now owned by James Piersol, which was purchased by his father, William Piersol, before the commencement of the present century. Samuel, a brother of James, owned land adjoining, also a part of the land of his father. His son Levi now owns this, and has added considerably to it.

Benjamin, Sarah, and Elizabeth Powers, all advanced in years, are old settlers, and live on an old homestead.

Thomas Cook, a native of Chester County, Pa., came to this township about 1800, and purchased over three hundred acres of land south of the Washington tract. He was a weaver and wheelwright, and forsook farming after a time and bought the John Follies mill on Big Redstone Creek, and resided there till his death. He had a number of children. John, a son, settled on Big Redstone Creek, and now owns the mill his father purchased years before. Rebecca, the daughter of Thomas Cook, married James D. Cope, the father of Eli and Pierson Cope. The farm of Thomas Cook was purchased by George Stickle, Pat-

rick Watson, Josiah King, and David Jones. Josiah King, in addition to his original purchase, now owns part of the George Stickle farm.

A property lies in this section of the township formerly owned by William Wallace, and now by John H. Patterson, that contains a fine vein of coal, which is the eastern outcrop of the Pittsburgh or Monongahela basin.

West of the Cook farm, adjoining the Jefferson township line, is a farm formerly owned by Samuel Brewer, whose son Henry now owns it. Adjoining this tract north lies a tract that many years ago was owned by John Negis. Later it was owned by William Binns, by whom it was conveyed to William Price, who now owns it.

Jonathan Hewitt, a native of Ireland, came to this country in 1770, and in 1786 to this section. No account is shown of purchase until Sept. 15, 1807, when he purchased of Thomas Barns one hundred and sixty acres of land, part of the tract which was patented Oct. 26, 1795. The children of Jonathan were Abel, Joseph, John, Elizabeth, Mary, and others who moved West. Abel lived on Washington Run, near the mouth, where he erected a saw-mill and carding-machine. He died there, leaving a widow and large family, now scattered in the West. John Bradley now owns the Abel Hewitt property. In 1870, Bradley started the manufacture of fire-brick in the run, and later removed above Layton's Station, where he is still manufacturing.

Joseph Hewitt lived on part of the old farm. His son Milton now owns it, and is devoting it to fruit culture. In 1877 he started a fruit-house for preserving apples late in the spring. He studded and sheathed an old house with eighteen inches space, which was filled with saw-dust. The first year he kept successfully five hundred barrels, which were sold in March for four dollars and seventy-five cents per barrel. In 1879 five hundred barrels were also kept, and in 1880 twelve hundred barrels were put up, which were finely preserved. An additional house was built in 1878, which was intended to keep them still later.

John A., son of Jonathan Hewitt, settled on part of the homestead where his daughter, Mrs. George Jackson, now lives. Elizabeth married James Binns and went West. Mary married Asa Chambers; they lived and died in the township. A son, Asa, now lives on part of the farm left to his mother.

Jacob Harris purchased five hundred acres of land of the warrantee. It lay west and northwest from Washington Bottoms. He had four sons—Benjamin, James, Isaac, and Jacob—and six daughters,—Amy (Mrs. Andrew Work), Annie (Mrs. Thomas Patton), Rachel and Sally, who married brothers by the name of Stemm; Jemima (Mrs. John Coder), and Eliza (Mrs. Harvey Henderson). Jacob in his will devised his real estate to his sons and grandsons. The hundred acres were owned by Benjamin H., one hundred

and sixteen by Jacob, and one hundred and ninety by James Harris.

Henry Stow, Samuel and David Luce now own land long known as the Powers farm, a tract of over four hundred acres. From Powers it passed to Hurst, who sold it to John H. Martin, by whom at different times it has been conveyed to its present owners.

Joseph McGara many years ago owned a tract of two hundred acres. He died. His family sold out and removed West. The farm is now owned by Philip Luce, Elliot Porter, William Wiggle, and others.

The section of the township known as the Browneller settlement was formerly owned by Thomas and William Bleakley. Frederick Browneller came from Franklin County, Pa., and purchased the Thomas Bleakley tract, and Jacob Snyder that of his brother, William Bleakley. The heirs of Jacob Snyder still own the property. On the Snyder farm was built the old log church belonging to the Cumberland Presbyterians, and known by the name of "Harmony." The present church stands nearly on the same site.

Frederick Browneller built a saw-mill on a small stream near his place, which was discontinued a few years ago. He had four sons,—William, Samuel, Frederick, and George. The two former remained on the farm, and the other removed West. A steam saw-mill at the mouth of Van Meter's Run is owned by Peter Van Meter, of Rostraver township. He married a daughter of Peter Marmie, who was for many years connected with the Jacob's Creek Iron-Works.

The land now owned by Oliver Porter and John Bryan was owned many years ago by one Peter Reed. Joseph Whitsett took up a warrant for one hundred and forty-four acres of land in the section. The land where Ralph C. Whitsett now lives, on the Youghiogheny River east of Van Meter's Run, was formerly owned by a Mr. Thompson, who sold to Robert Wilkinson. The Martin Elwell farm was formerly owned by Henry Stone, Sr. A Mr. Rhodobacker purchased of the warrantee the farm now owned by the heirs of David Carson. Job Strawn, from Berks County, Pa., prior to 1800 purchased a tract of three hundred acres. When the excitement of magnificent enterprises broke out at Perryopolis, he became interested in the glass-works and the bank at that place, and when the crash came, his property was swept away by the disastrous management of the former. The farm was sold at sheriff's sale and purchased by his son Jacob, who lived there until his death in December, 1855, by an accident on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad near Layton Station. His son is now a merchant at Perryopolis. Job Strawn, after the sale of his property, removed to the West.

Thomas Carson many years ago purchased a tract of land known as the "Round Bottom." It passed from him to his sons John and James, and recently the homestead was sold to Albert Marlin. Joel, a grandson of Thomas, owns a part of the farm formerly owned by his grandfather.

Samuel Burns bought of the warrantee a tract of land, which was patented to him Dec. 28, 1809, and known as "Liberty Hill." He devised the property to his son, Thomas E. Burns, who sold it on the 8th of November, 1823, to Robert Bleakley. On the 31st of January, 1848, it came into possession of James Fuller, and is now owned by his son, David Fuller. Of the other sons of James Fuller, John resides in the borough of Perryopolis; James, William, and Alfred are residents of Philadelphia. The last two are engaged in shipping beef to London, and are also very extensive manufacturers of oleomargarine. William acts as managing partner in London.

The settlements before mentioned were all south of the Youghiogheny River. In that part of the present township north of the river, and thence to the county line on Jacob's Creek, the largest purchaser was William Turnbull, of the firm of Turnbull, Marmie & Co., merchants of Philadelphia, who became interested in iron ore which was found in these lands. This firm, in the spring of 1789, began the erection here of the first furnace built west of the Allegheny Mountains. At what time the warrants were taken out is not known. The tract on which the furnace was built was named "Rocksburg," and contained three hundred and one acres. The patent was issued on the 13th of July, 1789. At this time the furnace was so far completed as to be mentioned in a petition to the court of Fayette County, at the June session, for a road "from the furnace on Jacob's Creek to Thomas Kyle's mill."

A tract of three hundred and one acres, named "Frankford," and another adjoining of two hundred and nineteen acres, named "Springsbury," were patented to Mr. Turnbull at the same time. A tract of two hundred and twenty-three acres adjoining, named "Luton," was patented to Jacob Lowrie, Jan. 9, 1789. This was purchased by Turnbull & Marmie on the 9th of October, 1791. In addition to the ten hundred and forty-four acres owned by Mr. Turnbull in Fayette County, there was obtained by patent and by purchase thirteen hundred and eighty-one acres of land across Jacob's Creek, in Westmoreland County, as follows: "Rural Felicity," 262 acres, patented Nov. 1, 1787; "Bannockburn," 308 acres, patented July 11, 1789; "Darby," 312 acres, patented July 13, 1789; "Abington," 200 acres, patented April 17, 1790; and a tract of 299 acres, named "Springfield," which was patented to John Gebhart, March 10, 1785, and sold to Turnbull, Marmie & Co., Oct. 9, 1791. These tracts of land, by reason of the financial difficulties of Mr. Turnbull, were transferred to Col. John Holker (one of the firm) on the 10th of February, 1797. But little was done at the furnace after 1793, although it continued in operation till 1802, when its fires went out forever. Col. Holker, on the 20th of January, 1817, entered into an agreement with Henry Sweitzer for these lands. In accordance with this agreement, Col. Holker, on the

27th of June, 1821, conveyed all the lands mentioned to Paca Smith, in trust to convey to Henry Sweitzer, and on the 27th of July, 1822, he conveyed the property by deed to Henry Sweitzer and Jacob Bowman as tenants in common. The greater portion of the lands were afterwards sold to the Jacob's Creek Oil Company, by whom they are still owned.

The ruins of the old furnace-stack, charcoal-house, and other structures are still visible. The two first mentioned are in Fayette County. The abutment of the bridge which crossed the creek at this place is still standing, a pile of stones without form. The ruins of the forge are on the north side of the creek, in Westmoreland County. The ruins are approached from Burns' Ford north to the school-house, thence westerly by an old road to the woods, and winding down the hill into the deep valley of Jacob's Creek. As the approach is made to the creek the stack is visible below, and upon the upper side of the road, directly in rear of it, are the ruins of the charcoal-house, a solid wall of masonry, sixty feet in length, twenty feet in height, and two and a half feet thick, the end walls extending back to the hill, about twenty feet, the rear wall being formed by the natural rock. With the exception of the east end and the top of this wall, it is as solid and as true as when first laid. After passing the ruin the road extends several rods westerly, still descending to the creek, where it is met by another road coming up from the mouth of the creek. From this junction the road runs up the stream on the low level a few rods to where the furnace is located, and at which place the road crosses the creek into Westmoreland County. The stack is about twenty-five feet square, with two arches, now partly broken away, one on the north side and one on the west. A part of a low wall is standing that extends from the south side of the stack towards the hill. The northeast corner is still true for a height of eight or ten feet, except the lower stones, which have fallen away. The others are crumbled. Shrubs, mosses, and climbing vines partially hide the ravages of time, and trees are growing from the upper part of the stack, one of which is five inches in diameter. A view of the ruins will be found with the article on furnaces in the general history of this county.

On the extreme northwest corner of the township, at the junction of Jacob's Creek and the Youghiogheny River, Christopher Beeler took out a warrant for 298½ acres of land, Dec. 16, 1788, and received a patent therefor March 11, 1789. He came from Virginia, and lived in this section before he took out his warrant, as he was with Col. Crawford in his campaign of 1782. He sold this tract to Col. Isaac Meason, who gave it to his daughter Mary, who married Daniel Rogers. They lived in Connellsville, and the farm was rented many years. It was finally purchased by A. R. Banning, and when, about 1859, the Pittsburgh and Connellsville (now the Baltimore and Ohio) Railroad was completed, a station was opened at that place

called Banning's Station. The land is still owned by Mr. Banning. About 1870, Daniel Hohenschell started a store, which was kept for a year or two. In 1879, M. L. Wright built a store at the station, which is still there. A brick manufactory is in process of construction by Smith & Hough.

Gen. J. B. Sweitzer owns 240 acres of land adjoining the Beeler tract, east on Jacob's Creek. This was part of the Turnbull lands.

Thomas Forsyth took out a patent for 171 acres of land in this part of the township. He had sons,—Ezekiel, David, and Thomas. Ezekiel settled on the homestead. His son Thomas now lives on the farm adjoining. Henry and John, sons of Ezekiel, both live near. David, son of Thomas, lived in Westmoreland County.

Valentine Secrist took up a tract of one hundred and eight and three-quarter acres on a warrant dated Sept. 29, 1791, for which he received a patent dated October 26th the same year. He also received a warrant for two hundred and forty-five acres the same date, which was surveyed November 2d of the same year, and another of one hundred and ninety-eight acres, warranted Oct. 5, 1790, surveyed Feb. 11, 1791. These last two tracts were in what is now Tyrone township, adjoining the Turnbull lands. A part of these lands are now occupied by descendants of the family. David Secrist lives on the tract in Perry township.

John Zizing came to this region of country as a cowboy with Peter Galley. He learned the trade of a cabinet-maker, and for many years worked among the farmers before purchasing any land. On the 10th of March, 1819, he took out a warrant for sixty-eight and one-quarter acres, and on the 25th of February, 1822, a warrant for one hundred and fifty-eight acres. These tracts were patented to him June 23, 1822. He had three sons, John, Gottlieb, and Solomon, who live on the lands a short distance from Layton's Station.

Henry Stemmell purchased a tract of land which was a part of the Turnbull lands, now owned by Mrs. David Morrow. Samuel and John Stemmell, sons of Henry, live in the township.

The land on which Layton Station is situated was a tract called "Springfield," and was patented April 6, 1791, to Mary Higgs (a daughter of John Shreve), and contained two hundred and seventeen acres. It was deeded by her June 3, 1795, to Francis Bryson, and was sold by him Aug. 2, 1797, to George Johnston, who conveyed it on the 2d of April, 1806, to William Espy. It was devised in his will to his sons, Hugh and Robert, in December, 1813. On the 25th of October, 1821, they conveyed the greater portion of it to Abraham Layton for \$2352. Upon his death the land passed to his sons, Michael and Abraham, who for a long time built keel-boats on the river to ship sand and glass down the river. The land was sold by the Laytons to Daniel R. Davidson, and in 1864 was conveyed to Joseph Wilgus. Michael Layton, after the death of his father and sale of the lands at Lay-

ton's Station, purchased a tract south of the river, said to have been formerly owned by — Lloyd, and now owned by Jacob Henderson. It is a tradition that before the warrant was obtained for this land Michael Sowers lived in an old cabin and ferried people across the river. After his death one Dunn lived in the cabin. He was drowned a few years later, and the place was long known as "Dunn's Deep Hole." There is an old burial-place in the rear of where the cabin stood, where seventy or seventy-five years ago hundreds of graves were to be seen. In 1812, Aaron Jones lived there, and his wife was drowned in the river while crossing in a canoe. The name was changed from Dunn's to Layton's after the purchase by Abraham Layton in 1821.

A tract of three hundred acres was located next east of the Turnbull lands on Jacob's Creek. It was patented by Andrew Robinson, and owned by him as late as 1859. He sold the farm to Plummer and Stiner. It now belongs to Pierson Cope.

Many years since a grist and saw-mill were erected on this tract at the falls, which are at this point twenty-five feet high. Two dams have rotted down. No improvements are on the place at present.

ERECTION OF TOWNSHIP AND LIST OF OFFICERS.

A petition of inhabitants praying for a township to be formed out of parts of Washington and Tyrone townships was presented to the January term of court, 1839. William Davidson, Thomas Boyd, and Joseph Torrance were appointed commissioners. They made a report at the June session of court the same year, from which the following is extracted, viz. :

"That in pursuance of said order they met at McDonald's Mill, on Virgin Run, in Franklin township, being the most convenient point of meeting for said viewers, and after viewing the ground proposed to be formed into a new township, and being accompanied all the time by a number of intelligent, respectable citizens interested in the new township, and finding great unanimity of sentiment so far as heard expressed by all included therein, they unhesitatingly recommend to the court the formation of a new township out of parts of the townships of Washington, Franklin, and Tyrone, with the following boundaries, viz.: Beginning at Robinson's Mill on Jacob's Creek, on the line between Fayette and Westmoreland Counties, in Tyrone township; thence a straight line to Robert Hutchinson's barn, in Tyrone township aforesaid; thence a straight line to the foot of Grassy Island, in the Youghiogheny River, at the head of the round bottom; thence up the said river to the mouth of Virgin Run; thence up the said run to McDonald's Mill; thence by a new road recently located from said mill to the old road leading from Union Town to Pittsburgh near Robert Patterson's; thence with the said Pittsburgh road to the top of the hill near Martin Lutz' house; thence by a straight line to the Perryopolis and Cookstown road, near where a ravine crosses said road on Thomas Patton's land; thence by a straight line to a white-oak tree on the Westmoreland County line, on the land of Jacob Snyder; thence by the county line aforesaid to the place of beginning."

June 7, 1839, the report was confirmed by the

court and a township erected "according to the lines of the plot returned, to be called Perry township."¹

The following is a list of township officers of Perry from the time of its erection to the present:

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

1840. James Fuller.	1863. George W. Anderson.
Ellis Simpkins.	J. A. Murphy.
1845. Job Rossell.	1865. John R. McDonald.
Reuben Sutton.	Josiah King.
1850. Pierson Cope.	1870. Robert Bleakley.
Robert Bleakley.	James Blair.
1855. Thomas Shepherd.	1873. T. L. Newell.
Robert Bleakley.	1874. James D. Cope.
1858. James Blair, Jr.	1878. T. J. Suttle.
Robert Bleakley.	1879. Thomas Watson.
1860. Robert Bleakley.	1880. Thomas C. Strawn.
John K. McDonald.	

AUDITORS.

1840. Amos Hewitt.	1858. Pierson Cope.
Samuel Hubbs.	1859. Martin Hewitt.
James Patterson.	1860. Charles Lutz.
1841. John A. Murphy.	1861. George W. Martin.
1842. James Fuller.	1862. Eli McClelland.
1843. John L. Morton.	1863. David Fuller.
Samuel Porter.	1864. Robert Bleakley.
Robert Bleakley.	1865. John Yard.
1844. William Campbell.	1866. Pierson Cope.
1845. Pierson Cope.	1867. Emlin Pierce.
1846. W. T. McCormick.	1868. Daniel Fuller.
1847. Andrew Stone.	1869. David P. Hagerty.
1848. Thomas Shepherd.	1870. Joseph Piersol.
1849. John K. McDonald.	1874. David Luce.
1850. William Martin.	1875. A. Hixenbaugh.
1851. John Hewitt.	1876. Joseph Piersol.
1852. John K. McDonald.	1877. David Luce.
1853. Samuel Watson.	1878. Samuel Luce.
1854. L. R. King.	1879. William Snyder.
1855. David Luce.	1880. Leslie Harris.
1856. James E. Strickler.	William W. Patterson.
1857. Henry Mherling.	1881. Elliot Porter.

ASSESSORS.

1840. James Blair.	1843. Robert B. Patterson.
1841. Martin Ellwell.	1844. John Blaney.
1842. Alexander Armstrong.	1845. John M. March.

¹ At the September term of court, 1842, a petition was presented "of sundry inhabitants of Perry township for an alteration of the line between said township and the township of Tyrone, as per draft annexed to petition." Order was issued and viewers appointed. On the 2d of December, 1844, the order was renewed to March sessions, 1845, at which time the report was approved (March 14th), and confirmed by the court June 6th in the same year. At the same time a change was made in the line between Perry and Jefferson (see Jefferson and Tyrone township histories).

At the December term of court, 1851, a petition was presented for "a view to change the line between Franklin and Perry townships, so as to embrace Aaron Townsend, Jr., Laban Blaney, John H. Blaney, and Joel Cooper (now of Franklin township) in the township of Perry, by starting at the township line at or near said Townsend's new house; thence along the Greenfield and Connellsville road to Joel Cooper's farm or bridge that crosses the head-waters of Virgin Run, and thence down the same to Malcolm McDonald's Mills." The commissioners appointed were Josiah King, Daniel Essington, and Samuel C. Griffith. Order was issued Jan. 24, 1852. Report approved at the March sessions of court, 1852, and confirmed at the June term following.

1846. Ross M. Murphy.	1864. Noah Armstrong.
1847. James Patterson, Jr.	1865. Samuel Strickler.
1848. James Pearsoll.	1866. Benjamin F. Harris.
1849. William Martin.	1867. James Bell.
1850. Joseph Luce.	1868. Asa Chambers.
1851. Martin Ellwell.	1869. Martin Thompson.
1852. Lynch R. King.	1870. Thomas C. Strawn.
1853. Aaron Townsend.	1873. C. B. Campbell.
1854. Milton Hewitt.	Elliot Porter.
1855. Job Strawn.	1874. Samuel Luce.
1856. John Hewitt.	1875. John Townsend.
1857. Gottlieb Zizing.	1876. William Blaney.
1858. Henry Stuckstager.	1878. Henry Stone.
1859. John A. Murphy.	1879. George W. Jackson.
1860. Patrick Watson.	1880. Philip Luce.
1861. Jacob Strickler.	1881. Job Strawn.
1862. George M. Jackson.	E. K. Chalfant.
1863. James P. Cope.	

PERRYOPOLIS.

Before the year 1814, Dr. Thomas Hersey, Nathan Hersey, and Samuel Shreve had bought of George Meason a part of the Washington tract, with the intention of laying out a village or town upon their purchase. Thomas E. Burns owned land on the northeast of them, and became interested with them in the platting of the town. On the 18th of March, in the year named above, these four proprietors executed the "charter" of the town of Perryopolis, as follows:

"To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting: Whereas we, the undersigned, Nathan Hersey, Thomas Hersey, Thomas E. Burns, and Samuel Shreve, of Fayette County, & State of Pennsylvania, for divers good causes and considerations thereunto moving, have caused to be laid off on the contiguous parts of our lands in Washington Township, County, & State aforesaid a number of lots interspersed with Streets and Alleys, in order to promote the erection of a Town, to be known by the name of *Perryopolis*. Now know ye that in order to promote the prosperity and encourage the improvement of said Town, and secure to the purchasers of lots therein the privileges and immunities necessary for the common interest, we, the undersigned Proprietors of *Perryopolis* aforesaid, feel it our pleasurable duty to give forth this our Charter, to wit: 'Washington's Diamond,' in the centre of said Town, is laid off one hundred and sixty feet square. The two principal Streets, 'Liberty' and 'Independence,' crossing each other at right angles in said Diamond, are laid off eighty feet wide. The alleys proceeding from each of the four corners of said Diamond are laid off twenty feet wide. All the other streets are laid out and intended to be sixty feet wide, and all other alleys are laid off and intended to be fifteen feet wide, as by the general plan hereunto annexed will appear. All which said Diamond, Streets, and Alleys shall be and remain of the above stipulated width and dimensions severally, any excess or deficiency in the measure of any lot or lots notwithstanding, and they are hereby declared to be public highways, and appropriated solely to that purpose. To have and to hold the free and undisturbed use of the ground of the above-described Diamond, Streets, and Alleys for the above purposes to the Purchasers, Inhabitants, and Citizens of the aforesaid Town of *Perryopolis*, its vicinity, and all other persons whatsoever demeaning themselves peaceably and as liege citizens of the United States, in common with ourselves, our heirs, and assigns forever, reserv-

ing the timber thereon for our own particular use. . . . Given under our hands and seals at Perryopolis, the 18th of March, in the year of our Lord 1814.

"THOMAS HERSEY.
"THOMAS E. BURNS.
"SAMUEL SHREVE.
"NATHAN HERSEY."

In the laying out of the alleys eight triangles were formed, which were set apart for public uses as follows: No. 66, religious; 67, female school; 68, academy; 69, male school; 70, religious; 71, Masonic, medical, mechanic; 72, library; 73, "paupery." The charter and plat were filed May 3, 1837.

At the time of the laying out of Perryopolis there were but two or three straggling dwellings on its site. One of these was the house or cabin of John Wilgus, who as early as 1806 came from his native State, New Jersey, and settled on the Washington Bottoms, then in the township of Washington. He became a justice of the peace, and filled that office for many years. He is still remembered by the older citizens of Perry township. His son Joseph was born in 1807, where Perryopolis now is, and he is now living at Layton's Station. Edward Wilgus, a brother of John, came here at about the same time. He was a shoemaker, worked at his trade here, and ended his days here. Some of his family are still residents of Perryopolis.

The platting of the new town had the effect to attract considerable attention to the place, and the discovery of sand suitable for the manufacture of glass induced the organization of a company for that purpose. The project being pushed with energy, and recommended to the people in glowing terms, the farmers and other well-to-do inhabitants of this section of country subscribed liberally to this enterprise, as also to the stock of a banking concern which was started about the same time. A flint-glass factory was erected where the Methodist Church and cemetery now are. From bad management or other causes none of these projects proved profitable to the original stockholders or of permanent advantage to the town. Their failure brought disaster to many public-spirited people who aided them by subscriptions, and Perryopolis never realized the prosperity and importance which at one time seemed assured by the establishment of these enterprises.

The Perryopolis Glass-Works is a name well known in this region, but very little definite information can now be obtained concerning their starting and subsequent operation. They were carried on by Thomas Bleakley, whose management resulted in disastrous failure and the sale by the sheriff of about twenty of the best farms in this section, their owners having sunk their property in subscriptions to the stock of the glass company. After 1830 the glass-works property came into the possession of John F. Martin and Jonathan Baker, and under their management became more successful. Later it came into the hands

of Henry B. Goucher, under whom the business languished, and was finally discontinued. The property now belongs to the heirs of the late Andrew Stewart.

The Youghiogheny Banking Company was organized in 1814 by Eastern men, who succeeded in inducing the farmers through this section to subscribe largely to its stock. The only definite knowledge obtained of any of the affairs of this bank is the following advertisement, found in the columns of the *Genius of Liberty* of the year indicated, viz.:

"YOUGHIOGHENY BANKING COMPANY.

"Stockholders to attend at the house of Caleb B. Potter, in Perryopolis, on Monday, Nov. 18, 1816, in order to elect a Cashier, and for other purposes.

"JOSEPH BENNETT,
"Cashier pro tem.

"PERRYOPOLIS, Oct. 19, 1816."

The affairs of the bank were wound up gradually, and the management finally came into the hands of Robert Lynch and Jesse Arnold, and every dollar of its notes (presented for payment) was redeemed. So that the public lost nothing, though the original stockholders lost all. The old stone banking-house, on Liberty Street, was purchased by John F. Martin, who afterwards kept a store in it. It is now occupied by the Perryopolis post-office.

David Barnes and Joseph Barnet came here from Connellsville soon after the opening of the glass-works, and sunk a well near Washington's Run to the depth of nearly three hundred feet in the hope of finding salt water. Their expectations were realized to the extent that they struck a vein of strong salt water, from which they were enabled to produce about two hundred bushels of salt, and they began to entertain high hopes of brilliant success, when, at the end of about a week, the flow suddenly and entirely ceased, and the manufacture of salt in Perryopolis was terminated, probably forever.

A newspaper was started in Perryopolis (soon after the laying out of the town) by William Campbell, a brother of Dr. Hugh Campbell, of Uniontown. He (William) had been the editor of the *Fayette and Greene Spectator*, in Uniontown, for one year from its first publication in 1811. The name of the paper he published in Perryopolis has not been ascertained. The office where it was published was on a lot opposite the residence of John Fuller. Campbell, the editor and publisher, had moved from Uniontown in 1812 to Washington township, where, in January, 1813, he married Priscilla, daughter of John Porter. The paper which he started in Perryopolis was short-lived, and after its discontinuance he removed to New Lisbon, Ohio, where he soon after commenced the publication of another journal.

The first tavern in Perryopolis was opened in 1815, by Caleb Porter, on the corner where Davidson's Hall now stands. In this house all the public meet-

ings of that time were held. Gen. Lafayette dined there in 1825, when on his way from Uniontown to Cookstown (Fayette City) and Pittsburgh. Among the landlords of the place from time to time were John Waldron, George Hazen, and Moses Jeffries, the latter of whom lived at the lower end of the town, where James Shepard now lives.

Among the early blacksmiths of Perryopolis were Daniel Fields, whose shop was on the school-house lot; Thomas Van Hook, on the McDonald lot; and William Kyle, where Adam Hixenbaugh now has a shop. In 1830, Mr. Hixenbaugh took the shop, and has been in the business continuously till the present time.

Samuel Porter came from Greene County, Pa., to Perryopolis in 1819. He was connected with the glass-works till about 1851, when he bought a part of the Turnbull tract, north of the Youghiogheny River, where his son James now lives,—a part of the old Secrist tract. On this land he, with his son John, quarried stone for furnace use until 1860. About that time stone of the same quality was discovered in the mountains above Connellsville, where John and James Porter are now engaged in the quarrying of it.

The first resident physician in Perryopolis was Dr. Thomas Hersey, one of the original proprietors of the town. He afterwards removed to the West. Among those who succeeded him in practice here were the following-named physicians: Dr. William Morris practiced and died here. Dr. McSherry came from Brownsville, practiced here for a time, and afterwards removed to Mineral Point, Wis. These were followed in practice by Dr. Mitchell; Dr. James E. Estep (died here in 1836); Drs. Patterson, Way, Crawford, Gordon, Johnson, F. Shugart, James Storer, Robinson, Abrams, H. B. Arnold, Grader, and McKoskey. The present physicians of the town are Drs. O. P. McKay and J. H. Davidson.

Dr. McKay studied medicine at Washington, Pa., with Dr. J. W. Blatchley; attended lectures at the Ohio Medical College, Cincinnati; came to Perryopolis Feb. 12, 1866, and has since been in practice in the town to the present time.

Dr. Davidson is a native of Redstone township. He studied medicine with Dr. S. W. Chalfant, at Upper Middletown; attended lectures at the Western Reserve Medical College, Cleveland, Ohio; has been in practice in Perryopolis since Dec. 12, 1872. He is a member of the Fayette County Medical Society.

The postmasters of Perryville from the establishment of the office to the present time have been (as nearly as can be ascertained) as follows: Caleb Trevor, Moses Jeffries, William McCray, Adam Hixenbaugh, John Ebbert, Allen Murphy, John Voorhees, James Murphy, William Grist, John McCullough, Mary Campbell, and Lucy Martin, the present incumbent.

In 1838 a pottery was put in operation where

Aaron Higbee now lives in Perryopolis. It continued to be worked by him for about fifteen years, then it was sold to John Ebbert, who ran it for one year. He sold to Thomas Suttle, who carried it on for about twenty years, after which it was discontinued. The kiln is still standing.

David Anderson, of Pittsburgh, built a pottery below the glass-works and near Washington Run in 1859. Three years later it was sold to John A. Murphy. It was kept in operation till 1868.

John Porter & Brothers started a pottery in 1859 in the rear of the Methodist Church. It was in operation only about three years, and then discontinued.

The sand and clay of Perryopolis and vicinity were found to be admirably adapted to the manufacture of glass and pottery-ware. Large quantities of sand were shipped about 1825 from this place to Pittsburgh, Monongahela City, Brownsville, Cookstown, and Elizabethtown. A vein of clay sixteen feet in thickness was used largely, both for the pottery-works here and for shipment to other markets.

In the year 1853, when stone blocks were being contributed from all the States of the Union for the erection of the Washington Monument, at Washington, D. C., a block for that purpose was quarried by Pierson Cope, owner of a part of the Washington Bottoms, from which it was taken. Its removal from the quarry to the "Diamond" in Perryopolis was made the occasion of a Fourth of July (1853) celebration, of which Gen. Joseph Markle was the president; William Campbell (who lived on the site of the old Washington house), Dr. David Porter, and others, vice-presidents; and Col. William Y. Roberts, orator of the day. The procession which escorted the block from the quarry to the "Diamond" was large, and accompanied by a band of music. The stone (five feet in length and eighteen inches square) was loaded on a wagon drawn by four fine horses, trimmed and decorated with flowers and evergreens. Sitting on the block, and dressed in "regimentals," was an old negro called "Funtty Muntty," or Simon Washington, who had been a slave, and owned by Gen. Washington. This old man, with a stone hammer in his hand, occasionally pecked the stone, so that it might truthfully be said not only that the block was taken from land once owned by Gen. Washington, but that it was worked by one of his former slaves. The celebration was attended by nearly three hundred people, and great enthusiasm was manifested on the occasion.

Schools were taught at different times in an early day in several of the dwelling-houses of Perryopolis. Mrs. John F. Martin remembers attending school about 1820 in the bank building, where she now lives. The school was taught by a man named Tower, and afterwards by Isaac C. Murphy and — Ayres. In 1828 a school-house was erected on lot No. 69, which had been designated and set apart in the original plat

and charter for the purpose of a male school. Under the school law of the State, this school-house came under charge of the school directors. It was used for schools for some years, and then abandoned. The present school-house was built in 1852, on lot No. 79, which was donated by the proprietors in the charter of the town for "Paupery." The schools of Perryopolis are at present under charge of Noah Patton as principal.

A lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars was chartered in Perryopolis in May, 1879, with John A. Ebbert as W. C. Templar, and Miss Lucy A. Martin as Vice-Templar. It now contains about thirty-five members. The present (1881) officers are: Noah Patton, W. C. T.; Mollie Strawn, V. T.; Walter Hixenbaugh, Sec.; Lewis Herwick, Treas. Meetings are held in Davidson's Hall.

Fayette Lodge, No. 172, Ancient Order of United Workmen, was chartered March 23, 1880, with sixteen members. It now (June, 1881) contains twenty-seven. The present officers of the lodge are as named below: P. M. W., E. K. Chalfant; M. W., William C. Drumm; Foreman, Joseph Newcomer; Overseer, T. G. Herwick; Recorder, N. O. Stinger; Financier, J. H. Davidson; Receiver, J. Baker, Jr.

The population of Perryopolis by the census of 1880 was three hundred and twenty-one.

LAYTON STATION.

This railway station, which has given its name to the small village clustered about it, is located on the right bank of the Youghiogheny River, in the east part of Perry township, on the line of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad, and was established at the time of the opening of that line. The first store was opened there by Henry H. Brollier, who was also a telegraph operator. He became successful in trade, and afterwards left the place and removed West. His successor in the store was James Stickle, who kept it two or three years, and sold to Baugh & Drumm, who are the present proprietors. Another store was opened by P. M. Hunt in 1876, and one has recently been built for Carson & Carr. The first postmaster at Layton Station was Henry H. Brollier, who was succeeded by James Carson, the present incumbent.

About 1868 the rock on the farm of Joseph Wilgus, at Layton, was found to contain a large percentage of pure siliceous, rendering it valuable in the manufacture of glass. Samples were sent to Pittsburgh, where its quality was pronounced excellent, and from that time to the present large quantities of it have been shipped to that city for use in the glass-works. Mr. Wilgus has sold a part of his land (about four acres) containing the rock to Noah Spear, who is constantly employed in supplying it for the glass-works in Pittsburgh. The amount now shipped daily to that place averages forty tons.

A bed of fire-clay, lying above the sand-rock, is found admirably adapted for union with German clay for fire-pots, and also unites well with the Missouri clay. This fire-clay is taken out and shipped by Mr. Wilgus at eight dollars per ton. In the past twelve years he has sold it to the amount of thirty thousand dollars, mostly for shipment to Pittsburgh. There is also found on his tract a Bond clay, which is used for the manufacture of fire-brick. In the year 1871 "The Diamond Fire-Brick Company" commenced work at this place, and in 1879 sold out to Davidson & Drumm, who have manufactured about two million bricks the past year. About an equal number are manufactured by the Keystone Fire-Brick Company, who commenced operations in the spring of 1880. These bricks are chiefly used in the construction of furnaces and coke-ovens.

Land on the bottoms along the Youghiogheny River was, in the early years, considered as of little value, and the locality was known as "Poverty Neck," but it has since proved a mine of wealth to its possessors by reason of the development of its sand-rock and fire-clay resources.

"Big Falls" in the Youghiogheny, near Layton Station, is a place noted for the many drownings and other accidents which have occurred in its swift current. In 1805 a man named Moorhead was drowned there by the swamping of a flat-boat. In 1807 another accident of the same kind occurred at this place, resulting in the death of one man. In 1810 a Mr. Dougherty, when in liquor (as was said), attempted to ford the river here and was drowned. In 1814 a flat-boat, loaded with pig-metal, was sunk here and one man drowned. In the same year George Ebbert and Martin Kennedy, both of Perryopolis, were drowned here from a raft of logs. In 1822 a man, while attempting to land an iron-loaded flat-boat, after passing through the dangers of the falls, jumped for the shore, but fell into the river and was drowned. In 1834 a coal-boat coming down the river at a high stage of water was wrecked at this place, drowning four men,—Andrew Burt, John Franklin, Andrew Knight, and Wesley Johns. In 1836, Andrew Bobb was killed while assisting in turning a flat-boat. In 1839, Uriah Strickler was drowned while attempting to take a boat through the falls. The accident occurred in March, but the body of the drowned man was not found till the following May. In 1850 a man was lost from a log raft above Connellsville, and his body was found a month later at these falls.

SCHOOLS OF THE TOWNSHIP.

Under the operation of the public school law of 1834, school districts were organized in the territory now Perry township, then included in Washington and Tyrone. After the erection of Perry as a separate township it was redistricted as it is at the present time into seven school districts, as follows:

Summer Hill District is in the north part of the

township, bordering on the line of Westmoreland County, and west of the Youghiogheny River. The school-house is nearly in the territorial centre of the district.

West Point District embraces all the territory of the township lying between the Youghiogheny and Jacob's Creek.

Poplar Hill District lies west of Perryopolis, and extends to the west line of the township. The school-house is located near the line.

Perry District embraces the greater part of the village of Perryopolis, and extends northwardly to the Youghiogheny.

Herschel District includes part of the village of Perryopolis, and extends eastward along the Youghiogheny. The school-house is about a mile southeast of the village.

Stickle District lies in the southwest part of the township. The school-house is near the centre of the district, on the main road running southwest from Perryopolis.

Jackson District is in the southeast part of the township. Its school-house is near the residence of J. B. Blair.

The number of pupils attending the several schools of the township in 1880-81 was four hundred and forty-four. Number of teachers, nine; valuation of school property, \$8000; total expenditure for educational purposes during the school year, \$1632.50.

Following is a list of persons who have been elected school directors in Perry from the organization of the township to 1881, viz.:

1840. Henry Stimel.	1852. Henry Stone.
Joseph Luce.	John Patterson.
John Hewitt.	Josiah King.
Robert Bleakley.	1853. Josiah King.
1841. Pierson Cope.	John A. Murphy.
1842. Joseph Bute.	1854. Samuel Watson.
1843. Alexander Armstrong.	John Porter.
David Potter.	1855. Joel Cooper.
1844. Presley St. Clair.	Peter Darr.
John Dewilster.	1856. Josiah King.
Edward Stickle.	Eli McLean.
1845. John H. Blaney.	1857. Henry Hardesty.
James Piersall.	James Porter.
Jacob Strickler.	1858. James Cope.
1846. Ralph Whilsett.	James Blair.
Lewis Eberhart.	1859. Charles Rossell.
Josiah King.	George Anderson.
1847. Amos C. Strawn.	David Fuller.
Job Rossell.	1860. Harvey Leeper.
1848. James Patterson.	Samuel Hoggest.
William Price.	Noah Armstrong.
Henry Stimel.	1861. Samuel Uncksterter.
1849. Henry Stimel.	John Purcell.
James Gwinn.	1862. Aaron Townsend.
1850. James Blair.	Henry Foster.
Joel Strawn.	William L. Grist.
Job Rossell.	1863. Adam Higinbaugh.
1851. Adam Higinbaugh.	William Hopkins.
William Campbell.	Gottlieb Zizing.
James Blair.	1864. Joseph Luce.

1864. Robinson Murphy.	1870. J. D. Cope.
1865. William Hopkins.	1873. Joseph D. Wilgus.
J. K. McDonald.	B. C. Slocum.
Samuel Smith.	David Morrow.
Henry Stine.	Andrew Patterson.
John Gwinn.	1874. J. R. Hough.
1866. William Luce.	John Blackburn.
Paul Hough.	1875. Joel Strawn.
John K. Marsh.	Hugh Patterson.
Samuel Albertson.	1876. John H. Davidson.
1867. Joseph A. Ebbert.	Philip Luce.
James Porter.	1877. Nathaniel Stephens.
Michael Layton.	Asa Chambers.
John Blackman.	1878. W. C. Drumm.
1868. Thomas Little.	P. F. Harris.
David Luce.	1879. Joseph Newcomer.
William Gibson.	1880. Nathaniel Stephens.
1869. William Patterson.	Asa Chambers.
William Rossell.	1881. W. C. Drumm.
George W. Jackson.	Gouchen Hixenbaugh.
1870. Josiah King.	

RELIGIOUS WORSHIP—BURIAL-GROUNDS.

The Methodist Episcopal Church in Perryopolis was organized within a few years after the laying out of the town, and was from the first embraced on a circuit with other appointments. For many years their services were held in the school-house and in the bank building. About 1832 they erected a church edifice, which has been used as a house of worship until the present time, it having been repaired and remodeled in 1872. Among the preachers who have served this church may be named the Revs. Robert Boyd, — Sawhill, John Coyle, James Larscom, Samuel Wakefield, John Wakefield, J. C. Pershing, Patterson, Sheets, Davis, Cartie, and others. The church has now no regular pastor, but has a membership of about seventy-five. It belongs to the Redstone Circuit, being one of four appointments, viz.: Perry, Upper Middletown, Jones', and Dunbar.

Other denominations hold occasional services in the village of Perryopolis.

The Harmony Church (Cumberland Presbyterian) congregation, in Perry township, first used as a house of worship a log building which was erected for the purpose on land owned by William Bleakley, where there had previously been a distillery. The present church edifice (a frame structure) was built in the fall of 1859.

Among the pastors who have labored with this congregation have been the Revs. John Gibson, H. J. Anderson, A. J. Swaim, James Beard, Luther Axtell, S. E. Hudson, and W. M. Hayes, the present pastor.

On the road leading from Perryopolis to the Red Lion, and near the township line between Perry and Jefferson, stands the old Quaker meeting-house, or rather the ruins of it, for the roof has fallen in, leaving only the ancient walls standing. This was built by the Friends of this vicinity so many years ago that



John W. Davidson M.D.



JAMES PEIRSOL.

none now living remember its erection. Adjoining the site of this old meeting-house, and also adjoining lands of S. Strickler, T. Shepard, and heirs of Benjamin Brown, is the old Quaker burial-ground, surrounded by a substantial iron fence, and kept in good condition by a small fund donated by some one of the Quaker sect for the purpose. In this old cemetery-ground lie interred the remains of many of the early Friends and other settlers of the vicinity,—Jonathan Hewitt, John Shreve, Joseph Shreve, Samuel Cope, Joshua Cope, Isaac Cope, John Negus, Joseph Negus, Joseph Shepard, William Nutt, Jesse Couldron, William Griffith, and many others. With the exception of this old ground the places of interment of those who died in Perry township in early years were upon the farms.

In Perryopolis a burial-ground was established on the land of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but burials are now chiefly made in the Mount Washington Cemetery, which was laid out on land taken for the purpose from the farm of Cyrus Martin, about a mile and a half south of the town.

There is also a cemetery in use at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in the Browneller settlement.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

JOHN H. DAVIDSON, M.D.

Although a young man, Dr. John H. Davidson, of Perryopolis, is one of the prominent physicians of Fayette County. He was born Nov. 15, 1845, in Redstone township, Fayette Co., at the old Brownfield tavern stand, two miles east of Brownsville, on the National pike. His early life was passed upon his father's farm in much the same manner that farmers' boys usually spend their time. He was educated in the common schools and Dunlap's Creek Academy, and read medicine in the office of Dr. Samuel B. Chalfant, of Upper Middletown, Fayette Co., and attended lectures at and graduated from the Medical Department of the Western Reserve University, of Cleveland, Ohio. He began his course in this college in 1868, and graduated in 1870. He was married Dec. 26, 1871, to Chilnissae J. Chalfant, daughter of Dr. S. B. and Elizabeth Chalfant. Mrs. Davidson died June 27, 1877. They had one child, Clayton Torrance Davidson, now a bright boy of eight years. The doctor was married again Jan. 10, 1881, to Mary E., the sister of his former wife.

Dr. Davidson is of English stock. His father, Jacob Davidson, was born in Westmoreland County, Pa., and married Hannah Kelley, of the same county. Soon after his marriage he located upon the farm where the doctor was born. He died in 1858. Mr. Davidson's occupation was farming. He was a

prominent member of the United Brethren Church, and was noted for his piety, and was a local preacher.

The doctor's grandfather, Jacob Davidson, was born in England. When quite young his father, who was a minister of the gospel, emigrated to America, and located in Philadelphia. Jacob, the doctor's grandfather, married Mary Young, of Franklin County, Pa. They came to Fayette County in 1837, and settled on the Basil Brown tract of land, near Brownsville. He died April 15, 1856, aged seventy-four years. He was a miller by trade, owned a large amount of land, and was long a director in the Monongahela Bank, of Brownsville.

After graduating Dr. Davidson first practiced his profession in company with his preceptor and father-in-law, Dr. Chalfant. He located in Perryopolis in December, 1872. From the beginning his practice there has been large and lucrative. He is recognized as a skillful physician. His judgment is excellent; his knowledge of men and general business acute. He has held the office of school director in Perry township, and, according to a late county superintendent of schools, was one of the very best directors in Fayette County. His possessions are houses, lands, bank stock, brick-works, book accounts, energy, good health, good sense or *brains*.

The doctor's maternal grandfather, Jacob Kelley, was born in England, came to America when young, and settled in Westmoreland County, Pa.

Dr. Davidson's parents, Jacob and Mary Davidson, were married June 2, 1835, and had ten children, nine of whom are living,—Mary, married to John Rice, Nov. 2, 1855; Elizabeth, married March 12, 1862, to Otho Brashear; Kate, married Jan. 23, 1867, to Benton Bennett; Lou, married Jan. 3, 1871, to James F. Grable; Haddie, married July 24, 1873, to Jesse Coldren; Anna, married Nov. 12, 1874, to Luther Noble; Amos W., married May 29, 1878, to Maggie Vernon; and Ada, who is single.

JAMES PEIRSOL.

Among the old families of Perry township we find the name of Peirsol. The first of the family to settle in Fayette County was William Peirsol, who bought of Thomas Estel, in 1784, the farm now owned in part by James and Lewis Peirsol. He was married to Miss Grace Cope, and was born, according to the Cope genealogical history, about the year 1748. For a time Mr. Peirsol lived in a rudely built cabin, which in time gave way to a log house, which at that time was considered a model of elegance and comfort, and which still stands on the farm of James Peirsol. In this he resided till his death at a ripe old age. His children were John, born in 1782; Sarah, 1785; Jeremiah, 1787; Samuel, 1789; Mary, 1792; Elizabeth, 1794; William, 1797; and James, the subject of this sketch, May 29, 1799. All of the children grew to man's and woman's estate. On the 29th day of June,

1823, James was married to Elizabeth Gue, who was born Oct. 2, 1806. To them have been born John, June 10, 1825; Mary Jane, Dec. 2, 1827; James A., Feb. 5, 1830; Sarah, Feb. 6, 1832; Joseph, July 4, 1834; Emeline, Feb. 2, 1837; Edith, March 17, 1839; Nancy V., May 6, 1842; and Jacob L., Nov. 28, 1851. After his marriage he went to Ohio and settled on a tract of wild land owned by his father. Here he remained four years, clearing away the forests and improving the farm when not engaged in his favorite pursuit of hunting, of which he was passionately fond, and at which he became an expert. Not liking his new home, he returned at the expiration of the four years, his place being filled by an older brother. On the death of his father the old homestead fell to him, on which he still resides and to which he has added, until it now comprises 300 acres of valuable land. For more than thirty years Mr. Peirsol has been a consistent member of the Baptist Church, and through a long life has been an honored and respected citizen.

JOSIAH KING.

In the year 1816, George King, with his wife and children, moved into Fayette County, and in the township of Perry bought the fulling-mills which are now known as the Strickler mill property. It was a part of the General Washington tract. George was the son of Michael King, who was of German descent, and was born in York County, Pa. After his marriage to Susan Husbands he moved to Somerset County, where he bought a farm, on which he passed the remainder of his days. He was a local Methodist preacher, and his descendants have nearly all been of the same religious faith.

George was born July 4, 1774, on the home-farm in Somerset County, and, as set forth above, emigrated to Fayette County in 1816. He was a carpenter, and at intervals followed that calling for many years, quitting it finally for the farm. In 1794 he was joined in marriage to Miss Catherine Stickle. The result of this union was nine children, two of whom died in infancy; the others were Susan, Josiah, Enos, Caroline, Rachel, Mary, and William. He operated the fulling-mills a few years, then sold out and bought the farm now

owned by James Carson. In 1840 he built a house near Perryopolis, in which he resided till his death, Nov. 7, 1844; his wife died July 24, 1838. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Josiah King, of whom this brief sketch is written, was born Dec. 18, 1801, on Laurel Hill, in Somerset Co., Pa. His chances for an education were limited to a few months' attendance at a country school, and completed in the school of life by observation and remembering what he saw, making his judgment on any subject desirable. From the age of sixteen to nineteen years he served as an apprentice as a cloth-dresser with Myers & McClay. He was then for three years a partner of William Searight in woolen cloth dressing, when the building of woolen-factories made their business unprofitable. We now for a few years find him building boats on the Youghiogheny River, and shipping sand and stone to Cincinnati and other points. This business proved remunerative, and he obtained a start in life. In 1835 he went on the farm he with others had bought in 1828 in Jefferson township. There he remained until 1845, when he rented of Robert Lynch the farm which he now owns (bought in 1848), and where he intends to pass the remainder of his long and upright life. The farm now consists of 180 acres of well-improved land, the result of industry and good management. On the 3d day of July, 1823, he was married to Nancy Lynch, daughter of Robert and Mercilla (Martin) Lynch. She was born May 27, 1804, on the farm where they now reside. Their children are L. R., born Aug. 11, 1824, married to Rebecca Shepherd. He emigrated to Winona County, of which he was three terms sheriff; died Nov. 8, 1868. Elizabeth, born March 5, 1826, married Dec. 25, 1845, to S. B. Chalfant. Catherine, born Jan. 28, 1828, married Michael C. Cramer; died May 21, 1855. E. L. King, born Feb. 17, 1830, married March 21, 1854, to Miss Mary M. Sanborn. He is a physician of Ashtabula, Ohio, of which place he is now mayor. Enos King, born June 12, 1834, married June 12, 1856, to Polly C. Stephens. Mary Jane, born March 19, 1836, married to Rev. John McIntyre, March 15, 1860. Mercilla Ann, born Aug. 17, 1838, married Aug. 18, 1864, to John H. Martin. She died May 6, 1870. And George F., born Feb. 11, 1841, died May 17, 1851.



Horatio King