
STEWART TOWNSHIP.

THIS township is on the eastern border of the county, the second from the south line, and on both sides of the Youghiogheny River. On the north are the townships of Dunbar and Springfield; east is Somerset County; south is Henry Clay; and south and west is Wharton. The township has within its limits the Laurel Hills and Chestnut Ridge, and its general surface presents a mountainous aspect. In the southeastern part is Sugar-Loaf Mountain, with an altitude several hundred feet greater than the surrounding hills; and in other localities are well-defined peaks. The sides of the hills are usually broken and covered with large rocks, but the summits are mainly level, somewhat of the nature of a plateau,

and containing some fine farming lands. The soil is good but not strong or enduring, and but a small proportion has been brought to cultivation, the greater part of the country being yet covered with timber.

The Youghiogheny River has a tortuous course through the township, and is a rapid, turbulent stream, affording a magnificent water-power at Falls City, where are a series of falls or rapids, aggregating about thirty-six feet of descent. It includes a distinct fall of sixteen feet, to which the name of "Ohio Pile" has been given.¹ The valley of the river is narrow, and

¹ No satisfactory reason can be given why this term has been selected. The most plausible appears to be that it is an Indian name signifying the "beautiful falls."

is closely environed by high hills. Its affluents from the north are Drake's, Sherman's, Bear, and Laurel Runs, all small but unfailing streams, heading in the mountains. On the opposite side the tributaries are Jonathan's Run, Great Meadow Run, with its branches, Laurel and Beaver Runs, and Cucumber Run. The latter makes a precipitous fall near its mouth, forming a beautiful cascade nearly forty feet high. These streams yield limited water-power, which has been utilized. Most of them have deep, narrow valleys, but the lower hillsides are usually quite fertile. Along these streams are many signs of prehistoric occupation, a line of earthworks being traceable all through the township. One of the largest of these forts was on Bear Run, several miles below the Ohio Pile Falls. It was circular in form, inclosed about ten acres, and was surrounded by a trench. In it, many years ago, was found, under a heap of stones, a neatly-constructed grave. It was nearly square, and about four feet in depth. The sides and bottom were lined with flag-stones, forming a box-like cavity; a large skull was found inclosed, and other evidences indicated that it was the sepulchre of some mighty man among this little-known people. On Harris' Hill was another fort of large proportions, and along Meadow Run were, in the early settlement of the township, a series of earthworks so arranged that communication by signals was possible among them, plainly indicating that among these rough hills once dwelt a people of greater intelligence than that of the American Indian.

But little of the large area of Stewart was purchased for actual settlement when other parts of the county became the homes of the hardy pioneers. The lands in many instances were warranted, but were held by non-residents. These afterwards passed into other hands, a very large proportion of them becoming the property of the Hon. Andrew Stewart, who at one time owned more than half the township, and whose family yet maintains possession of many thousands of acres. These circumstances and the uninviting appearance of the country deterred a general settlement at an early period, and many of the beginnings in the township have a recent origin.

PIONEER SETTLERS.

It is hard to determine who was the first permanent settler. John Stewart, a Scotch-Irishman, lived on the Elijah Mitchell place as early as 1772, and set out an orchard which bore signs of age in 1800. He was buried on his farm, and his family removed, leaving no descendants in the township. He had sons named James, Andrew, John, and Thomas. It was at the house of the latter that the old soldier, Tom Fossitt (who was said by some to have killed Gen. Braddock), died, and was buried on the present Jacob H. Rush farm, which was settled by a man named Taylor. Many years after Fossitt's death a rude headstone was erected to his memory reciting the time of his death and age.

In the same locality Paul Stull and Peter Bruner settled soon after the Revolution. The latter moved to Springfield township, where he is more fully noted.

In the southern part of the township, on the present Harvey Morris farm, David Askins settled after the close of the Revolution. There is a tradition that he came from the eastern part of the State, and was on his way to the Kentucky country, which was at that time regarded as the land of promise, when he was persuaded to cast his lot among the pioneers of Fayette County. He made a tomahawk claim of ten square miles of land, and jestingly said that it was his "Little Kentucky." This, it is said, was the origin of the term as used in the township and applied to churches and schools. Askins finally limited his land claims to the Morris, Thorpe, and Mitchell farms, and on the former farm he was buried at his death. He had sons named Thomas, David, and Samuel, all of whom removed to the West soon after 1800.

Reuben Thorpe purchased one hundred and fifty acres of the Askins tract for £100. He was born in New Jersey in 1755, and became a weaver by trade. In the Revolution he served under the immediate command of Washington, and in 1792 came to Fayette County. He had seven sons and two daughters, namely, David, Reuben, Job, Wallace, who moved to Perry County, Ohio; James, who opened a farm on the north side of the Youghiogheny, where he yet resides at an advanced age; Asa, lived on the William Taylor farm, and was the father of Andrew Thorpe, yet living in the township. Several of his sons died in the Rebellion. William, the youngest of Reuben Thorpe's sons, lived on the homestead until his death. The farm is now owned by his son, Thomas Thorpe, Esq., of Falls City. Other sons are Reuben, living west of Falls City; David, in Dakota; W. Brown, the cashier of the Butler County (Nebraska) Bank; and Elisha, who died in the army in 1863. On the old Thorpe farm was an orchard of early bearing, which was almost wholly destroyed by a storm in July, 1851. Some of the trees were taken up and carried a distance of half a mile, and nearly everything in the line of the storm was destroyed. Reuben Thorpe formerly had a public-house, and carried on a distillery in the days when the old Turkey Foot road was one of the lines of travel from Somerset to Uniontown.

The Mitchells were among the earliest settlers of Stewart. James Mitchell lived in the Kentucky district, on the farm which is now occupied by his grandson, Elijah M. His sons were Benjamin, James J., Abner, John A., and Ralph, the youngest, who left no family at his death. The first three named opened farms near the homestead, and the two first died there. Abner moved to Wisconsin about 1846. He was a Baptist minister; and James J. also served in that calling. John A., the other son, made his home in Somerset County. Thomas Mitchell, a brother of James, purchased a part of the Askins tract, which

had been owned before by Moses Mercer. He had served in the Revolution, and was under Daniel Boone in Kentucky. He died about 1824. His sons were Josiah, who lost his life at the old Laurel Furnace while attempting to rescue a furnace-man who was overcome by the fire in the stack; Thomas, who removed to Illinois; John, who lived in Greene County, Pa., and who was one of the greatest athletes in that part of the State; Lewis, who removed to Illinois; James H., born in 1798, and yet a citizen of the township; Elijah and Elisha, removed to Illinois. Some of these were great hunters, and had many stirring adventures with wild animals. The three daughters of Thomas Mitchell married James Spencer, William Thorpe, and Isaac Haney. The latter removed to the West; he was an early settler.

Not long after the Revolution, in which he served, John Potter, a native of New Jersey, moved to Henry Clay township, where he lived until his death in the fall of 1826. Eleven of his children grew to mature years, but all of his sons except Amos and Samuel removed to the West. The former resides in Wharton, and the latter is a well-known citizen of Stewart, and is the father of John B., George B., Charles, Amos, and Thomas T. Potter, all but Amos residing in the township. Samuel Potter was born in 1805, and as a young man was active in building mills and making other improvements, some of which are yet owned by the family.

Benjamin Leonard was reared in the family of Reuben Thorpe, and after attaining manhood made an improvement on the bottoms below the mill owned by Potter. He afterwards cleared up the farm which is now owned by his youngest son, Robert. Other sons were Eli, Amos P. (a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church), Reuben, Christmas, and Robert. Nearly all of these continue to reside in the township.

On what is well known as the Joseph Price place, Peter Briner, a German, settled about 1800, and reared a family, but removed to the West more than fifty years ago. Among his sons was Andrew, who also cleared a farm on Cucumber Run, and lived there until his death in 1861. One of his sons, Samuel, yet resides near Falls City. Joshua Briner, the oldest of Andrew's sons, resided at Uniontown at the age of eighty years. John Briner, another son, resides in Dunbar. The deep place in the Youghiogheny River near Cucumber Run, noted as abounding with fish, took its name from this family.

William Williams came from Bedford County to Connellsville in 1803, but in 1830 settled in Stewart, locating on Meadow Run, where he died in 1848. He reared sons named John, Isaac, James, Samuel, William D., and Joseph, the latter two being the only ones living in the township, Joseph for the past twenty-four years being a merchant in Stewart. William Williams was one of the parties who had a contract to open the clay pike in 1810.

In the Sugar-Loaf District among the early settlers were the Shipley family, Henry McClatchey, and Henry Gilmore, all of whom removed early. Guyson Morrison came at a later day and settled on the Hall farm on the Turkey Foot road, and a mile south William Morrison made some improvements about 1830. David Woodmansee has lived in that locality since 1850, and is now one of the oldest settlers there. Garrett Hall was a settler earlier on the place yet occupied by his family. Abram Tumbly lived on the Thomas Mitchell place as early as 1790. He removed to Confluence.

North of the Yough, David Thorpe improved the James Thorpe farm as early as 1805. The Peter Tissue farm was commenced by Jacob Streight, and farther east were James Fulton, the Marietta, Zarley, and Minor families as pioneers.

CIVIL ORGANIZATION.

At the October term of Court of Quarter Sessions in 1854 a petition for a new township was presented, to be composed of parts of Wharton, Henry Clay, and Youghiogheny townships, with bounds as set forth in the petition. The court appointed Thomas R. Davidson, Alexander McClean, and Daniel Downer viewers, the order for their appointment bearing date Nov. 10, 1854. The order was renewed at the June session in 1855, and continued in August of the same year. At the September court in 1855 the commissioners reported:

"That having gone upon the premises and made an examination of the same, according to law, we are of the opinion that a new township should be made within the following described boundaries, viz.: Beginning at a point where the Somerset County line strikes the Youghiogheny River, thence to Garrett Hall's, at the Cold Glade Ridge; thence to Z. Luddington's tannery, by Henry Morris' to Joseph Bodkin's; thence to the Dunbar line, near Centre Furnace; thence by the said Dunbar line to the Youghiogheny River; thence to the Springfield line, near the stone meeting-house, and thence by the Springfield line to the Somerset line, and thence by the said line to the Youghiogheny River, the place of beginning. And that the lower end of Youghiogheny struck off be added to Springfield township."

Nov. 17, 1855, the view and report were confirmed, and the new township ordered to be called Stewart, the name being given it in compliment to the Hon. Andrew Stewart. The first election after the organization of Stewart as a separate township was held at the house of Theophilus Keller, March 21, 1856, and the following officers elected: Justice of the Peace, Thomas Burgess; Constable, James Leonard; Assessor, James Morrison; Auditor, John B. Potter. The officers elected in succeeding years are named below, viz.:

1857.—Assessor, Thomas Thorpe; Auditor, John Holland.

1858.—Justice of the Peace, Elijah S. Harbaugh; Assessor, Sylvester C. Skinner; Auditor, Harvey Morris.

1859.—Assessor, Samuel C. Price; Auditor, Elijah Harbaugh.

1860.—Assessor, David Ogg; Auditor, Samuel Potter.

1861.—Justice of the Peace, James M. Dixon; Assessor, John W. Holland.

- 1862.—Assessor, George Harbaugh; Auditor, Elijah Harbaugh.
 1863.—Justice of the Peace, Elijah S. Harbaugh; Assessor, Henry C. Price; Auditor, James H. Mitchell.
 1864.—Assessor, David Fulton; Auditor, James M. Dixon.
 1865.—Justice of the Peace, Joseph Williams; Assessor, Thomas Thorpe; Auditor, Samuel Potter.
 1866.—Assessor, Sylvester C. Skinner; Auditor, Emanuel Bisell.
 1867.—Justice of the Peace, Sylvester C. Skinner; Assessor, Joseph Williams; Auditor, R. J. Sprowl.
 1868.—Justice of the Peace, Sylvester C. Skinner; Assessor, Robert Turney; Auditor, Samuel Potter.
 1869.—Assessor, Jesse Shaw; Auditor, Robert Turney.
 1869.—Auditor, Sylvester Skinner.
 1870.—Justice of the Peace, John Ferrin; Assessor, Francis Morrison; Auditor, Henry Morris.
 1872, March.—Justice of the Peace, George W. Folke; Assessor, Isaac Hutchinson.
 1873.—Assessor, William Griffith; Auditor, R. J. Sprowl.
 1874.—Assessor, George Harbaugh; Auditor, Joseph Leonard.
 1875.—Justice of the Peace, Thomas Thorpe; Assessor, Joseph Kinnear; Auditor, S. C. Price.
 1876.—Assessor, Thomas L. Butler; Auditor, Hugh Nicolay.
 1877.—Justice of the Peace, Francis D. Morrison; Auditor, John B. Potter.
 1878.—Assessor, F. M. Cunningham; Auditor, R. V. Ritenour.
 1879.—Assessor, J. V. Rush; Auditor, Samuel Potter.
 1880.—Justice of the Peace, Thomas Thorpe; Assessor, F. M. Cunningham; Auditor, J. T. Lamba.
 1881.—Justice of the Peace, Robert S. McCrum; Assessor, F. M. Cunningham; Auditor, G. W. Moon; Supervisors of Roads, Thomas Thorpe, George Harbaugh, David Woodmansee, and S. D. Hall.

The Turkey Foot road, the oldest thoroughfare in the township, was opened about 1803 as a highway between Uniontown and Somerset. All the other roads have a recent origin. The Stewarton post-office was established in August, 1871, with John W. Moon as postmaster. He was succeeded in the fall of 1873 by Andrew Stewart, Jr., and the office was kept in a store which Moon had opened, and which was destroyed by fire in 1874. It was removed about this time to a station farther down the road in Springfield township, known before that time as Yough, retaining the name it bore when established. Peter B. Halfhill was appointed postmaster, and his successors have been E. A. Harbaugh and the present, Joseph Herwick. The office has daily mails, and is the terminus of the Springfield mail-route. The former station of Stewarton received the name of Yough, but since the removal of the saw-mill and the destruction of the store the place has been forsaken, and the station has passed into disuse.

FALLS CITY.

This is the only village in Stewart, and is situated near the centre of the township, on both sides of the Youghiogheny, and at the noted Ohio Pile Falls. It is a station on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, midway between Pittsburgh and Cumberland, being about seventy-five miles from either city. There are several

hundred inhabitants, four hotels, stores, etc., as detailed in the following pages.

Although Falls City has a pleasant location, and the romantic surroundings have given it a favorable reputation among pleasure-seekers as a summer resort, its chief claim to distinction lies in its possession of the Ohio Pile Falls, a water-power of the first rank. Concerning these falls a commission of military engineers, consisting of Col. W. McKee, Col. Roswell Lee, and Maj. George Talcott, who were appointed in 1825 to select a "site for a national armory on the Western waters," reported:

"The Youghiogheny River at this place makes a circuit of nearly two miles around a neck or tongue of land about three-fourths of a mile in length that projects from the foot of a mountain in its rear. At the upper side of this tongue, and near the extreme point of the mountain, is the commencement of the Ohio Pile rapids and falls, which terminate at the lower side opposite the point at which they begin, and six hundred yards distant from it in a straight line. The whole descent is eighty-seven and a half feet. The ground on the lower side, next the foot of the rapids, is advantageously disposed in steps or benches of sufficient width and at convenient distances below each other for the erection of buildings, and the successive application of the water to machinery in any manner that may be desired. Forty feet of the whole fall may thus be employed at a trifling expense. The bank then becomes steep and perpendicular, and the remaining part of the fall could not be conveniently used without extensive rock excavation. To convey the water to this site from above the falls will require a canal of seven hundred feet in length. The first four hundred feet will pass through a strip of river bottom. The deepest cutting along the whole route is thirty feet, and occurs in passing a narrow ridge near the middle of the neck, consisting principally, as is supposed, of rock. A dam four feet high across the river will be necessary to procure a depth of water at the head of the canal sufficient to prevent it from being choked with ice, or obstructed by drift of any kind. The quantity of water which the river furnishes at this place during an extreme dry season perhaps exceeded one hundred cubic feet per second during the uncommon drought of 1823.

"If we regard the site of these falls, in reference to the security of the works that might be erected upon it, from freshets, the perfect command of its water-power, and the cheapness with which it may be employed, it surpasses any that has ever come under our observation. An additional excavation of ten thousand five hundred cubic feet of earth and nine hundred feet of rock would enlarge the canal sufficiently to convey the whole volume of the river to the works at low water, which would furnish three times the power requisite for the armory, and still leave unemployed a fall of more than forty feet. This estimate is for three breast and two overshot wheels.

"To these advantages is opposed its want of convenient communication, surrounded on all sides by mountains, the adjacent country but sparsely settled, and, with the exception of fuel, including stone-coal, few or no resources for an armory; it is without the means of water conveyance, and, as yet, without roads. How far the weight of this objection ought to be lessened by the probability of any future canal across the mountains, passing down the valley of the Youghiogheny River, is a consideration that does not properly come within the province assigned us."

The objection to the inaccessibility to the falls has been removed by the opening of the Pittsburgh,

Washington and Baltimore Railroad, which has here established an important station, with extensive sidings; while the idea of water communication has not been wholly abandoned, an appropriation for the survey of a canal route having recently been made. The power of the Ohio Pile Falls has been utilized to a limited extent. A further improvement for manufacturing purposes will probably be made at an early day. The falls and nearly all the adjacent lands are the property of the heirs of the Hon. Andrew Stewart, and Falls City was laid out for the Stewart estate in 1868 by Albert Stewart. The plat embraces about two hundred acres of land, a considerable portion of which is on the south side of the Youghiogheny, connection being made with the northern part by means of a substantial wooden bridge. In the latter part much of the village survey is included within the peninsula formed by the river, which is about three-fourths of a mile in length and elevated a hundred feet above the level of the stream. It is bordered by cliffs, on which grow ferns in the greatest profusion, and this beautiful tract of land has not been inappropriately named Fern Cliff Park. Occupying a commanding position in the park is the fine hotel which was erected by the Stewart estate in the summer of 1879, and which was opened for the accommodation of summer visitors in May, 1880, under the management of M. W. Lambert. Fern Cliff Park Hotel is a stately-looking frame, thirty-three by one hundred and one feet, four stories high, and surmounted by a mansard roof. There are fifty rooms for guests, supplied with gas, water, and electric annunciators, and the hotel throughout contains the most approved modern appliances. In the grounds are shady rambles, pleasant walks, and several fountains, which are fed by a reservoir on a hill eighty feet above the hotel. This is filled from the Youghiogheny by means of a large water-power force-pump. The encouraging patronage given the hotel has induced the proprietors to entertain a proposition to enlarge the house to thrice its present capacity, making it one of the foremost summer resorts in the western part of the State.

The first public-house in the place was kept opposite the grist-mill, in the south part of the village, by Elijah Mitchell, about 1858. Subsequent landlords were Theophilus Keller, J. H. Mitchell, Moses Ferrin, Nathan Joliffe, Jesse Hardin, and Redmond Bunton, during whose occupancy the house was destroyed by fire.

The completion of the railroad in 1871, and the urgent demand for hotel accommodations, caused Andrew Stewart to transform a large farm building into a public-house. It received the name of the "Ohio Pile House," and was opened by W. Brown and John Shepard. It is at present kept by Kimmel Hardin. Daniel Coughenour has been the keeper of a public-house for the past four years, and others have entertained the public for shorter periods.

The first goods at Falls City were sold by Thomas Jackson, for Andrew Stewart, in the old hotel building some time about 1856. A. E. Meason & Co. next had a store at the tannery, where they were succeeded by Samuel Price, Moses Freeman, Potter & Browning. In 1871, F. T. Browning built his present store-house, which he has since occupied for mercantile purposes. The same year Joseph Williams began trading at the Falls, moving here from Meadow Run, where he had kept a store for fifteen years, being the first in the township. Since 1878 he has occupied his present building. George D. Livingston has also been in trade since 1872, and George W. Anderson since 1875, each having a respectable trade.

The railroad station at Falls City, called Ohio Pile, was opened in March, 1871, by Samuel Potter, Jr., as agent, with Thomas Armstrong as telegrapher. The latter was appointed to both offices in 1872, and was relieved in 1873 by Lewis Johnson. In April, 1875, B. R. Field became the agent, but was relieved July, 1877, by E. A. Jordan. He served until June 22, 1879, when the present agent, C. L. Harrington, was appointed. Soon after the railroad was opened the Adams Express Company established an office at Ohio Pile, with Thomas Thorpe as agent. Since 1875 the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad has carried on the express business in connection with its railroad interests. The shipments at Ohio Pile are chiefly lumber and other wood exports. The entire business aggregates fifteen hundred dollars per month.

For many years the settlers of Stewart received their mail matter from Bryant's, on the National road, and later from Farmington, on the same road. The post-office at Falls City was established about 1856, with the name of Pile Falls, and Samuel Price as postmaster, who kept it at the store of Meason & Co. He was succeeded by Samuel Potter, Jr., who in 1871 removed the office to the railroad station. About this time the name of the office was changed to Falls City. Potter was succeeded, in May, 1878, by the present postmaster, Thomas Thorpe. The mail service is by railroad twice per day. Previously the mails were carried on horseback from Farmington to Donegal several times per week.

The first physician regularly located in Stewart was Dr. H. Y. Brady, who came to Falls City in the fall of 1869, and has since been a practitioner there. He graduated at the Jefferson Medical College in 1865, and practiced, previous to locating here, at Youngstown and Latrobe. For two years from 1874, Dr. Hugh Nicolay was in practice at the Falls, and for a few months in 1879, Dr. D. O. Bassett. For the past year Dr. S. D. Woods has practiced dentistry at Falls City.

VARIOUS INDUSTRIES OF THE TOWNSHIP.

Agriculture and lumbering are the chief pursuits of the people of Stewart, many of the citizens being engaged in carrying on both. The mountain streams

afford many water-powers, which were early sought out and improved to meet the wants of the pioneers. Nearly every neighborhood had its saw- and grist-, or rather corn-mills, which have gone to decay so long since that in many instances no authentic account of them can be given. The latter were generally "tub" mills, a simple arrangement whereby the stone was caused to revolve as often as the wheel, and the grinding capacity was consequently small. To this class belonged the mills of Aman Shipley, on Laurel Run; David Askins, on Meadow Run; and the McGrew mill, on Jonathan's Run, all built some time about 1790. With the increase of population came better facilities, and soon good mills were built on the sites of the old ones, or on other seats on the same streams. On Laurel Run were the mills of Henry Gilmore and Isaac Hutchinson, both of small capacity. In 1832 Samuel Potter built a grist-mill on Meadow Run, which was supplied with two sets of stones, and was in every respect an improvement on the mills previously in the township. A saw-mill was also built by Potter, and both were operated by him until 1852, when they became the property of John B. Potter, his son, who yet carries them on, although both mills have been much improved, the former having now three runs of stones, and being reputed a first-class mill.

On the same stream the manufacture of splint chairs is carried on by George P. Potter. The factory has been in successful operation since 1860, and several hundred fine chairs are made annually. Below that point, also on Meadow Run, Reuben and Christmas Leonard carry on a splint-chair factory; and more than sixty years ago their father, Benjamin Leonard, carried on this industry in the township, some of the chairs he then made being yet in use.

On Beaver Run, a branch of Meadow, James Dean had a saw-mill at an early day, to which Samuel Potter ingeniously added a grist-mill about 1828, the stones being taken from a neighboring hillside.

On Cucumber Run, Andrew Briner had saw- and grist-mills of small capacity forty years ago, which have not been operated for the past twenty-five years. At the forks of the same stream Joseph Price had a mill, which has not been used for a score of years; and above the Andrew Briner mill Joshua Briner had a saw-mill, which was discontinued about 1865.

On Jonathan's Run, among the mills of a later period, were those of B. Rush, built about 1868, and which are now operated by Patton Rush. On the upper waters of that stream are the mills of Matthew McMillan.

A number of portable steam saw-mills have been erected at various points in Stewart, and have been very useful in working up the heavy timber in the localities where they were located. Several of these were at the "low place" on Meadow Run. In 1874, for a few years, Samuel Halderbrant had a good mill in operation there, when he removed it to Bear Run,

where it was operated a few years longer. The Browning mill was at the "low place" next, and was removed from there to Falls City. Its cutting capacity was five thousand feet per day. A year later John Wesley Moon erected the third mill at the "low place" and engaged largely in the manufacture of all kinds of lumber, staves, and headings. He constructed a tramway to the "long hollow," two and a half miles distant, for the purpose of conveying logs to his mill, and cut up an immense amount of timber. The tramway yet remains, but the mill has been removed to Somerset County. At Stewarton, four miles below Falls City, Andrew Stewart, Jr., had a large and well appointed saw-mill in operation several years after 1871, the logs being conveyed thither by a long tramway; but the mill has been removed and the interest there abandoned.

Henry Fry attempted the first improvement of the water-power at the Ohio Pile Falls on the Youghiogheny, now the site of Falls City. Forty years ago he built a hewed-log dam nearly across the stream a short distance above the falls and put up the frame of a saw-mill, but before he got it in operation a freshet swept away his dam, causing him to abandon his project. Hon. Andrew Stewart made the next improvement, putting up saw- and grist-mills. A dam was built four hundred feet above the falls, and a wooden trunk laid to convey the water to the mills, which were destroyed by fire before being set in motion. The buildings were immediately restored, and the grist-mill yet remains, the saw-mill above it having been removed. The former had first an overshot and the latter a flutter wheel, but in 1865 Albert Stewart supplied their places with three Rainey turbine-wheels, increasing the power to one hundred and thirty horses. The grist-mill was also supplied with more machinery, and is now adapted to the new process of grinding. It is operated by Albert Stewart, and the planing-mill, which he built in 1865, has also since been kept in operation by him. The latter is supplied with good machinery, but has a limited capacity. Both mills are well patronized.

The Falls City Pulp-Mill was put in operation in September, 1879, by the present proprietor of the works, Wilson W. Hartzell. Having secured a lease of a large water-power from the Stewart estate, on the site of an old saw-mill above the falls, he increased the already large power by building a dam across the river four hundred feet in length. A building thirty by eighty feet was erected and supplied with two American turbine-wheels of three hundred horsepower to operate machinery to reduce spruce and poplar wood to pulp for paper-making by the Otterson & Taylor process. From three to four cords of wood are consumed each day, and the capacity of the works enable the production of three car-loads of pulp per week, aggregating about ninety thousand pounds. Employment is given to twelve men when the works are run day and night, and a good market

is afforded for an abundance of wood which was heretofore comparatively worthless. The raw material is brought to the works in cord-wood size, freed from bark, the heart, and black knots, and is then reduced to two-foot lengths. It is next sawed into blocks half an inch in thickness, when it is ready for the crusher. After crushing, the material is by successive processes reduced to a smooth pulp, so finely worked as to be almost impalpable. From the last of these processes it comes out in even sheets like thick paper and of a whitish color. These sheets are put up in sixty-pound bales and shipped to market. The pulp is used in the manufacture of paper, by mixing with other materials, as straw and rag pulp, producing a good quality of printing-paper at a smaller cost than paper made wholly of rags or straw. The superintendent of the works is William V. G. White.

The Falls City Shook-Factory is owned and carried on by M. Weakland, of Confluence. At the latter place the manufacture of shooks for the West India trade was begun about ten years ago, and has since been carried on at other points at Falls City since 1875. That year Matthias Smith opened a shop in which five men were employed, and which, after a few years' operation, became the property of M. Weakland. Shooks have also been made on Jonathan's Run by Matthias Smith and Beniah Guptell, and the yearly product in the township has been about 2000 shooks, made chiefly out of the best oak. It may here be explained that the term "shook" is applied to an unfinished or skeleton barrel or hogshead. The staves, after being riven from the log, about thirty-six inches long, and duly seasoned, are shaved into the desired size, then bent into shape and regularly set up, as for a barrel; but instead of being headed up they are knocked down, the staves, being numbered, are baled together, the bundle forming a "shook," which, with the addition of heads and hoops, are quickly transformed into barrels or hogsheads in a country where stave materials do not abound. In other words, the skeleton barrel is shipped to the West Indies from the United States, and is returned filled with rum or molasses.

The Falls City Spoke- and Hub-Works, Brison Rush and John Meeks proprietors, occupy a building thirty by thirty-six feet and two stories high. The factory was erected in the summer of 1875, work being commenced August 8th of that year. Sixteen days later the establishment was burned to the ground, but was rebuilt so that work was resumed in October, 1875, and the factory has since been successfully carried on. The building is supplied with a sixteen horse-power engine, which operates a spoke-lathe, hub-machine, mortising-machines, etc., which enable the production of 225 sets of spokes and 200 sets of hubs per month. The firm also manufactures incline rollers for coal roads, and gives employment to five men.

The Fayette Tannery, at Falls City, was built in 1853 by the firm of Fuller, Breeding & Meason, the latter being the only resident partner. The buildings were put up by Samuel Potter, and the tannery placed in charge of Aaron Walter, as foreman of the twelve or fifteen hands employed. In time Alfred Meason bought Breeding's interest, and the business was carried on by him, with Charles Stone as foreman. Next came the firm of Meason, Wade & Co., who carried on the tannery until 1873, Harlan Hickland being the foreman. For a period the tannery was idle, but in April, 1877, the firm of James Callary & Co. succeeded to the business, but were followed, in June, 1879, by the present manufacturer, Owen Sheekley, as lessee from the Wade estate. Originally the tannery was operated by the waters of Meadow Run, but its diminishing volume caused the substitution of steam in 1869, and the motive-power is at present furnished by a sixteen horse-power engine. The building remains much the same as when erected, the tannery proper being one hundred feet square and three stories high. The bark-house is fifty by one hundred feet. In all there are seventy vats for tanning belting-, hose-, and sole-leather with oak bark, one hundred heavy hides per week being tanned. In connection with the tannery is a convenient office, half a dozen dwellings, and a business house, in which the proprietors of the tannery had stores years ago, when this place was the centre of business at the Falls.

Potter's coal-mine, opened in 1877, and operated by Thomas Potter, is about one mile southwest from Falls City, and on the mountain-side, four hundred feet above the level of the Youghiogheny. The vein is about five feet in thickness, and the main entry has been driven to the length of five hundred feet. The mine has ten sideways, each about one hundred feet long, and the yearly product is about thirty thousand bushels of good mountain coal, free from sulphur and burning freely. The mine is underlaid with a stratum of fine limestone, which is rarely found in the township, and the presence of fire-clay and iron is also noted. Although the Potter mine is the only one in Stewart which has been developed to any extent, coal is found in many localities, and small banks have been opened on the south and the west of the Youghiogheny by Martin Mitchell, Reuben Thorpe, Hugh Corrison, Summers McCrumb, John Potter, George B. Potter, and others. On the north side of the river, Harrison Weaver, Emanuel Bisel, and others have coal-banks, but in most instances the demand for their products is very limited.

Within the past few years considerable attention has been directed to fruit culture, and orcharding promises to become an important industry. The orchard of Francis M. Cunningham, two miles southwest from Falls City, is the largest in the township. He began fruit culture in 1874 with an orchard of twenty apple-trees, to which he has added from year to year until his orchard at present embraces 1200

apple-, 650 quince-, 350 pear-, and 200 peach-trees, all thrifty and vigorous. These orchards will be enlarged to double the present size, and will then be one of the largest interests of this nature in the county. The cultivation of the small fruits is also here carried on, and a vineyard containing 3000 vines of the Concord variety has been planted.

The manufacture of salt was an industry which once held an important place in the township more than half a century ago. On the north side of the Youghiogheny, three miles above the falls, were several acres of low ground, called by the pioneers "the meadows," where were salt licks, which were much frequented by wild animals. When the water was low the incrustations of salt on the flat stones along the river's edge were so marked that the place presented a whitish appearance. Before 1800 some of the settlers gathered up the waters which oozed forth and made small quantities of salt, and later a man by the name of Rhodes dug a well some twenty feet deep, which gave him a greater supply of water, and enabled him to make salt in a small way. When he suspended work he allowed his kettles to remain, and some of the pioneers would occasionally go there to make a little salt for their own use. As the place was rather inaccessible from the east, on account of the steep hills, the river was usually forded by the people living on the south and the west at a point near the springs. This was always attended by danger, as the current is swift and strong, and when increased by heavy rains is especially treacherous. On one occasion, while a man named James Downard attempted to cross to make some salt, he was swept away and his lifeless body carried below the falls to the "Briner fishing-hole," four miles from where he met his sudden death.¹ Thence but little was done at the salt springs until about 1812, when Thomas Meason conceived the idea of here making salt on a large scale. He secured a tax title for the land, which had been forfeited by Wilcox and Chew, of Philadelphia, and began operations on his works. The news coming to the ears of Mr. Wilcox, he came on from Philadelphia to redeem the land; but instead of doing so entered into a co-partnership with Meason to carry on the salt-works. Later he sold his interests to William Pennock, of Uniontown, and by him and Meason the works were operated until their discontinuance, about 1819. They caused a well to be sunk several hundred feet deep, by means of a spring-pole operated by several men, which afforded them an abundant supply of water, yielding ten pounds of salt to the barrel. This was pumped to the surface by means of horse-power, and carried to the works, half a mile below,

through wooden pipes, where it was evaporated in sixty-two kettles, arranged in pairs. These kettles were of heavy iron and were cast at the Dunbar Furnace, each holding about fifty gallons. Their transportation to the works, owing to the roughness of the country, was regarded as a hazardous undertaking, and was accomplished with great difficulty. Some three thousand bushels of salt were made, which sold readily at three dollars per bushel. When the price was reduced it was not found profitable to carry on the works, and they were abandoned at the time named. The kettles were sold to the farmers around the "works," and some of them are yet in use for boiling maple-sugar. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad built its track over the furnace of the works, obliterating what few traces of it remained. But few people can be found who have even a recollection of the enterprise. James Thorpe and J. H. Mitchell, both among the oldest men of the township, were engaged at the works, and from them the writer gleaned the above account.

RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL.

THE LITTLE KENTUCKY BAPTIST CHURCH.

The first regular religious organization effected in Stewart township was that of the Baptists, the preliminary meetings which led to the formation of the society being held chiefly by the Rev. John Thomas, at the houses of some of the early members or in the rude school-houses, mainly in the Kentucky District. From this circumstance the society took its name. It was organized May 22, 1834, by the Revs. Benoni Allen, William Hall, and John Rockefeller, with the following members: James J. Mitchell, Abner Mitchell, Elijah Mitchell, Abel Hillborn, Jesse Mitchell, Hannah Mitchell, Maria Hillborn, Hannah Stull, Cynthia Mitchell, Reuben Thorpe, James Dean, Sarah Briner, Emeline Price, Nancy Mitchell, Charlotte Mitchell, Andrew Briner, William Thorpe, Sarah Mitchell, John Harbaugh, Huldah Thorpe, Fanny Bailey, James Thorpe, James K. Bailey, Jacob H. Rush, Benjamin Listor, Franklin Mitchell, Mary Briner, Margaret Birch, Mary Pearce, Sabina Mitchell, John Hyatt, Mary Hyatt, David Mitchell, and Reuben Rush. James J. Mitchell and James Thorpe were ordained as the first deacons, and Abner Mitchell was the first clerk. In 1881 the clerk of the church was Patton Rush, and the deacons were Jesse Rush and Jacob H. Rush. Other ordained deacons of the church were James R. Mitchell, Salathiel Mitchell, Benjamin Mitchell, and Joshua Briner.

The Rev. John Thomas became the first pastor of the church, his connection dating from May 16, 1835. About a year afterwards he was succeeded by the Rev. James J. Mitchell, one of the first deacons of the church, who served until July 18, 1840, when the Rev. Isaac Wynn became the pastor. The Rev. John Williams succeeded Mr. Wynn, his appointment

¹ At "Briner's fishing-hole" Abraham Stewart, of Wharton, and James Bunner were drowned in August, 1841, while here engaged with a large party in fishing. Their bodies were found at the bottom of the hole by Samuel Hough. Both were well-known citizens, and the event cast a gloom over the entire country.

dating March 31, 1860. Next in the pastoral office was the Rev. William P. Fortney, who assumed that relation March 19, 1876, and was succeeded, April 8, 1877, by the Rev. John Williams, who was the pastor for upwards of three years. The present pastor, the Rev. James K. Brown, has served since July 17, 1880.

The church has a membership of nearly one hundred, and notwithstanding the many removals is in a fairly flourishing condition. It has contributed some useful members to the ministry, and has within its bounds the Revs. Francis M. Cunningham and John Williams, pastors of neighboring churches. The house of worship is at Falls City, and was built in 1837, through the efforts of Abner Mitchell, David Briner, and David Mitchell as a committee. It is a plain frame, and having recently been repaired, well serves the purpose for which it was erected.

MOUNT HOPE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Upwards of thirty years ago meetings of this religious sect were held at the stone school-house in the Kentucky District by the Rev. A. G. Osborne and others, and from a series of services held there by the former sprang the congregation which now bears the name of Mount Hope. The early membership embraced the names of Joseph Price, Cuthbert Wiggins, Greenbury Bosley, Harvey Morris, and most of the members of their families. Later the number was augmented by the addition of William Stull and wife, William D. Williams, his wife and several children, J. H. Wiggins and family, the total membership being about twenty. For a number of years meetings were held in school-houses, under the ministerial direction of the Revs. A. J. Swayne, J. S. Gibson, J. P. Beard, and other clergymen, sent hither by the Presbytery, who served this field in connection with other appointments, and for the past four years the pulpit has been supplied by the Revs. Coulter, Gibson, Bailey, Howard, Melville, and at present by Rev. James P. Beard. The growth of the village of Falls City caused the congregation to look to that place as the point where should be erected their house of worship. Accordingly, about 1873, meetings were held in the Baptist Church of that place, and soon thereafter a board of trustees was selected, composed of C. W. Saylor, Morris Morris, and D. W. Williams, who purchased a fine lot near the centre of the village, on which the building was to be erected. In about a year more the house was completed, and was formally dedicated by the Rev. J. H. Coulter, of Brownsville. It is a frame building of respectable proportions, and has an inviting appearance. The congregation has not largely increased in membership, but has generally maintained regular services. The ruling elders of the church have been Harvey Morris, Jonathan Bisel, and C. W. Saylor. In the summer a Sabbath-school, supported by the community at large, is maintained in this house, and had for its last superintendent George W. Moon.

MEADOW RUN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Soon after 1800 the Methodist itinerants sought to establish a church in the township, holding meetings at the house of Moses Mercer, and at other hospitable mountain homes, and these efforts were rewarded by the accession of a few members to the faith, although not of sufficient number to form a class. Hence but occasional services were held until about 1830, when Mr. Elizabeth Potter, a member of the Methodist Church, moved to the Belle Grove neighborhood, and at her house preaching was again established. The class formed about this time had among its members Mrs. Potter and daughters, Westell Holland, and a few others, who soon joined as the fruits of a revival, among them being Reuben Leonard and wife. After 1840 the meetings were held at school-houses about once every three weeks, and generally on week-days. Among the preachers of this period were the Revs. McGowan, Sharp, Swazie, Tipton, White, and many others whose names have passed out of the recollection of the present generation, and no church records are accessible.

In 1860, while the Rev. Joseph Hill was the preacher in charge, the Meadow Run meeting-house was erected, largely through the efforts of Joseph Williams, at that time a resident of this locality, three miles south from Falls City, and in 1880 it was under the trusteeship of George Potter. The members of the church are about twenty in number. The church at present belongs to the Springfield Circuit, of which the Rev. J. J. Davis is the preacher in charge, and which embraces also the churches at Springfield, Mill Run, Sansom Chapel, Sandy Creek, and Tinker's Ridge. It previously belonged to Smithfield, Addison, Uniontown, and other circuits. The Rev. A. P. Leonard, of the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, originated from this society, which, though weak in numbers, has some active, faithful workers. Benjamin Leonard was for many years the superintendent of a Sunday-school which is at present in charge of Arthur Potter, and which is usually attended by about sixty scholars.

THE SUGAR-LOAF CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

In the early part of the present century this denomination (New Lights) held meetings in the township at the house of Thomas Mitchell, who was one of their chief members; but after his removal to the West the feeble interest manifested in maintaining these meetings was allowed wholly to decline, and years elapsed before meetings were again held. Some time about 1850 this faith was again proclaimed in the southeastern part of the township with so much success that a promising congregation was formed under the preaching of the Rev. Mr. Four. It embraced members from the Gilmore, Morrison, Jones, Lytle, and Hall families, with others, to the number of thirty or more. A house of worship being now needed, the citizens of that part of Stewart united to

build one, which was completed in the fall of 1855. Although occupied by this and other denominations for religious purposes it has never been fully finished, and at present is somewhat out of repair. The preachers of this church who followed the Rev. Four were the Revs. Barney, Jennings, Kibler, Swaynse, and several others, but lately the denomination has not maintained regular services, and consequently the work has much declined. Noting this condition, the Church of God (Winebrennarians) began preaching here, and have succeeded in gathering a considerable membership. Among their ministers were the Revs. Long, Craft, and Bardlebaugh. The members at present adhering number fourteen.

Lately the Rev. C. E. Simmons, of the Methodist Church South, began preaching at this place and organized a small class, while ministers of other denominations also occasionally hold services here, but without gaining a numerous following.

SCHOOLS.

The recent formation of the township precludes the giving of any early statistics pertaining to the public schools, and the mountainous condition of the country has somewhat retarded the cause of education. Since the organization of Stewart the following-named persons have been elected school directors of the township:

- 1857.—David Fulton, A. E. Mason.
- 1858.—Samuel Potter, James M. Dixon.
- 1859.—Edward Liston, James H. Mitchell, Stephen K. Brown.
- 1860.—David Woodmansee, Robert Cunningham.
- 1861.—Reuben Thorpe, David Fulton.
- 1862.—S. C. Skinner, Eli Tannehill.
- 1863.—H. M. Corrison, Cyrus Edmundson, David Woodmansee.

- 1864.—James Morrison, Elijah Harbaugh, John Wiggins.
- 1865.—Samuel C. Price, Joseph Leonard, A. R. Boyd.
- 1866.—Oliver Sprowl, David F. Pickard, William D. Williams.
- 1867.—David Morrison, Cyrus Edmundson, W. H. Carrolton.
- 1868.—William S. Griffith, Ross Morrison, Leonard Shipley.
- 1869.—George P. Potter, Paul Stull, Thomas Dalzell, Charles Miner, Leonard Shipley.
- 1870.—Milton Shaw, Elisha Taylor, Emanuel Bisel.
- 1872.—Robert Hagan, Porter Craig, Basil Brownfield, Christopher Riffle.
- 1873.—F. M. Morrison, F. M. Cunningham.
- 1874.—D. K. Wade, Patton Rush.
- 1875.—Joseph Williams, George Smith, Henry Collins.
- 1876.—Isaiah Collins, Harrison H. Hall.
- 1877.—Reuben H. Leonard, G. N. Anderson, F. T. Browning.
- 1878.—Paul Stull, E. D. Shipley.
- 1879.—Jehu Bowen, D. Morrison, T. L. Butler.
- 1880.—J. H. Shaefer, C. W. Saylor, G. D. Livingston.
- 1881.—D. B. Brady, Francis Morrison, David Woodmansee.

In 1881 the township embraced the districts locally named Whig Corner, Mountain, Egypt, Sugar-Loaf, Belle Grove, Briner's, Kentucky, Green Brier, and Falls City. Some of them were provided with comfortable school-houses years ago, while others will doubtless soon be supplied in this respect. One of the oldest and best schools was taught in the Belle Grove District soon after the passage of the common school law. The first house was near the present building, and was of logs, rather rudely finished. Amos Potter was an early teacher in a cabin below Potter's mill. In the regular school building, Oliver Sprowl was one of the first teachers. The school has produced a number of teachers, among whom are remembered Oliver Gunnells, Browne Hayden, Thomas Hart, and Samuel Price. The next good school was opened in the Kentucky District, which had one of the best school buildings of that period.