

= David Jewett Waller , Sr. =

David Jewett Waller , Sr. (January 26 , 1815 ? December 7 , 1893) was an American Presbyterian minister , entrepreneur , landowner and civic leader who lived in the American state of Pennsylvania . He also helped build several local railroads , such as the North and West Branch Railway and also owned many coal mines . By the time of his death , he was one of the most well @-@ known people in northeastern Pennsylvania . He helped increasing the population and industrialization of Bloomsburg , Pennsylvania . He also organized and created a number of churches in Pennsylvania .

Waller was born in Wilkes @-@ Barre , Pennsylvania and attended the Wilkes @-@ Barre Academy , Williams College , and the Princeton Theological Seminary . He spent most of his life in Bloomsburg , Pennsylvania , where he died . He was ordained in 1839 and attended General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church in addition to preaching in Columbia County . He retired from preaching in 1871 and most of his involvement in industrial and commercial work started at this point , including involvement in the railroad and the coal industries . He died in 1893 at the age of 78 .

= = Early life and education = =

Waller was born on January 26 , 1815 , in Wilkes @-@ Barre , Pennsylvania , the oldest of five children . He was born to Phineas Waller and Elizabeth Jewett and was descended from early settlers of Massachusetts and Connecticut . His ancestors moved to Pennsylvania two generations before his birth . When he was eight years old , his father moved to Oquago , New York , while he and his half @-@ brother Nathan remained in Pennsylvania . He then went to live with his aunts Rachel and Sally , enabling him to attend the Wilkes @-@ Barre Academy and avoid his mother , who was an alcoholic . Waller attended the Wilkes @-@ Barre Academy and received good grades , despite what historian William M. Ballie called a " prickly " personality . However , he received good grades in school .

Waller taught Sunday school while in his early teens . When he was 15 , he attended Williams College , from which he graduated in 1834 . At Williams College , he came near to being expelled after arguing with a teacher . After Williams College , he considered being a lawyer , businessman or government worker . His brother William advised against his becoming a government worker or businessman , so he decided to become a minister . He attended the Princeton Theological Seminary starting in October 1834 and continuing for three years . Here he also came near to being expelled after a dispute with the teacher John Breckenridge . He graduated from the Princeton Theological Seminary in 1837 with a Bachelor of Divinity degree . Waller moved to Bloomsburg , Pennsylvania in 1838 .

= = Service to the church = =

In 1838 , the Presbyterian Church in Milton , Pennsylvania requested Waller 's service , but he instead began preaching in Bloomsburg , Pennsylvania . He also preached in Wilkes @-@ Barre and Lancaster in late 1838 and in Danville and Milton in early 1839 . On May 1 , 1839 , he was ordained in Bloomsburg , Pennsylvania . His Presbyterian ministry began on a church on Third Street in Bloomsburg . When he began preaching , his ministry covered all of Columbia County , as well as an area from Danville to the Wyoming Valley . In 1840 , he stopped preaching at Briar Creek and Berwick , as they became part of a separate ministry . In 1842 , he began preaching in Orangeville and New Columbia. he preached in Espy since at least 1857 . Due to the size of his ministry , he was never able to preach at a given church more than once every two weeks and only preached at most churches once a month . He typically traveled approximately 5000 miles per year to preach or conduct funerals . Initially his salary was \$ 600 .

Waller was a counsel in ecclesiastical trials . He went to the General Assemblies in 1844 , 1853 , 1861 , 1865 to 1867 , 1876 , 1886 , and 1890 . He was interested in foreign missions and devoted one service per month to news from foreign missions and was elected to a four @-@ year term on

the Board of Foreign Missions in 1865 . He was elected to be the Moderator of Presbytery in 1842 , 1851 , and 1881 . At that time he was the only person to be elected to that position more than once .

In addition to preaching at churches , Waller also revived , organized , or founded a number of them . In 1839 , he revived the Hidlay Church , near Briar Creek , and a church at Berwick . He and two other people officially organized the Presbyterian church in Orangeville in October 1843 . He and three others also attempted unsuccessfully to organize a church at Catawissa . In 1856 , he traveled to Schuylkill County and preached in churches there numerous times and in 1857 , he and two other people organized a church in Ashland in Schuylkill County .

= = Land purchase and sale = =

Waller owned 20 percent (900 acres) of the land in Bloomsburg at various times during his life , which is more than any other person has held in the town to date . He also owned land in other parts of Columbia County and the Wyoming Valley. his lands in Bloomsburg primarily included northeastern , southeastern , and south @-@ central Bloomsburg , but also included some small areas of land near Bloomsburg 's border with Hemlock Township . He sold some of his land , but also donated parts of it by selling those areas for \$ 1 .

Waller developed a number of community features on this land , including five churches , the Columbia County Courthouse and Jail , and several industries such as the Magee Carpet Company and the Bloomsburg Silk Mills . In 1870 , he sold three acres of land on Seventh Street in Bloomsburg for the purpose of building a park , but the land was instead used for athletic competitions . In 1890 , he sold two lots at the corner of Sixth Street and Iron Street to Paul E. Wirt , a fountain pen manufacturer . He also hired the town engineer Samuel Neyhard to develop Bloomsburg from Fifth Street to the Susquehanna River . Most of this work was done after Waller was no longer a minister .

In 1869 , Waller purchased 330 acres of land along Fishing Creek from the Bloomsburg Iron Company and for \$ 3000 and later sold it for \$ 19 @,@ 037 . He sold some land in Mount Pleasant Township for a place to house poor people . He also made a number of a number of purchases of land near the end of his life , including 93 acres at the confluence of Fishing Creek and Raven Creek in 1890 and 22 @.@ 5 acres along the Susquehanna River in Scott Township and Bloomsburg in May 1893 .

In 1854 , Waller and two other people were chosen to find a location for Bloomsburg 's Rosemont Cemetery . They chose a hill immediately north of Bloomsburg , which was partly his land , so on August 1 , 1855 he sold them 2 acres and 33 @.@ 5 perches of land to the Rosemont Cemetery Company for \$ 490 . He was president of the company from 1856 to his death in 1893 .

= = Work in industries = =

Waller was also involved in matters related the local railroads . On October 3 , 1877 , he sold some of his land in Bloomsburg to the Delaware , Lackawanna and Western Railroad for the purpose of a new railroad station . He was also involved in the building of the North and West Branch Railway between 1880 and 1881 . He started raising money for this railroad in 1872 and broke the ground for the railroad in March 1872 . Waller put most of his money into the building of the North and West Branch Railway . The work on the railroad stopped during the Panic of 1873 but resumed in 1880 . The North and West Branch Railway Company was sold in 1881 but he managed to regain much of the company . The company was leased to the Pennsylvania Railroad on November 23 , 1881 , but remained its own company for approximately 20 years . He was president of the North and West Branch Railway in the 1880s . In 1888 , he sold a piece of land to the town of Bloomsburg for the purpose of building the Bloomsburg and Sullivan Railroad through it . It was he who initially conceived the idea of the Bloomsburg and Sullivan Railroad . Waller also successfully convinced the Lackawanna and Bloomsburg Railroad to move its Bloomsburg station to his land on Market Street .

Waller was involved in the process of mining anthracite and owned large tracts of coal @-@ containing land . In 1837 , he invested jointly in an area of coal @-@ containing land in Plymouth Township (now Larksville) with his uncle , Oristus Collins . He and Collins divided the land into their own parcels in 1840 . He and several of his siblings also bought a piece of coal @-@ mining land from his father for \$ 10 @,@ 000 in 1857 . Waller gradually bought the coal @-@ containing lots of his siblings until he had close to 250 acres of land with coal in 1872 . In 1878 , he purchased 28 acres of coal @-@ mining land in Plymouth Township from Joseph Jaquish 's heirs . Altogether his coal @-@ mining lands outputted 50 @,@ 000 tons (45 @,@ 454 tonnes) per year , although this was only a small portion of the total coal output of the Wyoming Valley . After retiring as a minister he also purchased 2000 acres of coal @-@ mining land near Chattanooga .

= = Other work = =

In 1834 , Waller went to New York City to be a tutor , but left after three or four weeks . This was the last time in his life that he was paid as a teacher but he still opened and funded some schools . He opened a classical school in Bloomsburg , which was built in 1839 , and he contributed \$ 3500 to it . Shortly after arriving in Bloomsburg , he organized a singing school and also created a Bible class in 1839 . The class continued until after his death . He helped to open Bloomsburg 's State Normal School . He was appointed a trustee of Lafayette College in 1849 by the Synod of Philadelphia . He held that position until 1879 . He was also on Lafayette College 's Ways and Means committee and helped stop the college from closing in 1852 . In 1856 , Waller helped convert a classical school into the Bloomsburg Literary Institute and served as one of the nine initial trustees . He resigned from being a trustee in 1866 after a dispute about where to set up a new building for the institute . Despite resigning from the trustees , he helped conduct the opening ceremony of the institute 's new building on April 3 , 1867 .

In 1876 , Waller ran as a Republican candidate for US Congress . He lost the election by 8376 votes to Democratic lawyer Francis Dolan Collins . He did , however , win Columbia County in the election . He was also the proprietor of a furnace on Roaring Creek and built the Bloomsburg Sanitarium at the corner of Sixth Street and Market Street in Bloomsburg in 1870 . Waller was vice president of the State Agricultural Society . He also extended Market Street in Bloomsburg and built many houses along it . Along with John Ramsay , he built First Street in Bloomsburg and sold the lots on it to Welsh immigrants some time before 1847 . He also laid out other residential streets in Bloomsburg . He supported moving the county seat of Columbia County from Danville to Bloomsburg , although he was unable to convince Danville 's businessmen to move their industries to Bloomsburg . In 1866 , he was made one of three trustees of Bloomsburg 's Board of Trade .

= = Personal life = =

On May 23 , 1839 , Waller married Philadelphian Julia Ellmaker . He first met Ellmaker while visiting friends in Philadelphia during his time at the Princeton Theological Seminary . The couple had nine children between 1840 and 1858 , six of whom survived to adulthood , and five of whom were alive at the time of his death . He lived at the corner of 5th and Market Streets in Bloomsburg , although at one point he owned much of the land between 4th Street , the Susquehanna River , Railroad Street , and Ferry Road in Bloomsburg . In 1871 , he suffered a driving accident and was temporarily injured . He was in another accident in 1875 and due to this , he needed to walk with crutches for the remainder of his life . Waller also suffered from rheumatism and neuralgia due to extensive traveling . He retired from being a minister on April 16 , 1871 . He died in on December 7 , 1893 , at the age of 79 . The services for his death were held in his home . The historian J.H. Battle made note of Waller 's hospitality . He was interested in geology and another Presbyterian minister gave him a large mineralogy @-@ related collection in 1848 .

= = Legacy = =

On the day of Waller 's funeral , businesses in Bloomsburg closed from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. , a unique honor in the town 's history . He was buried in the Old Rosemont Cemetery . During his lifetime , Waller made 25 purchases and 130 sales of land . By 1887 the area that he owned between 4th and 9th Streets in Bloomsburg were home to more than 200 houses . The community of Waller , Pennsylvania is named after him . In his two @-@ column obituary in Bloomsburg 's newspaper , it was stated that " No other man has left or probably will leave a greater impression on this community that he [Waller] did " . There is a stained glass window that features Waller on a church in Bloomsburg . Approximately 20 of his sermons still survive . He was also the creator of the Waller Trust , which existed until the 1970s .