

on the tract of which Glencoe now occupies the center was Benjamin Critchfield, who came from Maryland prior to 1793. At the latter date he obtained a warrant for one hundred and nineteen and one-half acres of land. Critchfield's son, Absalom, became owner of the place in 1820, and, some years later, sold it to Alexander Philson. Thomas Liese was the next owner, succeeded in 1834 by Daniel Boyer.

As a village, Glencoe dates from the building of the railroad. The first store was kept by Augustus Dom, in 1869. Channey F. Stoner started the first blacksmith-shop, and is still in business. David Hay built the first hotel, in 1874. Samuel Wilt was the first landlord. The present proprietor of the hotel is Joseph Sheets. Glencoe postoffice was established in 1881.

J. L. Snyder, a native of Huntingdon county, came to Glencoe in 1872. For one year he acted as night operator, and since that time he has been station agent at Glencoe.

S. P. Poorbaugh has been in the mercantile business at Glencoe since 1870. He has a good store, and is conducting a successful business. Mr. Poorbaugh served as township constable in 1878, and was appointed postmaster in 1881.

JOHNSBURG.

The first house in Johnsburg was the church, erected in 1806. The land on which the village is built was owned by Henry Miller. J. M. Stief erected the first house, and began keeping the first store in 1808. He continued in the mercantile business until 1878, when he was succeeded by the present merchant, J. H. Miller. Johnsburg postoffice was established in 1871.

CHAPTER LXXIII.

SOUTHAMPTON.

Organization of the Township—Its Coal and Mineral Deposits—Valuable Resources—Early Industries—Borough of Wellersburg—An Account of its Origin and Growth—The Iron Industry—Its Decline and the Consequences—Churches of the Township and Borough.

SOUTHAMPTON township was formed in 1801. It then included the present townships of Allegheny, Greenville, Northampton and Larimer.

The township contains considerable good farming land, and is rich in mineral deposits.

Mr. Henry R. Strong, of Philadelphia, made a geological examination of the coal lands of this township, in 1855, his observations being confined to an area of seven hundred and thirty-five acres, situated southwest from Wellersburg. The coal veins are general, extending throughout the township.

"In the proved state," says Mr. Strong, "it will be seen that there is, in this locality, a thickness of coal measure of more than six hundred feet, including more than twenty-four feet of coal. Besides, there are several seams known to exist which have not been fully proved, and the thickness of which could not be ascertained." Jacob Witt, William Troutman, George Weller and Isaac Harden worked the first coal mines in this township.

In addition to coal, there are valuable deposits of iron and limestone. The limestone is found in two strata, of six and three feet depth respectively. One of the limestone beds contains stone of a superior quality for smelting purposes. Thus all the materials for the manufacture of iron, are found together. The coal of this locality is of excellent quality, and has been pronounced by experts the equal of any in the state.

William Troutman, Sr., Frederick Reichard, Henry Close, Jacob Uhl, Adam Lepley, John Baker and Jacob Reiber were among the earliest settlers in Southampton township.

The following is a list of the taxable inhabitants of Southampton township in 1805, copied from the tax duplicate for that year in the county commissioners' office at Somerset: Samuel Arnold (still), Christian Albright, Jac. Anderson, Luke Asher, Nielous (?) Bill, David Baughman, Widow Blewbangh, Conrad Bell, Jos. Bayer, Benj. Bayer, Christian Baughman, Stofel Brechner, Jonathan Bayer, Lepleys Bayer, Henry Baker, Ludwick Bare, John Bartley (mills), Jac. Barkhard, Sr. (weaver), Jac. Barkhard, Jr., Jas. Barey, John Barkhard, Philip Bell, Nathan Crichfield, Wm. Crichfield, Jos. Crichfield, Carter H. Horn, Isaac Crichfield, Ph. Candle, John Crist (miller), Benj. Crichfield, Wm. Dorey, Wm. Dibton, John Ditner, Dorey, Blake & Pew, Cornelius Deware, Andrew Enrich, Jac. Flickinger, Jac. Geiger, Henry Glose, John Geiger, Dan. Gaumer, Jac. Gaumer, Peter Gestner, — Graford, Ludwick Grisinger, Jac. Givler, Christian Gensler, Christian Heiman, Ph. Heiman, Geo. Harden, Thos. Harden, Seth Harden, John Hahn,

John Hentz, Wm. Hardy, Isaac Harden (still), Hay & Countryman, Henry Imhoff (sawmill), Nich. Kolman, Jac. Korn (mill and sawmill), Michael Korn, Fred. Kles, John Kentle, — Kline, John Komp (still), Jos. Kochanour, Geo. Kook (sawmill), Peter Kendle, Jos. Lidig, Wm. & Geo. Lidig (still), Jac. Lidig, Geo. Long (still), Adam Lopley (still), Jac. Lopley, Geo. Lidig, Jac. Mertz, Widow Mertz, Mo-Norris Morris (blacksmith), John Myer, Moses Maginey, John Makern, Augustine Miller, Henry Moll, John Moll, John Moser, Nathan Major, Jac. Neihard, Sr., Ph. Purbangh, Sam. Riddle, Adam Sterner, Christian Shokey, Val. Shokey, Widow Shortz, John Stoner, Christian Startz, Jr., Mich. Shever, Adam Shyry, Jac. Schwartz (still), Geo. Shultz, Conrad Shalus, Ph. Shreiver, Peter Sweitzer, Jac. Springer, Springer & Moll, John Shever, Val. Shyry (weaver), Christian Starts, Sr., Adam Starts (sawmill), Barnard Stoner, Jac. Shultz, Peter Shumaker, Wm. Troutman, Peter Troutman, Jac. Uhl, Martin Winchburgh, Jac. Witt, Paul Welker, John Welker, James Watson, Benj. Williams, Jac. Weiland, Fred. Zufall, Peter Wingard, Peter Wilhelm. Single freemen: Danl. Korn, Dav. Moll, Henry Hayman, Jos. Hardy, Sam. Arnold, Jos. Arnold, Geo. Schurtz, Henry Schurtz, Benj. Troutman, Ph. Shryer, John Sutter, Yost Brechner, J. Rich'd Ganner, Wm. Lidig, Geo. Fleckinger, Henry Shultz.

Jost Leidig came from Berks county soon after the revolution, and settled on the farm now owned by William Emrick. William Martz, also from Berks county, a millwright by trade, was among the first settlers. He built a mill on Gladden's run, at an early date. Valentine Shiery, a blacksmith, was another pioneer.

David Baughman improved the farm now owned by John D. Roddy & Co. A man named Sheckley improved the farm now owned by Jonathan Boyer. Joseph Boyer settled on the "Red Barn" property. He was from Berks county. Jacob Blum, a blacksmith; Christian Sturtz, a German; Andrew Emrick, a German, and Caspar Albright were early settlers.

Jacob Rhoads improved part of the Jonathan Emrick farm, and Jacob Hahn, from Berks county, a part of the Dennis Comp farm. John Comp, from Berks county, Asher, Davis, Linn, Martin Kartner; Yargle Keller, a stonemason; Peter Troutman, George Geller and Frederick Seiver were all among the first settlers.

William Troutman was born in 1792, on the farm of his father, William Troutman, who was one of the early settlers of Southampton township. William, Jr., was a soldier of 1812. He followed farming, and died in 1881. His wife was Christina Korns, and their children were: Michael, William, Enoch and Mary (Reiber), living; Charles, John, Hiram, Susannah (Cook), Catharine (Hoyman), Delilah (Reiber) and Elizabeth (Wilhelm), dead.

On the farm owned by William Troutman, Jr., four hundred or five hundred yards from the house, there are a number of Indian graves. The surrounding land, a space of ten acres, was an old clearing, as far back as the memory of the oldest resident extends, and is supposed to mark the site of an Indian village or camping-ground.

John Baker was born in Reading, Pennsylvania, in 1784. Very early in life, he came to this county and settled where Wellersburg now is, before a single hut marked the site of the town. He afterward bought and cleared the farm on which his son Benjamin now lives. He followed farming and blacksmithing. Mr. Baker married Polly Albright, and was the father of seventeen children. He died in 1853. The surviving members of his family are: Benjamin, Jonathan, Solomon, Jesse, David, Michael, Joseph, Maria (Lepley), Kate (Getty) and Susan (Knepp). Benjamin Baker, now an old resident, is living on the old homestead where he was born. He purchased the farm from his father in 1851.

The Lepleys were among the earliest settlers. Valentine Lepley, born in 1803, is still living, and is among the oldest residents in the township.

The first gristmill in Southampton township was built by Jacob Korns, where Wellersburg now is, about the year 1809. In the same building the first carding-mill in the township was placed, and put in operation, by William S. and Daniel De Haven, in 1830. The entire structure, then owned by George Weller, was destroyed by fire, in 1837, and has never been rebuilt.

Jacob Uhl erected the second gristmill in the township, about 1810, on land now owned by Eli Shaffer. This mill is now run by Hertman Reitz.

Kennell's gristmill, four miles northeast of Wellersburg, was built by George Leydig, about

1818. It was rebuilt in 1853, by Jonathan Kennell, who still owns it.

The old gristmill on the Dennis Comp farm, was converted into a woolenmill in 1878, and is the only one in the township.

William Troutman erected the first distillery in the township. It is the only one now in operation. Distilleries were very common in the days of the early settlers, almost every farmer having one.

WELLERSBURG.

Wellersburg was laid out in 1830, and incorporated as a borough in 1857. The town is now in a dilapidated state, having been steadily declining since the abandonment of the iron industry in 1866. It contains a population of about two hundred and fifty, and has one hotel, three stores, one blacksmith-shop, one wagonmaker's shop, one tannery, one slaughter-house. There are two churches in the borough, and a school-house (formerly a church building) with a seating capacity of two hundred. George Weller was the founder of the town. He purchased the land on which it is built, from Jacob Korn. The first house in the place was erected by Jeremiah Wingert, in 1833. He also started a tannery in 1834. A Mr. Barnes built the first store. His successor in the mercantile business was John R. Brinham. Brinham erected the first brick house in the place, and still occupies it. It is the only brick structure in the township. Jacob Cook built the first tavern, and Gideon Shaffer the first blacksmith-shop.

The town grew slowly, like most country villages, until the building of the furnace brought a sudden influx of population.

The Wellersburg furnace was built in 1855. The Union Coal and Iron Company, its projector and first owner, was organized in 1854. The furnace, when in active operation, produced about three hundred tons of iron per month, and the industry, in all its departments, afforded employment to about two hundred men. The furnace continued in operation at different times, until 1866, when it was abandoned. The collapse of this industry was the death-blow of the growth and prosperity of Wellersburg.

Gideon Shaffer was born in 1799, in Southampton township, where his parents were early settlers. He followed blacksmithing until his death, in 1862. Barbara Kennell was the maiden name of his wife. Their children were: Levi (deceased), John (deceased), Eli, William, Solo-

mon (deceased), Rebecca (Witt), Elizabeth (Kennell), Anna (Clossew), Susan (Beale), deceased, Lucinda (deceased) and Harriet (John son). Mrs. Gideon Shaffer is still living in Wellersburg, at the age of eighty. She has been a member of the Reformed church over sixty years. Eli Shaffer, the oldest living son, follows blacksmithing in Wellersburg, in the shop built by his father. He has held the offices of constable and school director.

Jeremiah Wingert was born in Brother's Valley township, in 1790. He moved to Alleghany county, Maryland, when young, and there died in 1838. He was a farmer and distiller. He married Catharine Frank, and was the father of six children. His oldest son, Jeremiah, born in Alleghany county, Maryland, and now seventy-one years of age, moved to Wellersburg in 1833, and purchased a lot from George Weller. In 1834 he erected a tannery, which he still operates—the first and only one in Southampton township. Mr. Wingert manufactures about five hundred hides into leather each year, besides about three hundred sheep and calf skins.

John Moser, a native of Germany, came to America in 1838, and settled in Franklin county. In 1856 he removed to Southampton township, where he died in 1861. Henry Moser, his son, came to America in 1833, and to Somerset county in 1855. He is now engaged in the mercantile business. Mr. Moser purchased his store from Isaac Augustine. The latter bought from Jacob Cook, who erected it.

Michael Long, Esq., of Wellersburg, is a native of Milford township. A sketch of his parentage will be found in the history of that township. Mr. Long resides in the borough, and is engaged in farming. He was first elected justice of the peace in 1862, and has since held the office continuously.

CHURCHES.

Wellersburg Reformed and Lutheran church was organized by Rev. Henry Giesy, about the year 1803. There is no account of the building of the first church. The principal early members were from the Uhl, Hoyman, Witt, Korn, Wilhelm and Reichert families; later, the Wingert and Ganmer families were added. The present church edifice cost about twenty-one hundred dollars. It was dedicated June 5, 1857.

The church, once large, now has a membership of thirty-five. Most of the members left on account of the lack of employment when the furnace business suspended.

The first regular pastor was Rev. Henry Giesy, Reformed, who began his labors in 1798. Then followed Revs. H. Heyer, C. Lепley, C. Wittmer, S. P. Nellis, A. Cupp, H. J. Ketzmler, Strausz, Crebs and Pfähler, Lutheran. The Reformed pastors have been Revs. Giesy, J. H. Keefer, H. E. F. Voigt, H. G. Ebbekan and B. Knepper. Rev. Knepper has served as pastor from 1848 to the present, a long period of faithful stewardship, during which his efforts have been greatly blessed. Preaching, formerly all German, is now in English only.

Rev. Benjamin Knepper, son of John Knepper, was born in Somerset county in 1816. His education was gained by his own researches, aided by the limited school privileges of early years. On June 7, 1846, he was licensed as a minister of the Reformed church; on June 16, he preached his first sermon as a licensed minister in the old church at Wellersburg, and in November, 1846, he was settled as pastor over Wellersburg congregation. During the long term of his pastorate, Mr. Knepper has baptized nineteen hundred and fifty-seven persons, confirmed eight hundred and fourteen, married four hundred and ten couples, and preached five hundred and ninety-one funeral sermons. Though now sixty-seven years of age, he is pursuing his labors with all the vigor of early manhood. He has four regular appointments, which he reaches on foot, and on an average delivers one hundred and forty sermons per year.

Comp's Reformed and Lutheran church is an old organization. In the first church-book nothing but baptisms are recorded. The date of the first baptism is 1810. The Comp, Troutman and Leidig families were the principal early members of this congregation.

Revs. Hunger, Hoyer, Finkel, Meyer, Schögel, Stuft, and John Nunner were Lutheran pastors; Revs. H. J. E. Voigt and H. Ebbekan, Reformed. The present pastor, Rev. B. Knepper, has been in charge since 1880.

The first church was probably erected about 1809. The present was dedicated in November, 1860. The membership is between forty and fifty. The services are conducted in German and English, alternately.

Gladden's Run Reformed and Lutheran church commenced with six members in Hoyman's schoolhouse in 1846. In November, 1872, the congregation was regularly organized by Rev. B. Knepper, the pastor, who is still in charge. The first church officers were Israel Emrich and Andrew Everlain, elders; Bailey Shumaker and Samuel Shumaker, deacons. The oldest members were Jonathan Emrich, Benjamin Baker, A. Getz, Frederick Hasselroth, Solomon Shumaker, Nathan Emrich and D. Lieban. The church edifice, erected at a cost of about two thousand dollars, was dedicated November 24, 1872. Present membership of the church, eighty-four; sabbath school, forty-five. The preaching is alternately English and German. It was formerly wholly in German.

Savage Run Reformed and Lutheran church, commonly called Fink's church, was organized by Rev. B. Knepper in 1849. The house of worship was erected in the fall of the same year at a cost of about nine hundred dollars. The first church officers were: Michael Fink, elder; Israel Shumaker, deacon, for the Reformed; Michael Moser, elder; George Tressler, deacon, for the Lutherans. Other original members were: Jacob Fink, Jonathan Bittinger, M. Bittinger and A. Wessner. The present membership is thirty-one. Services are held both in English and German. Rev. B. Knepper has ministered to this congregation from its organization to the present time.

The church of the Evangelical Association in Wellersburg was built about 1852, and cost eight hundred dollars. The building was erected by Jacob Albright. The church has but a small membership at present.

CHAPTER LXXIV.

MIDDLE CREEK.

Township Organization—Origin of the Name—Early Settlers and their Experiences—Later Settlers—Early Mills—Present Manufacturing Industries—The Village of New Lexington—The Lutheran Church.

MIDDLE CREEK township is called after the stream of the same name which flows about midway between Laurel Hill and Cox's creeks. The township was organized in 1853.

The township contains several small veins of coal, which are mined for local use. A good