

Local History: Chapter XV: Borough of NORTHUMBERLAND: Bell's History of Northumberland Co PA 1891

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Transcribed from Bell's History of Northumberland County Pennsylvania

CHAPTER XV NORTHUMBERLAND.

THE TOWN PLAT - EARLY HISTORY - PROMINENT EARLY RESIDENTS – EARLY MERCHANTS AND HOTELS - THE POSTOFFICE - BRIDGES, CANALS, AND RAILWAYS -BOROUGH ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT - INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY - SCHOOLS -LOCAL JOURNALISM - SECRET AND OTHER SOCIETIES - CHURCHES - CEMETERIES.

THE borough of Northumberland occupies an elevated terrace immediately within the forks of the Susquehanna river. During the first settlement of the surrounding region, this locality was widely known as "the Point;" its advantages as a town site were early apparent, and before the close of the colonial period it had become a place of considerable local importance. From the termination of the Revolutionary war until the close of the century its growth was more rapid than that of any other town in the upper Susquehanna valley, and for many years thereafter it occupied a leading position, financially and socially, among the towns of Northumberland county. Although its former prestige in these respects is now only a matter of history, the borough continues to possess many of the elements of prosperity and progress; several important industrial establishments are in operation, and a fair amount of business is transacted through local channels, while the religious and educational interests of the community are well sustained. By the census of 1890 the population was two thousand seven hundred forty-four.

THE TOWN PLAT.

The town plat comprises four tracts of land, of which the respective original titles were completed in the following order: "Sarah's Delight" (two hundred acres), was patented to Sarah Lowdon, July 7, 1770; "Nottingham" (five hundred acres), to Richard Peters, September 14, 1772; "Townside"(five hundred acres), to Richard Peters, September 16, 1772; and "Essex" (two hundred acres), to Esther Patterson, January 7, 1775. The town was originally laid out in 1772 by John Lowdon and William Patterson. Within the next three years, however, the title to the four tracts in question became vested in Reuben Haines, a wealthy brewer of Philadelphia and the owner of large landed interests in this part of the State. He enlarged the plot and recorded a general plan of Lowdon and Patterson's town, with his own addition, in Deed Book B, p. 273, April 24, 1781. It was again recorded, May 10, 1808, by John Boyd in Book C, p. 368.

Regularity is a distinguishing feature of the plat. The streets running east and west are North Way, Water, Front, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth, intersected at right angles by West Way, Duke, Queen, King, Orange, and Hanover, with alleys at regular intervals. The streets are of uniform width, except that King is somewhat broader than the others; in it there is a wide-open space between Front and Second, intended for a market place. The plan is accompanied by a declaration, acknowledged before Chief Justice McKean, in which Haines states that he had come into possession of certain tracts of land "in the forks of Susquehanna," part of which had been "laid out in small lots for a town by William Patterson, John Lowdon, and myself," following which is an enumeration of the streets and alleys, with the statement that they should thereafter be "open public roads or highways," "for the benefit and advantage of the inhabitants of the said town and all other persons making use of the same."

Upon the death of Reuben Haines his estate was inherited by his four children: Casper Wistar; Josiah; Reuben, and Catherine. Reuben, Jr. died a few years later, bequeathing his interest in the town to his brothers and sister, who executed deeds of partition among themselves.

Notwithstanding the unequivocal character of Haines's declaration, it appears that some of the streets were not opened for public use at that time nor for some years afterward. At August sessions, 1807, of the county court of quarter sessions, upon the report of Joseph Priestley, John Cowden, John Bull, John Frick, and Thomas Grant, who had been appointed in the previous year to take the question into consideration, North Way, Water, Front, Second, Third, Duke, Queen, Orange, and Hanover streets were declared public highways and ordered opened for public use.

EARLY HISTORY.

Robert Martin was the first permanent settler at the site of Northumberland. He was originally from New Jersey and had attempted to make a settlement at Wyoming under Pennsylvania title, but this design was frustrated by the opposition of the Connecticut colonists of that locality. Thence he came to "the Point;" after the purchase of 1768 was consummated his house forthwith became the rendezvous of surveyors, speculators, and adventurers to the newly opened region of the West Branch, and by virtue of previous acquaintance with the country he at once became a prominent character. He was a member of the Provincial Conference of 1776, of the Constitutional Convention of that year, and of the Assembly several years subsequently. The exact location of his first residence is not known, but it was the first evidence of civilization within the forks of the Susquehanna in Northumberland county, and for several years the only house at the site of Northumberland.

William Hoffman and Philip Frick arrived at Northumberland on the 1st of June 1772. They were from Lancaster and came up the Susquehanna in a canoe. Frick had formed the design of building a brewery, and Hoffman, who was a carpenter by occupation, accompanied him to perform or superintend the work of its erection. A log house was accordingly constructed, on Market street opposite the Burr House, now the site of a brick building erected in 1835-36 by John Leisenring, and there Frick made his residence. What progress he made in the brewing business cannot be ascertained. On the opposite side of the street Hoffman erected a log house at the site of the Burr House, to which he brought his wife immediately after its completion. There he dug the first well in the borough and planted the first fruit trees; of the latter there were two, an apple and a pear tree, both of which were brought from Lancaster. Under careful husbandry they flourished; the pear tree still bears fruit, after the lapse of more than a century, which is sufficient evidence of the good judgment of Hoffman in its selection. The apple tree was of an early bearing variety; its fruit was a large size and yellow color and matured in August.

The first birth of a white child at "the Point" is said to have been that of Elizabeth, daughter of William Hoffman, and occurred at this log house. During the year immediately following his settlement here he was busily engaged in the construction of houses for those who arrived later. It is not known that he was actively engaged in the Revolutionary struggle, but a brother, from Frederick, Maryland, was a batteau-man in Sullivan's expedition. He continued to reside at Northumberland until his death, in 1821, and was interred in the graveyard in the rear of the Lutheran church. Three sons survived him: William, who moved to Elmira, New York, and died there at an advanced age; Joseph, and Jacob, carpenters and pump-makers by trade; and three daughters: Elizabeth, the eldest of the family, who married a Mr. Brown and moved to Elmira; Mary, who married Thomas Everard, and Deborah, who married Richardson Huzzey.

Some very interesting particulars regarding the town in 1775 may be gleaned from the journal of Rev. Philip V. Fithian, a Presbyterian clergyman who made a missionary journey through the West Branch valley in that year. He arrived at Northumberland on Saturday, July 1, 1775, and notes in his journal under that date the numbers of canoes, boats, etc., plying about; as the result of his first impressions of the place he says: "In short, this town in a few years, without doubt, will be grand and busy." He held his first services on Sunday, July 2d, and mentions among those by whom they were attended William Cooke, sheriff of the county; "Mr. Martin, a gentleman who came lately from Jersey;" John Barker, a lawyer; John Scull, deputy surveyor; and the wife, daughters, and niece of Colonel Samuel Hunter, the commanding officer at Fort Augusta. Reuben Haines, proprietor of the town, then resided here, and showed Mr. Fithian the lot he intended to give the Presbyterian congregation. He left on the following Thursday, but returned again on Monday, July 17th. On this occasion he mentions having called at Martin's to see the papers, and hearing Dr. William Plunket and several other gentlemen discuss the aspect of political affairs. He was also a member of a huckleberry party, of whom the ladies were "Mrs. Boyd, a matron, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. McCartney, Miss Carothers, Miss Martin, Miss Lusk, and a strange young woman, Miss Manning." They ascended the Blue Hill, and he speaks of the prospect from that elevation in glowing terms. A plot of the town accompanies the journal, showing a row of houses along the North Branch and another along the West Branch, with none in the center.

During the Revolution the town was practically abandoned. The "Great Runaway" virtually depopulated the region to the north, and, with no defensive barrier between them and the enemy, the people sought refuge at Sunbury and points farther down the river. The place was again occupied in 1784 and 1785, and the return of the former inhabitants of the West Branch valley with large additions to the population was followed by an era of growth and prosperity. In 1796 there were nearly a hundred houses in the town.

Northumberland was seriously considered as the location of the county seat in 1772, and disputed land title appears to have been the principal reason why it was not selected. When a change of the State capital from Lancaster was first agitated, the claims of the northern and central portions of the State were urged in behalf of Northumberland, which would have been chosen but for the opposition of the member from Northumberland county at a decisive moment. Thus, on two different occasions, has the place narrowly escaped having greatness thrust upon it.

No conflagration of general and widespread destructiveness has ever visited Northumberland; many of the houses are therefore of the substantial type of architecture that prevailed several generations ago, and among those whose appearance indicates age it would be difficult to determine which is to be given recognized precedence. An old house on North Way, now leased by the borough authorities for the purposes of a poor house, is generally regarded as the oldest, but there is not sufficient evidence of the fact to form a positive conclusion. In the early part of the century it was used as a hotel. The stone house on North Way at the corner of Wheatley alley is also a landmark of undoubted antiquity. It was occupied at the beginning of the century by

James Hiatt, who died on the 2d of March 1815, at the age of sixty, and is buried in the old Presbyterian burial ground.

The house erected by Rev. Joseph Priestley on North Way is perhaps the most interesting of the surviving specimens of eighteenth-century architecture. It was begun in 1795 and finished in 1797, under the immediate supervision of the Doctor's wife. The main building is two stories high, with one-story extensions at either end, that on the east was occupied by the Doctor as a library and laboratory, while the other was used for domestic purposes. The house throughout is exceptionally convenient in all its arrangements, large apartments, wide halls, and dressing rooms in connection with the different apartments on the second floor being among the distinguishing features. On the roof there was an observatory, which long since disappeared. The original color was white. The Priestley family were succeeded in the occupancy and ownership by Judge Chapman, who resided here during his judicial incumbency and until the close of his life. It was subsequently the residence of Charles Kay, son of the Rev. James Kay, who amassed a fortune in Philadelphia as one of the founders of the well-known publishing house of Kay & Brothers.

At an early period in the present century there stood a market house on the square in Market or King street. It was built in the style common at that day. The local artillery company met for review on the square in the rear.

PROMINENT EARLY RESIDENTS.

In a list of the taxables of Turbut township prior to 1775 each of the following persons is accredited with a house and lot: Hawkins Boone, John Boyd, John Carothers (tanner), John Chattam (blacksmith), John De France, Thomas Dean, John Freeman, William Forster, Philip Frig, William Hoffman, Robert King, William Kennersley, Cornelius Lamerson, Aaron Levy, William McKinn, Robert Martin, Peter Martin, and John McAdams. As Northumberland was then the only town in Turbut township, it is fair to presume that this list includes the names of its principal inhabitants at that time.

Captain John Boyd was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, February 22, 1750, and became a resident of Northumberland in 1778. On the 16th of October 1776, he was commissioned as second lieutenant in the Twelfth Pennsylvania regiment, and subsequently promoted first lieutenant; in July 1778, he was transferred to the Third regiment, in which he became captain lieutenant. He was a member of the "forlorn hope" that inaugurated the assault upon Stony Point in 1779. Retiring from his regiment, January 1, 1781, he took command of a company of rangers in Bedford county, and was taken prisoner at the Raystown branch of Juniata while crossing the Allegheny mountains. After spending a year in Canada under duress he was exchanged and returned to Northumberland, where he spent the remainder of his life. Among the civil positions with which he was honored were those of member of the Supreme Executive Council, register and recorder of Northumberland county, and inspector of internal revenue under President Washington. He died on the 13th of February 1831. His brother, Lieutenant William Boyd, of the Twelfth regiment, was killed at the battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777. Another brother, Lieutenant Thomas Boyd, was killed by the Indians, September 12, 1779, in Sullivan's campaign.

Lieutenant John Carothers was commissioned as an officer in the Twelfth Pennsylvania regiment, October 16, 1776, and killed at Germantown, October 4, 1777. He left a widow, who died in 1785, and one son.

Lieutenant Robert King was commissioned as an officer in the Twelfth regiment, October 4, 1776, and transferred to the Third, July 1, 1778. In the autumn of the latter year he returned to the county and was a

member of Hartley's expedition to Tioga. In 1840 he resided in Mifflin township, Lycoming county, at the advanced age of eighty-eight.

Colonel John Bull, a native of Providence township, Montgomery county, first appears in the military history of the State as captain in command of Fort Allen (now Weissport, Carbon county) in June 1758, and accompanied Forbes's expedition to Fort Duquesne later in the same year. In 1775 he was appointed colonel of the First Pennsylvania battalion, but resigned, January 20, 1776. At the organization of the Board of War, March 14, 1777, he was one of its constituent members, and on the 16th of July 1777, he was appointed adjutant general of the State. He superintended the construction of the batteries at Billingsport in 1778, put down the chevaux de frize in the Delaware in 1779, and was commissary of purchases at Philadelphia in 1780. He resided at the present site of Norristown, the county seat of Montgomery county, and was in affluent circumstances until the destruction of his property by the British. At the close of the Revolution he located at Northumberland, where he died on the 9th of August 1824, at the age of ninety-three. He was a candidate for the legislature in 1802, but was defeated by Simon Snyder; in 1808 he was the Federalist candidate for Congress in the district of which Northumberland county formed part, but was again defeated. In 1803, 1804, and 1805 he was elected to the Assembly.

Colonel Bernard Hubley was commissioned as first lieutenant in the German regiment, August 15, 1776, and promoted captain, February 24, 1778. While his regiment was stationed in Northumberland county, he was in command of Fort Rice and Fort Jenkins for a time; at the close of the war he located at Northumberland and engaged in the brewing business. He was commissioned as county lieutenant, December 21, 1789, and was also connected with the local militia in various other official capacities. The first volume of his History of the Revolution was published at Northumberland in 1807. He died in 1808.

Lawrence Campbell, the first burgess of Northumberland, was a native of Ireland. He immigrated to Pennsylvania in 1784, located at Northumberland in 1792, and died at that place, November 8, 1834, at the age of sixty-eight years, several months after the conclusion of his sixth term as burgess.

Rev. Joseph Priestley,* whose residence at Northumberland has probably to the year 1795, written by himself; with a continuation, to the time of his decease, by his son, Joseph Priestley;" printed by John Binns at Northumberland in 1805. given to the place a wider celebrity than any other circumstance in connection with its history, was born at Fieldhead, near Leeds, Yorkshire, England, March 13, 1733. His early education was obtained under the tuition of Reverends Hague and Kirby, and at the age of sixteen he had acquired a fair knowledge of Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. In September 1752, he went to the academy of Daventry, where he spent three years, entering the ministry as assistant to the Rev. Mr. Meadows, of Needham Market, Suffolk, at the conclusion of his academic course. There he remained three years; during this period his first published work, "The Doctrine of the Atonement," was issued. The following three years, 1758-61, were spent at Nantwick, where he wrote an English grammar and "Observations on the Character and Reasoning of the Apostle Paul" From 1761 to 1767 he taught elocution, logic, Hebrew, and the civil law in an academy at Warrington. During this connection he met Benjamin Franklin at London, and, as the result of this association, began a series of experiments in electricity.

In September 1767, he removed to Leeds, having accepted an invitation to take charge of Millhall chapel. Here the first of his controversial treatises was written; he also published an "Essay on Government," "A familiar Introduction to the Study of Electricity," a "Chart of History," etc., etc. His house adjoined a brewery, and observations of fixed air produced in the process of fermentation led to a series of experiments upon the nature of the atmosphere, ultimately resulting in that discovery with which his name will always be associated. He began these experiments with but limited knowledge of chemistry, but this apparent disadvantage undoubtedly contributed largely to his success, as he was thus thrown entirely upon his own resources and led to devise new apparatus and modes of operation. His first publication on the subject of air appeared in 1772; it was a small

pamphlet on the method of impregnating water with fixed air. In the previous year he had already procured good air from saltpetre; he had ascertained the use of agitation and of vegetation, as the means employed by nature in purifying the atmosphere for the support of animal life, and that air vitiated by animal respiration was a pabulum to vegetable life; he had procured factitious air in a much greater variety of ways than had been known before, and he had been in the habit of substituting quicksilver in lieu of water in many of his experiments. Of these discoveries he gave an account in his paper before the Royal Society in 1772, which deservedly obtained the honor of the Copley medal. In this paper he announced the discovery of nitrous air; he showed the use of a burning lens in pneumatic experiments; he related the discovery and properties of marine acid air; he added much to the little theretofore known of air generated by animal putrefaction and vegetable fermentation, and determined many facts relating to the diminution and deterioration of air by the combustion of charcoal and the calcination of metals. It was not until June or July 1774, that he made the full discovery of deph-logisticated* air, which he procured from precipitate per se, and from red lead. He announced this discovery publicly at the table of M. Lavoisier at Paris in October 1774, and about the same time repeated his experiments before the scientific chemists of Paris.

In a sketch of this nature it is impossible to pursue his subsequent investigations; enough has been said to show that in the brief space of two years he announced to the world more facts of real importance and wide application in pneumatic chemistry than all his predecessors had previously made known. His attention was called to the subject purely by the accident of his proximity to a brew-house at Leeds, where he had ample opportunity to observe and determine the properties of fixed air; one experiment led to another, ultimately resulting in the discoveries upon which his philosophical reputation is principally founded.

After a residence of six years at Leeds, he entered the service of the Earl of Shelburne, with whom he traveled in Europe. In 1780 he became pastor of a dissenting congregation at Birmingham, where, in 1789, he became involved in a controversy regarding the "test act;" his expressed approval of the French Revolution provoked a violent attack from Burke in Parliament, and, to such an extent had his political views aroused the hostility of the Birmingham populace, that, on the 14th of July 1791, his residence was burned by a mob. This called forth a number of addresses, among which were several invitations to become a member of the French Convention. During the next three years he resided at London and Hackney, but, finding the hostility of his enemies unabated, he decided to leave England, and embarked for America on the 7th of April 1794. The considerations that induced his location at Northumberland are thus stated in his "Memoirs:"-

At the time of my leaving England, my son, in conjunction with Mr. Cooper and other English emigrants, had a scheme for a large settlement for the friends of liberty in general near the head of the Susquehanna in Pennsylvania. And taking it for granted that it would be carried into effect, after landing at New York I went to Philadelphia, and thence to Northumberland, a town the nearest to the proposed settlement, thinking to reside there until some progress had been made in it. The settlement was given up; but being here, and my wife and myself liking the place, I have determined to take up my residence here, though subject to many disadvantages. Philadelphia was excessively expensive, and this comparatively a cheap place; and my sons, settling in the neighborhood, will be less exposed to temptation and more likely to form habits of sobriety and industry. They will also be settled at much less expense than in or near a large town. We hope, after some time, to be joined by a few of our friends from England, that a readier communication may be opened with Philadelphia, and that the place will improve and become more eligible in other respects.

In the spring of 1795, he began the construction of a house suitable to his requirements and pursuits; it was completed in 1797, and still stands in a good state of preservation on North Way, with a lawn sloping to the canal. Here he resumed his experiments and studies. He was offered the

*This term was introduced to scientific nomenclature by Priestly; "dephlogisticated air" is oxygen gas.

professorship of chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania, but declined, although he delivered two courses of lectures in Philadelphia. He corresponded with Presidents Jefferson and Adams, and, although a voluminous writer on political economy, never participated actively in civil affairs in this country, of which he never became a naturalized citizen. In religious belief he was a Unitarian, and established at Northumberland the oldest church of that denomination in central Pennsylvania; he was also active in promoting the educational interests of the community and was one of the founders of the old Northumberland Academy, the first school of advanced grade in this part of the State. The last years of his life were free from the controversy and care that entered so largely into his experience, and thus he died, in peace and quietness, on the 6th of February 1804. His remains are interred in the Northumberland cemetery.

The centennial anniversary of the discovery of oxygen was celebrated at Northumberland in June 1874, by a meeting of about fifty of the most prominent scientists of the United States and Canada. David Taggart delivered the address of welcome, and Professor Chandler, of Columbia College, New York, presided. Appropriate memorial exercises and scientific addresses were the features of the program. Cablegrams were interchanged with the Priestley Memorial Committee of Birmingham. This convention and the demonstrations of a similar nature in England attracted wide attention.

Of Frederick Antes, William Cooke, William Wilson, Thomas Cooper, and Seth Chapman, all of whom were judges in the county courts and resided at Northumberland, extended mention is made in this work in the chapter on the Bench and Bar, where sketches of early resident lawyers also appear. The early physicians - Doctors Allison, Young, Lathey, Jackson, and Rodrigue - receive corresponding mention in the chapter on the Medical Profession.

EARLY MERCHANTS AND HOTELS.

A map of the Susquehanna river, drawn in 1701 by Isaac Taylor, surveyor of Chester county, locates J. Letort's store at the site of Northumberland. He was a French trader, and probably carried on a thriving business with the Indians in the exchange of such commodities as a savage population could assimilate for peltries, etc. This was doubtless the initial commercial venture of the West Branch valley.

No definite particulars have been learned regarding merchandising at Northumberland before the Revolutionary war. When the population returned after the close of that struggle the first merchants were probably William Wilson and John Boyd. Josiah Haines, Dr. Benjamin F. Young, Peter Faulkner, Hepburn & Cowden, James Towar & Company, William McClelland, and Robert Irwin were prominent merchants prior to 1800. Wilson and Boyd continued in partnership until April 10, 1802. In the Gazette of January 1, 1794, Peter Faulkner informs the public that he has just received a consignment of goods from Philadelphia, for which grain would be taken at market prices; he offers seven pence per bushel for ashes, and twenty shillings per hundred-weight for "black salts." In the issue of the same paper for April 16, 1794, Hepburn & Cowden offer a reward of fifty dollars for the apprehension of certain "malicious, evil disposed persons," who, on the 30th of March previously, had rolled upwards of one hundred bushels of salt, one wagon, and one cart from their landing into

the river and cut loose a boat. This firm dissolved partnership, June 4, 1794, both continuing business individually. Some idea of the mercantile business at that date may be obtained from the following enumeration of articles advertised in the Gazette in 1801:-

Superfine, second, and coarse cloth, mixed, plain, striped, and white cassimeres, striped, plain, blue, and brown nankeens, chintzes, calicoes, ging-mufflins, and dimities of all kinds, large and small umbrellas, velvets, thickset and fancy cords, satin, lustrings, Persians, and Sarsonets, calimancoes, moureens, taboeens, and durants, Irish linens, checks, and bed ticks, iron and copper tea kettles, German and cradling scythes, sugars, coffee, and tea of almost all kinds, sherry, madiera, and port wines, Jamaica spirits, French brandy, with a few barrels of old whiskey, best Spanish and American cigars, with a number of other articles.

James Hepburn, by whom this advertisement was inserted, conducted business at a log building on the corner of North Way and Duke street. He died on the 4th of January 1817, in the seventieth year of his age.

John Cowden, who served as postmaster of Northumberland from 1795 until his death, January 12, 1837, was engaged in merchandising nearly the whole of that time. His business establishment passed to William Forsyth in 1835; the latter was succeeded in 1844 by his son, William T. Forsyth, who continued in business until 1884.

Samuel McClintock and John Guier were also among the merchants of Cowden's day. The former resided on Water street just above Queen, and one of his sons is a prominent lawyer at Wilkesbarre; the store of the latter was at the intersection of Water and Queen streets.

Ephraim P Shannon, son of Samuel Shannon, who settled at Northumberland prior to 1800, was a native of this place and for some years one of its prominent business men. His store was at the corner of Queen and Front streets, where he erected the brick building afterward incorporated in the Van Kirk house. He was born, February 4, 1797, and died, August 27, 1851.

Daniel Brautigam, a native of Philadelphia, where he was born, March 30, 1788, was in business for some years, individually or in Partnership with others, at a stone building on the northeast side of Queen street between Water and Front, now occupied by Straub's feed store. He was appointed prothonotary of Northumberland county, January 29, 1836, and filled that position until February 5, 1839. He died, March 10, 1863.

Clyde & Porter was the caption of a well-known business firm about the period from 1825 to 1840. William Clyde, senior member, was a native of Ireland, and a chair-maker by trade, pursuing that avocation in partnership with his brother Thomas at a log house still standing on Queen street between Front and Second. Thomas died, July 21, 1822, at the age of fifty-one years. Porter was the nephew of William Clyde. Their business was transacted in the brick building at the corner of Front and Market streets where Miss Lyon now resides. William Clyde died, April 7, 1841, at the age of sixty-five years.

John Hannah, an Irishman, a bachelor, and a man of comparative wealth, had a store on Front street near the corner of Market, and owned a series of buildings extending from the site of the Methodist Episcopal church to Wheatley's alley. He died on the 20th of August 1832, at the age of eighty-three.

The First Hotel was that of Robert Martin, previously mentioned, which was probably conducted until or during the Revolution. At the beginning of this century the leading hotel was that of Peter Jones, a building at the corner of Wheatley's alley on North Way now used as the borough poor house. Jones was born, May 30, 1747, and died, March 5, 1826; prior to the latter event, however, he was succeeded by William Forsyth, who was proprietor in 1822. David Taggart conducted a hotel in a two-story brick building at the site of Morgan's shoe store on Queen street, where he died, May 17, 1812, after which it was continued by his widow many years. The

Washington House, on the corner of Market and Water streets, has borne its present designation longer than any other of the present hotels. John Shreiner built the brick part of the building in 1812, and James Lee, a well-known character, was proprietor many years. Henry Wolfinger, John Cake, and Mrs. Burr are remembered as proprietors of the Cross Keys, at the corner of Market and Front, and John Cake and John G. Wells at the Black Horse, which occupied the site of the Methodist church. The Van Kirk House received its name from Joseph Van Kirk, the first proprietor, and the Whitmer House was established by George Eckert.

THE POSTOFFICE.

The first postoffice in Northumberland county was established at Northumberland in 1795; postmasters have been commissioned in the following order: John Cowden, November 13, 1795; William Forsyth, January 26, 1837; Daniel Weimer, August 16, 1841; John W. Miles, November 24, 1844; Catharine G. Boyd, May 8, 1849; Margaret Weimer, November 11, 1850, Charles F. Little, May 5, 1853; Jacob Ulp, July 26, 1853; Jacob Leisenring, January 14, 1858; Jacob Paul, February 5, 1858; William Weimer, April 4, 1861; Josephine R. Weimer, January 30, 1877; John C. Forsyth, September 8, 1885; Luther L. Haas, January 27, 1890.

BRIDGES, CANALS, AND RAILWAYS.

The Northumberland Bridge Company was the first incorporated in Pennsylvania for the erection of a bridge across the Susquehanna. The necessary preliminary legislation was secured, March 25, 1809, authorizing the Governor "to incorporate a company for the purpose of making and erecting a bridge and road over the Northeast Branch of the river Susquehanna in the county of Northumberland, from the public highway opposite the plantation of Thomas Grant to Shamokin island, through the public highway of Shamokin island to the shore opposite Northumberland, and from thence to the town of Northumberland." The responsibilities of the enterprise were intrusted to a number of commissioners, of whom Jacob Dentler, Joseph Priestley, John Boyd, James Hepburn, John P. De Gruchy, and George Kremer assumed the active work of soliciting financial support, and subscription books were opened at Philadelphia and Northumberland. On the 30th of March 1811, a supplement to the act of 1809 was so amended as to empower the Governor to incorporate the company as soon as public subscriptions to the amount of sixteen hundred shares had been subscribed, and Messrs. Dentler, Priestley, Boyd, Hepburn, De Gruchy, and Kremer, with Simon Gratz, John Vaughan, and Henry Toland, their colleagues, having certified this result to the Governor, the company was formally incorporated, October 19, 1811, and a subscription of fifty thousand dollars was forthwith received from the State. The first election for officers occurred at the house of David Taggart in Northumberland on the 23d of November, 1811, between the hours of eleven A. M. and five P. M., at which the following officers were elected: president, John P. De Gruchy, six hundred twenty-three votes; managers: Charles Hall, six hundred twenty-three votes; David Taggart, six hundred eighteen votes; John Cowden, six hundred eleven votes; Jacob Dentler, six hundred ten votes; James Hepburn, five hundred twenty-eight votes; George Kremer, four hundred thirty-eight votes; treasurer, John Boyd, six hundred twenty votes; clerk, John Cooper, five hundred sixty-six votes.

President De Gruchy had already had some correspondence with the officers of the Mohawk, Schenectady, and Schoharie bridge companies, in New York State, and the Trenton Bridge Company, of New Jersey, regarding bridge construction; this correspondence was submitted to the managers at a meeting held in

Sunbury, November 27, 1811, at which the contract was awarded Theodore Burr for the sum of eighty thousand dollars. His only competitor was Robert Mills, of Philadelphia, who submitted a plan and proposals, while Mr. Burr was present in person to explain the method of construction of which he was the originator. The agreement was concluded, November 29, 1811. The articles specify three piers between Northumberland and Shamokin island and four between that island and the Sunbury side, each to be twenty feet above low water mark to the foot of the arches, twenty feet wide at the bottom and eighteen at the foot of the arches, and carried up eight feet between the arches; four abutments, thirty-two feet wide and ten feet thick, supported by wing walls five feet thick at the bottom and half that thick at the top; a superstructure, consisting of arches, chords, truss-braces, braces, king-posts, etc., thirty feet wide from "out to out" of the arches and thirty-one feet ten inches by similar measurement from the king-posts, with two carriage-ways eleven feet six inches wide and a footway four feet ten inches wide between them; and two toll houses eighteen by twenty-four feet. The work was to be commenced in March 1812, and completed on the 31st of December, 1813; but if the company should not succeed in securing the State appropriation agreeably to its wishes, the contractor was to have an extension of one year. The act of April 2, 1811 authorized the Governor to subscribe fifty thousand dollars, one half payable when the piers and abutments were completed, the other half when the super-structure was raised; but the management desired to complete that part of the bridge between Northumberland and the island before undertaking the remainder, and memorialized the legislature to make a corresponding change in the manner of bestowing the appropriation. A further supplement, granting the change proposed, was accordingly passed, February 3, 1812. This provided that twelve thousand five hundred dollars should be payable when the piers and abutments between Northumberland and the island has been constructed, a like sum when the superstructure between these points was raised, and the same amounts as the remainder of the work progressed. The effect of this was to confirm that part of the agreement with Mr. Burr which stipulated that the bridge should be completed on the 31st of December 1813.

The work of construction was begun on the 4th of June 1812, when the foundation of the abutment at Northumberland was laid; that of the abutment at the island on the Northumberland side was laid the same month; of the central pier, July 8th; of the pier next the island, August 18th; and of the pier next the Northumberland side, September 14th. On the 7th of October 1812, Mr. De Gruchy informed the Governor that these two abutments and three piers were nearly completed, and requested the appointment of a commission, agreeably to the law, to examine them and report whether they were so constructed as to entitle the company to call upon the State for a proportional amount of its subscription. Bethuel Vincent, Thomas Pollock, and Jacob Lechner were accordingly appointed; they made an examination on the 3d of November following, and submitted a report highly complimentary to the company and the contractor. All the arches on the Northumberland side were up, on Tuesday afternoon, August 31, 1813, and on the 8th of December Mr. De Gruchy requested the appointment of viewers for this part of the superstructure. Bethuel Vincent, Thomas Pollock, and James Geddis were appointed, and on Saturday, December 25, 1813, they met with the officers of the company, Messrs. De Gruchy, Kremer, Albright, Dentler, Cowden, Hepburn, and Boyd, and crossed the bridge from Northumberland to the island, preceded by the five-horse team of Jacob Dentler, one of the managers, driven by Solomon Dentler, his son, and containing as many persons as could find room in it. After crossing the bridge it returned to the Northumberland side, amid the acclamations of a number of spectators. The commissioners reported to the Governor that the work had been done "in a masterly and workmanlike manner." The foundation of the abutment on the Sunbury side was laid, October 29, 1812, and the pier nearest that side was partially constructed in the same year. The foundation of the central pier was laid on the 10th of August 1813, and with its completion on the 29th of September the stone work of the bridge was finished. Mr. De Gruchy had filed an application for viewers on the 4th of September; Messrs. Vincent, Pollock, and Lechner were appointed, and returned a favorable report. Under date of September 9, 1814, the Governor was informed that this part of the superstructure had been raised, and on the 2d of December it was examined by Messrs. Vincent, Pollock, and Geddis, who reported favorably. As

thus completed the western part of the bridge was eight hundred forty-eight feet, six inches in length; the eastern part, nine hundred seventy-six feet, six inches; the abutments, five hundred feet; the roadway across Shamokin island, seventeen hundred forty-nine feet - a total length, including frame-work, roadway, and approaches, of forty-three hundred seventy-four feet. The plan originally decided upon had been variously modified; the principal change was that made on the 7th of October 1812, when it was decided to erect three piers instead of four on the eastern side. The floor, or "deck," was elevated forty-one feet above low water mark, and the footway was raised four feet above the carriage way. The exterior was painted.

The following schedule of tolls was adopted at a meeting of the managers, September 10, 1814: for every carriage of whatever description, used for the purposes of trade and agriculture, with four wheels and drawn by six horses, one dollar twenty-five cents, with a scale varying with the number of horses to the minimum of thirty-one and one fourth cents for one horse; four-wheeled vehicles of pleasure, drawn by four horses, one dollar twenty-five cents, with a reduction of twenty-five cents for each horse; two-wheeled wagons, drawn by two horses, fifty cents - by one horse, twenty-five cents; a chair or other two-wheeled vehicle of pleasure, twenty-five cents for each horse; a four-horse sleigh, fifty cents; a one-horse sleigh, or horse and rider, eighteen and three fourths cents; a horse without a rider, twelve and one half cents; foot passengers and horned cattle were charged six and one fourth cents for each individual; sheep or swine, two cents; two oxen, to be estimated equal to one horse; with a proportionately greater charge for carriages of burthen laden with more than two tons weight. The first toll collector was John Shreiner, appointed by the president in pursuance of a resolution passed by the directors, November 17, 1814; toll was first collected on the 21st of November 1814, but only at the Northumberland side for some time. Owing to inconvenience caused by a scarcity of small change, it was resolved, at a meeting of the board on the 2d of December, to issue printed notes of the denominations of fifty, twenty-five, twelve and one half, and six and one fourth cents, and of one dollar, in the name of the company signed by the president and countersigned by the treasurer. Shreiner was only appointed temporarily; the first persons regularly appointed as toll collectors were John Kendig, for the Sunbury side, and John Gordon, for the Northumberland side, selected on the 16th of December 1814.

Although thus opened for travel in 1814, the bridge was not actually completed until 1818. After making the contract with the managers, Burr entered into similar agreements with bridge companies at

Harrisburg and McCall's Ferry, "and, as if these had not been more than sufficient to give employment to an active and ambitious mind," in the language of a report of the president and managers to the legislature in 1822, "he made a fourth contract, for building the bridge thirty miles above us at Berwick." The report then states how Burr became involved, and being unable to pay for materials or labor, the company assumed his obligations, receiving as collateral security ten thousand dollars' worth of stock which had been issued to him in part payment on his contract. Gurdon Hewitt, Jr., was clerk, and Thomas Brown, foreman, in charge of the work, during Burr's frequent and protracted absences at other points, and it was through the former that the disbursements of the board were principally made. The amounts advanced Mr. Burr over and above the eighty thousand dollars specified in his contract ultimately aggregated six thousand dollars. Ineffectual efforts were made to settle this account at various times; this was finally consummated in 1824, with Silas Marsh, administrator of Burr's estate, who transferred the four hundred shares of stock held by Burr to the company, and was released from all obligations incurred by him. The net receipts from tolls had been devoted for some time to the extinguishment of this debt, and when the stock had been transferred to the company it was immediately cancelled, thus reducing the capitalization from ninety to eighty thousand dollars.

The receipts during the first year amounted to three thousand one hundred eighty dollars, thirty-two cents; a dividend of three per cent was accordingly declared. For some years the company was not prosperous financially, owing to a variety of disadvantages attending the collection of tolls and damage sustained by its

property. In 1839-40 that part of the superstructure between Northumberland and the island was rebuilt, having been destroyed by a flood. In 1846 several spans east of the island were blown down by a hurricane, two of which landed in the river without sustaining serious injury and were rebuilt with the original materials. On the 17th of March 1875, the entire eastern end and one span of the western end were carried away by an ice flood. The span at the western end was immediately rebuilt, and a ferry temporarily established on the other side of the island, where the present bridge was erected in 1876.

The following is a list of presidents of the company since its organization: John P. De Gruchy, 1811-29; James Hepburn, 1830-38; John B. Boyd, 1839-44; Daniel Brautigam, 1845-58; John Taggart, 1858-77; David Taggart, 1877-87; James Taggart, elected December 4, 1888, present incumbent.

The West Branch Bridge was erected in pursuance of a joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives, approved by the Governor on the 31st of March 1828, authorizing the board of canal commissioners, if it should be deemed expedient, to construct a turnpike bridge and towing path at the mouth of the West Branch near Northumberland. The principal contractors for its construction were Reuben Fields, Randall Wilcox, and Lemuel B. Stoughton, and the work was completed about the year 1831. This structure has also suffered from floods at various times. In June 1890, four spans were carried away, leaving but one at each end, so that the present bridge is practically new. It has two carriage ways, and a "towing path" used in transporting canal boats across the river.

The North and West Branch Canals conferred a degree of importance upon Northumberland of which their present condition scarcely affords a suggestion. These formed part of the great system of internal improvements projected and executed by the State; during the progress of their construction they gave employment to large numbers of men and placed considerable money in circulation, and after their completion local business received a quickened impetus. The packet boat appeared as the competitor of the stage coach, and the canal boat superseded the river craft of former days; and, as the terminus of three divisions of the canal, Northumberland was in a position to derive a large share of the advantages it gave to commercial intercourse in this part of the State. To what extent this was the case is shown by the fact that for many years the only bank in the county was conducted here. But with the advent of railroads the canals gradually lost their former importance, and have ceased to be a factor of any consequence in sustaining local interests.

Railways.- The Philadelphia and Erie railroad was opened to Northumberland on Monday, September 24, 1855, when passenger travel was established between this place and Williamsport. The Susquehanna river bridge was erected in the following autumn, and the first train to Sunbury passed over it, January 7, 1856.

The Lackawanna and Bloomsburg railroad was opened to passenger travel, May 31, 1860, and the first train arrived at Northumberland at forty minutes past nine o'clock on the morning of that day.

The Shamokin, Sunbury and Lewisburg railroad (Philadelphia and Reading) was opened in 1883. The Sunbury and Northumberland street railway was opened to travel in 1890.

BOROUGH ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT.

The borough of Northumberland was incorporated on the 16th of January 1828, by act of the legislature, from territory formerly comprised in Point township.

By the terms of this act, Ephraim P. Shannon, John Taggart, and William Forsyth were appointed to superintend the first election of borough officers, which was held at the house of John Leisenring on Monday, April 6, 1829, resulting in the choice of the following persons: burgess, Lawrence Campbell; council: John Porter, William Forsyth, John G. Wells, John Taggart, James Gaston, Joseph R. Priestley, James Hepburn; high constable, Thomas Waples; constable, William H. Ross; overseers of the poor: John B. Boyd, John Leisenring; supervisors: Samuel Cox, John Shreiner, Jr. his former creditors. He died at Northumberland, February 1, 1830, in the sixty-sixth year of his age.

A brewery, doubtless the first of any importance at Northumberland, was operated as early as 1800 by Bernard Hubley. It was situated on Market street, and comprised malt, brew, still, and mill houses, a malt kiln with a capacity of forty bushels, and brew "coppers" large enough to hold twenty barrels. The establishments of this nature also included that of John Taggart, a red frame building at the Queen street crossing of the canal, which originally occupied ground through which the canal passes; William T. Boyd's, a brick building ninety by twenty-two feet, at the corner of Queen street and North Way; Levi Hibbert's, on West Way between Water and Front streets, and Edward Lyon's, at the corner of Market and Front.

At a later date William McCay erected a stone distillery on Queen street, an exceptional feature of which was a wind-mill of the style then in vogue, by which water was pumped from a deep well on the premises.

Four tanneries constituted the manufacturing facilities in that respect. That of Thomas Bonham was on Queen street at the corner of Fourth; the other three, owned, respectively, by John Hepburn, Jacob Urban, and John Shreiner, were removed and the North Branch canal was opened through the ground they formerly occupied.

If the opening of the canal caused the suspension of the tanning industry, it gave rise to another of equal or greater importance - that of boat-building. The first boatyard was established by Charles Storer, on ground formerly occupied by De Gruchy's distillery. He was succeeded by John Dunham and William T. Boyd. Robert Leshner and John Hummel were engaged in boat-building on the West Branch canal between Front and Second streets, John Lloyd on the North Branch at the Pennsylvania railroad bridge, and Joseph Johnson and Samuel Elliott above the canal terminus of Orange street.

Miscellaneous industries included the pottery of John Leisenring, on Queen street opposite the Lutheran church; Robert McCay's, William Leisenring's, and Joseph Hair's hat factories, among the most important in this section of the State at the time; John S. Carter's, William and Thomas Clyde's, and John Frick's chair-making shops; Frederick Burkenbine's brick yard,, on Duke street between Fourth and Fifth; and the shops of Alexander Colt, blacksmith, William R. Clelland, cabinet maker, Hunter Pardoe and James Gaston, wagon makers.

In 1828 David Rogers, inventor of a patent scale beam, came to Northumberland from the State of New York. Ephraim P. Shannon became interested in the invention, and advanced capital for the erection and equipment of a small foundry. The business was inaugurated with fair prospects of success, but personal misfortune overtook Mr. Rogers and obliged him to relinquish the enterprise, which was soon afterward discontinued by Mr. Shannon.

The Northumberland Agricultural Works were established in 1853 by A. H. Stone, the present proprietor, and comprise a one-story brick building at the corner of Water and Duke streets. Tread-power threshing machines are manufactured.

The Lumber Mill between West Way and the canal in the northern part of the borough, although no longer operated, was at one time an important local manufacturing establishment. It was erected in 1867 by Chamberlain, Frick & Company; this firm became insolvent in 1884, and the mill was operated by Edgar Holt as

assignee until the following year, when he became proprietor. A larger amount of work was done in the season of 1889 than at any time in the previous history of the mill, owing to the fact that the lumber industry on the upper waters of the Susquehanna was temporarily suspended on account of damage sustained by the flood of that year. Forty operatives were employed, and bill lumber for railroad, ship building, and other special purposes was manufactured to the amount of forty thousand feet per day.

The Iron Industry.- The Northumberland Iron and Nail Works, Van Alen & Company, proprietors, were established in 1866 by T. O. Van Alen, A. H. Voris, and George M. Leslie. In 1872 Mr. Van Alen purchased the interest of A. H. Voris, and in 1886 that of George M. Leslie. The mill at first contained but five puddling furnaces, one coal heating furnace, and fifteen nail machines; it now comprises ten puddling furnaces, one thirty-ton Smith's gas heating furnace, and fifty-three nail machines, and has a capacity to make one hundred fifty thousand kegs of cut iron and steel nails per year. The buildings consist of a mill about sixty- five by three hundred fifty feet, and a foundry, machine, and cooper shop thirty by seventy feet. One hundred sixty operatives are employed.

Taggarts & Howell, manufacturers of muck-bar and skelp iron, steel and iron nails, are the successors of C. A. Godcharles & Company, by whom the works were established in 1884. Upon the dissolution of that firm in 1888 the plant was purchased by M. H. Taggart, from whom it passed to the present proprietors on the 1st of October 1889. The building is two hundred fifty feet in length, with two wings, one hundred eighty by eighty and two hundred by eighty feet, respectively; the plant comprises ten double puddling furnaces, two heating furnaces, and ninety-five nail machines, which afford a daily capacity of eight hundred kegs of nails. Two hundred operatives are employed.

The blast furnace on the line of the Lackawanna railroad at the eastern limits of the borough was built by a Mr. Marsh, of Lewisburg, but has never been operated with the exception of a brief period.

The Northumberland Car Works were erected in 1872 by a company of which A. C. Simpson was the first president and William T. Forsyth the first treasurer, and occupied a location near the North Branch at the outskirts of the borough. In 1874 the plant was purchased at sheriff's sale by

C. A. Godcharles & Company; after protracted litigation the buildings were removed, and now constitute part of the nail mill of Taggarts & Howell.

Flour Mills.- Charles Houghton's flour mill at the corner of Fifth street and West Way was erected some years since, but is not operated at this time (1890). A. O. Van Alen's flour mill, built in 1890, is situated at the corner of West Way and Fourth street.

SCHOOLS.

The following particulars regarding the early schools of Northumberland were contributed to the "Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for 1877" by John F. Wolfinger, of Milton:-

In 1798, or thereabouts, the first school house at this point, a log structure, thirty by thirty feet in size and one story high, was built on the corner of Wheatley and Park alleys, in the northern part of the town, and so was called the "Wheatley school house" or "Alley school house," in after years. Among the families who sent their children to this school, we have the names of Cowden, Forsyth, Frick, Hepburn, Priestley, Shannon, and Wheatley. The name of the first teacher and his successors are unknown. But in 1814, George Bowdery taught there, and he was succeeded by William Leathern and James Aiken. In 1802, or thereabout, the second school house, also a log structure, twenty-four by thirty feet in size, was built in the southeastern part of the town.

Its first teacher was a Mr. Wiley, and his successors were the Rev. William Christie, George Bowdery, Mr. Train, James Forest, Edward Chapman, Rev. William H. Smith, and John Bear. The writer of this sketch

was one of Forest's scholars, and the families that then sent children to this school bore the names of Albright, Boyd, Campbell, Chapman, (Chappell, Crutchley, De Gruchy, Gaskins, Jackson, Lee, Leighon, Lloyd, McClintock, Morris, Newberry, Norbury, Waples, Waters, Weitner, Wilson, and Zeitler. In 1819 Samuel Kirkham, the author of "Kirkham's English Grammar," taught school for one or two quarters in the Northumberland "town hall," being the second story of the town's "market house," that stood in the center of the square, immediately in front of the present residence of Dr. Joseph Priestley. In this "hall," now gone, the writer went to Kirkham's school, who (Kirkham) boarded with the writer's father, Henry Wolfinger, who then kept tavern in the brick house now occupied by Doctor Priestley.

In 1803, "The Northumberland Academy," an ornamental two-story brick building, was built on the corner of West Way mid Second streets, on the west side of the town, mainly through the efforts of the celebrated Dr. Joseph Priestley, the English chemist and philosopher, who had some years before emigrated from England, and made this town of Northumberland his last earthly home. The Rev. William Christie, a Unitarian clergyman, was the first principal of this academy, and his successors were the Rev. Isaac Grier, his son, Robert C. Grier (afterward a lawyer and one of the judges of the Supreme court of the United States), the Rev. Robert F. N. Smith, and Rev. Elijah D. Plumb. Among the scholars of this old academy, now gone, we find the names of William B. Sprague, James Thompson, William Montgomery, Charles G. Donnel, Abraham S. Wilson, George A. Frick, and George A. Snyder (a son of Governor Simon Snyder), all of whom became men of note in different departments of life.

Thomas Cooper was prominently connected with the educational interests of the town at the beginning of this century. Rev. William Christie, formerly of Winchester, Virginia, was induced to locate at Northumberland largely through his efforts and those of Doctor Priestley, and opened his first school at this place on the 6th of July 1801, at the residence of Mr. Cooper. The latter gentleman also formulated the petition to the legislature for an appropriation in aid of the academy. This document recites that four thousand dollars had been expended upon the building; that the sum of one thousand eighty- three dollars was due the treasurer, four hundred dollars had been advanced by James Hepburn, and an equal sum was due the workmen employed upon the building; and that Rev. Joseph Priestley had offered to donate his library of four thousand volumes to the institution upon certain conditions with which the legislature was asked to comply. Jesse Moore was then a Representative from Northumberland county, and through his support an appropriation of two thousand dollars was secured.

On the 25th of February 1792, Reuben Haines executed a conveyance to James Hepburn, James Davidson, and William Cooke, "trustees of Union school," for lot No. 59, on the east side of Market street near Third, at the nominal consideration of five shillings. In 1801-02, Thomas Whittaker taught the "Union school." This may have been one of the school buildings referred to by Mr. Wolfinger.

The public-school system was adopted in 1834, and for some years thereafter the schools were conducted at small buildings in different parts of the borough. The present substantial and commodious building on Second street between Market and Orange is a brick structure one hundred by sixty-four feet in dimensions, with six apartments on the first floor and three main rooms with two recitation rooms on the second floor. The work of construction was begun in 1870, and the board at that time was composed of Charles B. Renninger, W. H. Leighon, D. M. Brautigam, John H. Vincent, J. C. Chestney, and J. O. Tracy; the completed building was opened in January 1872, with the following corps of teachers: principal, B. F. Hughes; assistant principal, C. M. Leshner; secondary grades: Miss D. L. Huzzey and Miss S. J. Gossler; primary grades: Miss Fannie Housel and Miss Leisenring.

LOCAL JOURNALISM.

The Sunbury and Northumberland Gazette was established in 1792 by Andrew Kennedy and continued as late as 1817. It was the first newspaper in Northumberland county. In 1802 John Binns started the Republican Argus, in the publication of which he was succeeded by Matthew and Andrew C. Huston. George Sweney published the Columbia Gazette in 1813, and in 1818 Rev. Robert F. N. Smith edited the Religious Museum. Alexander Hughes and others published the Northumberland Union in 183-, and after its suspension there was no local paper until 1872, when the Public Press was established by C. W. Gutelius, the present proprietor.

SECRET AND OTHER SOCIETIES.

The following secret and other societies were organized or instituted at the respective dates: Northumberland Lodge, No. 196, I.O.O.F., August 17, 1846; Eureka Lodge, No. 404, F. & A.M. February 3, 1868; Chillisquaque Tribe, No. 152, I.O.R.M., 1872; Onward Lodge, No. 179, K. of P., August 26, 1879; Captain James Taggart Post, No. 350, G.A.R., June 20, 1883; John Brautigam Camp, No. 51, S. of V., September 13, 1883; Washington Camp, No. 374, P.O.S. of A., November 21 1888; Pilgrims' Conclave, No. 30, S.P.K., December 19, 1887.

CHURCHES.

First Presbyterian Church.- The earliest record of Presbyterian services at Northumberland is that contained in the journal of Philip V. Fithian, a licentiate, who made a missionary tour through the frontier counties of Pennsylvania in the summer of 1775. On Sunday, the 2d of July, he held services at the house of Laughlin McCartney, and on Thursday, July 20th, at the house of Mr. Chattam on North Way.

Whether an organization had been formed at that early date can not be satisfactorily determined; but there was a large and influential Presbyterian element in the community, and it is not improbable that the formal election of elders may have occurred. On the 31st of May 1787, seventeen members of the Northumberland church, eight from Sunbury, and forty-eight from Buffalo, on behalf of their respective congregations, united in a call to the Rev. Hugh Morrison, who was accordingly installed; a clause in this call - "having never in these parts had the stated administration of the Gospel ordinances" - establishes conclusively the fact that Mr. Morrison was their first regular pastor. Under his administration it is supposed that the first church edifice was erected; this was a log structure located near the site of the present town hall on Market street. Rev. Isaac Grier, S. T. D., who died at Northumberland on the 22d of August 1814, was Mr. Morrison's successor; he was followed by Reverends Robert F. N. Smith, William R. Ashmead, William R. Smith, Wheelock S. Stone, and William R. Smith, all of whom included Sunbury and Northumberland and possibly the churches of Shamokin and Hollowing Run in the field of their labor.

In 1838 a division in the church occurred, the new organization taking the present name with Rev. John Patton as first pastor. It was popularly known as the "new school," while the other received the corresponding designation of "old school." The former erected the present brick edifice on Queen street in 1840-44; the brick structure on Market street now occupied as a town hall was built by the "old school" and used as a place of

worship until 1870, after which it was diverted to its present purposes. In September 1870, the two branches united; Rev. A. D. Moore, pastor of the "new school" congregation, continued in charge of the resulting organization, for which a new session was elected. The present pastor is Rev. J. D. Fitzgerald.

The Sunday school was organized on the first Sunday of April 1816, by Misses Mary Jenkins and Sarah Boyd. For some years it was conducted in a log school house on Wheatley alley between Front and Second streets.

Methodist Episcopal Church.- The Northumberland circuit, embracing the entire West Branch valley and extensive contiguous territory, was formed on the 6th of May 1791, at a meeting of the Methodist Episcopal conference at Baltimore, Maryland. Reverends Richard Parrott and Lewis Browning were appointed to this field in 1791, but if there was an organized society at Northumberland at that date, no records relating to it are known to be extant. The places of worship were probably private houses, school houses, and possibly the old market house. By a conveyance executed on the 10th of June, 1819, Samuel Shannon and Margaret his wife deeded to Abraham Dawson, Christian Heck, Eli Diemer, and Jacob R. Shepherd, of Northumberland, and John Macpherson, of East Buffalo township, Union county, Pennsylvania, as trustees, a lot of ground on the east side of Third street between Market and Orange, at the nominal consideration of one dollar and upon condition that they should "erect and build or cause to be erected and built thereon a house or place of worship for the use of the Methodist Episcopal church." A frame structure was accordingly constructed, and served as a church building until 1856, when the present brick edifice at the corner of Market and Front streets was erected during the pastorate of Rev. Joseph A. Ross and under the supervision of a building committee composed of Conrad Wenck, Joseph Johnson, and James Scott. The dedication occurred on the 23d of November in that year. It was extensively repaired in 1867 and reopened on the 17th of November in that year. The commodious parsonage, which occupied an adjoining lot, was built in 1889.

Northumberland became a station in 1865, and has had the following pastors since that date: 1865-66, Henry G. Dill; 1867, W. H. Dill; 1868-69, J. F. Ockerman; 1870-72, B. F. Stevens; 1873-75, James Hunter; 1876-77, G. Warren; 1878-80, Martin L. Drum; 1881-82, E. T. Swartz; 1883, William C. Hesser; 1883-85, James Hunter; 1886-87, Bartholomew P. King; 1888-90, Joseph D. W. Deavor, present incumbent.

Unitarian Church.- The doctrines of this church were first disseminated in central Pennsylvania by Rev. Joseph Priestley, who preached at Northumberland in a log school house near his residence on North Way. Rev. William Christie was the next resident Unitarian clergyman, but the first regular pastor was probably the Rev. James Kay, who preached at Northumberland from 1822 until his death in the autumn of 1847. A union church building that occupied the site of the present Lutheran edifice was the place of worship for some years. In 1834, at a nominal consideration, John Taggart and Hannah his wife executed a deed to Daniel M. Brautigam, Joseph R. Priestley,

Charles Gale, John Leighon, Hugh Bellas, Christopher Woods, James Gaston, and John Taggart for the ground on the east side of Second street between Market and Orange upon which the present brick Unitarian church is situated. Reverends Weston, McDaniel, Lathrop, Porter, Billings, Lane, Boarse, Catlin, and others succeeded Mr. Kay as pastor; since 1878 services have been regularly continued by the ladies of the congregation, who have also sustained a Sunday school.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.- The lot upon which the church edifice is situated was donated by John Lowdon and William Patterson on the 27th of August 1772, but no building for religious worship was erected thereon until 1817. The brick for this structure were made by Frederick Burkenbine, and laid by Levi Myers and Charles Maus; John Richtstine was architect and foreman of the carpenter work; the building committee consisted of Jacob Dentler and John Leighou for the Lutheran congregation, J. S. Haines and John P. De Gruchy, Episcopalians, and Jacob Urban, Reformed. The corner-stone was laid, July 6, 1817, and the dedication occurred,

August 30, 1818, in which services the Reverend Hendel, a Reformed minister of Lebanon, Rev. J. P. Shindel, a Lutheran minister of Sunbury, Rev. Robert F. N. Smith, the Presbyterian minister of Northumberland, and Reverend Schnee, a Lutheran minister of Pittsburgh, participated. Rev. J. P. Shindel was the first Lutheran and Rev. Martin Bruner the first Reformed pastor after the erection of the church edifice.

About 1820 Rev. Elijah D. Plumb, an Episcopal minister, began to hold regular services, and continued until his death a few years later. Rev. J. P. Shindel continued as Lutheran pastor until 1823, at which time the church became financially embarrassed. Appeals were made through Henry Renninger for immediate relief, but a sufficient amount to liquidate the debt of three hundred eighty-five dollars six cents, still due Mr. Richtstine for work on the church building, was not furnished. Suit was brought by Mr. Richtstine, as the result of which a levy was made on the church property, February 1, 1823. The sale took place on the 16th of June following, when the property was purchased by Hugh Bellas, attorney for the church and a Unitarian in faith, who paid the debt and deeded the building to the different denominations to be used by them for religious worship three fourths of the time, retaining a one fourth interest for the Unitarian congregation. In 1834 money was collected by the trustees of the Lutheran and Reformed congregations, and half of the lot, then owned by William A. Lloyd, was purchased, thus securing the church property for these congregations. They jointly called the Rev. E. Meyer, a Reformed minister of Danville, who served both congregations in 1839. Upon his resignation both appear to have disbanded.

During the year 1847. Rev. R. Weiser reorganized the Lutheran element with the following officers: John Leisenring and Henry Wenck, trustees; John Diehl and Henry Wenck, elders, and Samuel Williard and Michael Barnhart, deacons. The reorganization took place in the market house on account of the dilapidated condition of the church building. Mr. Weiser reached occasionally, but the congregation was destitute of regular pastoral ministrations until 1848, when Rev. M. J. Alleman took charge and remained until 1850; he continued as a supply, however, until July 1852. Under his administration the house of worship was repaired, the Reformed congregation disposing of their lot, on the northeast corner of Queen and Fourth streets, in order to secure means for their portion of the necessary expense. Rev. P. Born, D. D., was called as the next Lutheran pastor and entered upon his duties, August 1, 1858, at which time the remnant of the Reformed congregation united with the Lutherans. From that date until 1871 this church formed part of the Sunbury charge, and was served by the following ministers: Reverends P. Born, D. D., P. Rizer, M. Rhodes, D. D., and G. W. Hemperley; since 1871 it has constituted a separate charge, and the pastoral succession has been as follows: Rev. E. E. Berry, 1871 to April 1, 1876; E. B. Killinger, September, 1876, to August, 1884; J. A. Koser, January 1, 1885, to July 31, 1888, and A. N. Warner, the present incumbent, who assumed charge on the 1st of December, 1888.

The present church edifice, a substantial brick structure, was erected at a cost of eleven thousand dollars in pursuance of congregational action taken at a meeting on the 18th of November 1877. The church numbers two hundred eighty communicant members; the Sunday school has a numerical strength of three hundred and is superintended by Dr. J. W. Sheets.

St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal Church.- Regarding the early families of Episcopal faith at Northumberland definite information is exceedingly meager. It seems probable that they were connected with Christ church at Milton, which was represented in the diocesan convention of 1794 by Bernard Hubley, an ex-Revolutionary officer and a man of prominence in military and business affairs at Northumberland. John P. De Gruchy and J. S. Haines, as Episcopalians, were members of the committee under which the union church was built in 1817-18, and after its completion a parish appears to have been organized under the name of St. John's with Rev. Elijah D. Plumb as rector. It seems more probable, however, that no organization was affected until 1847, when the present frame church building at the corner of Market and Second streets was erected. The parish was incorporated, August 17, 1860, upon petition of Henry Haas, Joseph Priestley, John Hilbert, John F. Kapp, George Merrick, Amos E. Kapp, M.

J. D. Withington, and C. F. Little. From 1847 to 1870 it was connected with the Sunbury parish, and the succession of rectors was as follows: Rev. B. Wistar Morris, 1847-50; William B. Musgrave, 1850-51; William W. Montgomery, 1852-55; J. W. Gougler, 1856-59; Theophilus Riley, 1859; Lewis Gibson, 1860-66, and Charles H. Vandyne, 1867-69. Reverend Moore became the resident rector in 1870; he was succeeded in 1872 by Rev. Charles G. Adams, who resigned in 1875. Since that date the parish has been vacant, although services have been occasionally rendered by the rector in charge of St. Matthew's at Sunbury. The church edifice was remodeled during Mr. Adams's administration.

The Baptist Church was organized, July 7, 1842, as the result of a revival conducted by Reverends C. H. Hewit and Jesse Saxton; the constituent members were John Budd, Mary M. Budd, Sarah Garrison, William Reed, Rachel Reed, Catharine Miles, Ann Burke, Charity Burke, William Leighon, Augustus Leighon, Charles Morgan, Jesse Smith, Jacob Deatz, Brooks Epley, Washington Newbury, John Erlston, Mrs. Susan Deatz, Mary Smith, Elizabeth Smith, Margaret Smith, Susanna Smith, Susan Deatz, Elizabeth Erlston, Jane Hullihen, Ann Leshner, Mary Morgan, Deborah Wallace, Sophia Huff, Susanna Stamm, Elizabeth Dill, Harriet Waters, Sarah Watts, Susanna Newberry, Samuel Deatz, and Mary Ann Hullihen. The succession of pastors and supplies has been as follows: Reverends C. H. Hewit, A. J. Hay, F. Bower, A. B. Still, J. Green Miles, George J. Brensinger, Caleb Davidson, Howard Malcom, Mr. Frear, George W. Folwell, Mr. Mitson, J. E. Lagebeer, A. L. More, A. C. Wheat, D. Williams, B. B. Henshey, W. J. Hunter, R. B. McDaniel, J. L. Miller, D. Trites, G. A. Peltz, L. W. Zeigler, George F. McNair, J. P. Tustin, and J. H. Haslam. Prior to the organization regular services were first held in 1822 by Rev. Henry Clark.

Two lots at the corner of Queen and Second streets were deeded by Reuben Haines on the 29th of October 1792, to Samuel Miles and Theodore Shields, trustees appointed by the Baptist church of Second street, Philadelphia, on the 5th of July, 1784. The first church building erected thereon was a one-story brick structure; it was superseded in 1870, during the pastorate of Rev. J. Green Miles, by the present substantial brick edifice.

CEMETERIES

The cemeteries of Northumberland possess great historic interest. Lots were reserved at the founding of the town for the various religious denominations, and these were early used for burial purposes. That of the Presbyterians is the largest in extent; among those interred here is Robert Crownover (born, December 7, 1755; died, October 29, 1846), the well-known Revolutionary guide and scout; Joseph Haines (born, August 15,, died, May 14, 1795), evidently a connection of the family by which the town plot was once owned, is buried in the rear of the Lutheran church; and many old families are here represented, while the number of mounds at which there is no legible tombstone attests the fact that interments were made in these burial grounds at an early period in the history of the West Branch valley. At the present time, the Catholic cemetery alone is enclosed and cared for it is to be regretted that public indifference has permitted the desecration of these hallowed spots.

The Northumberland Cemetery Company was incorporated on the 26th of March 1853; the corporators were Joseph R. Priestley, Daniel M. Brautigam, William H. Waples, Amos E. Kapp, William Forsyth, John Taggart, James Taggart, and Jesse C. Horton. The grounds, comprising twenty acres in the northeastern part of the borough, were laid out by Dr. R. B. McKay. The first president of the company was Joseph R. Priestley, the first vice-president, Jacob Leisenring, and first secretary and treasurer, Daniel M. Brautigam. The first board of managers, elected on the 6th of January, was composed of Joseph R. Priestley, Daniel M. Brautigam, Amos E. Kapp, Jesse C. Horton, William H. Waples, William T. Forsyth. and Jacob Leisenring.