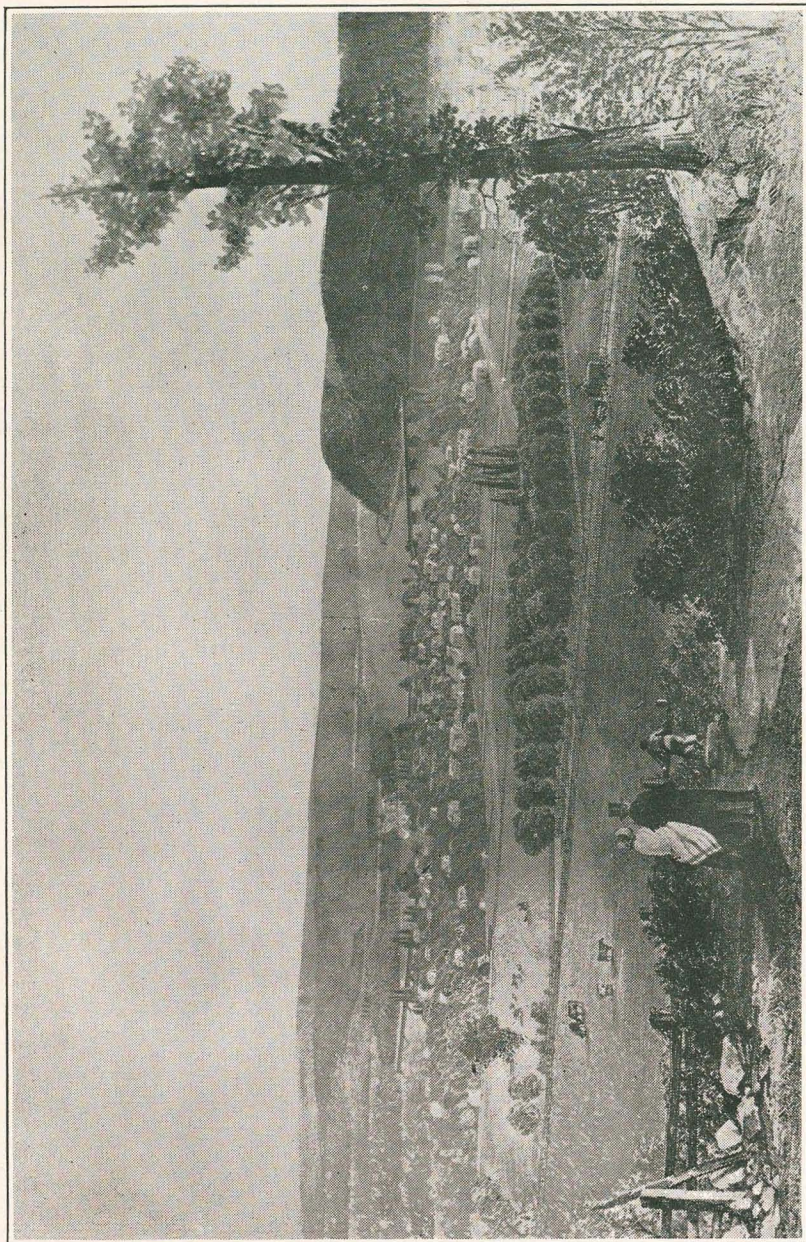


OUR TOWN



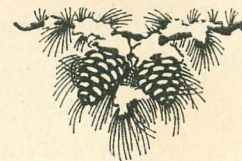
*Interesting Facts in the
History of Northumberland*



A View of Northumberland as it Appeared a Century Ago (From a Painting by Dr. Robert B. McCay)

OUR TOWN

Interesting Facts in Its History



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Introduction

THE PURPOSE of the Northumberland Junior History Club this year is to reopen the pages, in the minds of the people, to outstanding events and history of select groups of the town. This pamphlet is the third volume that has been published by our organization.

We wish to thank the following who have helped in the preparation of this volume:

Miss Margaret M. McFarland, adviser, for her endless time and interest which has helped make this book a success, and has given the club members great satisfaction.

Mr. C. Warren Gutelius, for the loan of old papers and books, from which we have obtained much information.

Members of the Northumberland Junior History Club: Mary Hendershot, President; Richard Miller, Vice President; Mary Jean Stamm, Secretary; Gloria Galli, Treasurer; Doris Phillips, Merlin Adams, Peggy Fox, June Liddington, Barbara Bright, Bruce Bell, John Diehl, Lois Dewire, Peggy Russell, Richard Young, Richard Moore, Betty Wafier, Molly Diehl, Claire VanHorn, Sandra Haddon.

Growth of Northumberland - Settlers

Northumberland, situated in the Susquehanna River Valley, was founded when Reuben Haines, a wealthy citizen of Philadelphia, purchased land in the central portion of Pennsylvania, in the newly formed County of Northumberland. Whether we consider him as the founder of towns and townships, or merely as a land speculator, we find him to be a most important owner of extensive tracts at the forks of the Susquehanna and nearby locations.

Accounts show that the town was laid out by John Lowden and William Patterson in August, 1772. Their layout was made upon two tracts, Sarah's Delight and Essex, neither of which had a river frontage.

But in order to accomplish his development schemes of hemming in the town and leaving it without a river frontage, Mr. Haines bought two adjoining tracts, Townside on the West Branch, and Nottingham on the North Branch. After obtaining possession of this land, he obtained the right to operate a ferry from the Point across the West Branch to his private road, which was built in 1771 for the purpose of making this land accessible to new settlers.

The earliest permanent settler was Robert Martin who built a log tavern on the Point which he operated and also took an active part in the cause of liberty during the Revolutionary War.

In August of 1774, Reuben Haines laid out a part of the two tracts, Townside and Nottingham, into town lots and out lots. He sold a number of lots in his plan of Northumberland from September to the end of the year. All these deeds make reference to the lots as being on the tracts sold to him by Richard Peters.

The first recorded deed is dated September 9, 1774, wherein he sold to Mary Scull, widow, Lot No. 79, bounded northward by Queen Street and southward by Duke Street, 60 feet wide and 220 feet long. (The exact location is not known.)

Apparently, in the sale of these lots, the ferry is a vital consideration, for on October 6 he sold Lot No. 5 to John Freeman which was between Duke Street and the Quay, the ferry landing.

Other deeds were issued to John Boyd, Dennis Leary, Daniel Rees, John Painter, James Potter, and many donated to religious denominations for church purposes. In these deeds, the grantors are always "Reuben Haines of the city of Philadelphia, Brewer, and Margaret, his wife." No deeds have been found wherein he claims to be a resident of Northumberland.

Northumberland was a town when the sovereignty of the United

States was still undetermined and four years before its independence was declared and points with pride to many of its distinguished citizens.

Its growth was influenced by canal life, coal dredging, industries, and railroad yards. The census of 1840 shows 441 females and 480 males. Growth continued till the census of 1940 shows 4,500.

Men Helping Our Growth

COLONEL PHILIP FREDERICK ANTES

Colonel Philip Antes was the son of Rev. Henry Antes. He married Miss Barbara Tyson May 8, 1755. Among their children were Anna M. later Mrs. Christopher Dering, John Henry, Philip Frederick, and Catherine, wife of Governor Snyder. He resided in Philadelphia for many years and was appointed Justice of the Peace by appointment of the Pennsylvania Convention of 1776. At this time all foundries were prohibited, whether iron or steel, in the colonies. Of course when the Revolution broke out the Army was badly in need of cannons. Frederick Antes was applied to, as it was presumed that a man in his varied talents would be able to remedy the want.

He undertook the task and readily succeeded in casting a good "four-pounder" at Valley Furnace. This was the beginning of the manufacture of artillery in the United States, but it was also the end of his life, for Lord Howe, the British Commander-in-Chief, set a reward of three hundred pounds on his head, and the fear of assassination induced him to sell his property, consisting of a farm and mill on Svany Creek (now in Montgomery County) and to move to Northumberland. In Northumberland, then a frontier settlement, his ingenuity was frequently called into action, and he had to supply the lack of a dozen different tradesmen. His main business was that of a potter and gunsmith, there being a great demand for articles in both of these departments in a new country. On the right bank of the Susquehanna, Mr. Antes was employed by the proprietors farm of the Blue Hill. This road when completed was for the time an excellent one, but since has been superceded by the state road along the canal. The new road takes the same route as the old one, but at a level where Mr. Antes was considerably indulging; marks of his road are visible along the rocks at various elevation along the state road.

THOMAS COOPER

Thomas Cooper was an Englishman of extraordinary talents as a lawyer, physician, chemist, and political economist. He left England in 1795 at the age of 37 and joined his friend, Dr. Joseph Priestley here in Northumberland. In 1806 he became the President Judge of the Courts

of Northumberland County. He died in South Carolina in May, 1840 at the age of 81.

JOHN BINNS

John Binns was a printer who commenced the publication of The Republican Argus newspaper at Northumberland in 1803 and continued it until 1816 or 1817 when he moved to Philadelphia and published a paper there. He was also for many years one of the Aldermen of Philadelphia. Toward the close of his life he wrote and published a law book now called "Binns' Justice" an excellent authority and guide for our Justices of the Peace, as enlarged and approved by a new hand since Binns' death. Binns died in Philadelphia quite advanced in years.

JOSEPH PRIESTLEY

Dr. Joseph Priestley was a distinguished English divine and natural philosopher and controversial writer. Finding it unsafe to remain in England on account of religious opinions, he in 1794 came to America in the 61st year of his life and settled himself here in the quiet and beautiful village of Northumberland, where he, undisturbed, continued his studies and experiments, and died in February, 1804, aged 71.

WILLIAM COOK

William Cook lived in Northumberland and was the first regular sheriff of Northumberland County. He served from 1772 to 1775. He also represented our Country in the Provincial Conference of Pennsylvania that met in Philadelphia in June, 1776, and in our State Convention of 1776, that formed our State Constitution of 1776.

JOHN LOWDEN

Captain John Lowden, associated with Captain William Patterson, laid out our town of Northumberland in 1772 and afterward sold it to Reuben Haines, a wealthy brewer of Philadelphia. Some say that Haines laid out this town but that is a mistake as our Court Records at Sunbury clearly show. Northumberland is beautifully laid out and its main streets are given English names.

JOHN MASON

Johnny Mason, as he used to be called in his boyhood days in Northumberland, was an eccentric, old bachelor. He had a beautiful farm and dwelling house on the famous "Blue Hill" opposite the town of Northumberland. He had a summer house for observation built along the edge of the hill. It was better known as the "leaning tower." Mason was born at Philadelphia in 1768 and died on his Long Reach farm near Newberry, Lycoming County, in 1849, aged upwards of 80 years.

The Post Office

With the dedication in Northumberland, on July 26, 1941, the town was at last coming into its own early distinction for Northumberland should have had its own Federal Buildings long ago.

Its advantages as a town site were apparent before the Revolutionary War Days, and before the close of the Colonial period. It had become a place of considerable importance. From the termination of that war until the close of the 18th 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 Central Pennsylvania.

The fact that the first United States Post Office in this section of the state was established at Northumberland in 1795 corroborates the town's claim to this early precedence. Furthermore, it was designated as a distributing office, which meant that the couriers or stages brought mail to Northumberland for nearby settlements. For a number of years mail addressed to residents of Sunbury came to Northumberland, and from the local post office was delivered to a sub-office over there by boat, a horseman, or a small one-horse conveyance.

The first postmaster was John Cowden, who served from November 12, 1795, until his death January 12, 1837—a period of over forty-one years. This prominent gentleman conducted a general store in a building on Queen Street near the corner of Water Street, where a service station is now located. In the early days the compensation for postmasters was slight, and the man holding the appointment in a community was usually a storekeeper who could easily provide room for the post office service rent free. It seems that the office was sought more for the prestige it gave the incumbent, and for the visitors that had come to his store for their mail, thereby benefiting his merchandising business, rather than for the direct emoluments received.

We moderns, in our imagination, should be able to readily picture such distinguished early residents as Joseph Priestley, Thomas Cooper, John Binns, Captain John Boyd, and Colonel John Bull, not to mention a number of others, going into the old Cowden store for their mail, and maybe loitering for a while for chats about this, that or the other thing.

John Cowden at his death was succeeded by William Forsyth, grandfather of Mrs. Edwin Herr, one of the founders of the Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library. He had purchased the Cowden store, and it was evidently early for him to acquire the office of postmaster, for at that time, considering the thriving canal business, the store and post office occupied a good location. This likely accounts for the fact that the first postmaster retained the office for the better part of a lifetime.

William Forsyth held the postmastership for a little over four years—from January 26, 1837 until August 16, 1841. And this roster of the men and women who have held the office during the period a little short of a century since that time, with the dates when they were commissioned, or took office, is as follows:

Daniel Weimer, August 16, 1841; John W. Miles, November 24, 1844; Catherine 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; William H. Morgan, June 8, 1894; Thomas L. Johnson, June 15, 1898; Harry W. Hummel, March 2, 1903; John H. Mailey, March 2, 1907; Robert Leshner, March 15, 1915; George Morgan, July 16, 1920; G. Leslie Van Alen, November 22, 1921; Claude E. Savidge, December 19, 1925; Charles Gubin, June 13, 1934.

According to Miss Helen Kapp, one of our older residents, well acquainted with the history of the town, after William Weimer became postmaster in 1861, he had the post office in his store on Water Street, which stood on the site of the present double brick house between King and Queen Streets owned by Miss Anna Leitzel. Later he moved the store and post office to a building on Queen Street, which stood on or near the site of the present Bright block. After his widow, Josephine R. Weimer, became postmistress, she moved where the office of Dr. C. E. Rutter is now located. Here she conducted the office in connection with a notion, gift, and drug store.

Many older citizens will recall that when John C. Forsyth became postmaster in 1885, the office was completely divorced from other lines of business when it was moved to the Morgan building annex on Queen Street occupying exclusively the room now used by Electrician Anthony LeFevre. Here it remained for over twenty years, when it was moved to a building newly erected by Colonel M. H. Taggart on Front Street, part of which building still stands, and the room occupied by the post office is now used by Mrs. Laurence Feaster for a dress shop. The office remained here for about thirty years.

Sometime after Charles Gubin became postmaster—February 13, 1935 the office was moved across the street to the Odd Fellows building, from which it was moved into the commodious building now standing.



Schools of Northumberland

The first school house of Northumberland was built in 1798 at the corner of Wheatley and Park Alleys. Then, it was in the northern part of town and was called "Wheatley School House" was made of logs but later made way for a brick school house which is still standing.

George Bowdery taught there in 1814 and was succeeded by William Leathern and James Aiken.

In 1801 the "Union School" was built on the east side of King Street near Third.

In 1802, a schoolhouse was built in the southeastern part of town of Northway Street. The first teacher was Mr. Wiley, who was succeeded by Rev. William Christie and George Bowdery.

The first large school building of town was erected on Second Street between Orange and Sheetz Avenue in 1870 and served the needs of the town until 1900. Later Dr. Joseph Priestley's office building was purchased and moved to the school plot and again turned into a school building. Today it is used by the Boy Scouts.

In 1912, a school building at Orange and Sixth Streets was erected.

In 1922, the high school building adjoining the original at Orange and Second Streets was built. Today the building is used for junior high students.

The cornerstone of the Dr. C. W. Rice Senior High School at Fourth and Hanover Streets was laid in 1937. January 2, 1938, after the Christmas recess, the Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior classes moved into this modern building. That was the only Freshman class to attend school in this building.

Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors attend the senior high school while seventh, eighth, and ninth grades comprise junior high.

Four Trade Organizations

The Northumberland Chamber of Commerce is the fourth organization of its kind that has existed in Northumberland. Three predecessors flourished for awhile and then floundered.

The first board of trade was organized in 1889 with Dr. William Stoner as President, A. O. VanAlen as Secretary. This organization was evidently short lived, for in 1895 a new board of trade was organized with William Morgan as President and H. W. Hummel, Secretary. Through its efforts the old hat and cap factory of Seff & Lauterstein was brought to town.

In 1910, after the town received an impetus from the building of the

railroad yards, the Northumberland Bureau of Industry was organized with Clyde D. Bolig as President, M. A. McFarland as Vice President, and C. Warren Gutelius, Secretary. Later it was incorporated and H. T. Leisenring served as Secretary for several years. This trade body, with the assistance of some local capital, secured the Frank P. Heid factory, another hat and cap concern, for the town.

The latest Northumberland Chamber of Commerce was organized early in 1926 with Scott Corbett as President and M. L. Bastian, Jr., as Secretary.

Our Old Fire Company

The Northumberland Fire Company was one of the oldest in the state, its charter dating back to 1796.

The Fire Company met once a month in the old Town Hall that stood on Maket Street Square opposite the residence of Mrs. Joseph Priestley, present site of the Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library. Some of the officers were William Forsyth, John Taggart, J. R. Priestley, A. E. Kapp, D. M. Brautigan and John Boyd.

After reading the minutes of the last stated meeting, the first business in order was calling the roll. If the absentee at the last stated meeting could not offer an unavoidable absence as an excuse, he would offer none but walk to the captain's office and "pay down the quarter." The different committees would make their reports. The ladder committee reported the ladders in good order and in their proper places. The engineer reported the engine in its usual order. The committee of two, whose names appeared in rotation on the roll to serve printed notices of the time of meetings, and examined fire buckets, reported buckets in their proper places and good order.

No rubbage of any kind was tolerated in the buckets under a penalty. In case of fire there was a committee to form a line and there were the axe men and the bag men. The bag man's duty was to take charge of goods or furniture when taken from burning buildings. Each member furnished his own buckets; often these were handed down for generations. Each member's name was printed on his buckets in large letters, and the buckets were kept in a convenient place suspended by two iron hooks from the ceiling in their hallways. Some of those hooks still remain in some of the old dwellings.

"Pat Lyons," the treasured hand pump (or engine) of the Fire Company, is still reposing in the Town Hall.



Prominent Men

PHYSICIANS

Benjamin F. Young was one of the first physicians at Northumberland after the Revolution. He resided here as early as 1794, and died on the 23rd of March, 1803, at the age of 34.

Dr. William Kent Lathey probably succeeded Young. He died on the 28th of July, 1809, and was buried in the old Presbyterian Cemetery; the inscription on his tombstone states that he was born at Exeter, England, January 29, 1772.

Samuel Jackson and M. Aristide Rodrique were among the leading physicians at a later date. Dr. Jackson built the brick house at the Northwest corner of Market Square, (now King Street); Dr. Rodrique resided in a brick house on Northway between Queen and Market (King).

William S. Bright was born at Sunbury in 1812, son of Jacob Bright, and read medicine with Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia, graduating from Jefferson Medical College in 1842. He began the practice of medicine at Northumberland where he remained until 1849. He was then successively located at Philadelphia, at Jackson, Mississippi, at New Orleans, and at Galveston, Texas, where he died in 1890.

Robert Burns McCay, M. D., was born May 17, 1820, at Northumberland in an old log house covered with old fashioned weather boards. This building was recently torn down to make room for the new post office. His father, William McCay is said to be the first white male child born in Northumberland.

Dr. McCay was educated at Gettysburg, read medicine with Dr. McClellan, of Philadelphia, and graduated from the University of New York in 1845, after which he began to practice at Danville for one year and then moved to Northumberland.

By telescope he witnessed the fight between the Monitor and the Merrimac. In 1874 he served on the Committee to welcome to Northumberland the American chemists in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the discovery of oxygen gas by Priestley.

DR. JOSEPH PRIESTLEY

Joseph Priestley was born in Point Township, September 22, 1819. He married Hannah Taggart, daughter of John Taggart.

He studied with Dr. Dougal, of Milton, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. (He was the great grandson of the Joseph Priestley who discovered oxygen.)

He practiced medicine in Northumberland for forty years. He died June 10, 1883, in Northumberland.

DR. J. W. SHEETS

Dr. Sheets was born in West Fairview, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, October 7, 1844.

He served in the Civil War, later took a course in medicine and surgery and started his practice in Selinsgrove. He came to Northumberland in 1884 and resided here until his death, August 3, 1902.

He was very active in the St. John's Lutheran Church, was director of Susquehanna University, and an active member of the Northumberland Lodge of Masons and the local Post of the G. A. R.

DR. JOHN A. ELLIOT

Dr. Elliot was born March 17, 1842. He was educated in the public schools of Northumberland and the Freeburg Academy. He was the first telegraph operator here for the D. L. and W. Railroad Company.

He entered the Medical School in New York City and graduated in 1873. He took up his practice in Northumberland. He died January 29, 1908.

Judges

THOMAS COOPER

In 1786 Luzerne County and in 1785 Lycoming County were erected out of Northumberland County territory, and in 1806 these three counties were formed into the Eighth Judicial District, with one judge to preside over the three counties. The first judge to preside in this new district was Thomas Cooper, of Northumberland.

He was born in London in 1759, educated at Oxford, graduated both in medicine and law, and gave much time to the study of chemistry. He was the second judge of Northumberland County who escaped from England to avoid arrest. He came to America in 1793 with Joseph Priestley the younger son of the famous Dr. Priestley and came directly to Northumberland intending with Joseph Priestley to found a colony or settlement for the Friends of Liberty near the headwaters of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania. It was this scheme that prompted the famous Dr. Priestley when he landed in New York, a year after, to go directly to Northumberland, the nearest town to the proposed settlement, expecting to reside there until some progress had been made with the new colony. The colonization project was abandoned. Cooper with Priestley concluded to remain in Northumberland. Cooper was admitted to the local bar and Priestley began his experiments in Chemistry.

JUDGE ROBERT J. WALKER

Robert John Walker was born in Northumberland in a small plain

house on the west side of King Street and the north side of Depot Alley, on July 19, 1801.

Robert became a lawyer as his father had been before him. Plans had been made for him to take up a medical career and he entered the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in medicine with the highest honors in the class of 1819.

Robert studied law then and was admitted to the bar in Allegheny County in 1821. He was very successful in his career. He went into politics in 1823 and later became United States Senator from Mississippi, Secretary of Treasury, Governor of Kansas Territory, Financial Agent of the United States in Europe, eminent lawyer, financier, political economist, statesman, journalist, and patriot.

He also negotiated the sale of U. S. bonds in Europe and at the same time defeated an authorized loan to the Confederate States which President Lincoln believed would have been fatal to the Federal cause.

He was happily married to Mary Blechynden Bache, a great-granddaughter of Benjamin Franklin, on April 4, 1825.

He died in Washington, D. C., November 11, 1869 and was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery there.

Proposed Penitentiary

Northumberland was not only considered for the seat of the government of Pennsylvania at the beginning of the 19th century, but in later years was considered as a location for a penitentiary of a proposed Middle District of Pennsylvania. Such a district was authorized by an act of the Legislature in 1878 and a commission was appointed by the governor to select a site. The commission visited the town and a local committee of prominent men escorted the men about the community. Soon after they departed, while the iron was hot, as it were, Col. Taggart wrote a persuasive letter to the commission reiterating the advantages that this town would afford as a location for a house of penance. But to no avail—Northumberland was not chosen as the site, because the project for a Middle District Penitentiary was later abandoned.

Hindrances to Northumberland's Growth

Today, Northumberland is one of those thriving communities which makes the United States great. In the past, Northumberland had the opportunity to be greater with different industries starting here, but due to panics, better locations and lack of funds, they had to be dispersed.

The Pennsylvania canal was constructed through Northumberland and vicinity in the early thirty's of the last century, about 1833-1834. Not by

steam and electricity was it built, but with picks, shovels, carts and wheelbarrows which were manned by Irish laborers. At the time of construction there was a small log structure located on the northwest side of Front Street east of Sheetz Avenue. This was known as the Irish Fort where beverages were freely dispensed and disputes of the day were settled by the constable.

The canals were used greatly in the years that followed their construction. And, when they were removed, it was a great let down to the trade and commerce of the town.

In 1910, the benefit from the location of the freight classification yards of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company here did not turn out to be as great as anticipated. It did however, in a small way profit Northumberland in the sense that it became a center of railroad activities.

In 1828, a foundry was erected here for the manufacturing of scale beam. David Rogers was the inventor, Ephraim Shannon presented the capital. This turned out to be a lost hope, instead of an advancement.

In 1867, Chamberlain, Frick and Co., built a large lumber mill which was damaged by the great flood of 1889. At first this thrived due to the suspension of the lumber mills up the river.

What promised to be a big industry for Northumberland was the Northumberland Car and Manufacturing Co. established in 1872. The panic of 1873 came along and blasted all hopes of its greatness.

Also, one of the greatest industries was its nail mill owned by T. O. Van Alen. This was destroyed by fire in 1895. Later, it moved its location to the old mill on Duke Street where in 1908, a boiler explosion took place and eight men were killed.

Sand digging was done on a large scale by H. J. Stannert. Later, it was transferred to the banks of the Susquehanna River at Williamsport.

In the early 70's James S. Marsh came to Northumberland to set up an \$80,000 blast furnace. Due to the panic of 1873 it was abandoned. In 1880, the second attempt was made to revise it. Mr. Marsh while exploring the old iron ore mine along Montour Ridge for a new source of raw material was drowned by a large flow of water.

Wars were naturally a hindrance in development of Northumberland. People in this section would move away due to the dangers of wars by the Indians.

When Lancaster was considered not satisfactory for a state capitol site in 1801, the Legislature acted on a committee to consider a site eligible for a capitol. January 4, 1809, Senator Laird presented a petition that Northumberland a center on the forks of the Susquehanna was a great spot.

Old citizens said Senator William MacClay, of Sunbury, proposed

to change this consideration. He was a prominent builder of Sunbury. People felt he did this due to the fact, he had investments in Harrisburg or by jealousy of Northumberland's growth, but to give him the benefit of the doubt, said he really thought Harrisburg was a better site, geographically.

In recent years, Northumberland has had few hindrances. With the founding of railroads, the stage coach lines in which Northumberland was a key point, had been abandoned and the fast development of modern inventions have slowed down our development industrially.

Amusements

The amusement places in early Northumberland were few. Most of the people found their entertainment at home in the form of sewing, spelling, and singing bees.

During those days the young people of town, instead of going to the movies or community center as the younger generation does now, gathered in groups at one another's homes. In the winter-time, skating and sleighing parties were the most favored ways of finding entertainment, while in summer gay groups of people attended dance halls, hay rides, and band concerts.

In May, 1874, a Professor Reimer gave several musical exhibitions in what was then the Market Street Hall on the corner of Front and King Streets. These exhibitions were presented on Friday and Saturday evenings and were well attended. Musical comedies were one of the main features of these programs.

In 1882 a Musical Convention was held in the Old High School Building on Second Street. This convention lasted for several days and was attended by many people of Northumberland and vicinity. Special selections were given by people of the town, visitors, the local orchestra, and bands of nearby localities.

At this time Opera Houses were also becoming popular. One of the first was Haas' Opera House which was located on the site of Mrs. Herman Smith's house on King Street. Before its time as an Opera House, it was a dance hall, skating rink, and a church. Afterwards it was turned into a Hat and Cap Factory which was destroyed by fire in 1911. The opening of the houses promoted the interest of the townspeople in dramatics. One of the most interesting performances given by local talent was the presentation of "H. N. S. Pinafore" on November 28, 1887.

Another popular Opera House was the Boust Opera House located on the corner of Water and Duke Streets, and which is now an apartment. This was the place where all traveling troupes and hometown entertainers displayed their abilities.

Shortly before the Boust Opera House was turned into an apartment building, A. C. Boust installed equipment for the exhibition of movies. To stimulate business, prizes were offered to those who held tickets with lucky numbers, the prizes always being displayed in front of the screen. They were always generous and captivating things such as canary birds, gorgeous pictures, etc.

In the meantime another cinema place arose in town—the Pastime—located in what is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Mausteller, on Queen Street. This theater was operated by Barney Auchenbaugh who later went into partnership with Mr. Seamen and together they turned what was then Seamen's Dancing Academy into a motion picture theater. This building is located on Water Street and recently was used as a basketball court, but now has been badly burned by fire.

Next came the Palace theater on Queen Street which was destroyed by fire and the site of this theater is now vacant. Today there is but one motion picture theater in Northumberland—the Savoy. This is quite modern compared with those of the older days.

At the present time all displays of home talent are either in the Junior or Senior High Schools. At the beginning of the 1945-46 school term a community center was started in the Junior High Auditorium under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Kirkuff. All the town's people were welcomed here and could pass their time in the playing of ping pong, checkers, cards, or dancing to the music of the juke box. Refreshments could also be purchased at the Snack Bar. The young people enjoyed the center very much.

The Town's Part in the Wars

I—CIVIL WAR

In 1857, Buchanan had been elected. From Maine to Texas, from the Atlantic to the Pacific ominous murmurings, dire threats, and strange forebodings filled the land. "Uncle Tom's Cabin," the Dred Scott Case, Bleeding Kansas, Free Soilers, Abolitionists, fire-eating slaveholders, and fanatical John Brown with the Missouri Compromise had stirred to the boiling point sectional strife that had only been delayed by the cooler heads both North and South, but like a covered spring, it would not down.

Lincoln had been nominated by the Republican Party, the Whig Party being a thing of the past, Lincoln was elected. Riots in New York and Boston were followed by the startling news that Fort Sumter had been fired on. Fort Sumter surrendered to the rebels. Then Secession.

Even old Northumberland awoke when the President issued a call for 25,000 men.

During the fall and winter of 1860, young Jim Taggart's store

in the Brautigam building was headquarters of the "Black Republicans," as the Democrats called them. Copperheads (Democrats) met at Billy Forsyth's store, holding down nail kegs till 10 or 11 o'clock at night.

Company B was recruited and organized and there were weeks of idle, feverish waiting for the Governor to accept their services, so it was a busy time for mothers, wives and friends to furnish the boys with Bibles, medicine kits, etc. The town became an armed camp and in May Company B, sad but grim, marched away to the front.

A famous group from town which took part in the war was the Taggart Guards which organized in the old town hall and elected James Taggart captain on April 28, 1861. They tried to enter the service but were declined. On May 2, 1861 they again tried and failed but were finally accepted on May 6. On May 25th, a public meeting was held at the Methodist Church at which time Captain Taggart was presented with a sword by the ladies of the borough. Seventy men left for Harrisburg on May 27, 1861, and stayed at Camp Curtin.

In 1899 Company B held their annual reunion on May 12th. They had not been together since May 27, 1861 until May 27, 1887. Nineteen from Northumberland were present out of the total number of twenty-nine; forty-four being dead and forty-five absent.

II—SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

In the Northumberland newspaper "Public Press" dated Friday, August 19, 1898, there appeared this information concerning the Spanish American War:

"The war between the United States and Spain which was formerly declared to exist by Congress at 3 o'clock on the morning of April 21 last was practically ended at 4:23 o'clock Friday afternoon when Secretary Day and M. Cameron, French ambassador representing Spain, affixed their signatures to duplicate copies of a protocol establishing a plan upon which two countries acting through their respective commissions could negotiate terms of peace.

"The full text of the protocol was not made public. It is a document of about 1200 words and some of the provisions withheld it is believed relate to matters concerning which it is deemed expedient for the present to maintain in reserve.

"In order to allay public feeling Spain has caused the publication of a semi-official note expressing the hope that the Philippines will remain under Spanish Sovereignty and that the armies in Puerto Rico will be permitted to depart honorably. 'The Liberal', one of the most influential papers in Spain, admits that Spain's mission in the New World is completely ended. The armistice proclamation was followed at once by orders from the War Department to the several commanding generals in the field that all military operations be suspended."

STATISTICS OF THE WAR

Hostilities began—April 21, 1898.

Peace proposal accepted—August 2, 1898.

Protocol signed—August 2, 1898.

Number of days of actual war—113.

Cost of lives to Spain—11,000.

Cost of lives to United States—253 men killed, 1,324 wounded.

May 11—Dewey destroyed Spanish fleet at Manila.

July 3—Cervera's fleet destroyed.

July 14—Santiago surrenders.

July 26—Miles lands at Guanica.

July 29—Ponce surrenders.

WORLD WAR I

During World War I Northumberland played an active part. Our townspeople gave of their money in the purchase of Liberty Bonds, Red Cross, and so forth. People observed gasless, fuelless, meatless, and wheatless days; men, women, and children did their part or were called "slackers." Small clubs were organized in the schools beginning with fourth grade, and continuing throughout the system. Each club centered its activities on some particular theme such as knitting patches for slumber robes, etc.

A number of young men of town were members of the First Pennsylvania Calvary Band. The late Edward Calhoun was the leader and Clyde Fulmer the assistant; under their capable management the band gained fame and popularity.

The following is a partial list of members: Edward Calhoun, Clyde Fulmer, Robert Fulmer, William VanAlen, Frank H. Butler, James Walshaw, Walter Fuge, Luther Stamm, Herman Derk, Luther Bastian, and Elias Gubin.

The band was in service approximately 19 months, most of that time being spent in California.

WORLD WAR II

On December 7, 1941 the perilous attack on Pearl Harbor found our Northumberland citizens, along with the rest of the nation, stunned by the shocking news.

Enlisting began immediately until Northumberland contributed about 1,000 men and 34 young women.

Our small community did its part by sponsoring Bond Drives, scrap and clothing drives, conservation of food, Red Cross aid, and making of dressings, and excellent cooperation with the government.

We had many outstanding men, among them being Major General

Uzal G. Ent, Veteran of World War I, who raided the Ploesti oil fields, Major Theodore Vankirk, who aided in the atomic raid, and Lt. Leroy Fenstermacher and Radioman Woodrow Moore, who both aided in the tests of the atomic bomb in the Pacific.

Northumberland is also proud of "Ping", a German shepherd dog owned by Mr. and Mrs. Vance Hoover of 224 Orange Street. A veteran of 14 months service with the Coast Guard Kay-Nine Corps. He is the only dog in this vicinity to have helped his Uncle Sam in the war.

Ping's brother, Towser, owned by Harry Geisinger, of Yeagertown, also served in the Coast Guard and saw service overseas. He is living in Yeagertown at present.

On V-E Day, May 8, 1945 and V-J Day, August 14, 1945, stores were closed and the community observed these two memorable days by holding religious services and Day of Prayer in the churches.

Even now since the war is over and our heroes are returning many of the younger men and graduates are enlisting.

The most recent outstanding event was held on July 13, 1946 with our Homecoming Day as a final tribute to our fighting men. On this day crowds of people thronged the streets of Northumberland where refreshment stands, dances, concerts, and a parade were held and an air of merrymaking prevailed. As our guests we had State Treasurer Ramsey S. Black, speaker, an army mechanized unit from Carlisle, Pa., and the Army Ground Forces Band of 115 pieces from Fort Meade, Md., which gave a splendid concert in the evening.

The following is the list of those who made the supreme sacrifice: James W. Beatty, Henry Brecht, John E. Bucher, Roy L. Capwell, Carl C. Celletti, John S. Clark, Frank B. Cooper, Leonard Diehl, Carmen Di Rocco, Elwood P. Eisenhauer, Richard Furman, Maurice Gautsch, Jr., Marlin K. Glass, Charles W. Hoch, Frank W. Holtzapple, Elwood Keener, Joseph Marotto, Horace Middleton, George Carson Miller, Elwood L. Moser, Clifford L. Reed, Frank C. Rhodes, Kenneth Sassaman, William P. Skruttt, George Wheelend, Robert D. Young, William G. Young, and Eugene H. Zerbe.

