

HISTORY
OF
LEHIGH COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA

AND A GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF ITS
FAMILIES

BY

CHARLES RHOADS ROBERTS,

Member of Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Lehigh County Historical Society, Pennsylvania
German Society, Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution,
Historian Newhard Family.

REV. JOHN BAER STOUDT,

Member of Pennsylvania German Society, Society of American Folklore, Historical Society of Berks
County, Lehigh County Historical Society, Northampton County Historical and Genealogical
Society, Historian of the Baer Family, Author of History of the Western Salisbury
Reformed Congregation, Fifteen Years of Grace, Life and Times of
Col. John Siegfried, The Riddles and Nursery Rhymes of the
Pennsylvania Germans.

REV. THOMAS H. KRICK,

Member of Pennsylvania German Society, Historical Society of Berks County, Lehigh County
Historical Society, Historian of the Krick, High and Overholtzer Family Associations.

WILLIAM J. DIETRICH,

Member of Pennsylvania German Society, Historical Society of Berks County, Lehigh County
Historical Society, Bucks County Historical Society, and Author of
Dietrich Families in America.

IN TWO VOLUMES—illustrated

VOL. I.

LEHIGH VALLEY PUBLISHING COMPANY, LTD.
ALLENTOWN, PA.
1914

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
COMMONWEALTH CAMPUS LIBRARIES
ALLENTOWN

Weaver, Jacob Bush, and others, started business, running through Coopersburg, Quakertown, Montgomery Square, and Germantown to Philadelphia. At Coopersburg connection was made with the stage from Bethlehem and Easton. The Allentown agent was John F. Ruhe. This line was very popular with the inhabitants of Allentown, as it was a more direct route than the former stage lines.

A line of stages between Easton and Reading, which had formerly made tri-weekly trips, became daily in 1837. The coach left Wm. White's Easton Hotel at 4:30 a. m., and returning left William Coleman's hotel in Reading at the same hour. The route was as follows: Easton to Butztown, 7 miles; to Bethlehem, 5 miles; to Allentown, 6 miles; to Trexlertown, 8 miles; to Kutztown, 9 miles; to Reading, 18 miles.

Before Allentown was in existence the distances from point to point from Reading to Easton were given in the almanacs of the period, as follows: To Parvin's, 6 miles; to D. Levan's, 12 miles; to county line, 4 miles; to Trexler's, 6 miles; to Cedar Creek, 6 miles; to West Branch of the Delaware, 3 miles; to Bethlehem, 5 miles, to Easton, 10 miles. Total, 52 miles.

The stage route from Allentown to Berwick was as follows: To North Whitehall, 8 miles; to Lehigh Gap, 8 miles; to Lehighon, 8 miles; to Mauch Chunk, 5 miles; to Lausanne, 1 mile; to Conyngham, 21 miles; to Nescopeck, 9 miles; to Berwick, 1 mile. Total 61 miles.

In 1828, the fare from Allentown to Lehigh Gap was one dollar. In 1816, John Applebach of Cherryville, drove the stage from Bethlehem to Berwick. The fare was \$4.00 and way passengers were charged sixteen cents per mile.

Among the stage drivers were William Dietzline, "Father" Knauss, and one Nortz. On the afternoon of Sunday, June 27, 1852, a frightful accident occurred to a stage coach returning from Worman's Spring, where many persons had gone to avoid the heat. The coach was crowded, and while driving up the hill on Union street, the harness tore, and the overloaded vehicle fell over the steep embankment between Union and Lawrence streets. Two boys were instantly killed: Llewellyn R. A. Schantz, aged eleven (son of Widow Schantz, and brother to Rev. F. J. F. Schantz), and a boy named Held. Tobias, son of Jonas Reinsmith, had both legs broken, and Jacob, son of Oliver Snyder, had a leg and shoulder broken. Eli Steckel was also injured and many other passengers were more or less bruised.

Water-Works.—The first water-supply of the inhabitants of Allentown was obtained from the Little Lehigh and from springs, of which there were several in or near the limits of the town. A large spring was located on Lehigh street, just below what is now Lawrence street, which was used by residents of that vicinity over a hundred years. The American Steel and Wire company used its water for a time and only a few years ago it was connected with a sewer. There were other springs near by, one in the Nonnemaker lot and another west of Lehigh street. East of Fourth street were two large springs, one at the foot of Chew street, on what was later the Elliger property, and one at Gordon street, on land owned many years by the Gross family, near the present Spinning Company plant. A small stream ran through the town along Gordon street.

Wells were dug to supply the inhabitants, and, as early as 1763, Colonel Burd's letters to Judge William Allen mention a well in course of construction. Public wells were situated at the following points: Seventh and Linden, on Seventh, north side (this was operated by a bucket, all the others by pumps); Sixth and Linden; Seventh and Walnut, on Seventh below Walnut; on the square in front of the present *Chronicle* office; Sixth and Union; on Hamilton, west of Sixth; at Hagenbuch's hotel, Eighth and Hamilton, and at the northeast corner of Tenth and Hamilton.

An act of the legislature was passed Feb. 13, 1816, authorizing the organization of a water company in which Peter Newhard, Charles H. Martin, Peter Snyder, William Boas, and Solomon Gangwere were named as commissioners, and it provided that the company should proceed with the work within three years and complete the same within five years so far as to have the water within the limits of the borough. It was further provided that if, after the year 1834, the borough should be disposed to purchase the interest of the company, it should be permitted to do so, the sum to be ascertained by seven disinterested men.

Nothing having been accomplished in this behalf before the limitations of the Act, it was revived March 25, 1825, and John J. Krause, Henry Wilson, Abraham Newhard, Solomon Gangwere, and Michael Schneider were appointed commissioners to secure the organization of a company. This act provided that the borough might purchase the works after the year 1843. Operations were begun under the revived act by securing stock subscriptions at \$10 per share, and by Aug. 28, 1826, satisfactory results were

obtained, as appears by the following list of subscribers:

<i>No. of Shares.</i>	<i>No. of Shares.</i>
Abraham Worman, 10	John Miller (tailor), 5
Philip Brong, 3	Robert May Brooks, 10
John J. Krause, 5	Margaret Wilson, 10
Henry Ebner & Co., 10	Charles Davis, 5
Charles Kramer, 2	James Hall, 2
Charles L. Hutter, 3	Walter C. Livingston, 5
Daniel Fried, 5	Conrad Knerr, John
Michael Schneider, Jr., 5	Bogart, commission-
Jacob Newhard, 2	ers of Lehigh
Bernhart Reese, 5	County, 50
Christian F. Beitel, 4	Abraham Horn, 1
Abraham Newhard, 4	William Eckert, 5
Peter Newhard, 5	William Ginkinger, 1
Daniel Zeller, 4	Martin Schwenk, 2
Jacob Newhard, 2	Charles A. Gross, 2
Jonas Kuntz, 2	John Wilson, 3
Selfridge & Wilson, 5	Benjamin Ludwig, 3
William Fry, 5	John Ealer, 1
John Rice, 5	Charles Seagreaves, 2
Peter Hoffman, 3	Peter Hoffman, 2
George Haberacker, 5	Andrew Krauss, 10
John S. Gibbons, 5	John W. Jungkurth, 2
Charles Hutter, 2	Moses Horn, 1
George Keck, 5	John Smith, 1
Christian Brobst, 5	John F. Ruhe, 2
Leonard Nagle, 2	Moses Horn, 1
Andrew Gangwere, 2	Charles Kramer, 2
Andrew Klotz, 2	John Giltner, 2
Michael D. Eberhart, 5	Henry Ebner & Co., 20
John Spangenberg, 3	Keck & Saeger, 5
Louis Schmidt, 5	Peter Newhard, 3
Jacob Stein, 2	Jonas Smith, 2
Charles H. Martin, 10	Jonas Kuntz, 1
Gangwere & Schaffer, 10	Joseph Weiss, 3
Jacob Saeger, 10	Selfridge & Wilson, 5
Walter C. Livingston, 25	John B. Moser, 1
John Miller, 20	Frederick Hyneman, 5
Frederick Heineman, 5	Charles Davis, 2
Jacob Stern, 5	Walter C. Livingston
Godfrey and Christian	and John Rice, 100
Pretz, 10	Henry King and John
John D. Roney, 5	Rice, 20
Nicholas Saeger, 5	John Strassburger, 10
Abraham Rinker, 2	Joseph Fry, 2
Henry Weaver, 2	Andrew Gangwere, 3
Henry Reichart, 5	Corporation of bor-
Timothy Geidner, 2	ough of Northamp-
Peter Rhoads, 5	ton, by John J.
John Eckert, 5	Krause, burgess, 500
Jacob Statler, 5	William W. Weaver, 4

The organization was known as the Northampton Water Company. The first election was held June 4, 1827, at the house of Michael Schneider, when five managers were chosen to serve for the ensuing year, viz: Walter C. Livingston, John Miller (fuller), Peter Hoffman, John Rice, and Charles H. Martin, of whom Livingston was chosen president and Rice secretary.

The company resolved to use the water from the clear and strong-flowing spring near the Little Lehigh, in the south part of the town, owned by Abraham Worman, afterward called "Silver Spring," or "Crystal Spring," with an

average daily flow of 4,000,000 gallons in the dry season, and purchased the site from the owner. Pumping-works were erected in the stone building still standing near the foot of Ninth street, and a reservoir constructed at Fountain and Maple streets. The pumping was done by water-power from the stream of the Little Lehigh driving a breast-wheel which communicated the power to the pumps, and this was used until 1858, when turbine wheels were introduced. This work was accomplished in 1828-29, and pipes were laid along Hamilton street to Fifth. The number of shares subscribed had in the meantime been augmented, and in 1829 there were 1,941, making the stock of the company \$10,410. The deed from Abraham Worman to the company gave them the right "to enter and dig across his premises a trench to the large spring near his dwelling," and to use the water. It was not signed until March 19, 1831. On the 30th of April, of that year, Livingston deeded to the Northampton Water Co. the lot of land "on which the reservoir or cistern had previously been constructed," 60 by 230 feet, on the north side of John street (now Fountain), bounded on each side by an alley. Two other lots adjoining were sold to the company the same day by other persons.

From this time, for a dozen years, the affairs of the company progressed smoothly and satisfactorily. The pipes were extended on Seventh, Sixth, and Fifth streets as demanded, but in other respects very little was done towards improving the effectiveness of the works. In 1841 the capital stock paid in was \$16,271, and the water-rents amounted to \$1,060.

A new reservoir was supplied about that time but this proving unsatisfactory it was reconstructed. Subsequently for nearly ten years the management was not satisfactory and a new company was organized in 1850, called the Allentown Water Co., for the purpose of securing a forfeiture of the charter of the Northampton Water Co., but this was not successful. Then a re-organization was effected, an enlarged water-supply was obtained by the purchase of two mill properties, a new reservoir, 36 by 100 feet was built, and other improvements accomplished; and in 1855 the name of the company was changed to the Allentown Water Co.

In 1869 the water works was purchased by the city. The plant had been offered in 1868, and at the spring election of 1869 the voters by a large majority had authorized council to make the purchase. Then it was placed under the management of a joint committee, with Chas. E. Christ as the first superintendent. In 1875 it was given to the water commissioners (J. W

Grubb, John R. Schall, Peter Brown, and J. O. Shimer), with R. A. Thayer as their first superintendent. Steam power for pumping was introduced in 1881. The total cost of the plant to 1884 was \$195,000; there were twenty-six miles of water mains, 100 fire hydrants, and 3,000 family hydrants. The capacity of the two reservoirs 410,241 gallons; and the engines had a daily pumping capacity of 1,311,880 gallons.

In 1888 the plant at Fountain House was established, and the basin enlarged to 950,287 feet in 1896, with a capacity of 1,200,000 gallons, and the reservoir was supplemented by three standpipes, one on the hill beyond the power house, 15 feet in diameter and 150 feet high.

In 1898 councils bought the Schantz mill property in the eastern corner of Upper Muncie township, four and a half miles west of the city, which included a large spring of superior water, for \$14,000. The land was patented in 1748. Jacob Schantz became the owner in 1792, and he carried on the mill until his decease. His son, Hiram, secured it in the settlement of the estate in 1843, and David Koch bought it in 1888, who sold it to the city.

In 1901, the electors of the city, by a vote of 3,876 to 1,757, authorized a loan of \$225,000 for the improvement of the water service; which was subsequently increased to \$357,700.

The dimensions of the Schantz spring basin were enlarged to 180 feet wide by 490 feet long, with an area of 63,000 square feet, and a capacity of 2,700,000 gallons when filled to the height of the overflow. The pipe-line from this spring to the pumping station is five miles long. The value of the plant in April, 1914, was \$1,250,000.

Fire of 1848.—At about half past three o'clock on the afternoon of Thursday, June 1, (Ascension Day of that year), 1848, the cry of fire was raised in the streets of the borough and clouds of smoke from a stable in Hall street, between Hamilton and Linden streets (then called Hall alley), indicated the locality of the outbreak of the destructive element. The stable was the property of John Eckert, a tobacconist, where two of his apprentices were working, and it was fired by them in retaliation for a fancied wrong—having been denied a holiday on Ascension Day. A strong breeze was blowing from the northwest, and every spark the moment it alighted on the dry and combustible roofs was instantly fanned into a blaze, and many buildings were soon wrapped in flames. The two hand engines of the town were promptly on hand, but owing to a scarcity of water and the very high wind, they were powerless in contending against the flames. The fire raged about three hours.

The smoke was seen for miles and brought a fire company from Bethlehem to the scene. The market-house on the square was torn down in order to prevent the spread of the fire eastward.

The *Republikaner* of Tuesday, June 6th, printed an account of the fire, of which the following is a translation:

“TERRIBLE FIRE.

“35 DWELLINGS AND ABOUT 42 BARNs AND STABLES A PREY TO THE FLAMES. LOSS ABOUT \$200,000.

“At 4 o'clock last Thursday a fire broke out in our town, which, owing to the high wind then prevailing, spread so quickly that in the course of an hour and a half nearly half the town was laid in ashes. The fire originated in the stable of John Eckert, either through incendiaries or the carelessness of children, and spread from one stable to another so rapidly and did its work of destruction so thoroughly, that all the buildings on Hamilton Street, running westwardly from Market Square to Hagenbuch's hotel, excepting Laudenslager & Ettinger's hardware-store, were destroyed. The firemen exerted themselves to subdue the flames, but their efforts proved vain, and it seemed as if the whole town would be burned down.

“The loss in property is large, so large that Allentown will hardly recover from the stroke in a decade. The main business portion of the town lies in ashes. It is perhaps unnecessary to say that this block was the most beautiful in town, including a number of three-story brick buildings, among them the new Odd-Fellows' Hall. The loss falls so much more heavily by reason of the failure of property-owners to have their dwellings insured.

“Below follows a list of the sufferers, who for the main part have lost their all through this calamity. This list will be found in the main correct, since we sent a man to the spot to obtain a complete list of all who have been ruined by the destroying element.

“North Ward.

“The large three-story brick hotel on the northwest corner of Market Square, the property of Jesse Grim, and tenanted in part for hotel purposes by James Trexler, and in part by Messrs. Grim & Reninger and Selfridge & Wilson for store purposes, besides a frame store-house and five stables. The loss of Mr. Grim is put at \$8,000; insurance, \$5,000. The store of Grim & Reninger was insured for \$6,000; loss, \$10,000; Selfridge & Wilson suffer a total loss, \$4,000. The books and some of the goods in these two stores were saved. Mr. Trexler, the landlord, lost nearly everything, and saved only a little of his furniture. His loss is \$1,200.

“The two-story brick store-house of Yeager & Weidner. A part of the stock saved. Loss, \$7,000; insurance on building, \$1,000.

“The two-story brick dwelling-house and jewelry-store of Joseph Weiss. Loss, \$3,450; insurance, \$1,533.

“The two-story brick stove and tinware shop of Thomas Ginkinger. Whole loss, \$1,800.

“The double two-story dwelling-house and stable of Daniel Keiper. The house was occupied by Keiper and Ephraim Gangwere. A part of the household furniture was saved. Loss, \$4,300, secured to the extent of \$2,000.