

HISTORY  
OF  
CENTRE AND CLINTON  
COUNTIES,  
PENNSYLVANIA.

BY  
JOHN BLAIR LINN. 1880-1887

ILLUSTRATED.

PHILADELPHIA:  
LOUIS H. EVERTS.  
1883.

Williams, Hudson, mason, S. A. Brew's, adjoining Banking Company Centre County.

Williams, Isaac.

*Single Freemen.*

Ball, Josiah, millwright; Barrett, Daniel, carpenter; Benson, Elijah, tailor; Clelland, Hugh, laborer; Cole, Jacob, wagon-maker; Crownover, Benjamin, hatter; Quigley, Peter; Shields, Patrick, tailor; Stewart, Alexander, hatter.

By the act passed March 18, 1814, the towns of Bellefonte and Smithfield were erected into a borough, and the former act incorporating the borough of Bellefonte repealed, the boundaries of the new borough to be as follows: Beginning where Lamb Street adjoins Spring Creek; thence up Lamb Street to the end thereof; thence so as to include all the out-lots sold by the proprietors of the town of Bellefonte; thence to the head of the big spring; thence to Spring Creek, including the spring and the creek therefrom in the borough; thence up Spring Creek to the lane which divides John McKee's field from Benjamin Williams' lots; thence along said lane and the road leading to the Bellefonte Mills to the north side of James Steele's lots; thence, including said lots, to the place of beginning, the name and title to be "The Borough of Bellefonte."

By a borough ordinance passed June 15, 1814, in Borough Council, all ordinances heretofore passed were extended to the town of Springfield and that part of Spring township then included in the borough.

In order to avoid encumbering the history with a transcript of the laws passed in reference to the borough, reference only is made to the following acts: March 28, 1806, P. L. 615; March 18, 1814, P. L. 146; May 7, 1841, P. L. 365; May 7, 1844, P. L. 571; April 12, 1851, P. L. 443; May 3, 1852, P. L. 522; April 16, 1857, P. L. 217; March 26, 1859, P. L. 256; Feb. 14, 1863, P. L. 36; April 4, 1864, P. L. 279; March 1, 1867, P. L. 319; April 4, 1868, P. L. 681, 713; April 23, 1868, P. L. 1148; April 2, 1869, P. L. 661; April 9, 1869, P. L. 799; March 18, 1870, P. L. 494; March 28, 1870, P. L. 589; April 23, 1870, P. L. 1258; May 10, 1871, P. L. 693; Feb. 6, 1872, P. L. 78; Feb. 5, 1873, P. L. 116.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

April 14, 1840, John Rankin (resigned March 14, 1844), David J. Pruner; April 9, 1844, James Gilliland; April 15, 1845, D. J. Pruner; March 13, 1849, Daniel Campbell; March 12, 1850, D. J. Pruner; March 17, 1854, Thomas Caldwell; March 13, 1855, George H. Weaver; March 15, 1859, William C. Welch; March 26, 1860, George H. Weaver; March 18, 1862, Thomas Caldwell; April 6, 1865, Jesse Clinger; March 18, 1867, Samuel L. Barr; March 4, 1870, Samuel M. Irwin; May 28, 1870, Jesse Clinger, S. and W. Ward, J. Philip Gephart; March 13, 1873, J. P. Gephart, William Frey, Samuel M. Irwin; March 11, 1878, Charles Smith; Dec. 18, 1878, N. Ward, John I. Rankin; April 5, 1879, N. Ward, John I. Rankin; March 25, 1878, S. Ward, Charles Smith.

The Act of Legislature approved April 23, 1870, divided the borough of Bellefonte into three wards, designating all that district lying on the west side of Spring Creek and Logan's Branch of Spring Creek as the West Ward, all east of Spring Creek and

Logan's Branch and north of High Street as the North Ward, all east of Spring Creek and Logan's Branch and south of High Street as the South Ward. The jail and court-house were adjudged to be in the South Ward.

**Bellefonte Water-Works.**—The water-works of Bellefonte, one of the distinguishing and gratifying features of the town, were in existence in a rude form as early as 1808.

The presence of the great spring made, of course, the project of a water-works comparatively easy of fulfillment, and naturally suggested it. Wooden water-pipes were at first laid in the streets, and not until years afterwards were replaced by iron ones. The right to use the water of the big spring was conveyed to the borough by James Harris, as a donation, in 1823, in the following worded deed to the Council:

"Know all men by these presents that we, James Harris, of Spring township, in Centre County, and State of Pennsylvania, and Nancy, his wife, for and on account of the good will they entertain towards the borough of Bellefonte and its inhabitants, have given, granted, enfeoffed, and confirmed, and by these presents do grant, enfeoff, and confirm unto the town council of Bellefonte, for the use of the inhabitants of said borough, the right and privilege of raising and conveying so much of the water of the big spring as can, by machinery placed at or near the head of said spring, be made to pass through a pipe of three inches in diameter in the bore (not to be used towards the working of any steam-engine), subject, however, to the restrictions and reservations mentioned and contained in the deed of James Smith and Eliza his wife, to this grantor, dated Dec. 1, 1807.

"JAMES HARRIS,  
"NANCY HARRIS,

"Sealed and delivered this 24th of July, 1823, in presence of  
"BENJAMIN WILLIAMS,  
"JAMES D. HARRIS."

The first reservoir was placed on the academy hill, just under what is now the north end of the academy buildings. The new reservoirs are on the hill south of the borough. They have a capacity of three hundred thousand gallons. From the inception in 1807 the water-works have been owned and controlled by the borough. Including engine-house, reservoirs, pipes, repairs, etc., the estimated cost of the works and maintaining them since 1807 touches one hundred thousand dollars. At this present the yearly

<sup>1</sup> The restrictions and reservations were made by James Smith, to this effect: "That James Smith aforesaid doth reserve to himself, that he the said James Smith, his heirs and assigns, shall not may at any time and at all times hereafter draw and convey to his own lands and houses so much of the water of the big spring aforesaid as will issue through a hole or pipe of two inches diameter, under a head of eighteen inches, which head he, the said James Smith, shall have the right of effecting by damming one-half of the water of said spring at its source to such a height, unless the said James Harris, his heirs and assigns, shall have erected such dams; then and in that case the said Smith, his heirs and assigns, shall and may draw the quantity of water aforesaid from such dam by fixing therein a pipe of two inches in diameter in the bore, at a distance of not greater than eighteen inches below the surface of the water in said dam. And, further, that the said James Smith shall and may at all times, when to him it shall seem meet, erect and support a dam across the water issuing from the big spring aforesaid for the purpose of drawing the water thereof into his dam, provided he shall not thereby dam or raise the water to a greater height than it is at this time."

revenue from water rates exceeds current expenses by at least two thousand dollars. There are now in use about fifteen miles of pipes, varying from one and a half to six inches in diameter. The spring discharges each minute fourteen thousand six hundred gallons of water, and since its utilization in 1807 has probably scarcely varied from that quantity. Between the extremes of heat and cold, the temperature of the water varies but two degrees, or from fifty-two to fifty degrees. The decline in power of the spring from summer to winter is equal to one revolution of the turbine-wheel per minute. The daily consumption of water in the borough during the summer is three hundred thousand gallons; or about one hundred gallons to each inhabitant. The water is forced to the reservoirs, to an altitude of one hundred and ninety-six feet, through a six-inch raised pipe nineteen hundred feet in length.

**Early Merchants and Business Men.**—William Petrikin was the first merchant in Bellefonte. In 1796 he kept with his tailor-shop a stock of goods; and Roland Curtin was the next in Bellefonte, 1800. Robert T. Stewart, the next most prominent, with his brother William, 1809–19. John Rankin opened a store in 1810. Hamilton Humes came to Bellefonte from Lancaster County in 1809, and rented of James Smith the grist-mill property now owned by Duncan Hale & Co. Mr. Humes carried on the mill until 1814, and in the latter year built the hotel now known as the Conrad House. He tired of tavern-keeping in a little while, and about 1815 exchanged his hotel with John Irvin, of Penn's valley, for a store on the Diamond that Franklin B. Smith had been managing for Irvin. The tavern was then taken charge of by James Watson, and later by Jacob Rothrock, who rechristened it the Conrad House, in honor of one of his Philadelphia friends bearing that name.

John Irwin, Jr., a Quaker, came to Bellefonte from Boggs township in 1811, and opened a shoe-shop on the "Diamond." He carried on the business until 1822, when he returned to Boggs. In 1859, when a resident of Howard, he died in his seat while attending worship at the Friends' meeting-house in Bellefonte.

Samuel Harris came to Bellefonte from Lycoming County in 1811, and opened a furniture-shop at the corner of Bishop and Spring Streets. He enlisted in the Federal service in 1812, and returning to Bellefonte in 1813 resumed his furniture business. He lost his life by an accident in 1865.

In 1814, William C. Welch carried on shoemaking on a large scale; Ebenezer McGee, cabinet-making; William Keever and A. Vandyke, saddlery; J. Kline, the tailoring; and Thomas Beatty had a general store; and Benner & Cambridge also kept store until 1817. Between 1821 and 1829 merchants and others began to advertise more liberally, and we find the following names of business people in Bellefonte between these years: James and Andrew McClelland, proprietors of the Bellefonte Mills; J. Lambert &

Bro., weavers; Dr. Fisher (who advised any patrons not understanding or speaking German to bring an interpreter); William Armor and Charles Callahan, tailors; Abraham Weaver & Co., tinners; Stewart & Carland, tailors; John McKee, general store; Rankin & Steel, wool-carders; W. Robinson, silversmith; Charles Johnston, silversmith; Charles Mackey, wagon-maker and blacksmith; Eli Cadwallader, cooper; William Wood, tailor; James Rothrock, fur-buyer; S. W. Hull, saddler; Jacob Roop, gunsmith; W. Myers, tailor; George Rothrock, saddler; William Alloway and Elijah Reeves, watch-makers; John Hammond, general store; Gillespie & Smith, shoemakers; Hammond & Page, general store; James Kent, wagon-maker; Theophilus Kekeler, general store; William Patton, tavern; Joseph Updegraff, landlord of the Gen. Jackson House; William C. Welch, shoemaker; Barr, Pruner & Baker, carpenters; William Mann, Sr., blacksmith; Cook & Ammerman, carriage-makers; Beatty & Humes, copper and tinmiths; P. Cambridge, general store; Cambridge & Black, general goods; John Rankin, tavern-keeper; C. F. W. Seligman, druggist and grocer; Cambridge & Petrikin, general store; Peter Felmilec, wagon-maker; W. Ward, tobacco-nist; Harris & Smith, druggists; Franklin B. Smith and Andrew Gregg, Jr., general store; Abiel Davis, wagon-maker.

In 1829, Theophilus Kekeler started a cotton-factory near where the Snow Shoe depot stands, and in 1830, October 28th, the firm of Brokerhoff & Kekeler, merchants at Bellefonte, was formed.

**Bellefonte in 1824.**—The following reminiscences, taken from an address delivered by Professor Alfred Armstrong on the 10th of November, 1874, present an elegant pen-picture of Bellefonte and its inhabitants at this period:

"How well I remember the appearance of the old town as it was on that day of my first arrival in it! The academy, then a single, old-fashioned stone building of no large dimensions, reared on an eminence on the west. Bellefonte could then in her infancy boast of but few public edifices, and they erected in simple yet substantial architecture, and with a view rather to utility than ornament and show. The old stone court-house then stood, as it does now, on the east side of the town, the same out of which has been reared in modern times your present elegant structure, rivaling in beauty and convenience any other of the kind in the State. Two church buildings then adorned the town. They were both small stone edifices. The Presbyterian on the northwest, where now stands that elegant, grand Gothic pile, a model of beautiful architecture, lately erected. The other the Methodist, on the north terminus of the hill on the east. The Catholic Church, a fine, substantial stone building on the south side of the town, was erected, I think, some years after the time of which I now speak. These were the first and only public edifices in the place, a beautiful and appropriate tribute of respect to law, education, and religion, in their regard for which the staid inhabitants of that old town were behind no other people. The private buildings were all stone, with a single exception, I think, of one old frame house standing on the Benner property, near the centre of the town.

"Let me now speak of individuals. I love to bring before my mind not only the old ways, but the faces of the good old people I then knew. Every honorable profession was well represented. Let me begin with the medical. We had two physicians, Drs. Curtin and Dobbins, and two only, who did the business of the town and country round with a radius of from ten to twenty miles. Each had their advocates and special admirers. The former was regarded as a physician of skill, and especially