

HISTORY  
OF THE  
COUNTIES  
OF  
LEHIGH AND CARBON,  
IN THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

BY  
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ILLUSTRATED.

BY  
J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO.,  
PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA:  
EVERTS & RICHARDS.  
1884.

PRESS OF J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO., PHILADELPHIA.

period embarked in the selling of groceries in Easton. Three years later he accepted a position as weigh-master on the Delaware Division of the Pennsylvania Canal, where he was employed until 1852. He then resigned to accept the position of teller of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank of Easton, and in 1857 was made cashier of the Bank of Catasauqua. He was, in 1861, made a member of the staff of Governor Curtin, and detailed to special service, rendering valuable assistance in the organization of the Pennsylvania Reserves. He was subsequently commissioned as colonel of the Thirty-eighth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers. Col. Horn continued to do active service in various capacities, filling important and responsible duties, until the close of the conflict, and resuming his labors in connection with the bank on his return, where he still acts as cashier. He is a Democrat in politics, and although frequently a delegate to State, and suggested in Congressional conventions for official honors, has declined to fill other than local offices. He is director and general manager of the Blue Vein Slate Company of Slatington, and otherwise identified with business measures. He is a Lutheran in his religious views, and member of the Lutheran Church of Catasauqua. Col. Horn was married, on the 13th of October, 1845, to Matilda L., daughter of Jacob Heller. Their children are William H., Edward T., Susan B. (Mrs. M. L. Dreisbach), Frank M., Harry Y., Isabella (deceased), and Charles R.

**Newspapers.**—The *Catasauqua Herald* was the first journalistic venture made in the town. It was started in 1857 by Peter Kelchner & Fry. In 1860, Arnold C. Lewis was the editor, and he succeeded in putting the paper upon a paying basis, but going into the army in the following year he left it in charge of his brother, who allowed it to run down. The *Journal* was started soon after the close of the war by Thomas Lambert, but its life was short, and it was not until 1870 that the two papers now in existence were started. Of these the *Catasauqua Dispatch* was started by Edmund Randall as a fortnightly advertising sheet, under the name of the *Country Merchant*. This name was changed to the *Dispatch*, July 24, 1871, and the paper was then issued as a seven-column weekly, which in 1878 was enlarged to its present size,—eight columns. It is a sprightly local journal, independent in politics.

The *Valley Record* was established by its present owner and editor, Capt. W. H. Bartholomew, who brought out the first issue Aug. 15, 1870. Originally a seven-column sheet, it was soon enlarged to eight columns, and about the same time it was made a supporter of Democratic principles. It is conducted, however, as a live local newspaper rather than a political journal, and every week places before its readers a detailed account of the happenings in town and county.

The Gas-Works were built and put in operation

by a company chartered April 18, 1856, composed of Joseph Laubach, John Thomas, William Getz, Samuel Glace, John Williams, and Joshua Hunt. The officers first elected were Joshua Hunt, president; Joseph Laubach, treasurer; John Williams, secretary. The works were erected immediately after the organization of the company had been effected, and were at once appreciated by the people and liberally patronized. They were successful from the start. The price per thousand cubic feet of gas was originally \$4.50 and is now \$2.35. The amount consumed annually is about two and a half million feet, which is sufficient to allow manufacture with profit. Until 1880 the company used bituminous coal for the production of gas, but since that time have made it by the Lowe naphtha process. The gas-works have cost to date, for construction and repairs, twenty-four thousand five hundred and twenty-five dollars. The business of the company is now under the charge of Joshua Hunt, president, and John Williams, secretary and treasurer.

**The Water-Works.**—For its ample supply of good water Catasauqua is indebted to the Crane Iron Company. The company originally using water as the motive-power for the blast and machinery at its works, extended pipes to the houses of several of its leading employes, and under an act of the Assembly, approved April 24, 1857, a charter was obtained to extend the water through the town, which was subsequently done. In 1873 the company at an expense of between twenty-five thousand and thirty thousand dollars erected new works, which are of incalculable value to the town. From an extended account of those works in the *Catasauqua Dispatch* of Feb. 4, 1874, we take the following:

"When the Lehigh Crane Iron Company was induced to build furnaces at this point, the Lehigh Navigation Company deeded them the right of water-power from Swartz's dam to Allentown. The first furnace was commenced in 1839, and blast was furnished by water-power, a large wheel being used for that purpose. To this wheel was attached a pump, to force water for use about the furnaces, the tank or reservoir being located on top of the works, and this arrangement remained in use until after No. 3 was built. No. 2 was erected in 1841-42, and water was furnished to it in a similar manner. But soon after the erection of No. 3, in 1844, these tanks were dispensed with, and more extensive improvements commenced. A new pumping apparatus was constructed, and four-inch pipes laid from the engine-house to Wood Street, up Wood to Second, and from thence to a basin, which was located at the top of Church Street. After years of use it was found very difficult to retain water in this reservoir, as the limestone formation underneath continually made crevices in the foundation and allowed leakage. Unsuccessful attempts to remedy this evil were made, and it was decided to erect a temporary wooden structure, which has admirably

answered the purpose for a time. New pipes were laid as the town grew. In 1854 a four-inch main was laid on Front Street, as far north as Bridge. In 1856 a three-inch main was extended up Second Street as far as Strawberry Alley. The Front Street pipe was subsequently extended as far as Pine, then to the rolling-mill, and lastly as far as Puddlers' row. Thus, year after year, as demands required, new pipes were laid, but none of larger dimensions than four inches in diameter. The growth of the town and the requirements of water for six furnaces taxed the reservoir to its utmost capacity, and in case of fire the supply was not equal to the demand. Buildings in portions of the town of a greater elevation were unable to obtain a water supply, and this want, coupled with the rapidly-growing bounds of our borough, induced Mr. Joshua Hunt, superintendent of the Crane Iron Company, to bring the matter before the board of directors and asked that an extended improvement be made. The officers deliberated upon the necessities of the case, and appropriated the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars for the new works. Plans were at once completed, and proposals solicited for the excavating and laying of eight-, ten-, and twelve-inch mains in our streets, which contract was awarded to Messrs. George W. Smith & Son, of this place, who immediately commenced work. The pipes used were from the works of Messrs. Starr, of Camden, N. J., and our citizens are perfectly familiar with their look and capacity, as they were visible on our streets for a number of weeks.

"On Front Street, from Wood to Bridge, an eight-inch main supplies the water, while on Second Street, from Union to Chapel, a ten-inch pipe was laid. Connections were made on Union and Chapel Streets with the four-inch mains on Front, and ten-inch pipes were laid on Bridge Street, from Front to Second, and on Walnut to Fourth, where connections are made with the twelve-inch supply from the new reservoir. Some thirty new fire-plugs were erected at selected points, which can be used in case of need. The old four-inch mains on Front Street, from Wood to Bridge, were removed, and also those on Second, from Church to Walnut, but extend from Wood south on Front and north from Bridge on Front. Streets not mentioned have the old four-inch pipes as formerly, with the advantage of a greater head and more abundant supply of water. The new reservoir is located on the highest point of ground in this neighborhood, and is situated on a lot of ground purchased by the company many years ago, at Fifth and Walnut Streets, is sixty feet square and ten feet deep from the overflow, which, in case of necessity, empties the waste water into a deep well upon the property. The capacity of the reservoir is two hundred thousand gallons, which, allowing eighteen gallons per day to a person, would accommodate a city of eleven thousand inhabitants. The construction of this reservoir was performed in the most substantial manner, and has given every satisfaction. Excavations for the foundation were made about four

feet under ground and immense stones placed in the walls. The limestone masonry is four feet in thickness, and rises to an elevation of twelve feet. Then a four-inch space was allowed for concrete, and lastly a nine-inch brick wall, securely cemented. The floor has a layer of eighteen inches of small stone securely laid, upon which is a four-inch coating of concrete. With pipes and reservoir complete, there was need of greater pumping capacity, and instructions were issued to prepare proper machinery. The engine-room adjoining the company's machine-shop is twenty-three by twenty-five feet in dimensions, and contains two forcing-pumps and a beautiful stationary engine. The pumps are kept at a very slow motion of ten strokes per minute, and have a capacity, at that rate, of forcing one hundred and eighty-five thousand gallons of water per day, and, doubling the stroke, twice that quantity, but at the present motion the demands of the town are fully met and the reservoir kept full. Street sprinkling requires a large amount of water during the summer months, but the running of one pump was sufficient to insure an abundant quantity. The pumps are propelled by the large water-wheel underneath, the canal furnishing the power and the water required for the town. In case the canal should fail to furnish power, or the machinery should break, the stationary engine can be attached and the furnace furnish steam as the motive power. The engine is of eighteen horse-power, and can be used to pump water for the town and at the same time propel the machinery in the shop adjoining. The engine and pumps were manufactured by the company's employés, and all the castings necessary for the water-works were turned out at the company's shops. To equalize the pressure throughout the borough a high stand-pipe has been erected, and is located near No. 6 Furnace. The water is forced into this pipe, and flows to a corresponding elevation in pipes until it reaches the reservoir, into which it flows and remains for use. Unequal flow is avoided by the use of the stand-pipe. The water from the pumps enters it, the street-pipes are supplied by a steady pressure, and there is less strain on the pumps and pipes. The stand-pipe is somewhat higher than the overflow of the reservoir, being one hundred and thirty feet from its base. It is constructed of heavy plate iron, and is four and one-half feet in diameter at the base by thirty-three inches at the top. It is surmounted by a conical roof and railing, an iron ladder leading from the base to the landing above. It has a capacity of about five thousand gallons of water. To the pumps at the works a hose attachment can be made. Sections of hose will be kept on a reel in the pumping-house, and, in case of need, an attachment can readily be made and valuable service rendered. By the attachment of a section of hose to a fire-plug on Front Street, a stream can be thrown over any house on the street, and Mr. David Thomas informs us that he was able to throw a stream over his residence by attaching a section to the



plug in his yard. The elevation of Mr. Thomas' house is above the average of houses on Second Street, and it demonstrates the effectiveness of the new works. The water furnished is taken from the canal, but only enters that conduit at the edge of town, at Swartz's dam, and may be considered as pure Lehigh water as is obtainable. For household purposes, it is superior to that furnished Allentown, which is of so hard a nature as to be unfit for washing and general uses. And as to the supply, it is so abundant that a population of eleven thousand could be accommodated without overtaxing the present works. Therefore we can boast that we have one of the best, if not the best, water arrangements of any town in Pennsylvania. Our borough has not been involved in debt to secure this great blessing. The expenditures made the last season exceed thirty thousand dollars, and yet the company added to our obligations as citizens by the purchase of a first-class steamer for use in case of fire, and have erected a hall to house it which is a credit to any town. Catasauqua is largely indebted to Mr. Hunt for the new works, as he urged the matter upon the attention of the company, and supervised their construction. The master mechanic of the company, Thomas E. Evans, planned and constructed the pumping machinery."

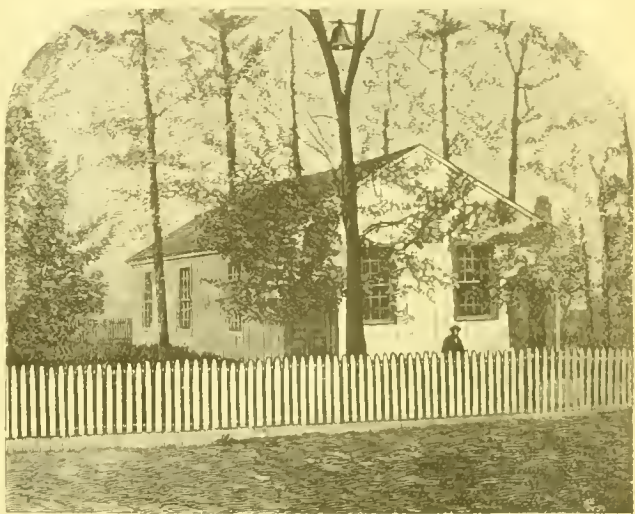
**Religious Matters.**—There are several elements of population in Catasauqua, and as a consequence the number of religious denominations is larger than might be expected in a town of the size. The Welsh are either Presbyterians, Congregationalists, or Baptists.<sup>1</sup> The Germans are Lutherans and Catholics, the former denomination claiming a majority of them. The older native population forms largely the strength of the Lutheran and German Reformed congregations, while the Evangelical Church is principally composed of the descendants of those Germans whose predilections were for the former churches. The Scotch are as a rule Old-School Presbyterians, and the Irish people are divided between the Presbyterian and Catholic Churches. There are many Swedes in the town, and they are, with few exceptions, adherents of the Lutheran faith.

**Historical Sketch of the First Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua, Pa.**—The First Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua dates its beginning from about the time when the Crane Iron Company's works were started in this place. In 1839, by invitation of that company, Mr. David Thomas, a native of Wales, came here to begin the enterprise, out of the successful prosecution of which the town of Catasauqua itself has grown.

For the first few months after his arrival, and until a suitable dwelling-house could be erected in Catasauqua, Mr. Thomas resided in Allentown, and with his family worshiped in the Presbyterian Church of that place, then under the care of the Rev. Robert W. Landis.

Mr. Thomas was an ardent friend of Sabbath-schools, and speedily organized one in Catasauqua. To accommodate this school, and also provide a place of worship nearer home, a church edifice was deemed necessary. Accordingly a small triangular plot of ground in the rear of the old reservoir, on what is now Church Street, was set apart by the company. By the liberality of Mr. Thomas this plot was enlarged to a square, running from Church Street north to Bridge Street, and measuring about two hundred feet in width by three hundred and fifty feet in depth. On the south end of this plot, near the reservoir and fronting on Church Street, which thus derived its name, the first church in Catasauqua was built.

The corner-stone was laid by the Rev. Mr. Landis on the last Sabbath of December, 1839. The ceremony took place during a snow-storm, and the concluding services, owing to the inclemency of the weather, were held in Mr. Thomas' new house on Front Street (opposite No. 1 Furnace), to which the



THE OLD CHURCH, CATASAUQUA.

little assembly adjourned. This is the date of the first sermon in the English language ever preached in this town, at least so far as is known.

A little over two months sufficed in which to finish the building, and on the 22d day of March, 1840, it was dedicated to the worship of God. It was a very unpretending whitewashed structure of unplanned boards, set perpendicularly and battened. Its size at first was about twenty-five by thirty-five feet, but it was afterwards lengthened by the addition of ten or twelve feet. The adjacent ground was occupied as a graveyard, and continued to be so used until Fairview

<sup>1</sup> The Welsh Baptists do not at present maintain an active organization.