

EARLY INDUSTRIES

Our ancestors, who were impressed with the wonders and the beauty of the earth, found many virgin forests of oak, chestnut, great white pines, and giant hemlocks in this region.

SAW MILLS

This lent itself naturally to lumbering, which was carried on extensively and which soon led to the establishment of saw mills for the making of lumber to be used in building the early houses and barns, not noted for architectural elegance but for necessity.

During the period from 1780 to 1820 lumbering became the chief industry and saw mills dotted the area along the streams of the Blue Mountain and the Second Mountain. Originally some of the saw mills were driven by water power while others were powered by steam engines. The mills started in a small way to supply local demands for lumber. The best was used for building while that of a poorer quality was used for mining timber, railroad ties, shingles and fence pailings.

Much of the mining timber along the Second Mountain was cut and transported to the mines by Samuel Strause, who was engaged in supplying companies with timber. Along the Blue Mountain mining timber was handled by the Schuylkill and Susquehanna Railroad which was a branch of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. This railroad started at Auburn and ran through the Summit Station Valley and continued to Dauphin. Thus lumbering and saw mills became the first important industry in this area.

GRIST MILLS

Since food and shelter were the primary considerations of existence, gristmills also supplied part of the early out-of-home industries. The hard slow work of grinding grain by hand created a demand for these mills. One of these, established in the township as early as 1809, south of Moyer's Station was known as Banning's Mill. This was earlier operated by Abraham Roeder and is no longer in existence. Among the early proprietors of another grist mill which was located at Roeder's station, was Casper Roeder, then his son Daniel and later his son Elias. It was in this mill that Bertha May, daughter of J. B. Kremer had an accident. Her dress caught in an unprotected revolving shaft and she was hurled around, crushing her leg and injuring her to the extent that she later died from this unfortunate injury.

Roeder's mill was burned in the early part of our present century. However it was rebuilt on the site by a Monroe Strause who later gave up the business. The mill had been occupied by Losch Boiler Works, now known as the Summit Station Trailer Sales, Inc.

The following list are the remaining farmers in the Twp. in 1976.

Ralph Heffner (Jersey Acres), Lamar Fidler, Eugene Umbrel, Earl Moyer, Floyd Kramer and son Dennis, Robert Huber, Carl W. Brown (Candon Creek Farms) Carl and Gary Anderson, Harry Bowen, Harvey Moyer, sons Jerry and Larry, Mary Schmidt, Carl Herring, Kimber Brobst, Paul Schwartz, George Yoder, Clarence Nagle, Samuel Schnoke, Kimber Stump, John Marberger, Dorie Reber, Jr., Raymond Brensinger, Jr., Andrew Knott, Lewis Manbeck, William Herring, Lee Otto, John Schaeffer Jr., Amos Moyer and son, Clyde Derstine, Clayton Peiffer, Henry Lutz and son, Ralph Kutz, Kenneth Kreager and son Robert, Richard Kreager and son Richard Jr., Clarence Kerschner, Kenneth Miko, Elvin Clauser, David Huntzinger, Marlin Miller and Robert Moyer.

TANNIERIES

The cheapness of hides, the abundance of bark, and the bountiful supply of water led to the tanning industry. This noteworthy industry supplied the shoemaker and harness-maker with his basic raw materials. In order to supply the needs of the people tanneries were built. One was built in Friedensburg, however the exact location cannot be ascertained. Moreover, there known existence is only a figment of memory.

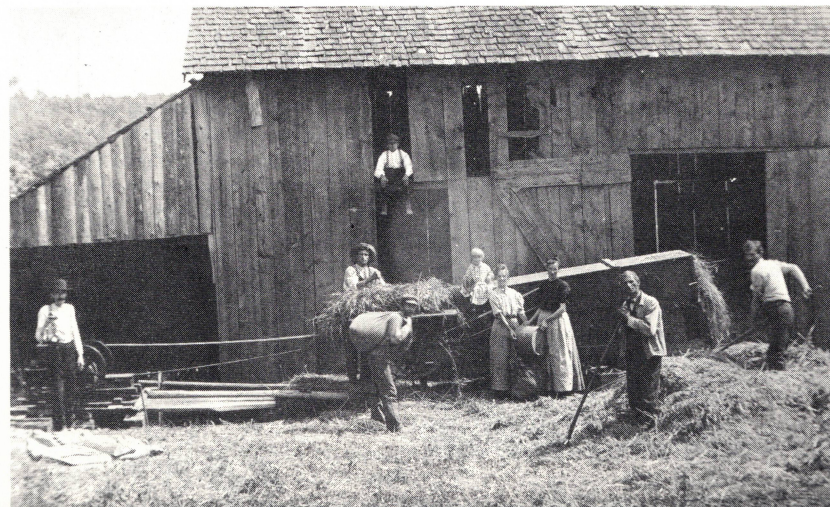
FARMING

Once the broad rolling hillsides were cleared, and the fertile soils of the land fully realized, the chief motive of the people became the establishing of "good farms". Most of our land is very good for agricultural use. The low land generally is a deep rich loam, while the elevated fields are gravel.

In our own time, great changes in man's ability to till the soil has been made. In 1890 our fathers worked the soil with the crudest of implements and still used the sickle and the scythe to harvest the grain on the sloping hillsides.

By the turn of the twentieth century nearly all farms were being cleared of brush and stone and practically all farming was done by horse drawn equipment. Then a new era began with the reaper and binder replacing the cradle.

The first mowing machine in the township was purchased by Joseph Womer of Long Run. Today huge mechanical monsters make short work of activities which took so much time in an earlier day.





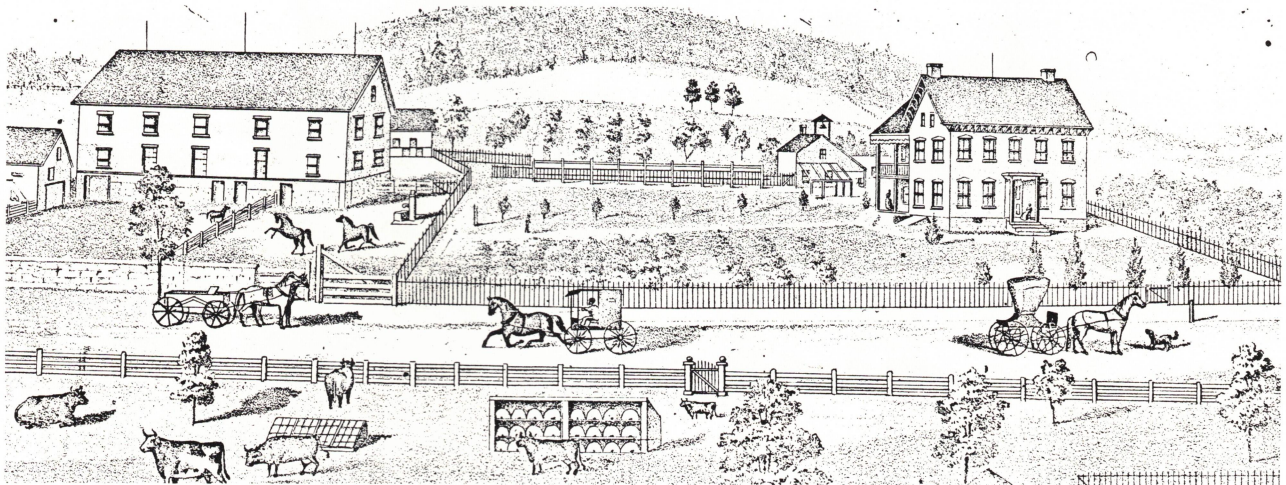
SHUCKIN' DAYS

Lonely lights from farmhouse windows
 Pierce the darkness before dawn
 Long before the skyline glimmers
 With a daylight, pale and wan.
 Then a peacetime army gathers
 To attack the fields of corn
 And the rhythm of the rap boards
 Sounds like shot on early morn.

All day long I hear that music
 Echoing on the frosty air,
 Hear the constant shout at horses
 From the cornfields everywhere,

See the tall ungainly wagons
 Rounded with a golden load,
 Frosty clouds above the horses
 Trudging homeward down the road.

Everywhere the golden harvest
 Fills the farmer's bursting cribs
 Peering brightly through the openings
 Of the granaries slatted ribs,
 Though of golden shining dollars
 We admit there is a dearth,
 Yet we have a great abundance
 Of the gold that feeds the earth.



STOCK FARM & RES. OF A. S. RILAND-WAYNE TOWNSHIP, PA. - 1875



The first Steam Engine in Wayne Twp. (1907) It was owned by John Ketner. He is on right of picture.



HARVESTING IN THE DAYS OF HORSES



DORIE H. REBER, SR.

Born - December 25, 1896

Has spent entire life on family farm
Mainly growing vegetables and fruits.

THE FOLLOWING LIST ARE THE REMAINING FARMERS IN THE TWP. - 1976.

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HOTELS AND TAVERNS

With the opening of the roads came the Wayside Taverns, designed for the entertainment of the traveling public. These were located at various places along the routes, and the teamsters made use of them as feeding places and usually tested the liquid refreshments afforded. On the floors of the bar-rooms in these primitive hotels many teamsters would spread their mattresses and sleep, after having cared for their teams, Sometimes the beds of these lodgers were spread so thickly that standing room could not be found among them.

The first tavern opened in Wayne Township was the "Blue Mountain House," kept by Dexter Snyder. It existed prior to 1800, for in that year a Jefferson liberty pole was raised in front of it, and the adherents to the cause of John Adams attempted to remove it, when a small riot ensued. The aggressors were compelled to march three times around the pole cheering for Jefferson!

Among other old taverns were the Washington House in Summit Station, Farmers hotel in Summit Station, and an old tavern at the foot of the Blue Mountain. Records show that Valentine Brown was the proprietor in 1829 of the former Black Horse Hotel, later owned by Wm. Zimmerman. The Long Run Hotel was built in the early 19th Century. Frank Reber, and later, Joel Stoyer operated this place of business for many years. At an earlier date a Hotel was located in Long Run and the proprietor was J.H. Wommer.

Friedensburg has two hotels which were old landmarks. The old stone building known as the Keller Hotel was removed to provide a suitable location for the Friedensburg Fire Company. The Roeder Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1971. There was an old hotel west of Friedensburg adjoining the Kull farm, and also two in Beaver Valley on the Faust and Stump farms.