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HISTORY OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PA.

with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches
of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers.

New York: W. W. Munsell & Co., 36 Vesey Street, 1881
Press of George Macnamara, 36 Vesey Street, N.Y.

Acrobat transcriber's note:

The original transcribers of this work are:

Josephine Reed Garzelloni and Carole Lyn Carr - January to April, 1998
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and they deserve our hearty thanks! I have transcribed this work from the many text files I found on the web into one Adobe Acrobat file, so that other researchers will be able to use and print this wonderful resource from their own computers more easily. The pages correspond with their original page numbers, so the **Everyname Index** which starts on page 391 is useable. However, this made formatting the pages a nightmare, so I did my best and tried not to worry about it. Enjoy!

Paul Welcomer - 5/21/2001

William Smith, Thomas Angus, James Warr, Joseph Warr, Thomas Grant and James F. Dent.

Posterity may look with pride over the above lists of brave men who were ready in the hour of need to respond to their country's call. Deservedly has it been said of this township: "Little Frailey always filled her quota."

CHURCHES

Rev. T.A. Ferhly, a **Methodist**, was the first who preached in the township. The first meetings were held in a warehouse, located about a hundred yards south of the Franklin House, in Donaldson. Rev. D. Cook, a Presbyterian preacher, for some years was a resident here, and preached to the people of that denomination. There were others of different denomination. There were others of different denominations who visited the people as traveling preachers, and who held services in private houses, and sometimes in the hotel or the old warehouse. Mr. Lomison, many times, when the preacher came along shut up the bar and, taking the benches into the dining room, turned that part of his hotel into a church.

In 1848 the **German Reformed and Lutheran** denominations joined and commenced building a church, but it was not finished until about 1850 or 1851. Rev. Rudolph Duenger was the first preacher who served the members of the German Reformed congregation, and Rev. E.S. Henry was the first and for many years the only one who preached for the Lutherans. At present (1881) Rev. Daniel Sanner, of Tremont, is the officiating Lutheran clergyman, and for several years past Rev. Mr. Metzger has served the German Reformed branch of the church.

In 1874 the members of the **Church of God** erected a church building. Rev. Mr. Smith was their first pastor, and Rev. Mr. Hay is in charge at the present time.

SUNDAY-SCHOOLS

The first Sunday-school in Frailey was early organized in Donaldson, with Moses R. Young as its superintendent. Mr. Jacob Crone for many years afterward served the school in that capacity. This was a union school and was not connected with any church as such. With successive superintendents and officers, it has continued to the present time (1881). The late Samuel Gaskins was for a long time its staunchest friend and most earnest helper. The present membership is about 75. Reverend David Shop is the superintendent.

Soon after the upper Donaldson school-house was built (about 1850), the citizens of the upper town organized a Sunday-school. This school has also ever been a union Sunday-school. Mr. Charles Long is at present superintendent and the membership is about 70.

The members of the Church of God have a Sunday-school connected with their church. It has a membership of about 65 and George W. Tobias is its superintendent.

ODD FELLOWS

July 3rd, 1850, Donaldson Lodge, No. 382, was organized under a charter granted October 1st, 1849. Peter O'Bressler, Peter Greger, sr., David Lomison, B.E. Reedy, Christian Lye, Samuel Gaskins, and Jacob L. Hassinger were the charter members. The present membership is about 100.

May 18th, 1868, the Grand Encampment of Pennsylvania granted a charter to Adam Etien, B.E. Reedy, John W. Donges, John Werfield, J.L. Gaskins, William H. Moore, Henry Graver, Peter O'Bressler, and William H. Ward, by authority of which Concord Encampment I.O.O.F. was not long afterwards organized.

HEGINS TOWNSHIP

Hegins township was originally taken wholly from Lower Mahantongo, but after the establishment of Foster township a portion of it (which had been a part of Barry) was attached to Hegins, and confirmed by the court January 30th, 1858.

The earliest settlement that can be traced was that of a half-breed Indian named Hager, who had a cabin on what is now the farm of Valentine Savage, in or about the year 1757. He removed to the Wyoming valley after the massacre, and his place was taken up by a German named Boyner. George Klinger, who was appointed a justice of the peace in 1800, is believed to have been the next to come. Mr. Klinger served as a magistrate for forty years. John Kuntzelman, who settled in 1804 on the Emanuel Dunkelberger farm; James Osman, his nearest neighbor, whose cabin stood near the site of the Dunkelberger grist-mill; Benjamin Bassoer, who took up the Joel Reed farm; Peter Dinger, on the Dinger homestead; Christian Stutzman, where William A. Stutzman now lives; Jacob Habacker, on the Aaron Otto place; Michael Kessler, at the point known as Kessler's Mill; George Dedrich, where A.B. Kessler, now lives; Christian Krums, on the Charles Gable place, and Peter Bizler, John Dietrich and Jacob Heberling were the best known of the pioneers of Hegins. The progress of the new settlements was slow, and its people were for many years dependent on their neighbors for local improvements, and often for the means of livelihood.

A grist-mill was built by James Osman in 1801 on the site of the Dunkelberger mill; and in 1808 Peter Kones put up a saw-mill on Pine creek, where Peter Stutzman's mill now stands. In 1814 another saw-mill was built, by

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Peter Stutzman, on the place now owned by William Stuzman, in the east end of the township.

The first hotel was kept by Joseph Osman, a son of James Osman, where John Conrad now keeps a hotel. It was opened in 1827, and accommodated farmers and teamsters-the latter class usually bringing their own provisions with them and sleeping on the floor. To those who patronized the culinary and bar department the following rates were charged: meals, twenty-five cents; whiskey, three cents a glass; cigars, four for one cent. It is hardly supposable that, with the limited travel of those days, mine host Osman became more than moderately wealthy at those moderate rates, even by combining with his duties the emoluments of the post-office of Lower Mahantongo, which was established in 1827, and to the charge of which he was commissioned.

The war of 1812 awakened the patriotism of this frontier settlement, and Peter Bressler, Jonathan Bressler, Peter Dinger, George Dinger, George Dedrich, John Schoup, and John Kessler took up arms to drive the British invaders from our soil.

The first painted building in the town was that of Solomon Bressler, who, in 1814, sided up a block house with boards, and applied a coat of paint that was a source of admiration to his friends and neighbors, some of whom traveled long distances to see it. In 1827 Peter Stutzman put up the first framed building, which stood until it was destroyed by fire, in 1860, when a brick house was erected in its place.

A log church was built in 1871, and an itinerant preacher, the Rev. Nicholas Hemping, was the first to hold services in it. The old building was taken down in 1874 to make room for the brick structure known as the Friedens Church.

It is interesting to note that in some respects public improvements were slow of adoption, while in others commendable enterprise was shown. For instance, although a church was built as early as 1817, it was not until fourteen years later, 1831, that the first bridge was built over Deep creek, near the Dunkelberger place, and not until 1857 that a school was established in a log house near the brick church at Heginville, with Valentine Savage as its first teacher.

A tannery was built by Andrew Shael, about the year 1845, on the site of which E.G. Ressler built, in 1874, and carried on the tanning of slaughter hides up to 1878, when he suspended operations.

The population of Hegin in 1860 was 1,102; in 1870, 1,154; in 1880, 1,462.

POST VILLAGES AND MAIL ROUTES

Heginville assumed its present name in 1850, when the postoffice here was established. It contains one hotel-the Heginville House-kept by J.F.H. Long; a general store also by Mr. Long, and another, built in August, 1880, by John Reed; two churches, a school-house, an Odd Fellow's lodge, two blacksmith and repair shops, and about one hundred inhabitants. The village takes its name from the township, which in turn derived it from Judge Hegin, who was on the bench at the time the township was chartered. The postmaster is J.F.H. Long, who has been in charge since its opening. Mails are received, via the Kutztown and Tremont stage line, three times a week.

Valley View was formerly known as "Osmantown," in honor of Joseph Osman, the pioneer hotel keeper. The post-office established here in 1827 under the name of Lower Mahantongo was subsequently changed to the present name-a relief to letter writes as well as more euphonious and expressive. The Farmers' Hotel, kept by John F. Conrad, is the successor of the old log tavern kept by Osman in 1827. There are two stores, one kept by R. B. Dunkelberger, who purchased the interest of Jacob Updegrave in 1878, the latter having opened the first store kept here in 1852; and one by George Greeber, who succeeded Nathan Bressler. The valley View Hotel is kept by Elias Dilfield, who opened it in 1879. Two churches, the Winebrenarian and United Brethren, a wagon shop, a tin store and about forty dwellings go to make up the village.

Fountain post-office was established in 1872, with William A. Stutzman, the present incumbent, in charge. The little hamlet to which the office gives its name is situated in the extreme eastern part of the township, on the Tremont and Kutztown road, and besides the post-office building, which was used by Mr. Stutzman as a hotel from 1863 until 1877, there is here a church, owned by the Lutheran denomination. Mr. Kutzman opened a hotel here as early as 1850.

Rausch Gap.-A small colliery known as Rausch Gap is located about two miles south of Valley View, on lands of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, and operated by William H. Yohe. It has a level drift in the south dip of the Skidmore vein, and is mined for local market only.

CHURCHES OF HEGINS

The Church of God was organized by Rev. John Hepler August 14th, 1856. Daniel Laudenslager was elected elder, and Jacob Krone deacon. The church numbered in 1880 about thirty members, with David Laudenslager and Jacob Shrop as elders, and Samuel Bohner and Joseph Wagner deacons. It has a promising Sundayschool of 75 scholars, with 19 officers and teachers. C.I. Laudenslager is its superintendent. The Bethel was built in 1856, in a lot about one mile east of town, and in 1871 was moved into Valley View. It is valued at \$1,500. Rev. J. Hay is the pastor.

The United Brethren Church, formerly a branch of Lykens circuit, was organized into a class in 1863. The building at Valley View was erected in 1862. The members most prominent in the church at that date were John Haldeman, John Haldeman, jr., Peter Hereing and Daniel Roessler. The Sunday-school was organized in 1863, with Dr. J.H. Shope as superintendent.

* **Friedens Reformed and Lutheran Church**.-This church is the outgrowth of an organization of members belonging to the Reformed Church in America. It was first

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