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A History of the Route 6 Corridor

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Visionaries, Achievers and Social Entrepreneurs

Stories in Time
A History of the Route 6 Corridor

As you travel along the Route 6 corridor in northern Pennsylvania, you travel through time. The clues to a thousand stories are there on the landscape, everywhere, taunting you to learn more. From the mountains worn down and rebuilt by millions of years of geological processes, to rivers that have etched deep paths across the landscape, you get the sense that there's more to know here. Small towns that look like New England villages, hillsides pockmarked by mine shafts, oil fields with their drilling rigs that resemble pastures filled with rusty cows, road traces up and over hills, churches with "onion" domes, places with exotic names; each is a clue to a story.

The stories of northern Pennsylvania are as diverse as the people who came here. There are pioneer stories of hardship and settlement, there are stories of entrepreneurs and visionaries, and there are stories of warriors and peacemakers. The one thing common to all these stories is the landscape that they share.

This history is organized around five themes suggested by the stories:

- A Warrior's Road
- Natural Opportunity
- Engineer's Challenge
- New Beginnings and Safe Havens
- Visionaries, Achievers, and Social Entrepreneurs.

It does not cover every story of the corridor – no history could do that. It is a place to start to explore the stories. This history will grow as more stories are documented.

A Warrior's Road

Along this highway are epic stories of warriors of many periods. Their battles were waged on land and sea, and spanned thousands of years.

Queen Esther

Imagine that you're visiting a foreign country. The people you see dress differently, eat strange things, and speak in a language that you barely understand. There is a celebration going on, with music and dancing. As you try to make sense of the scene around you, you compare and contrast the data your senses are collecting with things you already know, that is, your own culture. Music, dance, food, smiling . . . it looks like a party! These folks are certainly pleased about something – it must be a holiday or something. Now imagine that you learned that the group you are observing has just wiped out all the men, women, and children of a neighboring village. Do your emotions now influence how you describe and interpret the scene?

Eyewitness accounts are valuable, but, even the best observers must pick and choose what they will remember and record. And historians must pick and choose what "facts" they will preserve and interpret from those accounts. It's the way history is written.

The interpretation of Native Americans during colonial times is always interesting. With few exceptions, Native American languages were not written. Their stories come to us, not in their own words, but in the words of missionaries, victims, or conquerors. Like the foreign visitor above, these chroniclers of the 18th and 19th centuries often described actions with little or no understanding of the cultural context of the people they described. And like all historians, they couldn't escape their own cultural contexts. Does this mean that only white Americans should write

the history of white Americans, or that Native Americans should write the history of Native Americans? No. It just means we need to be aware that a historian does not write in a vacuum – his or her own times and cultural experiences provide a certain way of looking at things. It's why we need history to be written by many different people, with many different voices. It also means we need to look critically at those histories to evaluate what makes sense, and agree that the real story is probably somewhere between those different perspectives, and we may never know it completely.

One of best-known Native Americans of Northern Pennsylvania is Queen Esther Montour Quebec. Many of the details of her life are unknown, including when and where she was born and died. She lived at the confluence of the Chemung and Susquehanna rivers near present Athens, Pennsylvania about the time of the American Revolution. By all accounts, she was a very important woman. To the Yankee settlers of the region, it must have seemed strange to have a woman in charge of a group. This was a time when white women had few rights – they were legally the property of their husbands. Yet here was this Indian woman, a leader respected and honored by her people – the only women who have ever been in charge are queens, so, in the contemporary historical record she was dubbed "Queen Esther." And where do queens live? In a palace, or castle. So, her home was variously described in these terms.

Queen Esther's "castle" was described as a "long, low edifice, constructed with logs set in the ground at intervals of ten feet, with horizontal hewn plancks [sic] or puncheons[1] neatly fitted into grooves in the posts. It was roofed or thatched and had some sort of a porch or other ornament over the doorway.[2]" Her village was said to contain about 70 houses.

Esther was described as a large, heavily built woman of commanding appearance. Her grandmother was French, and had been stolen from her parents by the Seneca at a young age. Esther's appearance clearly reflected her mixed ethnicity, as related in this description by Jane Whittaker, a contemporary:

> She was supposed to be of French and Indian parentage. She was a tall, but not very fleshy woman – not as dark as the usual Indian in complexion [sic] – had the features of a white woman – cheek bones not high, hair black, but soft and fine like a white woman, not the heavy black hair of the squaw. Her form erect and commanding, her appearance and manners agreeable. She walked straight and had not the bend of the squaw; she had not the Indian mode of turning toes in. . . . Her

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[1] A puncheon is a log that has been split in half. The split face was often roughly dressed.

[2] Robert Covenhoven, a soldier in the Sullivan Campaign of 1778, who claimed to have destroyed it, recorded this description. He was quoted in **History of Old Tioga Point and Early Athens, Pennsylvania** by Louise Welles Murray, 1908, pages 111-114, submitted by Bonnie Strope and is online as *The Montour Sisters: Queen Catherine of Catherinestown (Montour Falls, [New York]) and Queen Esther of (Old) Sheshequin,* at http://www.rootsweb.com/~srgp/families/montour (Tri-County Genealogy & History Sites by Joyce M. Tice). Much of the text of **History of Old Tioga Point** . . . is also online on other pages of this web site (for example, pages 102-114, which include the material on Queen Esther, are at http://www.rootsweb.com/~pabradfo/bcbooks/welles6.htm.)

dress was rich and showy with a profusion of glittering ornaments. She had short skirts reaching a little below the knee, made of imported blue cloth, and stockings to meet the skirt and beautifully worked pantalettes of blue cloth and other material. The skirt was ornamented with brooches of silver, as were the warriors' clothes. All the squaws had small bells on their moccasin strings and pantalettes. They used blankets varying in texture as did the males. Queen Esther wore a necklace of pure white beads from which hung a cross of stone or silver. Mrs. Whittaker thought it was carved of a whitish stone, polished by long use, possibly spar.[3]

According to her neighbors, Queen Esther was known for showing kindness and courtesy to both her own people and her non-Indian acquaintances. There is no record of how she came to her position of leadership, which is a bit unusual even among the nations of the Iroquois. The Iroquois were matrilineal, meaning that an individual inherited certain rights and privileges through his or her mother. Women were regarded with respect, and their advice and counsel were considered in all matters relating to the community. But men usually served as leaders, especially in military and political affairs – for example, men signed the treaties. Queen Esther, however, appears to have assumed a leadership role, even on the battlefield. The accounts of the most brutal atrocities at Wyoming in 1778 have been credited to her. Enraged by the recent murder of her son near Exeter, Pennsylvania, she supposedly killed at least seven settlers and tortured others. To the settlers, "her fiendish brutality at Wyoming obliterated every kindly recollection [of her] and made her name a synonym for cruelty."[4]

It's not clear what happened to Queen Esther after the Revolutionary War. By some accounts, she was killed by Colonel Thomas Hartley's men when they burned her village on September 27, 1778; by other accounts, she was killed by Sullivan's men near Tioga Point, in revenge for her atrocities at Wyoming. Other eyewitnesses recalled that she moved to New York and lived in a village on the eastern shore of Lake Cayuga as late as 1790.

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[3] Jane Whittaker's narrative was written down by Judge Avery of Owego, New York and is in the collection of the Wisconsin State Historical Society (The Draper Papers?). It was probably recorded in the mid-19th century. It was submitted by Bonnie Strope and is online as *The Montour Sisters: Queen Catherine of Catherinestown (Montour Falls, [New York]) and Queen Esther of (Old) Sheshequin,* at http://www.rootsweb.com/~srgp/families/montour (Tri-County Genealogy & History Sites by Joyce M. Tice).

[4] Strope cited Craft, but provided no bibliographic reference for this source. It is online as *The Montour Sisters: Queen Catherine of Catherinestown (Montour Falls, [New York]) and Queen Esther of (Old) Sheshequin,* submitted by Bonnie Strope, at http://www.rootsweb.com/~srgp/families/montour (Tri-County Genealogy & History Sites by Joyce M. Tice).

Queen Esther's most brutal action, the "Bloody Rock Incident," supposedly happened near Wyoming just after the battle in early July 1778. Sixteen captives were placed around the rock; Esther, standing over them on the rock, systematically crushed their skulls with a club (**Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 476-477).

The Battle for Wyoming

Northern Pennsylvania, already in a state of hostility due to the conflicting claims of Connecticut and Pennsylvania and threatened by British Loyalists (Tories) and their Native American allies, was a key frontier during the American Revolution. In 1778 and 1779, the region was plagued by a series of brutal actions by both patriots and loyalists.

The colonists in the Wyoming Valley in 1778 depended on the Pennsylvania government for protection from raids by British Rangers and their Iroquois allies. Two militia companies had been called up from the sparsely populated area and sent to support Washington's action in other areas. As the raids became more frequent, the settlers petitioned the province to have their companies sent back for their defense. Pennsylvania's provisional government was swamped; the British army had taken Philadelphia, and forced the state government to relocate in Lancaster and the Congress to flee to York. George Washington and his army were camped at Valley Forge. Having both armies within the boundaries of Pennsylvania created a demand on many of the province's resources, like food supplies, while limiting production. In addition to these already dire circumstances, the colonists at Wyoming were primarily from Connecticut, and with the memory of the Pennamite War still very fresh in the minds of the legislators, and requests for men and supplies flooding in from Pennsylvanians everywhere, aid to Wyoming was not quickly addressed.

In late June 1778, Major John Butler led approximately 1,000 Indians and Tories into the Wyoming Valley. By early July, small fortifications had been captured, settlers had been terrorized, and the race to Forty Fort was on. At Forty Fort, the settlers organized a military unit under Colonel Zebulon Butler and Colonel Nathan Denison, and on July 3, this small force marched out of the fort to meet the enemy. They were outnumbered three to one, and after a fierce battle, a handful escaped back to Forty Fort and Wilkes-Barre.

Back at the fort, faced with a garrison filled with women, children, and old men, Colonel Denison drafted a surrender document that insured the safety of the settlers. On July 5, the British arrived to take the fort. As they entered, British Major Butler was unable to control the Indians in his force, and a brutal massacre ensued. It is estimated that as many as 300 men, women, and children were killed.[5]

Depredations in the Wyoming Valley continued into 1779. Many settlers fled the region. Colonel Thomas Hartley led a retaliatory expedition against the local Indians in 1778, burning the villages of Wyalusing, Sheshequin, and Tioga (present Athens, at the confluence of the Chemung and Susquehanna rivers). By the summer of 1779, following even more attacks on the settlers, a massive punitive expedition was mounted under Major General John Sullivan. As Sullivan steadily moved up the Susquehanna into New York State, a large band of Tories and Indians came back into

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[5] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 476.

the region behind him, terrorizing the already frantic settlers. The settlers begged Sullivan to send a unit back to protect them, but, focused on his mission, he refused. He succeeded in razing dozens of Seneca villages and destroying crops and other supplies without engaging the enemy, since the villages were abandoned as he approached.

On July 22, 1779, Joseph Brant, a Mohawk supporter of the British cause, led 300 Tories and Indians to Minisink, present Port Jervis, and burned it. Retaliation came swiftly, and 175 settlers overtook Brant and his men as they headed back to New York State. Badly outnumbered, the settlers sustained heavy losses. Twenty-five escaped, including the leader of the expedition, Major Wood. According to local legend, Brant allowed Wood and his men to escape when Wood unintentionally used a Masonic signal that Brant recognized.[6]

An Oath on a Bloody Rifle

When settlers from Connecticut came to northern Pennsylvania in the 18th century, they were determined to establish a colony of their home state. Violent, bitter confrontations between settlers of Connecticut, Native Americans, and settlers from Pennsylvania ravaged the Wyoming Valley and the surrounding countryside for decades. One of the most ardent of the Connecticut claimants was John Franklin.

John Franklin was a native of Canaan in Litchfield County, Connecticut. He arrived in Wyoming before the American Revolution. According to local legend, his wife died shortly after their arrival, leaving him with three small children, including a one-week old infant. Franklin supposedly packed up the kids and headed back to Connecticut, driving a milk cow along so the baby and children could be fed. He left his family in the care of a friend, and returned to Pennsylvania.[7]

Franklin took an active role in the establishment of the Wyoming colony. When the hostility known as the Pennamite Wars erupted, he was a recognized leader. After one incident, he supposedly stood over the body of a slain friend, with bloody rifle in hand, and swore that he would not lay down his arms until the rights of the Connecticut settlers were realized.[8]

By 1786, Franklin had had enough of war. He had fought bravely for the United States during the Revolution, and was present at Wyoming during the massacre of 1778. His actions there had earned him the nickname, "the hero of Wyoming." He'd accompanied Sullivan on his march to the Seneca country and was wounded at Newtown, near present Elmira. He began to realize that the dispute with Pennsylvania might be settled through legislation and litigation rather than with guns. Franklin began a campaign among the Yankees to resist the laws of Pennsylvania by non-participation in anything that strengthened Pennsylvania's claim.

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[6] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 357.

[7] *Colonel John Franklin House,* HABS PA-226, 1937.

[8] *Colonel John Franklin House,* HABS PA-226, 1937.

At a New England-style town meeting, Franklin and his followers decided to organize a new state that was neither Connecticut nor Pennsylvania. They drew up a constitution and continued to resist the laws of Pennsylvania. As a result, Franklin was arrested for treason. To insure his safety while imprisoned, his followers seized Timothy Pickering, the local represent of the Pennsylvania government. After more than 19 days, Pickering was released when he promised to write a petition for the Yankees and send it to the Supreme Executive Council, the ruling executive body of Pennsylvania. Franklin posted bond and paid fines, and was released from prison.

Through the 1780s and 90s, Franklin continued to support the rights of the Connecticut settlers. To appease him, he was appointed to several boards and other local state positions by the Pennsylvania government, and was elected to several offices, including Sheriff of Luzerne County (1792-93, 1796, 1799-1803) and Representative in the General Assembly in 1804. In a blatant case of gerrymandering, the state legislature attempted to block Franklin from assuming office by redrawing the county boundaries, removing Franklin from his district by moving his farm near Tioga Point from Luzerne to Lycoming County. The victory for the Pennsylvania legislators was short-lived; in the next year, Franklin was elected by the people of Lycoming County to represent them.[9]

After his term ended, Franklin returned to his farm and seems to have suffered from mental illness. His contemporaries noted that he was in constant fear of pursuit by imagined enemies. He died a poor man, supported in the final years of his life by his friends and neighbors.

The General Buried in Two Places

General Anthony Wayne, often termed "mad" for his daring military pursuits and quick temper, was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, on a farm near the town of Paoli, in 1745. Trained as a surveyor, by 1766 he had returned to the family farm and tannery in southeastern Pennsylvania. With the death of his father in 1775, he became a man of means and social standing, and, as a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, was well positioned to assume a position of leadership when the American Revolution erupted. On January 3, 1776, he accepted a commission as colonel of the 4th Pennsylvania Battalion.

Wayne's military career is legendary. General George Washington depended on his skill in planning and logistics throughout the Revolution, and Wayne and his troops often played decisive roles in the many battles they fought. His most famous exploit was the capture of the British post at Stony Point on the Hudson River on July 16, 1779. When Washington asked Wayne to plan an attack to take the strongly fortified post, Wayne supposedly responded, "Issue the orders, Sir, and I will storm

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[9] **Lincoln: The Northeastern Pennsylvania Connection,** (Freeman, 2000), pages 36-38.

hell." Wayne led a bayonet attack against the fort under cover of darkness, and, despite a head wound, successfully took the post and 500 British prisoners.

As the action shifted south in the later years of the war, Wayne served in Virginia, at Yorktown, and then in Georgia, where he battled British Loyalists and their Indian allies. In 1783 he retired from the military, and was awarded a tract of land in Georgia for his service. He went into debt trying to improve this tract, and lost it by foreclosure. He got involved in politics in both Georgia and Pennsylvania, and was elected to several positions between 1783 and 1792.

After the peace treaty with Great Britain was signed in 1783, the Americans made several disastrous attempts to exert control over the Native Americans that had supported the British in the west. Three military expeditions had been soundly defeated, including the loss of almost 700 American soldiers and support personnel under General Arthur St. Clair on the Wabash River in Ohio on November 3, 1791. President George Washington realized that he needed a professional army, and he chose Anthony Wayne to be Commander-in-Chief.

Wayne went to Pittsburgh and organized the "Legion of the United States" into four Sub-Legions. The training was often brutal, but Wayne was determined to make a confident and professional army. As more recruits arrived in camp, the Legion outgrew its Pittsburgh post and moved down river to a new camp called Legion Ville. When Wayne headed west into the Ohio country in April 1793, he led the nation's first professional army into the field. They built a line of ten forts across the mid-west. On August 20, 1794 at Fallen Timbers, Wayne's Legion defeated the Miami Confederacy, a decisive battle that ended British control of the west. In 1796, the British surrendered their posts along the Great Lakes to Wayne. He signed a treaty with the Iroquois in November 1795 that ended the violent opposition to settlement in the Erie Triangle even after the federal and state governments had legally purchased the area. Joseph Brant, inspired by Pontiac's success at the end of the French and Indian War to disrupt settlement in the north and west, organized the Native American resistance to the settlement of the Triangle. Wayne's treaty brought an end to this, and opened northwestern Pennsylvania for settlement in the 1790s.[10]

On his way back east, Wayne became ill. He died December 15, 1796, at the Erie Blockhouse, and with great ceremony was buried at the foot of the flagpole. In 1809, Wayne's family in eastern Pennsylvania decided to have the General's remains moved closer to home. Wayne's son Isaac traveled to Erie to exhume his father's body. He was surprised to find the body in a remarkable state of preservation, which presented certain logistical problems for the long trip east. A local doctor boiled the flesh off the bones and re-interred it in the original grave at the blockhouse. Isaac Wayne carried the bones back east, where they were buried in a public ceremony on

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[10] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 222.

July 4, 1809 at St. David's Church in Radnor, Pennsylvania.[11] Besides his military history, General Wayne is also commemorated in the name of Wayne County, Pennsylvania, near the eastern end of the Route 6 corridor.

We have met the enemy, and they are ours

Following the American Revolution, the British continued to claim parts of the west. General Anthony Wayne extinguished these claims officially in 1796, but British influence persisted, especially around the Great Lakes. Tensions and trade embargos continued between the world power and the infant nation, and in 1812, war broke out again.

From their posts along the Canadian border, the British captured America's only armed vessel on the Great Lakes. American ports along the lakes, especially Erie, were now vulnerable to invasion. On March 27, 1813, Oliver Hazard Perry was sent to Erie to supervise the construction of a new fleet to patrol Lake Erie. By July 19, construction of Perry's fleet was completed, and he was ready to make his first excursion onto the lake. But Perry had a problem – 700 seamen were needed to man the ships, and he had 120 men fit for duty. Perry appealed to Commodore Isaac Chauncey, his supervising officer and overall commander of Great Lakes operations, for reinforcements. When Chauncey failed to respond after several requests, Perry ignored the chain of command and sent his next request directly to the Secretary of the Navy. Chauncey was infuriated, but responded to pressure from Washington and sent Perry 150 seamen.

Perry was unimpressed with the "motley set, blacks, soldiers, and boys" that Chauncey sent, and he told him so. Perry also wrote once again to the Secretary of the Navy to complain. Chauncey defended his choice, noting that they represented the finest in his service on Lake Ontario, and were not, as Perry's Purser Samuel Hambleton had noted, "the refuse of Commodore Chauncey's fleet." Perry's comments have been interpreted as racist, but lately, historians have re-interpreted Perry's comments as an observation on the training, discipline, and ill-health of the sailors, not on their race. It has also been suggested that Chauncey undoubtedly delegated the task of recruiting these men to a junior officer who was not eager to aggravate his superiors by sending the best sailors to Perry.[12]

In its first outing, Perry's fleet briefly engaged the British, who were driven off. In September, the fleets met again at Put-in-Bay near Sandusky, Ohio. Perry's flagship, the *Lawrence,* was badly battered, and Perry was forced to transfer command to the *Niagara.* The smaller American ships proved to be more maneuverable than the larger British ships, and the Americans prevailed. When Perry sent the message of

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[11] *Anthony Wayne: An American Military Genius,* online at http://tristate.pgh.net/~bsilver/WAYNE (Legion Ville Historical Society).
[12] *African-Americans and Perry's Fleet* by Gerry Altoff, online at http://www.brigniagara.org (Maritime Museum).

his victory, he included the now famous line, "We have met the enemy, and they are ours."[13]

The Niagara has been restored and is now stationed in Erie.

The Bucktails

In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln called for volunteer troops to rise to the defense of the Union. Thomas Leiper Kane, a prominent businessman in McKean County, began recruiting young men from northern Pennsylvania. Approximately 700 lumberjacks, raftsmen, and farmers from the "Wildcat" district (Elk, McKean, Tioga, and Cameron counties) heard the call, and headed off to Camp Curtin, near Harrisburg. While there, they were joined by companies from Chester and Perry counties, and were designated the 13th Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps. When called to join the federal Army of the Potomac, the regiment was renamed the 42nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment, but these sharpshooters were more commonly identified by their bucktail insignia, and became known as the Bucktail Regiment.[14]

The Bucktails served with distinction in most of the major engagements of the Civil War, including Antietam, Gettysburg and the Wilderness. The unit completed its service on May 31, 1864.

The Great Shohola Train Wreck

Northern Pennsylvania was not the scene of any of the great battles of the Civil War, but the region made important contributions, such as the famed Bucktail Regiment, and was not spared from the tragedy of the war. This story of the Shohola Train Wreck in 1864 reveals the sentiments of the home front of a nation divided, and wearied, by war.

By 1864, a new camp for Confederate prisoners-of-war had recently been constructed in Elmira, New York. Ten thousand prisoners were to be confined there, and the first of them, numbering about 800, were loaded onto a train for the trip from Point Lookout, Maryland. About 125 Union guards and the train crew accompanied them.

The tracks in the upper Delaware Valley were often crowded with coal trains hauling their loads to destinations throughout the east in support of the war effort. About 2 p.m. on Friday, July 15, 1864, an inattentive telegraph operator accidentally assigned a coal train and the prisoner train to the same track. Frank Evans, a guard on the train, described what happened:

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[13] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State,** 1940, (WPA), page 579.
[14] *The Old Bucktails,* online at http://www.pabucktail.org.

I was one of the guards stationed well back on the train, and a lucky thing it was for me . . . We passed through the little village of Shohola in the after noon, going something like twenty-five miles an hour. We had a run a mile or so beyond Shohola, when the train came to a stop with a suddenness that hurled me to the ground, and instantly a crash arose that rivaled the shock of battle, [and] filled that quiet valley. This lasted a moment. It was followed by a second or two of awful silence, and then the air was filled by the most appalling shrieks and wails and cries of anguish. I hurried forward. On a curve in a deep cut we had met a heavily laden coal train, traveling nearly as fast as we were. The trains had come together with that deadly crash. The two locomotives were raised high in the air, face-to-face against each other, like giants grappling.

The tender of our locomotive stood erect on one end. The engineer and firemen, poor fellows, were buried beneath the wood it carried. Perched on the reared-up end of the tender, high above the wreck, was one of our guards, sitting with his gun clutched in his hands, dead!

The front of our train was jammed into a space less than six feet. The two cars behind it were almost as badly wrecked. Several cars in the rear of these were also heaped together.

There were bodies impaled on iron rods and splintered beams. Headless trunks were mangled between the telescoped cars. From the wreck of the head-car, thirty-seven prisoners were taken out dead. The engineer of our train was caught in the awful wreck of his engine, where he was held in plain sight, with his back against the boiler, and slowly roasted to death.[15]

Officially, 51 Confederate and 19 Union soldiers were killed. The citizens of Shohola and Barryville, New York, without regard to the color of their uniforms, treated the wounded. The following day, the track was cleared and many of the surviving and some of the injured prisoners were taken to Elmira under heavy guard.

The telegraph operator, Duff Kent, was exonerated of blame for the accident during an inquest in Shohola. However, his reputation for drunkenness on the job, as well as his cavalier attitude (he supposedly attended a dance just a few hours after the wreck), incensed the residents who had cared for the dead and injured. Kent left the area and was not seen there again.

Near the site of the wreck, between the track and the Delaware River, a trench 76 feet long and 8 feet wide was dug to bury the victims. The soldiers lay in this common grave until 1911, when they were exhumed and reinterred at the Woodlawn National Cemetery at Elmira.[16]

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[15] From **Brass Buttons and Leather Boots: Sullivan County and the Civil War** (author and date unattributed), cited in *The Great Shohola Train Wreck,* online at http://www.geocities.com/~cump/textfile/shohola (submitted to the site by Stephen Haas).

[16] *The Great Shohola Train Wreck,* online at http://www.geocities.com/~cump/textfile/shohola (submitted to the site by Stephen Haas).

A Highway Named for an Army

After the Civil War, veterans of the "late unpleasantness," like veterans of many wars before and since, faced the task of returning to families, friends and jobs. The initial joy and relief of the war's end gave way to everyday routines. But as the veterans returned to their communities, changes resulting from the war strained social structures that had been eroded by the conflict. In addition to the veterans, widows and orphans needed attention, as well as newly freed black veterans and their families. Veterans needed jobs, and missed the companionship of their fellow soldiers.

Veterans of the Civil War joined together, first informally, into organizations based on the need for the continued camaraderie of friendships forged in battle. One of these, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) emerged as a powerful political force. By 1890, it had more than 409,000 members. Benjamin F. Stephenson founded the GAR in Decatur, Illinois on April 6, 1866. Membership was limited to honorably discharged veterans of the Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Revenue Cutter Service who had served between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865. "Posts" were established at the community level with their own elected officers.

The GAR became a serious political body. Five members were elected President of the United States, and Republican candidates vied for the endorsement of the GAR. The GAR founded soldiers' homes, and was active in relief work and pension legislation. It met annually for a National Encampment. The final encampment was held in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1949, and the last member, Albert Woolson, died in 1956 at the age of 109.[17]

The Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War lobbied strongly to have a transcontinental highway designated the Grand Army of the Republic Highway as a memorial. In 1937, the Pennsylvania legislature recognized U. S. Route 6 in the Commonwealth as the Grand Army of the Republic Highway.[18]

You may fire when ready, Gridley!

Admiral George Dewey gave one of the best-known commands of American military history during the Battle of Manila Bay in 1898. Erie native Captain Charles Vernon Gridley, commander of the *Olympia,* received the order that has memorialized his name from Admiral Dewey at the start of the battle. Gridley is buried in Erie, and was recognized by the establishment of Gridley Park, where a monument in his honor was erected in 1913.[19]

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[17] *Brief History of the Grand Army of the Republic,* online at http://suvcw.org (Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War).
[18] **Legislative Journal, Senate,** April 12, 1937, p. 2326; **Legislative Journal, House,** May 18-19, 1937, p. 4749 and 4756.
[19] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 224.

Sailor

Loretto Perfectus Walsh of Olyphant was the first woman to enlist in the U. S. Navy. She joined on March 21, 1917, just sixteen days before the United States entered World War I. She held the rank of Chief Yeoman, and served in Philadelphia. She was discharged in 1919.[20]

Natural Opportunity

The natural resources of the corridor have provided opportunity for hunters and farmers, oilmen and lumbermen, tanners and miners.

Hunting Heritage, Industrial Legacy

> For ages this territory was the grand preserve of the Indian. He came hither to hunt the panther, bear, wolf, fox and deer, and after a few months of easy sport each year returned to his home . . .. When the pioneer came hither the animals, which the Red-men hunted, were, like the old hunters, scarce; but enough remained to yield sport, bounty and food to the daring vanguard of civilization. Up to 1875 wild animals existed here almost as numerously as in the first years of the century; but the oil prospector, wildcatter, scout, railroader and farmer came, and acting like the Irishman at Donnybrook, struck at everything, upsetting the institutions of the wilderness. The great tan-yards, the saw-mills which were build on every stream, the stream of wasted oil which for twenty-five years has floated down the waters . . . have all contributed to thin out the finny tribe; but fish are still found in sufficient quantities to entertain the angler; while many carp ponds have been constructed and used successfully for fish culture.[21]

Northern Pennsylvania was the last wild place in the Commonwealth, and in many ways still has the reputation as being untamed "God's Country." Early settlers waged a war of extermination against both the forest and its wildlife. Their existence depended on it. Wolves and panthers were threats not only to people and dogs, but also to the small herds of sheep and cows that the early settlers depended on for food and fiber. It has been suggested that the same progression of settlement from east to west in Pennsylvania and from the Great Lakes south in New York that had pushed the Native American population into northwestern Pennsylvania had also pushed the wildlife into this corner below Lake Erie.[22]

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[20] *Loretto Perfectus Walsh,* historical marker, (Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1995).
[21] **History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania,** Vol. 1, (Leeson, 1890), page 56.
[22] **History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania,** Vol. 2, (Leeson, 1890), page 998.

The wildlife population of northern Pennsylvania is almost legendary. The size and variety of that population has fluctuated as a result of the settlement and industries of the forest. During the settlement of the 18th and early 19th centuries, stories of damage to crops and farm animals are common. Almost as common are the stories of "circle hunts" and other great drives to round up and exterminate the offending animals. Small towns, like Coudersport, Galeton, Smethport and Port Allegany, founded by the Ceres Land Company before 1820, boomed, but as the last giant hemlocks were cut in 1912 and the oil wells closed, the economies of these towns shifted from lumber, tanning, and oil and diversified to support the thousands of hunters and anglers who annually took to the woods and streams.

By the 1880s, the dispersion of the industries in the forest shifted. Early lumbering, coal, and oil operations were concentrated along the larger streams and rivers, which provided the means for transporting the bulky materials to markets, mills, and refineries. The forests of the highlands were left almost intact because they were just too difficult to cut and haul. While habitats were destroyed and altered along the stream valleys, some animal populations moved to higher ground. But in the last decades of the 19th century, improvements in railroad technology enabled powerful locomotives to climb steeper grades and haul the timber out of these previously inaccessible areas. There were no longer any limits to lumbering.

Changes in the demand for coal, wood, and oil, as well as the discovery of larger and more easily accessible deposits across the nation and around the world, improving technologies, and a growing concern for the environmental havoc of the 19th century, resulted in other changes to the industries. The ecology of the Black Forest had changed; some plant and animal species continued to thrive, others migrated away or became regionally extinct.

One of the true survivors has been the white-tailed deer. The subject of often intense hunting pressure for more than 9,000 years in northern Pennsylvania, the clearing of the forest and its uncontrolled re-growth in the late 19th century paired with the extermination of its natural enemies (wolves, panthers) resulted in great increases in the deer population. By 1917, warnings emerged that the deer population of northwestern Pennsylvania was becoming too large. Within five years, deer were causing serious damage to crops and the regenerating forest. As the forest grew, less food was available to the browsing deer population, and by the 1930s, a series of hard winters resulted in the starvation deaths of thousands of deer. An estimated 40,000 deer starved to death in the winter of 1935-36.[23]

Since the 1930s, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has engaged in wildlife management programs to strengthen and diversify game animal population. The deer, black bear, and wild turkey populations in particular have benefited. Likewise, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has worked with other state agencies to

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[23] **Buck Fever,** (Sajna, 1990), page 28.

maintain and restore the aquatic species of the region. Northern Pennsylvania is now seen as a hunting and fishing paradise, and the economic benefits of that are felt each year in the small towns along the Route 6 corridor. There is a long tradition of hunting and fishing in northern Pennsylvania, and there are thousands of stories of "the big one that got away."

Aside from the danger . . . the life of the lumberman is an agreeable one

The forests of northern Pennsylvania were, and are, an important economic resource. Since the 19th century, thousands of men found work in the woods. The lives of these hardy laborers was recorded in this account from Potter County dating to 1890.[24]

Many a finely organized man has suddenly been stretched to death in the lumber woods, or been drowned during the "drive," or from the timber raft. The camps usually are built in as nearly a central position to the tract to be chopped as possible. Still, as the pine recedes beneath the blows of the ax, the camp is left farther from the scene of labor, until the lumberman finally has to walk two and three miles to and from work. These camps are located near springs of water, and are built of logs chinked with mud and moss, and the roofs covered with hand-made shingles. The interior is divided, usually, into two large rooms below, with pantry, store-room and two bed-rooms, one of the latter for the jobber and his wife, if she accompanies him, the other for the female cook. Often a man is employed as cook. One of the large rooms is a kitchen and dining-room combined, the other is supplied with benches, and is dubbed the "bar-room," it being the lounging place for the men in the evening. The second story of the building embraces but one room, and as the building is but a story and a half affair it brings this room immediately under the roof. This is the sleeping apartment of the men. Here are rows of roughly made bunks, covered with heavy blankets and often hay or straw pillows. About this camp the trees are cut away to avoid the danger of having them blown upon the building by heavy winds. Flanking this cabin are the stables and the blacksmith shop. There is much business for the blacksmith here during the life of the job; horses and oxen must be shod, pevy or spike levers and cant hooks must be ironed, chains mended and spikes for the lumber slides formed. This cluster of buildings constitutes the camp.

The food is of the heartiest sort: pork, beef, potatoes, bread, butter, molasses, turnips, Indian bread, beans, cheese, pie and cake, and the invariable cup of coffee in the morning and at noon, and tea at supper. Some jobbers are noted for their stinginess with their larder, and they often run short of their crew of men in consequence of this reputation, for although the woodsman may wear coarse clothing he likes "good living," as he calls his food. Where the camp has a crew of Maine men the "bean hole" is ever to be found. It is a hole dug in the ground somewhat in the shape of an egg. When beans are to be cooked a fire is started in the "bean hole," and is kept going until a fine bed of coals is formed. Into this

[24] **History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania,** Vol. 1, (Leeson, 1890), pages 982-987.

furnace is plunged the bean kettle, with the right amount of beans and pork in it, and covered with a strong iron cover. Upon this cover and about the kettle are piled coals until it is literally embodied in fire. Upon the top are thrown ashes, and upon this earth, which is firmly packed upon the "bean hole." The beans are usually put in the "hole" at night and allowed to remain there until the next morning, when they are ready for the table, and it is said they are delicious.

The clothing of the woodsmen varies in form, but all wear the long stockings drawn up to the knee over the trousers, where they are held in place either by a strap or a red cord with tassels. Heavy rubber shoes cover the feet. These shoes are usually one or two sizes too large, in order to admit of the person wearing two or more pairs of coarse woolen socks beneath the long red outside hose. In the spring during the "drive" boots are worn, with a strap buckled around their tops to prevent the water finding too easy ingress. The soles and heels of these "driving" boots are filled with spikes from a half inch to an inch and a half in length, the longest spike being set in the heel. This is to prevent slipping upon the wet logs, which, as they have been divested of their bark, are almost as smooth as glass. They wear heavy, coarse woolen shirts, slouch hats or knit caps with a tassel depending therefrom, altogether presenting a somewhat picturesque appearance.

The woodsmen are rough and uncouth in their ways, but full of life and fun, and are hardy, and have proverbially splendid appetites. They are required to be at their place at daylight, frequently even in summer. At night they usually go to bed as soon after supper as they can manage to smoke their pipes, supper usually taking place at dark. While smoking their pipes they lounge about the "bar-room" telling stories, joking each other and singing songs not calculated for the drawing-room.

The work in the woods consists of "falling" the trees, sawing them into logs of proper length, peeling and skidding. From the skids, upon which the logs are scaled, they are taken to the slides or trails, and along these to the place for "banking" on the stream, along which they are to be driven when the spring floods come. The trailing is done with teams where the ground is level. The trail is a shallow trough made usually of timbers pinned to the ground; or, at times, what is known as a "ground trail" is constructed by plowing two or three furrows in the earth, and afterward drawing a log back and forth through it until it is compacted into a smooth trough. When the snows come, the trail becomes very slippery, and long trails of logs, from ten to twenty, can be pushed by a single team, the team being hitched to the rear log. When there is a deficiency of snow, with cold weather, the trails have to be "watered," that is, water is poured into them and allowed to freeze, and upon this ice the logs are slid. Where the trail has sufficient inclination for the logs to run by their own gravity, it is called a slide. In some places where the slides are very steep it is necessary to drive spikes into the timbers composing them to retard the running of the logs, for if they arrive at too great a velocity the logs are split and broken into fragments by striking among the logs already at the landing place at the foot of the slide. It is wonderful with what momentum the logs are forced at times. Any old woodsman will tell you wonderful tales thereabout. We have seen a tree two feet in diameter cut off by a log jumping from the track, thirty feet from the ground, and with such force that it took out a length of the tree trunk equal to the diameter of the flying log, whilst the top portion of the tree descended by the side of its stump, standing in its original perpendicular position. Logs have been known to jump from the track, being forced out by heavier logs striking them

from the rear, and going up the steep mountain side for from fifteen to twenty rods; and they have been known to spring from the slide, whirl about a standing tree and be flung back into the slide to continue their lightning course toward the valley.

A number of years ago we were called to a lumber camp on the Pine Creek to see a man who had been fatally injured by a log which encircled a tree. He had been working upon the slide, and as he started down the mountain along the slide, he looked back and saw a large log coming with a weaving movement. His practiced eye told him that this was a dangerous customer, and he sprang behind a tree. The log swayed out far enough to catch this tree and was thrown entirely around it, crushing the woodsman against it. The man was dead before we reached the camp; his name was Frank Rhodes.

Upon some mountain sides it is so steep that the tree, as soon as it falls beneath the ax, starts for the valley below with terrific velocity; stripping off all of its branches in the descent, and sometimes being shivered into splinters.

Generally the slide or trail reaches the "banking" ground. By the term "banking" is meant where the logs are heaped upon the side of the stream until the flood comes. When the waters rise the logs are rolled from these huge heaps into the water. This is a time of great peril to the log driver. He may be working out logs from the bottom of the pile near the water, when the whole heap may give way and come thundering down upon him, and he is caught in a "dead fall." The banking frequently extends to the bed of the stream so that the stream is filled bank high from bank to bank for a mile or more. On some of the smaller streams "splash dams" are constructed. These are simply large and high dams constructed across the valley with two great gates where the stream passes through. These gates are closed when it is desired to fill the pond. Logs are rolled into the bed of the stream below the dam to be ready to be floated by the "splash." When the pond is full, the gates are opened and the flood pours forth which carries away the logs, in readiness for it, into the larger main stream beyond. The gates are so fastened that a blow upon a lever unfastens them, so that the person attending to this part of the work is in no danger.

The construction of rafts is now a thing of the past, so far as log-rafts are concerned. Occasionally lumber rafts are sent down the river, but in the old days of lumbering in Potter County, the logs found their way to market in rafts, going to Pittsburgh, and even below, by the Allegheny, and as far as Chesapeake Bay down the Pine Creek and Sinnemahoning into the Susquehanna River. Many are the adventures told by the old raftsmen of their voyages; of their sharp work in the rapids of the Barbers of Pine Creek; of the short turn to be made at Hanging Rock and Falling Spring; the running of the dams and chutes at Muncy and Shamokin, and the perilous ride through the breakers of Kanawaga Falls, on to Columbia and Havre de Grace; then returning to their mountain homes on foot, walking often as far as fifty and sixty miles in a day.

These raftsmen were a vigorous set of men, and a tough lot to encounter. Like life upon the canal, the raftsmen were expected to be ready to fight or drink at a moment's notice, and some of them, like Abram (or Brom) Rohrabacher, became noted the entire length of the route for their strength and skill. The men, or crew, of the raft slept and ate upon their low-running raft, having a shanty built upon the raft for a kitchen and dormitory; their fare continuing to be the same as that to which they were accustomed to in the woods. Now, however, the logs are "driven" down

the stream in a loose mass, carried along by the swift, swollen current, some of the drives upon Pine Creek amounting to as high as 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 feet of logs at one time. A large crew of men accompany these "drives," wearing their spiked boots and carrying their cant hooks. No matter how cold the water is, and it may be filled with running ice in an early flood, they must plunge into it to loosen logs that have stranded upon bars, or caught upon rocks or points of sand, the logs frequently floating, but would remain there until the water went down if they were not thrust out again into the current. This must be done by men often wading to their armpits in the water, so cold that their clothing freezes as soon as they step upon the land, and yet, with all of this immersion in icy waters, from morning until night, for days together, very few are made sick by it. In some instances rheumatism may follow or the legs may become sore, but that is usually the extent of the injury done by this severe exposure.

An "ark," as it is called, a large flat-boat covered with a shanty, follows the "drive," as a hotel for the "crew." Here the meals are prepared, and here the men sleep at night, often in their wet clothing. It often happens that the flood goes down before the "drive" reaches its destination. In this case the work ceases and the "drive hangs up," which simply means that the logs will not float. If you inquire of a log-driver upon his return at such a time: "How far did you go?" he will reply, "We hung up," or "the drive hung up" at such a place.

One of the greatest dangers to the log-driver, during the flood, is the log jam, or briefly, "the jam." A log catches upon a rock or bar in such a manner as to obstruct the channel, other logs rapidly collecting about it, until the entire stream, perhaps, is choked with a seeming inextricable tangle of logs. They are fixed in this jam in every conceivable position, from horizontal and criss-cross to perpendicular. To the uninitiated it would seem impossible to extricate the logs from their tangle with the fierce current of the raging stream locking them together as in a vice; but now comes as cool a piece of pluck and skill as ever was seen in the life of the soldier upon the battlefield – the professional "jam-breaker," there always being one or more of these experts accompanying the drive (frequently those who have learned their trade upon the turbulent Aroostook and other logging streams of Maine). One of these men, divested of all unnecessary clothing, but with his feet securely spiked, jumps upon the "jam." He carries his pike lever with him, and upon this instrument alone he is to win the victory over the maddened stream. He holds his life in his hand; a single false move often means his death, but he is cool and determined. It is known to veteran jam-breakers that there is usually one log in the mass which, if detached, will loosen the entire jam so that it will break with a rush; this is called the "key-log;" this found he goes straight to work to loosen it. Other men may have to be called upon the jam to assist him; but when the last hitch of the cant hook is to be given which will free the key-log (if the business is not precipitated by some unforeseen event), all of the men, save the jam-breaker, run for the shore. With a final twist of his lever the log springs from the mass of writhing logs and shoots out upon the current, but not so quick but that it bears a living freight. The jam-breaker, with the agility of a cat, strikes the spikes of his boots into its slippery side, and is leading a crashing, tearing mass of logs and water which chase madly in his wake. By long practice he easily balances upon the rolling, pitching log, which he gradually works to the shallow water and springs ashore, after, perhaps, having ridden a mile or more upon his unstable craft. This is the *modus operandi* of breaking a jam where

everything works to the wish; but often the jam breaks at an inopportune moment, and the men are hurled here and there into the seething flood animate with rushing logs. If all come out of the peril with their lives they are indeed fortunate, even if they have fractured limbs and contusions. Woe to the man who sinks beneath the logs – they close above him, and his is crushed to death or drowned.

There is deadly danger lurking at every step, from the falling of the tree in its native wilds until the logs are secured in the boom, where the Potter County boy leaves them. To be sure the danger goes on with the milling of the lumber, and in the mills of Potter County lives have been lost. It is but a few years since Isaac Baker was sawn asunder by a circular saw in a mill belonging to Dr. O. T. Ellison, in Coudersport. Aside from the danger attending logging, the life of the lumberman is an agreeable one to him.

Some of the most enchanting scenes . . . have been in out-of-the-way places into which I have been accidentally led

People have been recording their impressions of northern Pennsylvania in the region's folk songs and tales. Visitors and temporary residents, like the lumbermen, have also been struck as much by the region's natural beauty as by the technological masterpieces.

The white pine and hemlock forest that covered parts of Potter, Tioga, Lycoming, Clinton and Cameron counties in the mid-19th century was so dense that little sunlight reached the forest floor, even on the brightest days. The "Black Forest" was made up of mature stands of white, pitch and shortleaf pines, oak, chestnut, hemlock, beech, birch, maple, basswood and cherry covered more than one million acres, or an area about 40 miles square.

The men who attacked these forests brought a tradition of hard work. Like laborers for centuries, they entertained themselves with stories and songs, both while on the job and off. Folklorists have collected some of these, and it appears to be fertile ground for additional research.

Lumbermen often had long walks between camp and the day's work, as well as between their homes and their seasonal jobs. "Tramping chants" helped them pass the time, and may have served the more pragmatic purpose of helping them to keep track of each other as they moved along. This verse and refrain are from a tramping chant, credited to a wandering lumberman in Potter County, and reflect not only the legendary good humor of these men, but also a far-reaching philosophy that is the mainstay of modern heritage visitors:

> Oh! The firefly is brilliant,
>   But he hasn't any mind;
> He wanders through creation
>   With his headlight on behind.
>
> *Refrain*

Then cast your bread upon the water,
    And you'll see just what returns,
Another time – oh, well, no matter;
    He who travels, sometimes learns.[25]

Some ballads that have been passed down reflect the lumberman's respect and appreciation for the region.

Whenever you may wander,
    And taste the nation's bounty,
You'll find there is no place on earth
    Like good old Potter County.[26]

These guys were the original tourism promotion agency!

Lumbermen were not the only observers to appreciate the natural setting of Pennsylvania's north woods. This poem, by Jennie E. Groves, was published in the newspaper **The Reporter** on January 31, 1890:

When morn with its splendor illumines the sky,
Save where a star lingers to watch the night die,
And the gray shrouding mist from the valley uprolled
Is changed by the sun to an ocean of gold
That bears on its bosom cloud land as fair
As ever took shape in the realms of the air.
Ah! Who that, enraptured, has gazed on the scene
Can forget the bright valleys and hills of McKean?[27]

The early days of settlement, with their hardships and challenges, were memorialized in this tribute to the early pioneer women of the region in 1847:

The mothers of our forest land
Stout-hearted dames were they,
With nerve to wield the battle brand,
And join the border fray.

No braver dames had Sparta,
No nobler matrons Rome;
The great and good shall honor them
Throughout their own green home.[28]

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[25] **Mountain Folks: Fragments of Central Pennsylvania Lore,** (Rosenberger, 1974), page 156.

[26] Rosenberger (1974: 26) took this verse from **North Pennsylvania Minstrelsy** by Henry Wharton Shoemaker, 1919, page 158.

[27] Quoted in **History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania,** Vol. 1, (Leeson, 1890), page 58.

[28] Quoted from *The Yeoman,* (January, 1847) in **History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania,** Vol. 1, (Leeson, 1890), page 105.

The references to the dames of Sparta and matrons of Rome reflect the popular movement at the time to return to the classical, even mythological, roots of American democracy and culture. The most obvious artifacts of this are the scores of Greek Revival style houses and public buildings found throughout the corridor.

The eastern end of the corridor has also had its fans through history. In 1841, Washington Irving visited Honesdale and sent this description to his sister:

> I write from among the mountains in the upper part of Pennsylvania, from a pretty village which has recently sprung into existence . . . I came here along the Delaware and Hudson Canal.   . . . I do not know when I have made a more gratifying excursion with respect to natural scenery, or more interesting from the stupendous works of art. The canal is laid a great part of the way along romantic valleys, watered by the Rondout, the Lackawaxen, &c. For many miles it is build up along the face of perpendicular precipices rising into stupendous cliffs with overhanging forests, or jutting out into vast promontories, while on the other side you look down upon the Delaware, foaming and roaring below you at the foot of an immense wall or embankment which supports the canal. Altogether it is one of the most daring undertakings I have ever witnessed, to carry an artificial river over rocky mountains, and up the most savage and almost impracticable defiles; and all this, too, has been achieved by the funds of an association composed of an handful of individuals. For upward of ninety miles I went through a constant succession of scenery that would have been famous had it existed in any part of Europe; . . . lovely valleys, with the most luxuriant woodlands and picturesque streams. All of this is a region about which I had heard nothing – a region entirely unknown to fame; but so it is in our country. We have some main routes for the fashionable traveler, along which he is hurried in steamboats and railroad cars; while on every side extend regions of beauty, about which he hears and knows nothing. Some of the most enchanting scenes . . . have been in out-of-the-way places into which I have been accidentally lead.[29]

Not only the natural beauty of the region impressed Washington Irving, but also its technological wonders.

One of the busiest corners of the globe

The discovery of oil in northwestern Pennsylvania finally brought settlement and development to the region on a scale that the earlier population companies and state legislature never imagined. Towns grew up seemingly overnight and sometimes disappeared just as quickly. Roads and railroads were constructed as wells were punched down into the earth to capture this new and useful raw material. The beginning of the "boom" and its impact were described by the famous chronicler of the Standard Oil Company, Ida M. Tarbell:

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[29] Quoted in **Canadensis** (Freeman, 1997), page 69-70.

One of the busiest corners of the globe at the opening of the year 1872 was a strip of Northwestern Pennsylvania, not over fifty miles long, known the world over as the Oil Regions. Twelve years before this strip of land had been but little better than a wilderness; as chief inhabitants, the lumbermen, who every season cut great swaths of primeval pine and hemlock from its hills, and in the spring floated them down the Allegheny River to Pittsburg. The great tides of Western emigration had shunned the spot for years as too rugged and unfriendly for settlement, and yet in twelve years this region avoided by men had been transformed into a bustling trade centre, where towns elbowed each other for place, into which three great trunk railroads had build branches, and every foot of whose soil was fought for by capitalists. It was the discovery and development of a new raw product, petroleum, which had made this change from wilderness to market-place. This product in twelve years had not only peopled a waste place of the earth, it had revolutionized the world's methods of illumination and added millions upon millions of dollars to the wealth of the United States.[30]

The prehistoric populations of the Allegheny drainage probably knew there was oil in the region, but we have no record of their discovery. French missionary Père Joseph de la Roche described an oil spring at Cuba, New York, just north of McKean County as "La Fontaine de Bitume," as early as July 18, 1627. By 1806, "Seneca Oil" was being collected for sale on Oil Creek by Nathaniel Carey, who shipped it to Baltimore. Lamp oil dealers there did not "fancy the odor of the oil or the appearance of the barrels." They dumped the three barrels Carey had sent in the Chesapeake Bay then burned the barrels.[31]

"Rock oil," as it was sometimes called, had been commercially exploited as a cure-all as early as the 1840s. At this time, oil was a by-product of the salt industry, where it was found in the salt-water brine at some salt works along the Allegheny River. The salt-drillers viewed the dark-green, evil smelling substance as a nuisance, and built cisterns where the brine could stand until the oil rose to the top and could be removed before the brine could be evaporated to extract the salt. As the oil was run off from the surface of the brine, it often ignited. In some places, such as western Crawford County, the presence of the oil ruined the salt wells and forced the salt works to be abandoned. Prior to the discovery of oil in the salt wells, it had been collected in small quantities from surface springs and seeps.

Early analysis of the "rock oil" revealed that it was both an excellent lighting fuel and a good lubricator for machine parts. Its curative properties were less well documented, but it continued to enjoy brisk sales in small quantities as a liniment. Perhaps the most successful promoters of its medicinal qualities, Samuel M. Kier, a salt-producer near Tarentum, in Allegheny County, recommended it as a cure for

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[30] **The History of the Standard Oil Company** (Tarbell, 1904), pages 3-4; the entire text is available online at http://www.history.rochester.edu/fuels/tarbell.

[31] **History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania,** Vol. 1, (Leeson, 1890), pages 58-61.

cholera, "liver complaint," bronchitis and consumption. He sold it in 8-ounce bottles, with an accompanying pamphlet prescribing three teaspoonfuls three times a day. Kier was also interested in its other applications, and sent a sample to a Philadelphia chemist who recommended that it might make an even better lubricator and illuminator if it was distilled. Distilling was a process that was well understood in western Pennsylvania, dating back to the conversion of corn and other grains to alcohol since the 18th century. Kier is credited as the first person to distill, or refine, oil.[32]

The first company to attempt to capitalize on petroleum was the Pennsylvania Rock-Oil Company, organized by George H. Bissell in 1854. Bissell saw the potential in collecting, refining, and marketing oil as lamp fuel, and acquired leases on a tract in northwestern Pennsylvania owned by Brewer, Watson & Company, a lumber company. His initial plan was to collect the oil from several springs on the tract, but he soon realized that this would not produce oil in the quantities needed to be profitable. Supposedly, he looked at the label on one of Kier's medicine bottles, and noticed the drawing of an artesian well. Bissell immediately realized that the solution to getting more oil was to drill down to it and pump it up. By 1858, Bissell had renamed his company the Seneca Oil Company. He dispatched one of the company's stockholders, Edwin L. Drake, to northwestern Pennsylvania to see about the possibility of making an oil well.[33]

Drake's previous jobs as a clerk, express agent, and railroad conductor had not prepared him no better for life in the rough and tumble lumber town of Titusville than it had for opening an oil well. But he was persistent, and after many months of delays in obtaining both equipment and workers, Drake succeeded in opening a producing oil well in August 1859. He added a pump, and proceeded to extract 25 barrels a day. Drake's well demonstrated that oil could be obtained in large quantities, and the oil boom was on.

Oil derricks sprouted across the landscape. In April 1861, oil was found on a farm near Smethport, and oil prospectors invaded the valley of Tuna Creek. Some irreverent drillers placed a bold resolution on their new derrick "Oil, hell or china;" less profane historians noted, "their resolution amounted to little as they did not strike oil, _____, or china."[34]

Other attempts throughout the region met with limited success until the 1870s, when better drilling methods produced better yields. By 1880, there were 4,000 producing wells in the Bradford Oil District, yielding 50,000 barrels per day. The

[32] **The History of the Standard Oil Company** (Tarbell, 1904), pages 4-6; the entire text is available online at http://www.history.rochester.edu/fuels/tarbell.
[33] **The History of the Standard Oil Company** (Tarbell, 1904), pages 8; the entire text is available online at http://www.history.rochester.edu/fuels/tarbell.
[34] **History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania,** Vol. 1, (Leeson, 1890), page 62.

value of oil lands purchased at $6 to $10 per acre jumped to $500 to $1,000 per acre in a period of just a few months.[35]

Pennsylvania's oil production peaked in 1891, with 31,424,000 barrels. By 1920, Pennsylvania had dropped from first to tenth place in production among U. S. states, producing 7,438,000 barrels. In the early 1930s, production increased to 11,892,000 barrels, or about 1.5 percent of the national total. The oil boom was over.[36]

Anthracite

All of the anthracite in the United States comes from an area of 484 square miles in northeastern Pennsylvania. It has been invaluable in fueling the nation's industries since the early 19th century.

The discovery of anthracite was as early as 1762 by Connecticut settlers in the Wyoming Valley. Local blacksmiths discovered that it was a reasonable fuel for metalworking by 1769, but it was not recognized as a refining fuel until the early 1800s. Philip Ginter is often credited with the first documented discovery of anthracite on Summit Hill near present Jim Thorpe. Ginter gave a sample of the coal to Jacob Weiss, who sent it to Philadelphia for analysis. Recognizing that there was some value, Weiss, Charles Cist, John Nicholson, and Robert Morris organized the Lehigh Coal Mine Company in 1792.[37]

In 1814, William Wurtz, a Philadelphia merchant, acquired large tracts of coal land in northeastern Pennsylvania and founded the town of Carbondale. David Nobles, a local hunter, brought samples of the coal to New York and Philadelphia for appraisal. In the winter of 1822, William's brother, Maurice Wurtz, mined 800 tons of coal and sent part of it by sleigh to the banks of the Lackawaxen River for loading onto rafts. Within a few years, the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company acquired the mines and adjacent property. The settlement at Carbondale grew rapidly as Irish and Welsh miners found work there.[38] By the 1870s, the D & H had gained control of many mines and towns throughout the region, including Archbald (1846) and Mayfield (1874).

Josiah White and Erskine Hazard burned anthracite in the forges of their Fairmount Nail and Wire Works near Philadelphia in 1812. Impressed with its qualities, they took a 20-year lease on some coal lands near present Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania[39] in the Lehigh Valley. In 1820, White and Hazard constructed a canal to ship coal, and by 1828, the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company was already

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[35] **History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania,** Vol. 1, (Leeson, 1890), pages 63-64.

[36] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 583.

[37] **Anthracite Trust** (Freeman, 1994), page 91.

[38] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 360.

[39] Formerly, Mauch Chunk.

expanding. In the 16 years since its introduction in Philadelphia, annual consumption had jumped from zero to 77,395 tons. After 1837, anthracite was the primary fuel for smelting iron.[40]

Until about 1870, immigrant miners from Ireland and northern Europe worked the coalfields. As the mining operations expanded, and new mines were opened, coal operators found new pools of workers in the poor peasants of central and southern Europe. The new miners were willing to work for lower wages, and bitter conflicts erupted as the newcomers began to replace the older miners.[41]

Iron

By the 1830s, it was clear that anthracite could efficiently be used not only to refine iron, but also to smelt it. In 1825, the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia had offered a prize to the first person to smelt a commercially viable quantity of iron using anthracite. The prize was a catalyst to research and development, and within the next decade, experimental ironworks were established throughout the Lehigh, Schuylkill, and Susquehanna valleys.[42]

Prior to the use of anthracite, iron was smelted using charcoal. An extensive iron industry developed in the early years of the 19th century in central Pennsylvania. In the northeast, deposits of iron ore were also known, and as early as 1799, attempts were made to produce iron.

Ebenezer and Benjamin Slocum purchased a large tract along Roaring Brook, near its confluence with the Lackawanna River in 1798, near present Scranton. The tract became known as Slocum Hollow, and within a year they began to smelt and refine small quantities of iron at the bloomery forge they'd constructed there. They operated the bloomery until 1826. The forge lay idle and fell into ruin until 1840, when it was acquired and developed by Scrantons, Grant & Company. Through the 1840s, the company endured start-up miseries and several reorganizations, but eventually specialized on the production of T-rail[43] for the new railroads under construction throughout the region.[44]

The Land of Many Uses

The only National Forest in Pennsylvania was created in 1923 on the Allegheny Plateau. Gifford Pinchot, former head of the U. S. Forest Service, was Governor of Pennsylvania at the time. The forest had been transformed by centuries of use. The

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[40] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 75-76.
[41] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 336.
[42] **Anthracite Trust** (Freeman, 1994), pages 132-139.
[43] "T-rail" is the type of rail still used today. It has a wide, flat top and a narrow bottom, like a T, that fits securely into chairs spiked onto the ties of the track. It replaced "strap rail" which consisted of flat bars of iron spiked to the top edges of wooden beams called stringers. T-rail can carry much heavier loads than strap rail. It is made by passing iron or steel ingots through a series of dies, or rollers, that progressively shape it.
[44] **Anthracite Trust** (Freeman, 1994), page 150-151.

old growth forest of Eastern hemlock, American beech, white pine, and oak had been removed, and with no systematic renewal program, the forest was derisively called the "Allegheny Brush-patch" when the Allegheny National Forest was designated. The new forest consisted of black cherry, red maple, black birch and sugar maple. A few stands of the old forest survived at places like Hearts Content.

Between 1900 and 1940, the forest grew and matured. After 1923, management by the Forest Service mitigated threats like wildfires, floods and erosion by vigilance and wise use. Animal populations increased due to the abundant food and cover. In the 1940s, the Forest Service resumed timber harvesting under strict guidelines that insured sustainability. Recreational pursuits, such as hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking were allowed, and were supported by the construction of facilities by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The completion of the Kinzua Dam in 1965 broadened recreational opportunities with the addition of beaches, picnic areas, overlooks, and boat launches. Recently, many campgrounds have been improved to include electricity and showers, and trails for cross-country skiing, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles have been constructed. The Allegheny National Forest currently covers more than 513,000 acres.[45]

A Harvest of History

The farmland of northwestern Pennsylvania is some of the richest in the Commonwealth. Since 1946, the Crawford County Fair has celebrated the agricultural tradition of the region. The fair is held every August on the 67-acre grounds at Meadville, and offers a chance to see the best in livestock and crops in Crawford County, as well as food and entertainment. The Crawford County Fair is one of the largest agricultural fairs east of the Mississippi.[46]

Engineer's Challenge

The geography, climate, and resources of the Route 6 corridor provided both opportunity and challenge.

Railroads

If variety be a recommendation to railroad systems, McKean County is singularly well endowed. Here have been constructed [rail]roads, ranging from a single rail to a

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[45] History of the Allegheny National Forest, online at http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/allegheny/cultural_resources (U. S. Forest Service, 1998).

[46] *Crawford County Fair,* online at http://www.loc.gov/bicentennial/propage/PA/pa-21_h_english2.html (Library of Congress).

double track of six-feet gauge,[47] and from a prairie level to a grade of 264 feet per mile. In the matter of viaducts the county is no less blessed, for every form of bridge from the common wooden culvert to the Kinzua Viaduct is found.[48]

Railroad building began in earnest in northern Pennsylvania in the 1850s. Through the 1880s, short lines served the oil, lumber, and coal industries. These lines often consolidated or were obtained by larger lines, like the Pittsburgh& Western Railroad and the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad.

Several towns owe their foundation to the railroads. Hiram Corry's farm just happened to be where the rights-of-way of two railroads intersected in 1861. Positioned between the oil fields and the lumber interests, the town of Corry grew rapidly, so rapidly that it was called the "city of stumps."[49]

The Little Engine that Could

By the 1880s, the forests of northern Pennsylvania had been changed forever. The old growth softwoods, including giant hemlocks and white pines, were almost all gone. All of the trees that could be easily cut had been cut. Steep slopes and narrow valleys limited access.

Logging railroads had become popular in the forests for moving the bulky logs to mill and market. But locomotive technology was not well suited to the slopes of the forest. Charles D. Scott[50], a lumberman, built a tram road powered by his own "homemade" locomotive between 1875 and 1878. The axles of Scott's locomotive turned by a gear train, much like a modern automobile transmission, instead of the large piston-driven wheels of the more common locomotives. Scott took the plans for his locomotive to the Climax Manufacturing Company[51] in Corry to begin commercial production, and the first Climax Locomotive rolled off the line in March 1888.

Scott's coal-fired geared locomotives were superbly suited for the forests. With their two-speed gear arrangement, heavily laden trains could be stopped and started on a grade relatively easily, just by shifting between low and high gear. The little locomotives were simply designed, and with a vertical rather than horizontal boiler, were relatively small, weighing from 10 to 16 tons. It was easy to operate and easy to maintain. As the locomotive became popular, several classes were offered. They were built to the gauge specifications of their customers, ranging from 24-inches to nine feet. Climax locomotives could also be fitted with wheels for different types of rails.

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[47] "Gauge" refers to the distance between the rails.
[48] **History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania,** Vol. 1, (Leeson, 1890), page 155.
[49] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 372.
[50] Many of the patents for the Climax Locomotive were filed by Scott's in-law, George D. Gilbert.
[51] Before becoming builders of locomotives, the company manufactured mowers, reapers, stationary steam engines, and oil well equipment.

It has been estimated that as many as 1,060 Climax locomotives were built at the plant in Corry between 1888 and 1928.[52] While it never reached the popularity of the Shay locomotive, another popular geared locomotive, several Climax's continued in operation into the 1940s. Only 18 are known to survive, in varying condition, today. One has been obtained by the Corry Area Historical Society and is on display at their museum.[53]

Canal Fever

When William and Maurice Wurtz came to the coal lands of northern Pennsylvania in 1823, they had a big idea. Much of the region's anthracite was being sent down the Delaware to Philadelphia. The Wurtz brothers proposed construction of a canal between the Delaware and Hudson valleys, to divert the coal to New York City. The idea attracted supporters, including Philip Hone, Mayor of New York City. The town of Honesdale became an important coal-shipping town.[54]

The Wurtz Brothers hired Benjamin Wright to survey and design the route of the canal. Wright had just finished the Erie Canal across upstate New York. The 108-mile long canal would require 108 locks, 137 bridges, 26 basins, dams and reservoirs and cost approximately $1.2 million. To secure funding, the Wurtz Brothers went to New York City, and at a coffeehouse on Wall Street, demonstrated the superior burning properties of anthracite. The stock they offered in the new transportation company sold out that day. In 1898, the canal company became a railroad company, becoming America's oldest continuously operating transportation company.[55]

Western Pennsylvania also made its own foray into canal building. Farmers, businessmen, and manufacturers in northwestern Pennsylvania found themselves on a divide between the Erie Canal and the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal, and proposed the 130-mile long Erie Extension Canal to connect the Ohio River with Lake Erie. Construction started in 1838 at Beaver on the Ohio River, and was completed through to the Port of Erie by 1844. The system included reservoirs to stabilize the water level, such as Conneaut Lake and the Pymatuning Reservoir, and feeder canals, such as the French Creek Feeder. The canal declined when the aqueduct across Elk Creek Gorge was destroyed in 1873. Railroaders were suspected, but no involvement was ever proven. Within a few years, the canal bed was filled and graded for a railroad bed.[56]

[52] *History of the Climax Locomotive,* online at http://www.trainweb.org/climaxloco (author unknown).
[53] Online at http://www.tbscc.com/museum (Corry Area Historical Society).
[54] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 358.
[55] *The D & H Canal: An Engineering and Entrepreneurial Challenge,* online at http://www.canalmuseum.org.
[56] *Erie Extension Canal and Canal Museum,* online at http://www.loc.gov/bicentennial/propage/PA/pa-21_h_english3.html (Library of Congress).

If we had to go down, to go handsomely

By 1829, the Delaware & Hudson Canal was well underway, but it was becoming apparent that some overland system was needed to get the coal from the mines, dispersed across the countryside, to the canal. Mules and horses were first used, but maintenance of adequate roads was a problem, and the animals could transport relatively small loads of the heavy coal. The company, hearing reports of the use of steam engines running on iron rails in England, imported two locomotives and began constructing an overland railroad.

Horatio Allen, a construction engineer with the canal company, had selected one of the new locomotives, the *Stourbridge Lion*, to test the newly laid track at Honesdale. Allen wrote:

> The road had been built in the summer; the structure was of hemlock timber with rails of large dimensions notched on caps placed far apart . . . After about three hundred feet of straight line the road crossed Lackawaxen Creek on trestlework about thirty feet high, and with a curve of about one hundred and fifty to four hundred feet radius. The impression was very general that the iron monster would break down the road, or that it would leave the track at the curve and plunge into the creek. My reply to such apprehension was that it was too late to consider the possibility of such occurrences; that there was no other course but to have a trial made of the strange animal which had been brought there at great expense, but that it was not necessary that more than one should be involved in its fate; that I would take the first ride alone, and the time would come when I should look back to the incident with great interest.
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> As I placed my hand on the handle I was undecided whether I should move slowly or with a fair degree of speed, but holding that the road would prove safe, and proposing, if we had to go down, to go handsomely, and without any evidence of timidity, I started with considerable velocity, passed the curve over the creek safely, and was soon out of hearing of the vast assemblage present. At the end of two or three miles I reversed the valve and returned without accident to the place of starting, having made the first locomotive trip on the western hemisphere.[57]

In the 20th century, Horatio Allen would probably have been an astronaut. The Stourbridge Lion ran again on September 8, 1829. The track could not hold up under the engine, and the canal company temporarily abandoned its railroad.

The Peanut War

As the oil, lumber and coal industries of northern Pennsylvania boomed, so did the railroads. Railroads were the most efficient means for hauling these bulky

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[57] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), pages 358-359.

materials, and by the middle of the 19th century, tracks were being laid across the region. The railroad industry was still relatively new, and an early attempt to standardize it was effected in Erie in an incident known as the "Peanut War."

As railroads proliferated across Pennsylvania, each company built track, engine and cars that best suited its needs. For the short lines into the lumber stands, narrow gauge tracks, some as narrow as three feet, worked well on the steep climbs through the narrow valleys. Other companies spaced their tracks at four feet ten inches to as much as six feet. This was not a problem, since each line was initially autonomous. But as lines made their way into towns and cities where they met other lines, it became a great inconvenience. When two lines came together of different gauges, freight and travelers had to be transferred from one line to the other in order to continue.

In 1852, the Erie & North East Railroad Company completed a line from Erie to the New York border using a six-foot gauge. The Franklin Canal Company had just completed a line west from Erie, to the Ohio border with a gauge of four feet ten inches. This road connected with another to Cleveland. Travelers had to change trains in Erie to continue through on either line. Erie enjoyed certain prosperity as a result of this, but the railroad companies were plagued by the inefficiency of this arrangement and planned a change.

A new line, from Buffalo to the Pennsylvania line, with a gauge of four feet ten inches, was under construction by the New York Central Railroad in 1853. The Erie & North East Railroad entered into an agreement with the new road, agreeing to change its track from the six-foot gauge to the narrower gauge. This would create a uniform gauge between Buffalo and Cleveland, eliminating the transfer in Erie.

The people of Erie were not amused with their change from railroad terminal to way station. On December 9, 1853, mobs bombarded railroad officials with rotten eggs, peanuts and other materials. They tore down bridges and ripped up tracks. Federal troops were called, and eventually put an end to the riots, which became known as the "Peanut War."[58]

The Erie Railroad

The Erie Railroad was one of the crucial transportation links of northwestern Pennsylvania. It started as the New York and Erie Railroad in 1832, with the mission to connect the Hudson River with the Great Lakes. Construction on the trunk line across southern New York began in 1835, and by 1851 446 miles of track had been built from Deposit to Dunkirk, New York, on Lake Erie. In 1861, after completing construction to Jersey City, New Jersey and Buffalo, New York, the railroad failed and was reorganized as the Erie Railway Company. After the Civil War, the railroad became the object of a power struggle between some of New York's wealthiest

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[58] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 92.

businessmen. Cornelius Vanderbilt sustained challenges by Daniel Drew, Jay Gould and James Fisk and maintained control of the railroad. In 1878, the company again went bankrupt and was reorganized as the New York, Lake Erie and Western Railway Company. When it failed again during the Panic of 1893, it was reorganized in 1895 as the Erie Railroad Company. The road lost money until 1942, when, for the first time ever, it yielded a dividend. The Erie merged with the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad to form the Erie-Lackawanna. In 1976 it merged with five other lines to form Conrail, and in 1999 it became part of the CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads.[59]

The Erie Railroad built some of the most notable engineering accomplishments of the corridor. The Kinzua Viaduct was built in 1882 near Mount Jewett. In 1900, the viaduct was rebuilt to accommodate heavier loads, and was in service until 1959. The deck of the bridge is 301 feet above Kinzua Creek. It is now located in Kinzua Bridge State Park, which was created in 1963, and is an important sight along a local excursion railroad.

The Starrucca Viaduct, in Susquehanna County, is one of the best-known engineering structures in the United States. It was built by the Erie Railroad in 1847-48 and is one of the oldest stone railroad bridges still in service. It is 1,200 feet long, 110 feet high, and 30 feet wide.

One of the True Wonders of the World

One of the Erie Railroad's competitors, the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad, was also responsible for a major engineering accomplishment in northern Pennsylvania. In 1915, the railroad opened the Tunkhannock Viaduct, the largest reinforced concrete structure of its kind at the time. The deck is 240 feet above Tunkhannock Creek and the bridge is 2,375 feet long.

Bombs Away

As the uses and market for oil grew, and as more people with new ideas came to the oil fields looking for opportunities, technological and business innovations followed. The transport of oil to markets and refineries was originally accomplished in barrels. The barrels were loaded onto wagons, and teamsters hauled them to river ports where they were loaded onto rafts and barges. Although the road network had steadily improved and expanded with both the oil and lumber industries throughout the region, conditions were often less than good, and loads were sometimes lost or delayed. In 1865, General S. D. Karns reasoned that pipelines might do the job more efficiently than the teamsters. Pumping stations and pipelines were built quickly across the Bradford Oil Region, despite efforts by teamsters to disrupt the lines by

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[59] *Erie Railroad,* online at http://www.bartleby.com/65/er/ErieRail.html (Columbia Encyclopedia, 6th edition, 2001).

breaking them.[60]   The Tidewater Pipe Company built the first pipeline across the Alleghenies in 1879; it pumped oil 109 miles, from the oil fields of McKean County to Williamsport.[61]

By the 1870s, many of the older wells began to show signs of giving out. The oil producers suspected that there was more oil, but that it was locked up in the underlying rocks. Something was needed to release the oil from the rocks. The Roberts Brothers had the solution. Dr. Roberts, a dentist, and his brother, had come to the oil fields from New York City. They engaged in the oil business with some success, but their simple invention literally blew the lid off their business. The Roberts brothers invented the torpedo, a tin tube that contained 10 to 200 quarts of the extremely volatile explosive, nitroglycerine. A blasting cap was attached to the tube, and it was lowered on a cord to the bottom of the well, sometimes going as deep as 1,000 feet. When the torpedo had reached the required depth, a small iron weight called a "go-devil" was attached to the cord and allowed to fall along it. When it reached the torpedo, it struck the detonating cap and BANG! the nitroglycerine exploded. The oil-bearing rocks were shattered, and, in most cases, oil production increased. It is estimated that each of the estimated 25,000 wells in the region were "torpedoed" regularly in the 19th century, creating an enormous demand.[62]

With all that nitroglycerine being carted around the countryside on those bumpy, rutted roads, accidents were bound to happen. The "shooters" carried the explosive in wagons drawn by one or two horses. They often carried as much as 1,500 pounds of the deadly stuff. Despite the danger, the shooters were known for their reckless and careless driving and torpedo accidents were common.

> In dozens of cases, man, team and vehicle were blown entirely out of existence. It was rarely that a cigar box would not hold all of the driver that could be found. In one case, that of 'Doc' Haggerty, no vestige of a human being was ever found, and a few pounds of horse flesh identified by the hair as being all that was left of two horses . . . Below Eldred, or near Ceres, resided a short time ago a man who was thrown high up into space, and beyond being filled with tiny pieces of tin he did not suffer much from the explosion.[63]

Power to the People

The hills and valleys of northern Pennsylvania provide the essential terrain for hydropower. There's just one problem – there are no natural lakes to serve as reservoirs.

In 1924, Wallenpaupack Creek was dammed, and Pennsylvania Power & Light created Lake Wallenpaupack. Approximately 2,700 men worked for nearly two years to complete the project. The concrete dam is 1,280 feet long and 70 feet high. The

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[60] **History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania,** Vol. 1, (Leeson, 1890), page 87.

[61] *Tidewater Pipe Company,* historical marker, (Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1949).

[62] **History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania,** Vol. 1, (Leeson, 1890), page 92.

[63] **History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania,** Vol. 1, (Leeson, 1890), page 92.

lake covers approximately nine square miles and has a shoreline 52 miles long. Water was delivered to the power plant more than three miles away by way of a fourteen-foot diameter wooden flume. The power plant went online in 1926, increasing PP&L's generating capacity by almost 25 percent.[64]

Despite improvements in power generation, in 1936 seventy-five percent of Pennsylvania farms had no electric service. With federal support, 14 consumer-owned electrical cooperatives were established in Pennsylvania, including the Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative in northeastern Pennsylvania. The first rural electric pole was placed by the Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative Association in 1936, and is recognized with a historical marker in Crawford County.[65]

A scenic route unrivaled

In the late 18th century, colonization had taken place along the rivers and the pathways established by thousands of years of moccasin-clad feet. The valleys of the Delaware, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, and Allegheny Rivers and their tributaries were the main routes across northern Pennsylvania.

French explorers were the first Europeans to enter the region in the early 17th century, coming by way of the Great Lakes and following streams and native paths. Dutch explorers had reached the Delaware Valley from the Hudson River Valley. The Dutch improved the paths they found between the Delaware and the Hudson in order to begin mining as early as the mid-17th century.

As settlement spread after the American Revolution, there was a need for improved roads. A private turnpike company constructed one of the earliest in 1805 between Waterford and Erie by improving on the old French road that had connected the French forts from the Great Lakes to the Allegheny River. In 1807, an act of the Pennsylvania General Assembly appointed commissioners for exploring and making a road through the Moosic Mountains to the western boundary of the state. This was the first road designed to cross all of northern Pennsylvania.

In 1808, McKean County became the first county to authorize its unseated taxes for the purpose of constructing the "East and West Road." By 1816, the State authorized payments to each of the northern counties to provide maintenance and improvement of the road.[66] In many places, widening, drainage, and more durable surfaces improved existing roads, then connections were made between segments.

Before the 20th century, the construction of roads was the work of private companies and state governments. Transportation improvements were encouraged and sometimes funded by the federal government, but no national system existed. In

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[64] Lake Wallenpaupack, online at http://www.pikeonline.com/pages/interest/wallenpaupack.htm (Pike Online, 1999); **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 357.
[65] *Rural Electrification,* historical markers, (Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1986).
[66] **McKean: The Governor's County** (Stone, 1926), page 171.

1916, federal and state highway partnerships were created with the passage of a federal act that allowed states to designate up to seven percent of its total highway mileage as part of a new federal highway system. States were responsible for selecting the routes, setting priorities, and planning. The newly created Bureau of Public Roads within the Federal Highway Administration provided guidance, then reviewed and approved the state's decisions. States were then eligible for federal funds. These funds, which had to be matched by the state, were apportioned to each state by a legislated formula.

In Pennsylvania, five east-west routes (6, 22, 30, 322, 422) and five north-south routes (11, 19, 219, 220) were selected to be U. S. routes. By 1940, most of these routes were two lanes, and provided access to large regions of the state to travelers from both within and outside Pennsylvania. In recognition of their importance, some of these through routes were given names honoring military units and famous men. U. S Route 6 became the Grand Army of the Republic Highway, U. S. 322 the 28th Division Highway, U. S. 30 the Lincoln Highway, U. S. 422 the Benjamin Franklin Highway, and U. S. 22 the William Penn Highway.[67]

The Commonwealth has had an active state system of modern highways since the Sproul Road Act of 1911 and the Sproul-Sadler Act of 1919. The need for a network of branch, feeder, extension and connecting lines grew at first from the demands of passenger traffic, then for the delivery of freight, parcel post, and mail. In the 1890s, bicyclists also created a temporary demand for better roads, but it wasn't until the popularity of the automobile in the early twentieth century that the modern highway system that we know today was established.[68]

Following the death of Theodore Roosevelt in 1919, he was memorialized in place names across the nation. In 1923, Governor Gifford Pinchot, one of Roosevelt's most trusted advisors, signed legislation that named Pennsylvania Route 7 the Roosevelt Highway honoring his good friend. A booklet published by the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce proclaimed the Roosevelt Highway "a scenic route unrivalled [across northern Pennsylvania] . . . winding, a concrete ribbon along the mountainside."[69] Apparently, the coast-to-coast highway was not designated the Roosevelt Highway until the 1930s. The highway was re-numbered under the federal highway system and became U. S. Route 6; in 1937 it was renamed the Grand Army of the Republic Highway. Both names were still in use until at least 1940 in Pennsylvania, when the Roosevelt Highway of Pennsylvania, headquartered in Scranton, published a guidebook titled the **Roosevelt Highway and the G. A. R. Highway.**

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[67] **A Geography of Pennsylvania** (Miller, 1995), pages 241-242.
[68] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 94.
[69] **Pennsylvania Beautiful,** 1926, a booklet published by the State Publicity Bureau of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce.

By 1933, Pennsylvania had built about 2.2 miles of highway for every square mile of its area, well above the average of 0.87 for the nation as a whole. In 1935, about seven percent of all motor vehicles in the country were registered in Pennsylvania, or about 16 vehicles for every mile of road.[70]

New Beginnings and Safe Havens

Many people have come to northern Pennsylvania to make new beginnings. Some established homes here, some tried but failed. Others found safety and refuge among the people and landscape.

The First Nations

The first inhabitants in northern Pennsylvania arrived thousands of years before the first white man. Evidence of their lives has been found at hundreds of sites across the Route 6 corridor.

By the 18th century, several historic groups were living along the rivers and streams of northern Pennsylvania. Along the Susquehanna, the Nanticoke, Algonquian speakers from the eastern shore of Maryland, migrated northward along the river as early as 1700. In 1722, the Tuscarora, from North Carolina, moved into the Susquehanna Valley to join the Iroquois League. This League consisted of five sovereign "nations" indigenous to what is now New York State: the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida and Mohawk. Each nation enjoyed a certain autonomy, but came together periodically to address issues that impacted the entire League. The Iroquois Confederacy became the model for the organization of the United States – separate colonies, or states, that ruled themselves, and a national government that addressed broader concerns.

Pennsylvania's only port on the Great Lakes, and the lake that it borders, are named for the Eriez who inhabited these shores in late prehistoric times. About 1654, the Seneca wiped them out, and the region came under the control of the Iroquois. In 1784, the Commonwealth signed a treaty with the Six Nations for all of the land in northwestern Pennsylvania, with the exception of the Erie Triangle.[71]

The Iroquois claimed most of the Susquehanna Valley in 1674 when they defeated the Susquehannocks. The Susquehanna Valley became a haven for native peoples from the east who were beginning to suffer the devastating effects of European contact. Eventually, the Europeans also began to move into the valley. The Iroquois, unable to effectively populate the valley with their own people, allowed

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[70] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 94.
[71] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 221-222.

non-Iroquoians to enter, as long as they accepted the political leadership of the Iroquois.

The Lenni Lenape,[72] or Delaware, populated most of eastern Pennsylvania. Like the Iroquois, they too were made up of several groups, but these groups were not separate nations. They were more equivalent to clans, or extended family groups, and each was represented by a symbol, or totem. The Delaware who lived along the Delaware River north of the Water Gap were known as the Munsee, or Wolf Clan. The so-called "Moravian Indians" were Delaware and Mahigans from New England who had been baptized by the Moravian missionaries of the 18th century. These Moravian Indians were the last to be forced out of eastern Pennsylvania by colonial pressures. Their town of Friedenshuetten near Wyalusing in Bradford County was abandoned in 1772.

During the first half of the 18th century, various groups of Iroquoians lived along both the Susquehanna and the Allegheny rivers with other non-Iroquoian groups. Groups of Delaware and Shawnee had begun to move into the Allegheny River valley from the Susquehanna as early as 1725; by 1755, most of the towns in the Susquehanna valley were empty. The few Delaware who remained, generally at Wyoming or further north, continued to live more or less peaceably with the white settlers. In the Upper Ohio, most of the Delaware and Shawnee were won over by the French who were trying to establish a claim in northwestern Pennsylvania by the mid 18th century. The largest Delaware settlement along the Allegheny was near the mouth of Tionesta Creek.[73] By 1754, at the outset of the French & Indian War, these groups were strong allies of the French against the British. French-supported Delaware raiding parties ranged as far east as the Delaware River.[74]

The last organized Indian settlement in Pennsylvania was located along the Allegheny River near Warren. The Cornplanter Indian Settlement had been the home of Cornplanter (1740-1836). Cornplanter was the son of a Seneca woman and John Abeel, a trader from New York; following in the matrilineal tradition of the Iroquois empire, of which the Seneca were part, Cornplanter lived with the Seneca all his life. He fought with the French during the French and Indian War, and with the British during the American Revolution, but after the Treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1784, became a friend of the Americans. He assisted the Commonwealth in the 1790s in opening northwestern Pennsylvania for settlement, and was rewarded with a tract of 640 acres.[75] Seneca continued to live here into the 20th century. In the 1930s, writers of the Works Projects Administration described the settlement and its 100 people as follows:

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[72] Lenni Lenape has been translated from the Delaware language as "real people."
[73] **History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania,** Vol. 2, (Leeson, 1890), page 989.
[74] *A Map of 18th Century Indian Towns in Pennsylvania,* (Kent et al., 1981), pages 15 and 17.
[75] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 371.

They occupy small unpainted shacks, cultivate tiny patches of corn and beans, and dress in blue denim trousers and ordinary shoes, but their shirts are flamboyant. The 'unconquerable' Seneca retain a number of their own laws and penalties, but the 'seven major crimes' are tried in regular courts. Annually, in February, a tribal ceremony is held in honor of Cornplanter, so named for his activities in leading his people to take up agriculture.[76]

The Seneca were removed from their home along the Allegheny River for the construction of the Kinzua Dam.

Connecticut Yankees

Look closely at a map of the United States. Pennsylvania and Connecticut share the same line of latitude as their northern boundaries. Connecticut is due east of northern Pennsylvania. It is not so surprising then, that Connecticut Yankees in the mid-18th century became interested in northern Pennsylvania.

It was not unusual, given the state of surveying and knowledge the geography of North America in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, that European monarchs, eager to establish their control in the New World, often claimed overlapping tracts, or granted the same charter to more than one person. Confusion over just what country controlled what became more acute when settlers arrived to establish colonies. William Penn and his heirs established a system for extinguishing the claims of the Delaware, Susquehanna, Iroquois and other Native Americans by purchasing large areas by treaty with little or no bloodshed. They were not as successful in resolving boundary conflicts with the charter claims of their fellow Europeans. The present boundaries of Pennsylvania are the result of much wrangling and conflict between the Penns and the provincial governments of Connecticut, New York, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware.

The controversy between Pennsylvania and Connecticut resulted from conflicting charter claims. Connecticut claimed all of northern Pennsylvania, a region amounting to about one-third of the present area of the Commonwealth, reaching from the Delaware River to the current western boundary. By the mid-18th century, residents of Connecticut became interested in the Wyoming Valley, and land companies like the Susquehanna Company and the Delaware Company were established to promote settlement there by 1754. Members of the Company settled Wyalusing in the early 1750s. Some of the Indians, who were already living there, under the leadership of John Papunhank, remained and were converted to Christianity by David Zeisberger and became Moravians. The Indian settlement was renamed Friedenshuetten, but was abandoned June 11, 1772.[77]

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[76] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 371.
[77] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 363.

The Connecticut legislature created Westmoreland County in 1774 to provide legal support and to assert the colony's jurisdiction. This county extended from the Delaware River to a point just north of Shamokin, then north to just beyond the present New York state line.

In the summer of 1769, John Durkee came to the Wyoming Valley with a few settlers from Connecticut. Durkee was a veteran of the French and Indian War, and at the settlement he founded named Wilkes-Barre, he constructed a small fort. The construction of this fort served as a much-needed defense against hostile Native Americans, but more importantly it was an affront to the government of the Penns.[78] It precipitated the first of a series of violent confrontations between the Pennsylvania and Connecticut settlers in the region. By 1771, Connecticut settlers controlled the Wyoming Valley, and by 1774 there were as many as seventeen Connecticut settlements. Anxious to demonstrate solidarity at the outbreak of the Revolution, the Continental Congress ordered the two colonies to stop fighting. A tenuous and short-lived peace was achieved between the colonies while the nation went to war.

As many as 6,000 Connecticut settlers lived along the Susquehanna River by the early 1780s. Hostilities between the colonies became known as the Pennamite Wars,[79] and persisted until 1782 when Congress finally overturned Connecticut's claim with the Decree of Trenton. This renewed hostilities between the states, resulting in the second Pennamite War. In 1785-86, while the region was governed by Pennsylvania, the New Englanders organized a strong movement to establish a separate, independent state. The effort failed, and in 1800 Connecticut released its claims.[80]

By 1785, Pennsylvania's northern boundary was surveyed, except for the Erie Triangle. Congress interceded on Pennsylvania's behalf to negotiate an agreement with New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut to relinquish their claims to this important port. In 1792, the Erie Triangle was purchased from the federal government by the Commonwealth for 75 cents an acre.[81] After more than a century of treaties, confrontation, and political maneuvering, the northern boundary of Pennsylvania was finally established.

The Donation and Depreciation Lands

The resolution of the Revolutionary War created a land crisis for the newly organized government of Pennsylvania. The state assumed ownership of more than 22 million acres of unsurveyed lands that had belonged to the heirs of William Penn.

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[78] There is a story that the Yankees attempted to make a cannon from a tree trunk at Fort Durkee. The wood was reinforced with iron bands. It survived a test firing with a light charge, but when the charge was increased, the "cannon" exploded. (**Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 337).

[79] Sometimes referred to as the Yankee-Pennamite War.

[80] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 335-336.

[81] **Atlas of Pennsylvania** (Cuff et al., 1989), page 81; **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 222.

As representatives of the enemy British government, the Commonwealth was eager to extinguish the proprietor's claims to any portion of the state, and did so by passing the Divesting Act of 1779. By the end of the war, Pennsylvania had purchased even more land from the Indians, and was now faced with promoting settlement in these new areas, including most of northwestern Pennsylvania.

The Commonwealth set aside a large area in northwestern Pennsylvania that was to be granted to veterans of the Revolutionary War. This tract was known as the Donation and Depreciation Lands because it was awarded to the soldiers in lieu of actual pay. The depreciation of the continental currency following the war made it practically worthless, and the Commonwealth reasoned that a land grant would not only square their accounts with the veterans, but also encourage settlement in northwestern Pennsylvania. In addition to these grants, an additional 112 tracts in the region were granted to educational and religious institutions between 1785 and 1792.

Despite these efforts, settlement in northwestern Pennsylvania proceeded slowly. As late as 1792, settlers were still threatened by remnants of the Native American population. In 1792, the Pennsylvania General Assembly, eager to settle the region and to collect the revenues from the sale of the land, passed the Land Act. The passing of this act coincided with the ending of Indian hostilities in the region. It encouraged both settlers and speculators by reducing the cost of the land and lifting settlement requirements on tracts east of the Allegheny River. West of the river, landowners were still expected to cultivate or make improvements within a reasonable time following their purchase. Land was sold in 400-acre parcels, with no limit on the number of parcels an individual could buy. Land speculators, like the Holland Land Company, the North American Land Company, and the Pennsylvania Population Company, acquired vast holdings in the forests of northwestern Pennsylvania. Many of these companies failed to develop and manage their large tracts, often amounting to tens of thousands of acres, and eventually lost them to squatters. In the tradition of the "tomahawk claim" of the early 18th century, the squatters improved their acreage and successfully resisted efforts, both legal and physical, by the companies to remove them.[82]

A Royal Asylum

When the United States declared its independence from Great Britain, many of England's former rivals pledged support, money, and troops. Persuaded by Benjamin Franklin, the French allied with the upstart nation in 1779, and shortly after that, the Marquis de Lafayette arrived and became one of George Washington's most trusted advisors. His brother-in-law, Louis de Noailles, who traveled throughout the colonies, accompanied Lafayette.

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[82] **Atlas of Pennsylvania** (Cuff et al., 1989), page 83.

After the war, Noailles returned to France. But as the French Revolution threatened the governing aristocracy of his homeland in the 1790s, Noailles returned to North America with the idea of establishing a colony where the court of Louis the XVI, and its followers, could find refuge. He arrived in 1792, and was joined by his partner, Antoine Omer Talon in 1793. Robert Morris helped the Frenchmen acquire eight 300-acre lots in northern Pennsylvania. Both Connecticut and Pennsylvania still claimed the area they selected along the Susquehanna River, so the would-be founders negotiated deals with landowners of both colonies by threatening them with action by the other colony.

The work of clearing the tract began under the direction of Charles Bue Boulogne. Two-story log houses were constructed, with roofs of pine shingles, shutters, French furniture, and large glass windows, a rarity on the colonial frontier. Unlike the poverty faced by settlers in the Donation and Depreciation Lands in western Pennsylvania, the wealthy French settlers could afford many things that their contemporaries only imagined. The financial affairs of these well-to-do colonists were managed by an Amsterdam banking firm under the Ceres Land Company, which was supervised by Jean Samuel Courderc, for whom the town of Coudersport was named.[83] The settlement soon boasted 50 or 60 houses, well-stocked stores, three taverns and a dance hall. Most remarkable was La Grande Maison, a two-and-one-half story log building 84 feet long by 60 feet wide, with 16 fireplaces.

Among the exiles that found refuge were Louis Philippe, who would later become the King of France, and the noted statesman and diplomat, Talleyrand. Marie Antoinette was expected, but was captured and beheaded before she could escape France. When Napoleon was granted amnesty in 1802, many of the aristocrats left their wilderness Asylum and returned to France. A few stayed on, moving to new settlements in the region.[84]

Leeks and Nettles in Abundance

Land company agents dispatched to northern Pennsylvania to survey and open the lands faced incredible hardship. Benjamin Burt came to what was to be Potter County in 1811. Isaac Lyman and John Keating, manager of the Ceres Land Company, based in Philadelphia, had opened an east-west road in 1808. Burt's description of the early days of Potter County follows:

> I moved in on the 4th of May, 1811, and had to follow the fashion of the country for building and other domestic concerns, which was rather tough, there being not a bushel of grain or potatoes, not a pound of meat, except wild, to be had in the country. But there were leeks and nettles in abundance, which, with venison and bear's meat, seasoned with hard work and a keen appetite, made a most delicious dish. The friendly Indians of different tribes frequently visited us on their hunting

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[83] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 367-368.
[84] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 364.

excursions. Among other vexations were the gnats, a very minute but poisonous insect, that annoyed us far more than mosquitoes, or even hunger or cold, and in summer we could not work without raising a smoke around us.

Our roads were so bad that we had to fetch our provisions fifty to seventy miles on pack horses. In this way we lived until we could raise our own grain and meat. By the time we had grain to grind Mr. [Isaac] Lyman had built a small grist-mill, but the roads still being bad, and the mill at some distance from me, I fixed an Indian samp mortar to pound my corn, and afterwards I contrived a small hand-mill, by which I have ground many a bushel, but it was hard work. When we went out after provisions with a team we were compelled to camp out in the woods, and, if in the winter, to chop maple trees for our cattle to browse on all night, and on this kind of long fodder we had to keep our cattle a good part of the winter.

When I came here I had a horse that I called "Main Dependence," on account of his being a good, steady old fellow. He used to carry my whole family on his back whenever we went to a wedding, a raising, a logging-bee, or to visit our neighbors, for several years, until the increasing load comprised itself, my wife and three children – five in all.

We had often to pack our provisions eighty miles, from Jersey Shore, sixty miles of the road being without a house. In the winter, when deep snows came on and caught us on the road without a fire, we would have perished if several of us had not been in company to assist each other.

The want of leather, after our first shoes were worn out, was severely felt. Neither tanner nor shoemaker lived in the county. But "necessity is the mother of invention." I made me a trough out of a big pine tree, into which I put the hides of any cattle that died among us. I used ashes for tanning them, instead of lime, and bear's grease for oil. The thicker served for sole leather, and the thinner, dressed with a drawing knife, for upper leather. And thus I made shoes for myself and neighbors.

I had fourteen miles to go in winter to mill with an ox-team. The weather was cold and the snow deep, no roads were broken, and no bridges across the streams. I had to wade the streams, and carry the bags on my back. The ice frozen to my coat was heavy as a bushel of corn. I worked hard all day, and only got seven miles by the first night, when I chained my team to a tree, and walked three miles to house myself. The second night I reached the mill. My courage often failed, and I almost resolved to return, but when I thought of my children crying for bread I took new courage.[85]

Quick Draw

Hostilities between Native Americans and settlers are legendary across the corridor. Tom Quick, who settled near present Milford in 1733, was killed by hostile Indians as his young son watched in 1755. The son spent much of his life revenging his father's death by carefully documenting his own murderous spree. As he lay dying

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[85] **History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania,** Vol. 2, (Leeson, 1890), page 994.

some 40 years later, he begged his friends to bring him one more Indian to bring his tally to an even hundred.[86]

White Columns and Classical Design

It wasn't long after the initial settlement of northern Pennsylvania before elements of classical architecture surfaced on homes and public buildings. Post-colonial America, while eager to demonstrate its sovereignty, was also keenly aware of its roots in western tradition and thought. About the time of the 50th anniversary of the Revolution, this revival was in full swing. It's not surprising, then, to find so many wonderful examples of Georgian Colonial and Greek Revival architecture in the towns of northern Pennsylvania that were being established at this time.

By the 1820s, as Americans celebrated their heritage of democracy based on the ideas of the ancient Greeks, the Greek temple became the source of architectural inspiration. The Old Custom House in Erie (1839), designed by William Kelly, was originally a branch of the United States Bank of Pennsylvania. Its façade of Vermont marble and its stately columns and classical proportions are an excellent example of the Greek Revival style. The Tioga County Courthouse in Wellsboro, with its wonderful Greek Ionic columns, built in 1832, is the oldest courthouse in the state to still be used as a courthouse and is an artifact of this important northern Pennsylvania architectural tradition.

The Greek Revival style was not limited to public buildings, and vernacular interpretations of it persist in the houses along the corridor. In the 1930s, the Historic American Building Survey was established, and most of the houses documented in the early days of this survey in northern Pennsylvania exhibited the Greek Revival style.

By the late 19th century, huge fortunes were being made in northern Pennsylvania, and the ornate Victorian mansions lining the quiet streets of many towns along Route 6 are artifacts of this wealth. Victorian styles borrow from many architectural traditions, and it is this eclecticism that imparts their charm. Asymmetry, towers, extensive porches, ornate windows and doors, cut and stained glass, and multi-colored paint schemes combine with a sense of spaciousness that makes these "painted ladies" stately residents of the towns of the oil, coal, and lumber barons.

Sold for $100

One of William Penn's legacies that has shaped the Commonwealth was his tolerant attitude toward different religions, races and cultures. By the time of the Revolution, even as Penn's colonial government was being overthrown, the Pennsylvania provisional government passed an anti-slavery bill in 1776, the first in the New World. Despite strong anti-slavery sentiments, legally held black slaves were

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[86] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 356.

present in the state throughout the 18th and early 19th centuries. In the first national census of 1790, 10,274 blacks were counted in Pennsylvania, making up just more than two percent of the state's population.[87]

Asylum Peters was born in Bradford, Pennsylvania in 1793. In 1806, he worked as a cook for General Brevost, a surveyor who came to work in Ceres Township, McKean County. When the survey work was finished, Peters was sold to William Ayers for $100 and the promise that he would receive "a fair common education until he was of age," when he was to be set free. When Ayers moved to the Keating farm, located about six miles east of Coudersport, in 1808, Peters moved with him. It's not clear what happened to Peters after that, since he does not appear again in the historical record.[88]

Follow the Drinking Gourd: The Underground Railroad

The story of the Underground Railroad is one of individual sacrifice and heroism, and has been called the most dramatic protest action against slavery in United States history.[89] This clandestine operation involved thousands of individuals and hundreds of locations throughout the United States.[90] It began as early as the 18th century and reached its peak between 1830 and 1865. The National Park Service has identified the preservation and interpretation of the Underground Railroad as an excellent example of the "new wave" of national park units known as cooperative or partnership parks.

The Underground Railroad was the vast network of routes and safe houses that slaves traveled and visited as they attempted to reach freedom in the north. Traveling by night, guided by the "drinking gourd" (the north star in the Little Dipper), and with the help of sympathizers along the way, slaves walked along an established network of paths and roads, through swamps and over mountains, along and across rivers, and even by sea. The Fugitive Slave Bill of 1850 made if more dangerous for these "runaways" to travel through and find refuge in northern cities, and more secretive routes through the rural regions of the Appalachians, including northern Pennsylvania, were developed, including a route along the Allegheny River and across the northern tier. To the east, routes have been identified along both the Delaware River and the Susquehanna and its northern tributaries.[91]

Smethport was an important stop along the Underground Railroad as early as 1827. Escaping slaves traveled up the Allegheny River to Warren, then continued east

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[87] **A Geography of Pennsylvania.** (Miller, 1995), page 116.
[88] **History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania,** Vol. 1, (Leeson, 1890), page 101.
[89] National Park Service, *Special Resource Study: The Underground Railroad,* 1995, summary available online at http://www.nps.gov/undergroundrr/ugsum.htm.
[90] The National Park Service found elements of this story in 34 states, two territories, and Canada and the island countries of the Carribean. More than 380 potentially significant sites were identified nationwide, and at least 42 of these appeared to meet national historic landmark criteria for national significance.
[91] **Lincoln: The Northeastern Pennsylvania Connection,** (Freeman, 2000), pages 125-126.

to Smethport before turning north toward Olean, and eventually, freedom in Canada. Travelers along the Underground Railroad were dependent on the kindness of strangers to help them along.

The hotel in Smethport kept by David Young was a known safe haven. Four "forlorn looking slaves, foot-sore and weary, and terribly hungry" arrived there one day, "fleeing from hard-hearted masters" in the South. Young provided a good meal, gave them a small amount of money, and directed them to the next stopping place, a hotel in Olean, New York owned by a man named Backus. The travelers suspected that their masters were in close pursuit, so Young sent them to a lumber camp outside of town to spend the night. Later that same day, two men on horseback hurried into Smethport asking about the runaway slaves. Failing to get any information from the people of Smethport, the riders moved on to Olean.

At Olean, the riders were greeted warmly. They were told that they could find their quarry at a certain lumber camp, and were given directions to it. What they hadn't been told was that messengers had already been dispatched to warn the escaping slaves, who were safely on their way by the time the riders from the South reached the camp. At the camp, the slave owners were tarred and feathered by a group of enthusiastic masked men. About a week later, after the vigorous application of grease, soap, water, and other scrubbing appliances, the slave owners gave up their pursuit and headed south. The slaves successfully reached Canada.[92]

A Utopia of Snakes and Stones

In the mid-19th century, Americans were searching for enlightenment. As the nation prepared to battle itself, and as the Industrial Revolution revved its engines, many people longed for quieter, less contentious times. The forests of northern Pennsylvania that had sheltered hundreds of escaping slaves provided a setting for the utopian community of Sylvania.

In 1842, Horace Greeley, publisher of the *New York Tribune,* subscribed to the ideas of the French Socialist, François Marie Charles Fourier. Fourier (1772-1837) proposed that a society could be organized into self-sufficient units of 1,600 members, which he called phalanxes. Greeley, disillusioned with New York society and caught up in the great movement west, founded the Sylvania Society, and charged them with establishing a colony, Sylvania, in northern Pennsylvania, not far from Milford. The Society, founded on the principles of common land ownership and equal division of labor, bought several thousand acres and built a large common building and shops. Almost immediately, dissension grew among the three to four hundred colonists when Greeley declared that a woman should run the colony, and the "directing board" had trouble making work assignments to everyone's satisfaction. Many of the colonists had been recruited from affluent New York families and were

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[92] **History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania,** Vol. 1, (Leeson,1890), page 101.

unaccustomed to the rigors of homesteading, especially in a place that Greeley later described "could only raise snakes and stones." Crop failure caused by a freeze on the Fourth of July in 1845, ended the colony.[93]

To found a New Norway

As settlement spread across northern Pennsylvania in the mid-19th century, international celebrities acknowledged the advancement of civilization by performing in the opera houses and concert halls of booming cities like Williamsport. One of the most celebrated performers of the time was Ole Borneman Bull.

Bull was born in Bergen, Norway in 1810. By 1831, he was already recognized as a violin virtuoso, performing for large audiences in all the great cities of Europe. On a visit to Paris, his violin was stolen. Overwhelmed, he supposedly stood on a bridge over the Seine contemplating suicide, where Alexandrine Felice Villeminot, whom he later married, rescued him. Bull continued to tour the continent, and in 1843-44, made a concert tour of Canada, the United States, and the West Indies. Bull reached Williamsport on his second American tour in 1852, where he met John F. Cowan.

Cowan had a reputation as an unpleasant man,[94] but Bull, an accomplished wrestler, was apparently not intimidated. Cowan took Bull into the Black Forest, where Bull was struck by the similarity to his native Norway. He bought 11,144 acres from Cowan for $10,000 with the intention of founding a Norwegian colony. The towns of Oleona, New Norway, New Bergen, and Walhalla were laid out, and soon as many as 800 Norwegian colonists had settled in northern Pennsylvania. Bull also successfully negotiated with the United States government to build 2,000 cannon. He bought an additional 20,000 acres and leased a deserted foundry in Wyoming County, with plans to build a new smelting furnace for making iron.

With the colony growing steadily and quickly, Bull resumed touring with his violin. He once again lost his violin while traveling in Panama, and was stricken with yellow fever while visiting New Orleans. When he returned to Pennsylvania, he learned that Cowan had not really owned the land he sold to Bull. Bull, low on cash, could not afford to purchase the entire tract from the legal owner, a Quaker named Stewardson, even though he offered a low price. Bull managed to buy the lands that had been settled by his colonists and began litigation against Cowan. In retaliation, the swindlers managed to have Bull arrested on a number of trumped-up charges.

To pay for his increasing legal bills, Bull went on tour in the American West, where he contracted malaria. He lost most of his land in Pennsylvania, and returned to Europe in 1857. Many of his settlers moved to Wisconsin. Despite his bad experience, Bull made several return trips to America, and eventually moved to

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[93] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 356.

[94] One of his contemporaries noted that he would "as soon pick the bait from a steel trap as have any dealing with him." (**Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 366.)

Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he was friend and neighbor to Longfellow. Bull died in 1880 while on a visit to Norway.[95]

Kane

General Thomas L. Kane founded the town that bears his name in the early 1860s. Originally known as Clarion Summit, then Kane Summit, he came to the region with his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Kane. The Kanes were a progressive couple. General Kane recruited the Bucktail Regiment at the start of the Civil War. Dr. Kane supposedly talked her way through enemy lines to be by his side and treat him when he was wounded and captured during the war. After the war, Dr. Kane and her sons Evan and Thomas founded the first hospital in Kane. General Kane became an ardent supporter of human rights, and, in particular rallied to end the persecution of the Mormons. He is credited with averting a war between the Mormons and the U. S. Government in the late 1800s.

Dr. Evan O'Neill Kane was a well-known surgeon of the early 20th century. In 1921, while Chief Surgeon at Kane Summit Hospital, he removed his own appendix to demonstrate that local anesthesia was a feasible alternative to ether. Later, at the age of 70, he operated on his own hernia.[96]

Grey Towers

One of the most progressive leaders of Pennsylvania, Gifford Pinchot lived on an extensive estate near Milford. The castle like residence was built in 1886 and is presently being restored by its owner, the United States Forest Service. The gray stone structure has 23 fireplaces, three towers, and a "Scotch Garden" surrounded by a high stone wall.[97]

Visionaries, Achievers and Social Entrepreneurs

The Route 6 corridor has been the site of ideas that have influenced, changed, and transformed Americans. Individual efforts have resulted in incredible achievements.

Camptown Races & Westerns

Two of the famous American writers spent part of their careers in northern Pennsylvania. And both became famous for their work that featured a different

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[95] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), pages 366-367.

[96] *Brief Historical Sketch [of Kane, PA],* online at http://sunrise.simplenet.com/kanehistory.

[97] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 356.

region of the country. Stephen Foster's songs of the South and Zane Grey's western novels have defined important elements of America's national mythology.

Stephen Foster is one of America's best-known songwriters of the 19th century. Ironically, a short trip in the southern United States served as the inspiration for many of the songs of this native-born Pennsylvanian.

Foster was born July 4, 1826 in Lawrenceville, near Pittsburgh. In 1840-41, Foster resided in Towanda and Athens. While here, he began to write, completing his first known work, "The Tioga Waltz." It is generally believed that one of his best-known songs, "Camptown Races," was written about the horse races at Camptown, near Wyalusing. Foster died in New York City in 1864, but his songs, included "Oh, Susanna," "My Old Kentucky Home," and "Old Folks at Home" are icons of American music.[98]

Zane Grey lived near Lackawaxen from 1905-1918. His "Riders of the Purple Sage," published in 1912, was perhaps his most famous work, and was written while he was in Pennsylvania.

The Crawford County System

In the 19th century, the nomination of party candidates for political office was a messy affair. On September 9, 1842, Democrats in Crawford County were first to use a direct primary to nominate candidates for county offices. By 1860, Republicans in the county had also adopted the method. By the 20th century, the direct primary, or "Crawford County System," had become the nation's standard system for selecting party nominees.[99]

The Most Eloquent Man in Bradford County

David Wilmot was born in Bethany, Wayne County, on January 20, 1814. He received his early education at the Beech Woods Academy in Bethany and at the Cayuga Lake Academy in Aurora, New York. At the age of 18, he left school and entered the law office of George W. Woodward of Wilkes-Barre. In a little more than two years, he was admitted to practice law in Luzerne County on August 5, 1834 and in Bradford County on September 8, 1834. By the end of that year, he had entered into a law partnership with Simon Kinney.[100]

His youthful appearance and passion for public speaking earned him the title of "boy orator." In 1843, the New York Globe described Wilmot as "corpulent, with a full red face, as fair and smooth as a woman's. The personal appearance of Mr. Wilmot does not strike very favorably at first; he looks too much like a Great Boy, but as soon as he speaks, that impression vanishes. His voice is rich, full, melodious. He

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[98] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 156.

[99] *Birthplace of the Direct Primary,* historical marker, (Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 2000).

[100] A very detailed description and analysis of the role of northeastern Pennsylvania, including Wilmot, in national politics of the 19th century is provided in **Lincoln: The Northeastern Pennsylvania Connection,** (Freeman, 2000).

is called the most eloquent man in Bradford County . . .. [He] has the dignified bearing of a gentleman, converses charmingly and it is a luxury to hear him laugh, but he is an inveterate chewer of tobacco – his hair hangs loosely about his eyes – his is almost slovenly in dress and not overly pious in his language. He is evidently more ambitious to shine as a politician than as a jurist, and may figure yet somewhere."[101] The newspaper had made an accurate prediction and in October 1844 Wilmot was elected to Congress. As a Democrat, he represented the counties of Bradford, Tioga, and Susquehanna.

When Wilmot began his political career, the United States was at war with Mexico. President Polk asked Congress for an appropriation of $2 million to be used to negotiate peace with Mexico, in anticipation that California and New Mexico might be added to the United States. On August 8, 1846, Wilmot offered a rider to this appropriations bill that banned slavery in any new territory that might be obtained from Mexico.[102] Known as the Wilmot Proviso, it passed in the House several times but was rejected by the Senate. In 1847, the House again passed a new appropriations bill, with the proviso intact, but the Senate rewrote the bill, excluding the proviso. The proviso had failed, but hostility between pro-slavery and anti-slavery groups (essentially, Southern states versus Northern states) was increased.

The provisions of Wilmot's rider came up for a vote at the national conventions of both the Democratic and Whig political parties in 1846. When they were not incorporated into the party platforms, supporters of the proviso walked out and later combined to form the Free Soil party, the immediate ancestor of the modern Republican Party.[103]

Wilmot's ardent anti-slavery stand placed him in an influential position in party politics. In 1849, at the beginning of his third term in Congress, he became a member of the Free Soil party. The party grew out of the desire of the growing number of abolitionists to insure that slavery would be banned in new territories. In the mid-19th century, Americans were looking west, and the country's boundaries were rapidly expanding. Wilmot's Proviso had set the stage for a renewed national confrontation about slavery. The abolition of slavery was a determining factor in Wilmot's decision to leave the Democratic Party, and became the basis for the formation of the Republican Party, which he helped organize in 1854. Wilmot ran as the first Republican candidate for the office of governor in 1857, but was defeated by the Democratic candidate, William F. Packer.

After his third term in Congress, Wilmot served as a judge for the 13th Judicial District in Bradford, Susquehanna and Sullivan counties. During his campaign for

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[101] Quoted by the Bradford County Historical Society, *David Wilmot Helped End Slavery in America,* at http://www.rocket-courier.com/wyalusing/poi/davidwilmot.html.

[102] This territory was huge, and included the Texas Territory, the California Territory, and the New Mexico Territory, an area that included present-day Texas, California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and parts of Oklahoma, Colorado, and Wyoming.

[103] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 359.

governor, he resigned as judge. After the election, outgoing Governor Pollock appointed him president judge of the 13th District. Wilmot became a target of the Democratic Party. Facing re-election in 1858, Wilmot uncovered a Democratic plot to have his district eliminated by attaching it to a neighboring district. The embattled judge was able to mount a defense, and the plot was defeated and Wilmot was re-elected.

By 1860, the nation was becoming deeply divided by the issues of slavery and secession that would soon erupt in civil war. Seven candidates were nominated for president that year, including Abraham Lincoln from Illinois. Wilmot supported Lincoln, and was able to build a majority for his candidate in the Pennsylvania delegation at the Republican National Convention in Chicago.

Wilmot was offered a position in Lincoln's cabinet, but instead campaigned to fill the term of U. S. Senator Simon Cameron, who did join Lincoln's cabinet. Later that year, Wilmot became ill. He never fully recovered, and died at his home in Towanda on March 16, 1868. But before he died, as a member of the Senate, he voted for the 13th Amendment, which incorporated the principles of the Wilmot Proviso into the U. S. Constitution.

David Wilmot's stand against slavery, represented in his proviso and in the political parties he helped found, created bitterness between the North and the South, and helped to focus the conflict over the extension of slavery into new territories. The Wilmot Proviso set the stage for the dissolution of the Union, and is generally cited as one of the causes of the Civil War.[104]

Savior of the Spirituals

Harry T. Burleigh was born in Erie in 1866. One of America's premier composers in the 19th century, he celebrated the music of his own culture by creating arrangements for more than 100 African-American folk songs. He has been called the "The Savior of the Spirituals" for bringing this traditional American music to the attention of the musical world. His best-known song is "Deep River." Burleigh is buried in Erie.[105]

Special Education

In these days of legislation that insures public education for everyone, we take for granted that it wasn't always this way. The Reverend Jacob M. Koehler founded the Scranton State School for the deaf in 1882. Koehler, who was himself deaf,

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[104] Bradford County Historical Society, *David Wilmot Helped End Slavery in America*, online at http://www.rocket-courier.com/wyalusing/poi/davidwilmot.html; Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia, 2000, *Wilmot Proviso* and *Free-Soil Party*, Columbia University Press, online at http://kids.infoplease.lycos.com/ce6/history; Encyclopedia Britannica, 2000, *Wilmot Proviso,* online at www.britannica.com/bcom/eb.
[105] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 157.

became a staunch advocate of compulsory education of the deaf, and served as officer of several state, national, and international organizations.[106]

Lester Frank Ward (1841-1913) grew up in Bradford County. He was a veteran of the Civil War, and is recognized as the Father of American Sociology.[107] Ward was also a supporter of public education, as he noted in 1897:

> The secret of the superiority of state over private education lies in the fact that in the former the teacher is responsible to society . . . the result desired by the state is a wholly different one from that desired by parents, guardians, and pupils.

Ward, a trained geologist, also became interested in the effects of industrialization and development across the 19th century American landscape. He wrote:

> In many respects the botanist looks at the world from a point of view precisely the reverse of that of other people. Rich fields of corn are to him waste lands; cities are his abhorrence, and great open areas under high cultivation he calls "poor country;" while on the other hand the impenetrable forest delights his gaze, the rocky cliff charms him, thin-soiled barrens, boggy fens, and unreclaimed swamps and morasses are for him the finest land in a State. He takes no delight in the "march of civilization," the ax and the plow are to him symbols of barbarism, and the reclaiming of waste lands and opening up of his favorite haunts to civilization he instinctively denounces as acts of vandalism.[108]

An early experiment in distance education was conducted in Scranton in the late 19th century. Thomas J. Foster (1843-1936) established the International Correspondence Schools, the "World Schoolhouse," in 1891.[109]

A "school of thought" was also originated in northern Pennsylvania. The noted philosopher, logician, scientist, Charles S. Pierce, lived in Milford from 1887 until his death in 1914. Pierce is credited with being the founder of pragmatism, and is considered to be one of America's most original philosophers.[110]

Scranton's Street Cars

As people crowded the towns and cities in the late 19th century, and as those cities grew, a transportation system was needed to move people around. Trains worked between towns, but were impractical in town. The availability of electricity

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[106] *Rev. Jacob M. Koehler,* historical marker, (Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1999).

[107] *Lester Frank Ward,* historical marker, (Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1967).

[108] From **Guide to the Flora of Washington [DC] and Vicinity** (Ward, 1881); excerpts online at http://web.a-znet.com/murte/wardhomepage.htm (author unknown).

[109] *Thomas J. Foster,* historical marker, (Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1948).

[110] *Charles S. Pierce,* historical marker, (Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1948).

provided a solution. The first electrically powered streetcar system in the United States was built in Scranton; it began operation on November 30, 1886.[111]

Hall of Famers

At least two important turn of the last century sports heroes are associated with the Route 6 corridor. Walter Tewksbury, Olympic champion, and Christy Mathewson, one of the five "Baseball Immortals," began their careers in northern Pennsylvania.

Walter Tewksbury was born March 21, 1876 in Ashley, Pennsylvania. He earned his degree in dentistry at the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a member of the track team. In 1898 and 1899, he was the intercollegiate champion in the 100-meter sprint, and in 1900 he tied the world record of 10.8 seconds for this race. As a member of the 1900 Olympic team, he won five medals at the games in Paris. He won the gold medal for the 200-meter and 400-meter hurdles, the silver for the 60-meter and 100-meter sprints, and the bronze for the 200-meter low hurdles. After the Olympics, he practiced dentistry in Tunkhannock until his death in 1968. He was inducted into the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1996.[112]

Christy Mathewson was born to well-to-do parents in Factoryville, Pennsylvania. He studied forestry at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, where he was elected class president, headed two literary societies, and was the kicker on the 1900 All-America football team. But his career lay on the baseball diamond, not the gridiron, and in the fall of 1900, Mathewson joined baseball's New York Giants. In his first season he won 20 games. In 1906, he completed the third of three consecutive 30-win seasons. In the 1905 World Series between the Giants and the A's, Mathewson pitched three shutouts in six days. He still holds the National League record for the most years winning 20 or more games (12). In his long career, he won 373 games. Considering that he didn't pitch on Sundays, out of deference to his mother, who'd wanted him to be a minister, and that seasons were shorter, this is an even more amazing achievement. When the baseball Hall of Fame started in 1936, "Matty" was one of the "Five Immortals" inducted that year.

Mathewson's achievements carried beyond the ball field. He was well known as an expert checkers player. He joined a chemical warfare unit during World War I, and was accidentally exposed to poison gas while serving in France. After the war, with his lungs weakened, he contracted tuberculosis, a condition that ultimately led to his death, but not until he had served as manager of the Cincinnati Reds and general manager of the Braves. He died on opening day of the 1925 World Series.[113]

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[111] *First Electric Cars,* historical marker, (Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1948).

[112] USA Track & Field (the national governing body for track and field, long-distance running, and race walking), *Hall of Fame,* online at http://usatf.org/athletes/hof/tewksbury.

[113] Official Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball, online at http://www.totalbaseball.com/player/m/mathc102.

Zippers, Rayon, and Affordable Housing

At the end of the 19th century, there weren't a lot of options for keeping your pants or dress closed. Buttons were popular, as they had been for centuries, and many women struggled daily to close and undo a long series of hooks-and-eyes. Colonel Lewis Walker of Meadville learned of a new invention that was to revolutionize the clothing industry – the hookless slide fastener, or, as we know it popularly today, the zipper.[114]

The first known slide fastener was made in Chicago by Whitcomb L. Judson. He arranged a series of small hooks on chains that were hooked and unhooked by moving a slider across them. Judson was unable to find financial backers for the production of his new invention until 1893, when Colonel Lewis Walker became interested. The first factory was located in Hoboken, New Jersey, but in 1913, Walker moved it to his hometown, Meadville. Business was slow until 1923, when the B. F. Goodrich Company began using them on galoshes and dubbed them "zippers" because of the sound. As the popularity of the fastener grew, the product improved to allow its use in many situations.[115]

By 1930, the Hookless Fastener Company was the largest employer in Meadville. With the opening of the American Viscose Company, a manufacturer of rayon and other synthetic materials that year, the population, which had been steadily growing since 1810, swelled to 16,698. The fastener and rayon businesses were so strong, that when the Depression of the 1930s crippled many American industries, Meadville actually enjoyed a bit of a boom. Both companies needed skilled workers; Hookless Fastener wanted to add 1,200 employees to its work force of 3,000, and American Viscose needed about 1,000 workers, increasing its total to 1,800. Rents rose above the average, and vacancy rates of existing structures fell well below one percent. With no affordable housing for the new workers, both companies were faced with expanding somewhere else, and there were plenty of towns ready to welcome them and their jobs.

The Meadville Chamber of Commerce stepped in and created the Meadville Housing Corporation on March 13, 1935. Stock was sold to members of the community, including businesses, industries, and individuals, including Hookless Fastener, American Viscose, and the United Natural Gas Company. The creation of the Federal Housing Administration also provided a boost, and the Corporation was the first in the nation authorized to build homes under the FHA, which insured an $800,000 mortgage fund carried by the Pennsylvania State Workman's Insurance Fund. In April 1936, the Corporation began construction of the 202 homes of its

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[114] The word "zipper" was the creation of B. F. Goodrich who first used slide fasteners to close the rubber boots he manufactured. The word was a registered trade name of the B. F. Goodrich Company, but, like Kleenex and Xerox, has entered everyday English as a common expression for that particular item.

[115] **Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State** (WPA, 1940), page 471.

Hillcrest project; the first tenants moved in six months later. The original mortgage was paid off in 1966.

During this time, the industries that had sustained Meadville in the 20th century were changing. Hookless Fastener became Talon, Incorporated, which was acquired by Textron in 1968. American Viscose Corporation was purchased by FMC Corporation. The management of Talon convinced the management of Textron to support the Meadville Housing Corporation by donating its stock in the company to the community. United Natural Gas, FMC, and other stockholders soon followed their example and donated their stock to three local charities.

Newly capitalized, the Corporation broke ground for its second project, Leslie Heights in 1970. Ten ranch-style homes were completed by 1971. In 1977, ground was broken for an apartment/townhouse complex, Northgate, which opened in 1978. The Corporation today manages 277 housing units according to the mission it established in 1936: to provide above-average housing at a reasonable cost.[116]

Safer Coal Mines

At the turn of the 20th century, Dr. Matthew J. Shields of Jermyn organized a first aid program for mine workers. It became the model for the industrial first aid plan of the American Red Cross.[117]

Sometimes it takes a disaster to make improvements. Such was the case in Lackawanna County, where the Pancoast Mine was the site of a disastrous fire on April 7, 1911. Seventy-two miners and a rescue worker died. In a few months, the state legislature required that all buildings at coal mines be constructed of incombustible materials.[118]

Don't be a Knocker

One of the most dramatic resources of the corridor is Grey Towers, the home of Gifford Pinchot near Milford. Grey Towers is owned by the U. S. Forest Service and is currently being restored. It is expected to re-open in 2001. When Gifford Pinchot took over the Division of Forestry in the U. S. Department of Agriculture in 1898, most of the nation's Forest Reserves were under the administration of the Department of the Interior, specifically, the General Land Office. The eleven people that Pinchot now supervised in his tiny division were the only professional foresters in the federal government, and they weren't associated with the federal forests. Pinchot was determined to change this.

Gifford Pinchot was born in Simsbury, Connecticut on August 11, 1865. His father's international business interests provided opportunity for the family to travel,

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[116] The history of the Meadville Housing Corporation was found online at http://www.meadvillepa.com/history.html (Meadville Chamber of Commerce).

[117] *First Aid Pioneer,* historical marker, (Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1947).

[118] *Anthracite Mine Disaster,* historical marker, (Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1994).

until Pinchot enrolled in Phillips Exeter Academy, then Yale University in 1885. His interest was in forestry, which was not offered at Yale, so after graduation he attended the national forestry school in France. When he returned to America in 1891, he took jobs surveying forest lands for several employers.

Pinchot was convinced that forests could produce timber and still be maintained for the future. When he was hired as Chief of the Division of Forestry in 1898, he launched a public relations campaign urging the need for forestry, and in 1905, the nation's forest preserves were transferred from the Department of Interior to the newly formed Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. Pinchot's ideas about conservation, based on a philosophy of wise use and service to the American people, also caught on with the public and with President Theodore Roosevelt. Pinchot became a close friend and adviser to the President, and from this position influenced public opinion and conservation legislation.

When William Howard Taft succeeded Roosevelt, Pinchot's influence in the White House ended. In fact, after a long battle with the new administration, Pinchot was fired. He started the National Conservation Association. When Roosevelt failed to win the Presidency in 1912, Pinchot worked with him to form the Progressive Party. In 1914, Pinchot ran for a seat in the Senate from Pennsylvania but lost. Later that year, he married Cornelia Bryce, an advocate of women's suffrage and working women.

Pinchot's progressive stand was noticed by the labor unions, farmers, and women's organizations in Pennsylvania. In 1921, the political machinery in Pennsylvania lost its stranglehold when Boise Penrose, Pinchot's opponent for the Senate in 1914, died. Pinchot saw an opportunity, ran for governor, and won.

During his terms as Governor of Pennsylvania (1922-1926 and 1930-1934[119]), Pinchot did much to reform state government. He eliminated the state's $30 million deficit and settled the Anthracite Strike of 1923. During his second term, at the height of the Depression, he advocated federal economic relief for the states.

By 1930, most of Pennsylvania's main routes were paved, but most rural roads were still gravel or dirt. In 1931, Gifford Pinchot had won the governor's office in Pennsylvania on a campaign to "take the farmer out of the mud." In his first year as governor, more than 1,500 miles of township roads were lightly surfaced with bituminous material at a cost of about $5,000 per mile, in contrast to the $40,000 per mile that it cost to pave primary roads at the time.[120] By the time he left office in 1935, more than 20,000 miles of road had been paved in Pennsylvania. Gifford Pinchot died of leukemia in New York City at the age of eighty-one.[121]

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[119] At the time, governors could not serve consecutive terms in Pennsylvania.
[120] **A Geography of Pennsylvania** (Miller, 1995), page 241.
[121] Biographical information and *Guide for Foresters* was found online at http://www.pinchot.org (United States Forest Service).

Guide for Foresters in Public Office
By Gifford Pinchot

1. A public official is there to serve the public and not to run them.
2. Public support of acts affecting public rights is absolutely required.
3. It is more trouble to consult the public than to ignore them, but that is what you are hired for.
4. Find out in advance what the public will stand for. If it is right and they won't stand for it, postpone action and educate them.
5. Use the press first, last, and all the time if you want to reach the public. Get rid of the attitude of personal arrogance or pride of attainment or superior knowledge.
6. Don't try any sly or foxy politics, because a forester is not a politician.
7. Learn tact simply by being absolutely honest and sincere, and by learning to recognize the point of view of the other man and meet him with arguments he will understand.
8. Don't be afraid to give credit to someone else when it belongs to you; not to do so is the sure mask of a weak man. But to do so is the hardest lesson to learn.
9. Encourage others to do things; you may accomplish many things through others that you can't get done on your single initiative.
10. Don't be a knocker; use persuasion rather than force, when possible. Plenty of knockers are to be found; your job is to promote unity.
11. Don't make enemies unnecessarily for trivial reasons. If you are any good, you will make plenty of them on matters of straight honesty and public policy, and you need all the support you can get.

Cable TV

It is often said that necessity is the mother of invention, and cable television is perhaps the epitome of this concept. The topography and distance from broadcast centers in north central Pennsylvania make it almost impossible to receive broadcast signals from the nearest television stations in Pennsylvania and southern New York State. Like many rural inhabitants across the nation, folks living in a large area that included parts of Lycoming, Tioga, Potter, McKean, Forest, Elk, Cameron, and Clinton counties had no access to broadcast television signals, and most of the rest of the northern tier between Scranton and Erie could receive only one station.[122] Cable television made reception possible in these areas.

Route 6 Timeline

Prehistory

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[122] **The Atlas of Pennsylvania** (Cuff et al., 1989, page 153.

Athens (Bradford County) was site of Indian village of Teaoga. Historically known as Tioga Point. Graves of an "Andaste chief" and others were excavated between 1883 and 1895. (PHMC)

"Carrying Path" – canoe portage, about 190 yards long, between the Chemung River to the Susquehanna River. (PHMC)

Sheshequin Path, a branch of the Warriors Path. Left Susquehanna at Sheshequin, now Ulster; crossed Sugar Creek; reached West Branch at Montoursville by way of the valleys of Towanda and Lycoming creeks, where it joined the Shamokin Path. Joined the Iroquois country at Shamokin area. Conrad Weiser took this route to Onondaga, capital of the Iroquois League, to represent PA in council. (PHMC)

Warriors Path
The Great Path from Iroquois country in New York to the Catawba country in the Carolinas was the primary travel route across what would become Pennsylvania. It followed the Allegheny Mountains by way of the Susquehanna and Juniata valleys. Wyalusing Rocks was a lookout place along the path. (PHMC)

The 23-mile crossing from the West Branch of the Susquehanna to the Allegheny River followed Portage Creek to a canoe place near the present town of Port Allegany. (PHMC)

Seneca Spring, near Kane, was a stopping place for Iroquois traveling along the path which connected the Iroquois lands in New York to the Catawba country in the Carolinas to the south and to Ohio in the west. (PHMC)

Buckaloons, an Indian village at the confluence of Brokenstraw Creek and the Allegheny River near Irvine, was visited by Celeron in 1749 and destroyed by Brodhead in 1779. Excavations have revealed a long-term prehistoric settlement, including burial mounds. (PHMC)

Archeological excavations of the Sugar Run Mounds near Cornplanter have revealed the remains of Hopewellian people who populated the Ohio Valley in the 12th and 13th centuries. They are known for their earthworks and artistic grave goods. (PHMC)

Deposits of red ochre and the petroleum springs at Indian Paint Hill, near Tidioute, provided raw materials for face and body paint. (PHMC)

1615

The first white man (1615) to visit what is now Bradford County was Stephen Brulè, a Frenchman, who was an explorer and interpreter for Samuel Champlain. Champlain had secured the friendship of the Hurons who occupied the territory adjoining lakes Huron and Erie. The Carantouannais were the allies of the Hurons. The country of this people was the upper waters of the Susquehanna. Their principal town, Carantouan, was located at what is known as Spanish Hill, just above the present village of Sayre. It was palisaded and contained 800 warriors. In 1615 Brulè was sent with twelve Hurons to arrange with the Carantouannais for a force of 500 warriors to co-operate with Champlain and the Hurons in an attack upon the Onondaga stronghold. They reached Carantouan the latter part of September, where they were "welcomed with great joy, being entertained by banquets and dances for some days." After the expedition Brulè returned to Carantouan and explored the surrounding country. The next year (1616) he went down the Susquehanna to the sea, being the first white man ever to perform this journey, and is believed, was the first white man to set foot upon the soil of Pennsylvania. Brulè's life for twenty-four years among the Indians was full of thrilling interest. Finally, he was treacherously murdered by the Hurons who then feasted upon his remains. (Tice)

1616
The Catholic Church prohibited Galileo from further scientific work. (Grun)

1617
Pocahontas died. (Grun)

1619
First African slaves arrived in North America. (Grun)

1620
Mayflower landed at Plymouth. (Grun)

1626
Dutch founded New Amsterdam on the Hudson River. (Grun)

1633
Dutch settled in Connecticut. (Grun)

1640
Rembrandt painted his "Self Portrait." (Grun)

1642
Galileo died; Isaac Newton born. (Grun)

1650

World population estimated at 500 million. (Grun)

1680

The dodo became extinct when the last known member of the species was killed. (Grun)

1681

Pennsylvania founded. (PHMC)

1682

William Penn established first treaty with Native Americans in Pennsylvania. (Grun)

1685

J. S. Bach died; George Frederick Handel born. (Grun)

1697

Spanish virtually destroyed the Maya on Yucatan Peninsula. (Grun)

1706

Benjamin Franklin born. (Grun)

1719

France declared war on Spain. (Grun)

1721

Swiss immigrants introduced rifles into North America. (Grun)

1723

Emigration. From the time of Brulè, so far as we have any record, it was more than a hundred years before the next white man passed down the Susquehanna Valley. The sufferings of the German Palatinates having been related to Governor Keith, his interest and sympathy were at once aroused. He offered them a home in Pennsylvania where their titles could be clear and their land free from Indian claims. Accordingly in the spring of 1723, thirty-three families prepared to make the trip from the Schoharie Valley. With their meager household goods packed on horses and on their own backs, over mountains, valleys and through forests, they reached the headwaters of the Susquehanna. Here they constructed rafts upon which they placed their women and children and under the most thrilling and adventurous experiences, floated down the river about 200 miles to the mouth of Swarta Creek below Harrisburg. Here they met the men who drove the cattle and horses along the riverbank, and then proceeded to

the Tulpehocken Valley in Berks county, where they formed a settlement. During the six years following a large number of other Palatinates from Schoharie came down the Susquehanna and joined their friends at Tulpehocken. While these people did not locate in Bradford County, the route opened by them brought into the county its first settlers. (Tice)

1731
English factory workers prohibited from emigrating to North America. (Grun)

1737
Mission Among Indians--Governor Gooch of Virginia desired the province of Pennsylvania to mediate between the Six Nations and Southern Indians. Conrad Weiser was selected to perform this mission. He started on his journey with a German companion, Stoffel Stump, and an Indian guide, reaching the county by the way of the Loyalsock. Crossing the divide they came down Sugar Creek, arriving at the Indian village in North Towanda, March 29, 1737. Here and at Tioga Point they found the Indians on the verge of starvation. Their own provisions were exhausted, but a small supply was secured and they proceeded on their mission. The journey was one of severest hardships through a dense wilderness of 500 miles. It should be stated, however, that this was not Weiser's first visit among the Indians in this section, as he himself says, "I was here twelve years before" (1725). (Tice)

After the Walking Purchase of 1737, the Delaware migrated to the Wyoming Valley and became the enemies of Pennsylvania along the Wyoming-Minisink Path. Connecticut settlers would later use this same path to enter the area. (PHMC)

1740
Simon Westfael, one of the early Dutch settlers in the region, builds Fort Matamoros ("Old Stone Fort") in 1740. (PHMC)

1743
The Munsee, led by Capoose, settled on a river flat near present West Scranton after their removal from the upper Delaware valley in 1743. (PHMC)

Visit By Men of Science--In July, 1743, Conrad Weiser was sent again to Onondaga with a message from the Governor of Virginia to arrange a place of meeting with the Six Nations to form a treaty in regard to disputed lands. John Bartram, a celebrated English traveler and botanist, Lewis Evans, geographer for the proprietaries of Pennsylvania, and Indian guides, accompanied Weiser on this expedition. The trip was made on horseback from Philadelphia. The party entered the county by the Lycoming route, encountering many difficulties in their passage through the wilderness. A stop

was made at the Indian village at Tioga Point. Here, as at other points, observations and examinations were made by Bartram and Evans, who were the first men of science to visit this section, and the journey, the first one, made across the county on horseback. (Tice)

1745
On Indian Mission--In June, 1745, Spangenburg and Zeisberger passed through the county and the Indian villages at North Towanda and Tioga Point on their journey to the capital of the Iroquois confederacy, a journey for both political and religious purposes. Weiser, Shikellimy, a Cayuga sachem, and the Iroquois viceroy at Shamokin, one of his sons, and Andrew Montour, accompanied them. Their object was to induce the Six Nations to conclude a peace with the Catawbas, to make satisfaction for murders perpetrated by the Shawanese and to obtain permission for the Christian Indians to begin a settlement at Wyoming. At this time but few Indians were observed at Oscalui (North Towanda); but they found many pictured trees about the place, it being on the great warpath. War parties were, in this way, accustomed to record the results of their campaigns. The bark was peeled off one side of the tree and on this were painted certain characters by which they understood from what tribe and of how many the war-party consisted, against what tribe they had fought how many scalps and prisoners they had taken and how many men they had lost. (Tice)

1749
In 1749, a French force under Celeron de Blainville entered the Ohio Valley by way of Chautauqua Lake and Conewango Creek. Celeron buried lead plates claiming the region for France. (PHMC)

Bonnecamps visited Conewango, a Seneca village where the city of Warren now stands, in 1749, and described it as composed of 12 or 13 cabins. The name in Iroquois has been translated as "below the riffles." (PHMC)

Cammerhof visited the Delaware village of Tunkhannock in 1749. In 1758, Hays and Tatemy found it deserted. The name means "small stream." (PHMC)

1750
Andrew Dingman began operation of one of the earliest ferries across the Delaware River in 1750. He built the flatboat himself. (PHMC)

Missionaries on Journey--In the spring of 1750, Cammerhoff, a bishop in the Moravian church, in company with Zeisberger, passed up the Susquehanna from Wyoming to Tioga en route for Onondaga in order to negotiate with the Great Council for the establishment of a mission among the Iroquois. A Cayuga chief and

his family accompanied them. When the party reached the vicinity of Wyalusing, the remains of an old town were still visible, which the Cayuga said was called "Go-hon-to-to," inhabited by Andastes upon whom the Five Nations made war and wholly exterminated them--the greater part being slain, a few only being taken captive and adopted by some of the families of the Cayugas. (Tice)

1752
March 11, Northampton County (which included Bradford) is constituted by Act of the Provincial Council. (Tice)

Indian Town Re-established--In 1752, Papunhank, a Monsey chief of some note from the Minisink country, with a number of families, came to Wyalusing and built a new town a little below the site of the old Gohontoto. (Tice)

1753
The French built Fort LeBoeuf, at present Waterford, in 1753 to guard their stake to the Ohio Valley. In December, George Washington, who at the time represented the British government at Virginia, visited there on his first public mission. He notified the French that they were trespassing on British territory and asked them to leave. During the French& Indian War, the French abandoned the fort in 1759. The following year, 1760, the British established a fort here; Indians burned it in 1763, during Pontiac's War. An American fort was built here to protect settlers in 1794. (PHMC)

The French built Fort Presque Isle in 1753 near present Erie. It was built by Marin, and abandoned in 1759. Col. Henry Bouquet established a British fort here in 1760; Pontiac's Indians captured it in 1763. (PHMC)

The French Road, built in 1753, connected the French forts of the upper Ohio Valley. It followed an Indian path, and included historic roads known as the Presque Isle Portage and the Venango Trail. The Venango Trail ran from Lake Erie to the Ohio River. (PHMC)

December: On a mission by the British government in Virginia to warn the French out of the upper Ohio Valley, George Washington renamed the Riviere aux Boeufs "French Creek." (PHMC)

1754
All that part of Bradford County from a line 10 miles east of the Susquehanna river was contained in the Susquehanna Company's Indian purchase at Albany in 1754; the

balance of the county's territory was within the Delaware Company's Indian purchase also of 1754. (Tice)

1755

Moses Thomas and Daniel Skinner founded the first Connecticut settlement on the upper Delaware at Cushetunk (Wayne County) by. Indians and Tories seized the settlement in 1778. (PHMC)

1756

In 1756, Fort Hyndshaw was built near Bushkill (Pike County); it was the province's northernmost defensive post during the French and Indian War. (PHMC)

Treaty with Indians--Diahoga (Athens) like Easton was favorite treaty ground, and many important councils and treaties were held there with the Indians. In 1756 Governor Morris sent Captain Newcastle (an Indian adopted by Morris) with a message and to treat with a number of Indian chiefs at Athens. The meeting was an important one and a treaty effected. The next year and frequently thereafter representatives of the proprietary government met the Indians at Athens on various missions. (Tice)

First Military Expedition--The French expedition of 1756 against Fort Augusta (Sunbury) "returned to Canada by way of the Indian trail up Lycoming creek." This evidently was the first military force ever to pass through Bradford County, as the old Indian trail from the headwaters of Lycoming Creek passed down Towanda creek, thence northward to Tioga Point on the line of the great trail to Canada. (Tice)

The first known white person to have died within Bradford County was Susanna Nitchsman, a Moravian girl of Mahoning, who after being captured by the Indians, was carried captive to Tioga Point. Here she died in May 1756. (Tice)

Beginning of the French and Indian War, also known as the Seven Years War, between Great Britain and France.

1760

On May 20, Christian Frederick Post, one of the most zealous missionaries, on his way to attend a council of the Western Indians, spent a night in the Indian town at Wyalusing and preached to the Indians in their own language. This is regarded as the first gospel sermon ever heard in the Susquehanna valley above Wyoming. (Tice)

May 17: Christopher Frederick Post and "King" Tedyuscung stopped at the village of Wyolutimunk (Wyoming County) on their way to Tioga and the "great concourse in the West." (PHMC)

Munsees under Papoonhank greet Christopher Post at Wyalusing. Post was on his way to a council beyond the Allegheny River. (PHMC)

British establish a fort at present Waterford; it was burned by Indians in 1763. (PHMC)

Col. Henry Bouquet established a British fort at the site of the French Fort Presque Isle in 1760; Pontiac's Indians captured it in 1763. (PHMC)

1763
David Zeisberger founded the Moravian mission Friedenshuetten at the Indian village of Wyalusing. It was abandoned in 1772 when pastors Ettwein and Roth led about 200 Indians to the mission at Friedensstadt on the Beaver River. (PHMC)

May 23-27, Zeisberger preaches and labors among the Wyalusing Indians; in June, Zeisberger and John Woolman (a Quaker evangelist) preach to them; council select Zeisberger as teacher; June 20th, Papunhank, the Indian chief, was baptized by Zeisberger and named John. This was the first time this holy ordinance was ever administered in the county. (Tice)

Peace of Paris ends Seven Years War. (Grun)

1765
Moravian Mission Established--After the interruption caused by Pontiac's war, the Christian Indians returned to Wyalusing in May 1765. They were accompanied by Zeisberger and Schmick (another missionary) and Schmick's wife, who were to remain with them and be their resident religious instructors. Log cabins, bark-covered huts, a commodious meetinghouse and mission-house of unhewn logs were erected. At the close of the year there were connected with the mission 146 souls of whom 33 were communicants. In 1767 the town was rebuilt on higher ground under the supervision of the Moravian missionaries and the name changed to Friedenshutten, signifying "huts of peace." It consisted of 29 log houses, 13 huts and 7 stables for horses, besides a new church, 24 by 32 feet, constructed of squared white pine timber, with shingled roof and glazed windows, surmounted by a cupola containing a bell. The mission Indians had several hundred acres cleared on which they raised corn, oats, other grains, hay and vegetables; also had started a peach and apple orchard and owned horses, cattle, sheep, hogs and fowls. They were industrious, rich, contented

and happy, except for the fear they might be obliged to leave their homes at the command of the Six Nations, the Connecticut people or the Governor of Pennsylvania. During the continuance of the mission 139 had been baptized and 7 couples married, the first of whom were two converts, named Thomas and Rachel, Dec. 23, 1766, the first Christian marriage celebrated within the county; in June, 1772 all (211 including those from Sheshequin) removed to the Tuscaroras Valley in Ohio. (Tice)

John Anderson and the Ogdens established the first trading post in Bradford County at Ulster as early as May 1765. For the next four or five years he and the Ogdens from Wyoming, made two trips each year, visiting the villages on the Susquehanna, buying peltry of the Indians, or exchanging for rifles, ammunition, trinkets and rum. (Tice)

British Parliament passed Stamp Act; nine colonies declare rights and liberties; Stamp Act repealed the following year. (Grun)

1766
Ulster Mission--Soon after the close of Pontiac's war, Echgohund with a few Monsey families, settled at the mouth of Cash creek in the present village of Ulster. This being but a day's journey by water from Wyalusing, the inhabitants of one town were frequent visitors at the other. From the first Echgohund, the chief, manifested deep interest in the success of the mission. On his return from Cayuga town, Zeisberger tarried here over night, May 4, 1766, and at the request of the Indians preached to quite a company of them, who gathered at the lodge where he stopped; John Ettwein, Zeisberger and Sensemann visit them and hold religious services May 10-12, 1768. John Roth was appointed to the Sheshequin (Ulster) mission, arrived February 4, 1769 and preached his first discourse the following day. From this time religious services were maintained with great regularity, morning and evening of each day. For the first year the congregation repaired to Friedenshutten for the sacraments and festivals of the church. Ulster being regarded as only an outlying station of the Wyalusing mission. February 16, 1769, missionary's house erected of squared pine logs. This served also for a church until July of the next year (1770), when a chapel was erected, surmounted by a cupola containing a bell. The mission continued to increase in numbers and usefulness until the migration (1772 with those at Wyalusing) at which time it numbered 60 souls. (Tice)

Mason and Dixon establish the southern boundary of Pennsylvania. (Grun)

1767
October: Moravian missionary David Zeisberger traveled through Potter County from Bethlehem to found missions among the Delaware in the west. (PHMC)

1768

Treaty at Fort Stanwix, November 5, 1768, at which time the proprietaries of Pennsylvania effected a purchase from the Six Nations of a tract of land, beginning at Owego, thence following the left bank of the Susquehanna as far as the mouth of Towanda creek, thence up the Towanda, along the Burnett hills, down Pine creek to the West Branch and across to the Ohio. (It included a large part of Bradford County). "This was called the new purchase and opened a wide field of adventure to the hardy pioneers of Pennsylvania. It was a vast school, too; in which some of the bravest soldiers of the subsequent wars were reared." (Tice)

1769

Timothy Keys, Solomon Hocksey, and Andrew Hickman settled along Keyser Creek. This was the first white settlement in what would eventually become Lackawanna County. In July 1778, Indians killed Keys and the others. (PHMC)

Replying to the petition of John Papunhank and Joshua, the Mohican, in behalf of themselves and their friends at Wyalusing, John Penn, acting governor, under date of June 21, 1769, says: "One thing I must tell you, that I expect you will not give encouragement to the New England people who have taken possession of the proprietaries' land at Wiawamack (Wyoming). If you expect to be protected by this government, you must not encourage the New England people, who are endeavoring to take the land from the Proprietaries." (Tice)

1770

In May, Rudolph Fox, the first permanent settler within Bradford County, pitched his cabin near the mouth of Towanda creek. His daughter, Elizabeth, born September 1, 1770, was the first white child to see the light in the county. (Tice)

Civil liberties, international free trade, textile machines, and steam power in England lead to the Industrial Revolution that spreads all over the world. (Grun)

1771

Isaac Tripp built a house on what was to become Main Avenue in Scranton in 1771. Tripp is often cited as Scranton's first settler. His son, Isaac II, built a house ca. 1778 on the same site, which was enlarged by his son, Isaac III, in 1812 according to the Federal style. Col. Ira Tripp remodeled the house along Victorian lines during the period 1870-1991. The house remained in the Tripp family until 1900. As of 1993, the house, the oldest in Lackawanna County, was still standing at 1011 N. Main Ave. in Scranton. Both Isaac and his son, Isaac II, represented the region in the Connecticut Assembly. (PHMC)

On May 28, the Susquehanna rose to an unprecedented height, inundating both the towns at Sheshequin and Wyalusing. At the latter place the water swept off fences and stock and did great damage. At Sheshequin (Ulster) the inhabitants were compelled to take to their canoes and retire to the wooded heights back of the town. (Tice)

1772
Moravian mission Friedenshuetten abandoned when pastors Ettwein and Roth led about 200 Indians to the mission at Friedensstadt on the Beaver River. (PHMC)

March 21, Northumberland County (which included Bradford) was constituted by Act of the Provincial Council. (Tice)

Missions were abandoned at Wyalusing and Ulster; two white families in the county, Rudolph Fox at Towanda and Peter Shufeldt in Asylum. (Tice)

1773
Connecticut settlers built a fort near Wallenpaupack in 1773 and had a virtually independent government until 1796. (PHMC)

Stropes and Van Valkenburgs locate first (May, 1773) at Indian Meadows in Wyalusing, and permanently, 1776, in Wysox. (Tice)

1774
This year, Connecticut formally assumed jurisdiction over the disputed territory (which included Bradford county), by organizing the town of Westmoreland and attaching it to the county of Litchfield. (Tice)

Connecticut surveys begun by Samuel Gordon, surveying the first of the Susquehanna Company's townships in Bradford County, being the Long Township, extending south from Standing Stone thirty miles down the river. (Tice)

James Wells and Amos York became the first settlers to locate in Wyalusing under Connecticut title. (Tice)

Benjamin Budd locates and makes the first improvement in Terry. (Tice)

Lemuel Fitch and Anthony Rummerfield, the first settlers in Standing Stone. (Tice)

1775
Joseph Wharton, the first settler of Tuscarora, under Pennsylvania title. (Tice)

Samuel Cole and sons make the first permanent settlement in Asylum. (Tice)

During this year and the next, a considerable number of Connecticut people, Loyalists and Squatters locate along the river. (Tice)

1776
July 4: Continental Congress passes the Declaration of Independence. (Grun)

War retards settlement; a number of inhabitants join the American army. (Tice)

1777
March: Rudolph Fox of Towanda carried into captivity by the Indians. (Tice)
December 6, Indians and refugees plunder the house of Robert Fitzgerald in Standing Stone and drive off his stock. (Tice)

December: Colonel Dorrance's expedition into the county after Tories. (Tice)

1778
January: Lemuel Fitch of Standing Stone taken to Canada by the Indians. (Tice)

February 14: Indians and Toreis plunder the home of Amos York at Wyalusing, drive off his stock and take him into captivity. (Tice)

March: Nathan Kingsley of Wyalusing taken to Canada by the Indians. (Tice)

May 20: Indians surprise the Stropes and VanValkenburgs of Wysox, burn their house, drive off stock and take both families into captivity. (Tice)

September 27: Col. Thomas Hartley burned Queen Esther's town, Teaoga, near present Athens. Esther Montour, of the noted French-Indian family, and her Munsee Indians, resided and is buried here. (PHMC)

September 29: Col. Thomas Hartley and his men from Fort Muncy battle Indians near Indian Hill (vicinity of Wyalusing). (PHMC)

1779
July 22: Three hundred Tories and Indians, led by Mohawk Joseph Brant, were attacked near Lackawaxen by about 175 settlers on July 22, 1779. All but 25 of the settlers were killed in what came to be known as the Battle of Minisink. Brant escaped. (PHMC)

Sullivan Campaign
Athens (PHMC)

August 1-2: Sullivan's second camp was on the lowland south of Falls. (PHMC)

August 3: Sullivan's third camp from Fort Wyoming by the river near Tunkhannock. (PHMC)

August 4: Sullivan's fourth camp between Fort Wyoming and Tioga Point was on the lowlands near Black Walnut. (PHMC)

August 5-7: General John Sullivan camped near Wyalusing. (PHMC)

August 8-9: Sullivan's sixth camp on the river lowlands near Wyalusing. (PHMC)

August 9-10: General John Sullivan camped on Sheshequin Flats, the seventh and last overnight stop on the way to Tioga Point. (PHMC)

August 18: Sullivan built Fort Sullivan between the Chemung and Susquehanna rivers as base camp for his campaign against the Tories and Indians of southern New York/northern Pennsylvania. Sullivan destroyed 40 villages and curtailed the Tory-Indian frontier menace. (PHMC)

At Thompson's Island, south of present day Warren, an advance party of Brodhead's expedition into the Seneca country skirmished with 30 or 40 Indians. This was the only fighting of that campaign, and the only battle of the Revolution in northwestern Pennsylvania. (PHMC)

The first English sermons preached in Bradford County were at Tioga Point by Rev. William Rogers, a Baptist chaplain in Sullivan's army. Seven soldiers had been killed in the engagement at "Hogback Hill." Their bodies were brought back to camp and buried (August 14) with military honors together with "a funeral oration and prayer" by Parson Rogers. While waiting at Tioga Point, Dr. Rogers also delivered (August 18) a discourse in Masonic form on the death of Captain Davis and Lieutenant Jones, Freemasons who had been killed near Wilkes-Barre. General Sullivan and family, General Maxwell and family, the 11th Pennsylvania regiment artillery, members of Lodge No. 19 and many other gentlemen of the army were present. (Tice)

County became depopulated. Owing to the various hostile movements from 1779 to 1783, there was neither Whig, Tory nor Indian left within the bounds of the county. (Tice)

1780
April 3: Moses VanCampen and companions at Wysox turn upon their Indian captors, slay them and escape. (Tice)

1781
March: James Thompson of Buffalo Valley makes thrilling escape at Towanda from Indians. (Tice)

Americans defeat British at Yorktown, Virginia. (Grun)

1782
April 14: a party led by Sgt. Thomas Baldwin fought a four hour battle with Indians at Lime Hill to rescue Mrs. Roswell Franklin and her children who'd been captured by Indians. The children were saved, but the mother was killed. (PHMC; Tice)

The Trenton Decree--In 1779 the Assembly of Pennsylvania passed an Act, assuming to itself the jurisdiction over the entire country granted to Penn, the Commonwealth thus becoming a party to the controversy with Connecticut. The Supreme Executive Council petitioned Congress in November 1781, stating the matter in dispute between the two states and praying for a court to be constituted to hear and issue the case. In August 1782, it was announced that the delegates of the respective states had mutually agreed upon commissioners. Each party having been duly notified, the Court commences its sessions at Trenton, New Jersey on November 12, 1782. The proofs having been offered and the various points agreed, the court after passing a resolution to give no reasons for their decision and that the minority should agree to make the judgment unanimous, published December 30, 1782, the following decision: "We are unanimously of the opinion that Connecticut has no right to the lands in controversy. We are unanimously of the opinion that the jurisdiction and pre-emption of all territory lying within the charter of Pennsylvania, and now claimed by Connecticut, do and of right belong to the state of Pennsylvania." This decision became historic as the Trenton Decree. Prior to the decree, the Susquehanna Company had granted four townships, Springfield, Standing Stone, Claverack and Ulster, all in Bradford County. (Tice)

1783
May 30: General Simon Spalding and little band of patriots make the first settlement in Sheshequin. (Tice)

The first store in the county opened at Tioga Point by Matthias Hollenback. (Tice)

Benjamin Patterson, the first settler in Athens, the first permanent settler being Jacob Snell in 1784. (Tice)

April: Stoke Township (which included Bradford county) of Northumberland County formed. (Tice)

Great Britain recognizes independence of United States. (Grun)

1784
In the spring of 1784 occurred the notable Ice Flood. The damage was particularly severe in the Wyoming Valley. "The breaking up of the Susquehanna river on the 15th of March, greatly distressed the inhabitants who had build their houses on the lowlands near the banks of the river. The uncommon rain and large quantities of snow on the mountains together with the amazing quantity of ice in the river, occasioned by the uncommon inclemency of the winter season, swelled the streams to an unusual height--ten and in many places twenty feet higher than it had ever been known since the settlement of the country. Horses, cattle and other effects of the settlers were swept down with the torrent and forever lost." (Tice)

All that part of Bradford County, north of Towanda creek and west of the Susquehanna River was included in the purchase made October 23, 1784 of the Six Nations at Fort Stanwix by Pennsylvania. (Tice)

1785
General William Irvine surveyed the Donation Lands in northwestern Pennsylvania in 1785, and later bought a large tract. His son, Callender, and grandson, Dr. William Irvine, developed the tract. (PHMC)

Ezra Rutty, Abial Foster, Rufus Foster, Jonas Smith and Nathan Smith, the first permanent settlers on Sugar Creek in North Towanda. (Tice)

Benjamin Clark and Adrial Simons, the first permanent settlers in Ulster. (Tice)

1786
Connecticut settlers lay out village of Tioga Point, now known as Athens. (PHMC)

Thomas Keeney, the first permanent settler in Wilmot. (Tice)

September 25: Luzerne county (which included Bradford) created by Act of Assembly. (Tice)

The oldest town in the county is Athens. A survey and plan of the town was made by surveyors of the Susquehanna Company in 1786--the one after which the village was built. (Tice)

Early in October, when the crops of corn and pumpkins were still on the ground, continuous rains produced a freshet that had seldom been equaled. Crops were swept away and the bosom of the river was covered with floating pumpkins. The loss was severely felt and many cattle died the succeeding winter for want of sustenance. For years the old inhabitants designated this freshet the "Pumpkin Flood." (Tice)

Prince Bryant put up the first gristmill in Bradford County on Cayuta creek in Athens Township in 1786-87. It was known long afterwards as Shepard's mill. (Tice)

The parallel of 42 degrees north latitude marks the Northern Boundary of Bradford County and the State. The survey establishing this line was made in 1786 and 1787. (Tice)

Mozart composed the Marriage of Figaro. (Grun)

1787
Colonel John Franklin, leader of the Connecticut land claimants, imprisoned for leading new state movement. He was released in 1789. He later served in PA legislature. (PHMC)

Jonathan Terry, the first permanent settler in Terry Township. (Tice)

March 28: the Pennsylvania Assembly passed what was called the Confirming Law, in which it was provided, "that all rights or lots lying within the county of Luzerne, which were occupied or acquired by Connecticut claimants who were actual settlers there at or before the termination of the claim of the state of Connecticut by the Trenton Decree, and which rights or lots were particularly assigned to the said settlers prior to the said decree, agreeably to the regulations then in force among them, be and they are hereby confirmed to them, their heirs and assigns." Provision was also made for compensating the Pennsylvania claimants out of the unappropriated lands of the commonwealth. The Confirming Law was suspended March 29, 1788 and finally repealed April 1, 1790 by the legislature. (Tice)

U. S. Constitution ratified; federal government created. (Grun)

1788

David Mead and other settlers from the Wyoming region of Pennsylvania establish the town of Meadville. It became the seat of Crawford County in 1800. (PHMC)

Thomas Park, the first permanent settler in Litchfield. (Tice)

Isaac Hancock, who was licensed a "taverner" for Springfield (Wyalusing) and Thomas McClure for Tioga (Athens) opened the first houses of public entertainment in Bradford County in 1788. (Tice)

1789

Colonel John Franklin is released from prison and moves to farm near Athens. (PHMC)

Dr. William Smith and Joseph Sutton built an iron forge on the south bank of the Lackawanna River in 1789. The site of the region's first forge, the town that grew up around it became known as Old Forge. (PHMC)

Samuel Meredith became the first treasurer of the United States, serving in that position from 1789-1801. Meredith, a Revolutionary financier-patriot, spent the last years of his life at Pleasant Mount in Wayne County. He died there in 1810, on his estate, Belmont. (PHMC)

Samuel Cranmer, the first permanent settler of Monroe. (Tice)

Public Roads - As early as 1788 the settlers sent petitions to the court of Luzerne county, setting forth that public roads were necessary in various districts and asked that action be taken in relation to the same. The first petition on which the court took action was for a "Road from Wysox to Tioga," presented at June sessions, 1789. Commissioners appointed, report at March sessions, 1790 that "they have viewed and laid out said road." This road had the general course of the Sullivan road (1779). (Tice)

The French Revolution engulfed France; attempted to overthrow aristocracy; royalists began to emigrate. (Grun)

1790

March: Wyalusing Township and Tioga Township formed from Stoke. (Tice)

Timothy Pickering met Red Jacket and his Senecas at place known as Pine Plains, near present Waverly/Sayre. The Seneca were on their way to the peace council at Tioga Point. (PHMC)

James Rockwell, the first permanent settler in Pike. (Tice)

The most celebrated Indian treaty within Bradford County was that held at Tioga Point, November 16-23, 1790. The nations present, either collectively or by representation, were the Senecas, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, Chippewas, and Stockbridge Indians. The chiefs who took the most active part in the council were Red Jacket, Farmer's Brother, Little Billy, Captain Hendricks, Aupaumut, Fish Carrier, Good Peter and Big Tree. Col. Timothy Pickering, as Commissioner, represented the United States government. He was a distinguished soldier of the Revolution and afterwards Postmaster General, Secretary of War, Secretary of State and U.S. Senator. Thomas Morris, son of Robert Morris, "the financier of the Revolution," was present on the occasion and adopted into the Seneca nation as sachem Otetiani. (Tice)

200 families lived in Bradford County; total population: 1100. (Tice)

First improvements made in Burlington and settled, 1791 by Abraham DeWitt, Isaac DeWitt, James McKean and William Dobbins. (Tice)

Washington, DC founded. (Grun)

1791
June 9: Col. Arthur Erwin shot and killed, while sitting in the house of Daniel McDuffee at Athens, by a dastardly villain, supposed to be an ejected squatter. (Tice)

The first church organization in Bradford County was the "Church of Christ at Wysox on the Susquehanna river in the State of Pennsylvania." It was organized October 3, 1791 at the house of Jehial Franklin in Wysox. The original members were Isaac Foster, Jonas Smith, Wm. Coolbaugh, Daniel Guthrey, Huldah Hickok and Rufus Foster, all of whom "entered into a solemn covenant with God and with one another by signing their names to a solemn covenant, as in the presence and fear of God." Rev. Jabez Culver was present and officiated. At the same meeting, Jehial Franklin, E.M. Franklin, John Newell, Jonathan Arnold Franklin, Abigail Franklin, Nathan Smith and James Lewis were "received by vote into full communion with the church." (Tice)

1792

The Erie Triangle was purchased by Pennsylvania in 1792, giving the state access to Lake Erie. The cost for the Erie Triangle was $151,640.25. (PHMC)

Rev. John Smith, the first settler in Wells Township. (Tice)

First improvement made in Smithfield by Isaiah Grover, the first permanent settler being Reuben Mitchell in 1794. (Tice)

1793
Azilum founded; the French refugee colony was occupied from 1793 to 1803. (PHMC)

Marie Antoinette beheaded in France. (Grun)

June 30: the first Presbyterian Church in the county, organized in a log schoolhouse at Wyalusing by Rev. Ira Condit. The organization consisted of the following thirteen members: Uriah Terry, Lucretia York, Justus Gaylord, Jr., his wife, Lucretia, Zachariah Price, his wife, Ruth, Mary Lewis, Abigail Wells, Sarah Rockwell, Anna Camp, James Lake, Thomas Oviatt and Hannah Beckwith. Uriah Terry was at the same time ordained and installed Ruling Elder. (Tice)

Fugitive Slave Law makes it illegal to assist escaping slaves. (Grun)

1794
Americans establish a fort at present Waterford to protect settlers. (PHMC)

French refugees arrive at their new home in Asylum. (Tice)

Daniel Wilcox and sons become the first settlers in Franklin. (Tice)

In March, a terrific windstorm, or hurricane, swept through the southwestern part of the county and in the path of a mile in width, left scarcely a tree standing. (Tice)

The Whiskey Rebellion tested the U. S. Government. (Grun)

1795
Ellicott and Irvine laid out the City of Erie in 1795. It is the state's only lake port, and was part of the purchase of the Erie Triangle in 1792. (PHMC)

Rev. William Bishop, Baptist clergyman and the first ordained minister in Scranton, built a log house/church in present West Scranton in 1795. He was born in England in 1749 and died in Scott Township (Lackawanna County?) in 1816. (PHMC)

February 18: a large and enthusiastic meeting of the Susquehanna proprietors (reported at more than 1200) was held at Athens, at which, it was resolved to take vigorous measures to prosecute the claims of the company; "to prevent any ill-disposed person, without due authority, unlawfully intruding upon, surveying or attempting to seize and settle any of the aforesaid lands; afford a just protection to the property of the real owners and such settlers as enter on the same land peaceably, in due course of law and under real proprietors thereof, being fully determined , in a constitutional and legal manner only, to maintain and defend the title and claim which the aforesaid company have to the aforesaid lands; and also to recover such parts thereof as are possessed in opposition thereto." (Tice)

April: Wysox Township formed from Tioga. (Tice)

Nathaniel Allen, the first permanent settler of Troy Township. (Tice)

The first improvements made in Canton by Jonas Gere and Jonathan Prosser, the first permanent settler being Ezra Spalding in 1796. (Tice)

Hugh and Sterling Holcomb became the first permanent settlers in Leroy. (Tice)

Duke Liancourt, a celebrated French traveller, and Talleyrand, the famous French diplomatist, visits the colony at Asylum. (Tice)

April 11: the Intrusion Law passed by the legislature, inflicting heavy fines and imprisonment upon any convicted of taking possession of, entering, intruding or settling "on any lands within the limits of the counties of Northampton, Northumberland or Luzerne, by virtue or under color of any conveyance of half-share right, or any other pretended title not derived from the authority of this commonwealth, or the late proprietaries of Pennsylvania before the Revolution," making it a crime to combine or conspire to convey, possess or settle any such lands under any half-share right, but excepting the land within the seventeen townships. (Tice)

1796
December 15: General Anthony Wayne died at Fort Presque Isle. His original burial place is on the grounds of the Soldiers and Sailors Home in Erie. (PHMC)

Dan Russell and Francis Mesusan, the first settlers in Orwell, the former, permanent. (Tice)

Louis Philippe, afterwards King of France, spends a week at Asylum. (Tice)

By the close of this year, both the Susquehanna Company and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania held rights to nearly every foot of land in Bradford County. (Tice)

The oldest secret society in the county is Rural Amity Lodge, No. 70, Free and Accepted Masons; chartered July 6, 1796 and instituted May 21, 1798 at the house of George Welles at Tioga Point (Athens). (Tice)

First public road built up Towanda creek, from Silas Scovell's to Daniel Wilcox's in Franklin; extended to Canton, 1798. (Tice)

English physician Edward Jenner introduced vaccination against smallpox. (Grun)

1797
Judah Colt settled Colt's Station, now at the intersection of PA 89 and PA 430, in 1797. Colt was an agent for the Pennsylvania Population Company, and this station, at the head of flatboat navigation on French Creek, was the first organized settlement in Erie County. (PHMC)

Ebenezer Slocum settled in Slocum Hollow, near modern Scranton, and forged iron there in 1797. The area was the site of an extensive iron and steel manufacturing for more than a century, including the Lackawanna Iron Company. The last operation at the site closed in 1902. (PHMC)

Nathaniel P. Moody, the first settler in Rome Township. (Tice)

William Arnold, James Bowen and William Harding, the first settlers in Warren. (Tice)

January: Athens Township and Ulster township formed by the division of Tioga. (Tice)

1798
Francis King made the first permanent settlement in present McKean County near Ceres in 1798. King was an agent and surveyor for the John Keating Land Company of Philadelphia. (PHMC)

March 21: Wayne County was formed from Northampton County; named for General Anthony Wayne. Honesdale, the county seat, was incorporated in 1831 and was the western terminus of the Delaware & Hudson Canal. (PHMC)

The first public road up Sugar creek, from the river to Thomas Barber's, built 1798-1799. (Tice)

1799
Handsome Lake, the Seneca prophet, lived in the village of Cornplanter in Warren County. In 1799 he received a vision there and founded a cult bearing his name that revitalized the Seneca nation. (PHMC)

Jeremiah Taylor, the first settler in Granville. (Tice)

Nathaniel Morgan, Eli Parsons and Eli Parsons, Jr. became the first permanent settlers of Columbia. (Tice)

By Act of April 4, commonly called the compensation Law, commissioners were appointed to ascertain the quality, quantity and situation of lands in the seventeen townships held by Pennsylvania claimants before the Trenton decree, to divide the land into four classes and affix the value of each class. To lands of the first class a sum not exceeding $5 per acre; the second class $3, the third class $1.50; the fourth class 25 cents per acre, for which certificates were given on the release of the title to the State, receivable as specie at the land-office; no certificates were to issue until 40,000 acres were thus released and till Connecticut claimants to that amount under their hands and seals agreed to abide by the decision of the Commissioners. All disputes between Pennsylvania claimants were to be decided in the usual way, by the boards of property, from which an appeal could be taken to the courts. (Tice)

George Washington died. (Grun)

Rosetta Stone discovered in Egypt. (Grun)

1800
About 1800, Elder Miller settled in Waverly. He was born in Connecticut in 1775 and died in Waverly in 1857. He was a pioneer preacher and teacher in the Abington region; the first church and the first school in the township were on his farm. (PHMC)

March 12: Crawford County, named for Col. William Crawford, was formed from Allegheny County, with Meadville as county seat. Known for oil and "hookless fastener" industries. (PHMC)

March 12: Erie County, named for the lake, which was named for the Erie Indians, was formed from Allegheny County. Erie, the county seat, was incorporated as a city in 1851. (PHMC)

March 12: Warren County, named for General Joseph Warren (killed at Bunker Hill), was formed from Allegheny and Lycoming counties. Warren, the county seat, was laid out in 1795. Known for oil and timber and as the site of the Cornplanter Indian Grant. (PHMC)

First post-offices established in the county at Wyalusing and Athens. Carriers on foot brought in the mail from Wilkes-Barre, once in two weeks. (Tice)

Population of Bradford County: 3,500. (Tice)

Eli Whitney produced muskets with interchangeable parts. (Grun)

The Louisiana Purchase arranged; area of the United States doubled. (Grun)

1804
March 26: McKean County was formed from Lycoming County in 1804 and was named for Thomas McKean, who was Pennsylvania's Governor at the time. Smethport has been the county seat since 1807, and was incorporated in 1853. In 1861, the famed Civil War regiment known as the Bucktails organized here. (PHMC)

March 26: Potter County was formed from Lycoming County and was named for Revolutionary War hero, General James Potter. The county was fully organized in 1835. It was an early lumber and tanning center. Coudersport, the county seat, was laid out in 1807 and incorporated in 1848. (PHMC)

1805
Governor Thomas McKean, for whom the county was named, purchased a 299-acre tract northwest of present Port Allegany in 1805. The tract was named Mt. Equity Plantation in recognition of the fact that it was purchased to give Pennsylvania equity of power in lands settled by Connecticut. (PHMC)

1807

Smethport became the county seat of McKean County in 1807 when land agent Francis King of the John Keating Land Company surveyed the town lots. Arnold Hunter built the first cabin here in 1811, but settlement was slow until 1822. The first courthouse was built in 1827. (PHMC)

1808
Major Isaac Lyman, land agent and Revolutionary officer, established a settlement, Lymansville, in 1808. The settlement had the first saw and gristmill, post office, and court in the region. (PHMC)

1810
February 21: Bradford County founded; named Ontario County until 1812 when it was renamed for the second U.S. Attorney General William Bradford. County seat Towanda incorporated 1828. (PHMC)

February 21: Susquehanna County founded, out of Luzerne County. Named for the Susquehanna River. Montrose, the county seat, was incorporated in 1824 and was an important abolitionist center and link in the Underground Railroad. (PHMC)

U. S. population: 7,239,881. (Grun)

1812
Ontario County name changed to Bradford County. (PHMC)

Brothers Grimm published Fairy Tales. (Grun)

United States declared war on Great Britain. (Grun)

1813
During the War of 1812, Oliver Hazard Perry built a fleet of ships in Erie to patrol Lake Erie. The Lawrence, the Niagara, and the Ariel were built in the spring of 1813 at the foot of Cascade Street in Erie. His warehouses, blockhouse, and lookout station were located nearby. (PHMC)

September 10: Oliver Hazard Perry defeated and captured a British squadron on Lake Erie. His skilled crew included several African Americans. When his flagship the Lawrence was disabled, he established command on the Niagara. From the Niagara he sent the famous message "We have met the enemy and they are ours." (PHMC)

1814

January 20: David Wilmot was born in Bethany. He studied law at Wilkes-Barre in 1834, and practiced law in Towanda, where he lived until his death in 1868. Wilmot was a member of the Free-Soiler movement. Founded Republican Party and was its first candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania. The *Wilmot Proviso* in 1846 barred slavery from territory acquired in the Mexican War. Wilmot died in Towanda, March 16, 1868. (PHMC)

March 26: Pike County was formed from Wayne County. Named for Zebulon M. Pike. Bluestone and lumber, carried by the Delaware & Hudson Canal and Erie Railroad, helped build the nation. (PHMC)

George Stephenson built first practical steam locomotive near Newcastle, Great Britain. (Grun)

April 11: Napoleon abdicated French throne and was banished to Elba. (Grun)

December 24: Treaty of Ghent ends war between United States and Great Britain. (Grun)

1815
Allegheny College founded. It was chartered in 1817. It is the oldest college in continuous existence under the same name west of the Allegheny Mountains. Its first president, Timothy Alden, was architect of Bentley Hall, which became the administrative center. (PHMC)

Samuel Magaw and William Clark drill a salt well and established a saltworks near the PA-Ohio border near Lawrence Corners (Crawford County). In 1819, Daniel Shryock deepened the well to 300 feet, and oil was struck. The oil contaminated the well and by 1821 it and the associated saltworks were closed. (PHMC)

British surveyor John Macadam used crushed stone to surface roads. (Grun)

1817
Construction of Erie Canal begins in New York. (Grun)

1820
The Judson House in Waterford was built on the site of Fort LeBoeuf. (PHMC)

1822
The Wurts brothers, early developers of the anthracite resources of the region, founded Carbondale in 1822. The first underground mine was opened here in June 1831, near Seventh Ave. The city was chartered in 1851. (PHMC)

About 1822, Sarah Mary Benjamin moved to Pleasant Mount (Wayne County), where she lived until her death in 1858 at the age of approximately 101. She was known for her vivid recollections of the Revolutionary War. She had traveled with her husband's New York unit from 1780-83, doing its sewing, washing, and baking bread. She stood guard in her husband's place at Kingsbridge. At Yorktown, she carried food to the soldiers on the line during the battle. (PHMC)

1823
The Monroe Doctrine closed American continent to settlement by European powers. (Grun)

1824
Richard Henderson, born a slave in Maryland in 1801, escaped and arrived in Meadville in 1824. He was a barber and active in the Underground Railroad. It has been estimated that as many as 500 escaped slaves found shelter at his house on Arch Street in Meadville prior to the Civil War. The house was torn down by 1980. (PHMC)

1825
John Brown built a tannery and house near New Richmond (Crawford County). He lived and worked there from 1825 to 1835, and employed as many as 15 workers at his tannery. His first wife and a son were buried nearby. In 1946, the house was still standing; by 1969, the remains of these structures were still visible. (PHMC)

1826
The Last of the Mohicans by James Fenimore Cooper published. (Grun)

1827
The French Creek Feeder of the Erie Extension Canal was built 1827-1834. It was repaired in 1841. It carried water from French Creek to Conneaut Lake for the canal. The feeder crossed French Creek by way of an aqueduct about two miles south of Meadville. (PHMC)

Town of Honesdale is laid out at the head of the Delaware & Hudson Canal. It was named for Philip Hone, noted New York merchant and diarist, who pioneered in developing the transportation and anthracite resources of northeastern Pennsylvania. Honesdale became the county seat of Wayne County in 1841. (PHMC)

1828
Towanda incorporated. (PHMC)

Construction completed on the Delaware & Hudson Canal, a waterway uniting the Hudson and Delaware rivers. The Delaware & Hudson Canal Company began construction in 1828 on one of the first railroads in America. The Gravity Railroad originally linked Honesdale in the east, with Archbald, but was eventually extended to Valley Junction near Olyphant and Carbondale. The railroad was built to carry coal from the mines to the D & H Canal, but it grew to provide passenger service. It operated until early 1899. (PHMC)

Construction began on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, America's first passenger and freight railroad. (Grun)

1829
August 8: The *Stourbridge Lion*, the first steam locomotive to operate in the United States, makes its maiden run in Honesdale, with Horatio Allen at the controls. (PHMC)

1830
Justice Henry Baldwin of Meadville appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. As a member of Congress from 1816 to 1822, he was an early advocate of protective tariff. The Crawford County Historical Society owns his house in Meadville, built in 1843. (PHMC)

While living in Susquehanna County, near Great Bend, prior to 1830, Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, translated the "Golden Plates" on which the Book of Mormon is based. The Church of Latter Day Saints now owns the site of his home. (PHMC)

1831
Colonel John Franklin died; buried in cemetery near Athens. (PHMC)

June: An underground anthracite mine was opened in Carbondale. (PHMC)

1832
Charles Carroll, of Maryland, last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, died. (Grun)

1833
Abolition of slavery in British Empire. (Grun)

1834
David Wilmot begins to study law in Wilkes-Barre. (PHMC)

The Jersey Shore Pike, a turnpike toll road between Lymansville and Jersey Shore, was completed in 1834. (PHMC)

Bestseller: Davy Crockett's autobiography. (Grun)

1835
The Unitarian Church, at Main& Chestnut streets in Meadville was built in 1835-36 for $3,500. The Shippen and Huidekoper families supported its construction. It is a fine example of Greek Revival architecture and was designed by General George W. Callum. Callum also built Fort Sumter. (PHMC)

1836
The state began construction of the Erie Extension Canal. The canal was part of a statewide system of internal improvements. It was completed in 1844 by a private company, the Erie Canal Company, and used until 1871. It extended 105 miles from New Castle to Erie; it reached Meadville by way of the French Creek Feeder. (PHMC)

Davy Crockett and others, fighting for Texas' independence, killed at the Alamo. (Grun)

1837
Samuel Morse demonstrated his electric telegraph. (Grun)

Financial and economic panic in United States (inflated land values, wildcat banking, paper speculation). (Grun)

1838
State begins construction on the 600-acre Pymatuning Reservoir for the Erie Extension Canal. Construction was completed by the Erie Canal Company in 1844. (PHMC)

State begins construction of the Conneaut Line of the Erie Extension Canal from Erie to Conneaut Lake. It was completed by the Erie Canal Company in 1844. The Shenango Line, from New Castle, was completed in 1842 and united with the Conneaut Line, from Erie, near Shermansville. (PHMC)

July 4: Construction begins in Erie on the northern terminus of the Erie Extension Canal. (PHMC)

Queen Victoria's coronation. (Grun)

1839

The Cashier's House in Erie was built in 1839 as a residence for the cashier at the branch of the U.S. Bank of Pennsylvania. The bank, next door, was later used as a custom house (it is still referred to as the "Old Custom House"), post office, and meeting hall of the Grand Army of the Republic. It is an example of Greek Revival architecture and is the home of the Erie County Historical Society. (PHMC)

The town of Lockport (now Platea) was founded in 1839 at a point where a series of locks, 28 in two miles, lowered boats travelling to Erie on the Erie Extension Canal. (PHMC)

Bestseller: Life of Washington by Jared Sparks. (Grun)

Abner Doubleday laid out first baseball diamond and conducted first game at Cooperstown, NY. (Grun)

1840

Stephen Foster composed his first music, "The Tioga Waltz" while living in Towanda, 1840-41. He attended Athens Academy for a short time while staying with his brother, William, a canal official. Nearby Camptown was probably basis for his "Camptown Races." (PHMC)

The Lackawanna Iron Company was founded in Scranton in 1840 by George W. Scranton and his associates. By 1847, the company was making iron rails for the Erie Railroad, and began making steel in 1875. It closed in 1902. (PHMC)

2,816 miles of railroad in operation in United States. (Grun)

1840s: Pennsylvania passed laws limiting the hours children could work in factories and mines. (Grun)

1841

Lester Frank Ward was born. Known as the "Father of American Sociology" and "the American Aristotle," he was also a geologist and Civil War veteran. When young, worked with his brother, labor historian Cyrenus Osborne Ward, in their hub factory in Myersburg (Bradford County). (PHMC)

William Henry Harrison is inaugurated, then died month later; succeeded by John Tyler. (Grun)

Approximately 43,000 Germans emigrated to America, most to Pennsylvania; total population of the United States is 17 million. (Grun)

1842
April 4: Wyoming County was formed from Luzerne County; named for the Wyoming Valley (translated from an Indian language as "extensive meadows"). The county seat, Tunkhannock, was settled in 1790 and incorporated in 1841. (PHMC)

September 9: Democrats in Crawford County use direct primary elections to nominate candidates to county offices. Crawford County Republicans began using this method in 1860, and it became known as the Crawford County System as it spread to other counties and states. By the early 20th century, it had become the nation's standard system for selecting party nominees for most public offices. (PHMC)

The "Irish Settlement" of Sartwell, in McKean County, began in 1842. By 1847, a Catholic parish was organized, and the St. Marys Church, a log structure, was built in 1848. The present church was completed in 1871. This was the "mother church" of Catholic parishes throughout McKean and Potter counties; the pastor visited Catholics in Port Allegany, Bradford, Smethport, Eldred, Duke Center and Costello. It later became a mission of St. Raphael's at Eldred. (PHMC)

Industrial workers riot and strike in northern England for better conditions. (Grun)

Charles Dickens published A Christmas Carol. (Grun)

1843
The U. S. Navy's first iron ship, the Wolverine, was launched on Lake Erie in 1843 and was in use until 1923. Originally known as the Michigan, the ship was located near Presque Isle, Erie at least by 1953. (PHMC)

Samuel F. B. Morse awarded government contract ($30,000) to build first telegraph line (Washington-Baltimore). (Grun)

1844
Construction of the Erie Extension Canal is completed by a private company, the Erie Canal Company. The Company was headed by R. S. Reed of Erie. (PHMC)

December 5: The Erie Extension Canal is formally opened by the arrival in Erie of the R. S. Reed, carrying Mercer County coal, and the Queen of the West, carrying

passengers. The northern end of the canal was located near the north end of State Street in Erie. (PHMC)

1845
The Sylvania Colony, a short-lived utopian colony modeled on Brook Farm and the ideas of Fourier (French Socialist) and founded by Horace Greeley, failed in 1845 after July frosts killed their crops. The colony was based on the principles of common property holding and equal labor. (PHMC)

1846
August 8: Wilmot Proviso introduced. (PHMC)

American inventor John Deere made steel plow; Elias Howe patented sewing machine (improved by I. M. Singer in 1851). (Grun)

Italian chemist Ascanio Sobrero prepared nitroglycerine. (Grun)

Famine in Ireland due to failure of potato crop. (Grun)

Smithsonian Institution founded. (Grun)

1848
Construction was completed on the Starrucca Viaduct. Begun the previous year by the Erie Railroad, it is the oldest stone railroad bridge in use today (1974). The viaduct is 1200 feet long, 110 feet high, and 30 feet wide at the top. (PHMC)

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends Mexican-U. S. War; U. S. gets Texas, New Mexico, California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming. (Grun)

First U. S. Women's Rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. (Grun)

Marx and Engels issued the Communist Manifesto. (Grun)

1849
January 22: Terence V. Powderly was born in Carbondale in 1849. He was Mayor of Scranton from 1878-1884. He was a noted labor leader, serving as Grand Master Workman of the Knights of Labor from 1879-1893. He also served as a Federal immigration official. He died in 1924. (PHMC)

1850

The Gravity Railroad of the Pennsylvania Coal Company operated between Pittston and Hawley from 1850 to 1884. It used a series of inclined planes to move the coal. (PHMC)

World population estimated at 1.1 billion. (Grun)

1851
The City of Erie incorporated. (PHMC)

1852
America's most famous clown of the 19th century, Dan Rice (1823-1900), had the winter quarters of his circus in Girard from 1852 to 1875. The Soldier's Monument, near his home, was donated to the town by Rice. (PHMC)

Noted Norwegian violinist acquired 11,144 acres in Potter County and established the villages of New Norway, Oleona, New Bergen, Walhalla, and Ole Bull's Castle. (PHMC)

Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe published. (Grun)

1854
"War for Bleeding Kansas" erupted between free and slave states. (Grun)

1856
In 1856, Jay Gould owned a large tannery in Gouldsboro, now known as Thornhurst. Gould and his partner, Zaddock Pratt, operated the tannery successfully until 1861. This was Gould's first business; he later became a noted and wealth railroad speculator. (PHMC)

Slavers murdered by free-staters at Potawatomie Creek, Kansas. (Grun)

In England, Sir Henry Bessemer introduced converter in steelmaking proces and Sir William Siemens made ductile steel for boiler plating. (Grun)

1857
In 1857, Edinboro State College was founded. It was established as a State Normal School in 1861, the second oldest in the state and the first west of the Allegheny Mountains. It was made a Teachers College in 1926, and is now a university in the state-owned system. (PHMC)

November 5: Ida M. Tarbell was born in her grandfather's log house in Hatch Hollow, near Wattsburg, in 1857. She graduated from Titusville High School in 1875. She became a noted historian of Standard Oil and the oil industry, biographer of Lincoln, and journalist. She died January 6, 1944 at Bridgeport, Connecticut. (PHMC)

1858
Bernadette Soubirous reported appearance of Blessed Virgin Mary at Lourdes, France. (Grun)

1859
May: Horace Greeley and other prominent political leaders met in Honesdale (in 2001, the house was still standing) to develop a strategy to nominate Abraham Lincoln for President. Their strategy was successfully implemented at the Republican National Convention in Chicago later that year. (PHMC)

August 27: With the drilling of Edwin L. Drake's successful well, oil production begins on Oil Creek and booms until 1865. (PHMC)

Following Drake's success, J. L. Grandin drilled the second well for oil near Tidioute. It was dry. (PHMC)

On the Origin of Species by Natural Selection by Charles Darwin published. (Grun)

Construction began on the Suez Canal. (Grun)

1860
The first refinery for crude petroleum in the Oil Creek region was built near Titusville in 1860 and began producing by 1861. Oil was first refined at Pittsburgh, ca. 1854, by Samuel Kier. (PHMC)

Abraham Lincoln elected President; South Carolina secedes in protest. (Grun)

1861
Lincoln inaugurated; Confederate States organize; Fort Sumter taken by Confederacy; the American Civil War began. (Grun)

April 24: In 1861, the famed Civil War regiment known as the Bucktails, was organized in McKean County. Col. Thomas L. Kane sent out a call for volunteers, and one hundred assembled in Smethport to go to Harrisburg. The Bucktails were members of the 42d Regiment, and were recognized by their distinctive insignia, the tails of buck deer, worn on their uniforms. (PHMC)

Col. Thomas L. Kane called up the Bucktail Regiment in 1861. In 1863, he was breveted Major General. Kane was a friend of Brigham Young and a staunch supporter of the Mormon pioneers. In 1876, he began construction of a chapel in Kane, the town he founded, and was buried here when he died in 1883. (PHMC)

1862
The Homestead Act opened western lands to free settlement in 1862. The act was the idea of Galusha Grow, of Glenwood, Susquehanna County. Grow was Speaker of the House during the early years of the Civil War (1861-1863) and returned to Congress at the turn of the century (1893-1903). He retired to Glenwood, where he lived until his death in 1907. He is buried in Harford. (PHMC)

1863
July 2: At the Battle of Gettysburg, Col. Strong Vincent of Erie commited his brigade, including the 83rd Pennsylvania Regiment, to occupy and defend Little Round Top. His independent and decisive action is considered to be a major turning point in the battle. He was mortally wounded while rallying his men; he died July 7th, four days after he was promoted for his gallantry to brigadier general. He was born in Erie in a house at the northwest corner of First and Cherry streets. (PHMC)

Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. (Grun)

1864
July 15: An Erie Railroad train carrying 833 Confederate prisoners and 128 Union guards to the prison camp at Elmira, New York collided with a coal train between Shohola and Lackawaxen in 1864. About 48 prisoners and 17 guards died. Survivors were brought to Shohola, where they were cared for by the villagers, regardless of their uniforms. (PHMC)

Lincoln re-elected; Sherman marches across Georgia to sea; Grant becomes Commander of Union armies. (Grun)

Tolstoy's epic,War and Peace, published. (Grun)

1865
The Roberts Torpedo, an explosive device for increasing the flow of oil in a well, was first demonstrated in Titusville in 1865. The nitroglycerine for the torpedo was made about a half mile south of Titusville, on Hammond Run. (PHMC)

Christian Dorflinger founded the Dorflinger Glass Works in Wayne County (near White Mills). The glassworks was known for its high quality flint glass, which it made and cut. It operated from 1865 to 1921. Dorflinger supplied tableware for the White House for several administrations. (PHMC)

April 9: Confederate States of America surrender at Appomattox; war officially ended May 26. (Grun)

April 14: Lincoln assassinated. (Grun)

First oil pipeline constructed in northern Pennsylvania (six miles long). (Grun)

1866
Harry T. Burleigh (African American) was born in Erie in 1866. He was known as an eminent American baritone, composer and arranger. He arranged "Deep River" and other spirituals, and set to music poems by Walt Whitman. He was a student and associate of Dvorak. He died in 1949. (PHMC)

1868
David Wilmot died. (PHMC)

First professional baseball team, the Cincinnati Red Stockings, founded. (Grun)

1871
The Erie Extension Canal closed. (PHMC)

The oil industry's first permanent oil exchange was organized in the American Hotel in Titusville in 1871 by producers, refiners, dealers, and brokers. The Titusville Oil Exchange moved to different sites from its founding in 1871 to its closing in 1897, including a new three-story brick building in Titusville in 1881. This building was razed in 1956. (PHMC)

1874
Erie's oldest African-American congregation was founded in 1874. Five of its first six members were women. Originally at 3rd and German streets, the congregation meets at the St. James A.M.E. Church at 236 11th Street. It has long ministered to the spiritual and social needs of the Erie community, including the Underground Railroad. (PHMC)

1876

Philip P. Bliss died; he was great singing evangelist and gospel song writer who lived and taught in Bradford County for a while. Buried in Bradford County; the monument was built by Sunday School gifts from England and the U.S. (PHMC)

Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. (Grun)

1878
August 13: Lackawanna County was formed from Luzerne County in 1878, with Scranton as the county seat. Scranton became a city in 1866. The name Lackawanna is of Indian origin and means "stream that forks." (PHMC)

1879
May 28: The first pipeline to carry oil across the Alleghenies began operating in 1879. The pipeline carried oil 109 miles, to Williamsport, Pennsylvania. (PHMC)

1880
September – At the South Ward schools in Meadville, Elias Allen tried unsuccessfully to enroll his two children. He appealed to the Crawford County Court of Common Pleas, and Judge Pearson Church declared unconstitutional the 1854 state law mandating separate schools for Negro children. This law as amended, effective July 4, 1881, to prohibit such segregation, effectively desegregating Pennsylvania's public schools. (PHMC)

There are 87,800 miles of railroad tracks in use in United States. (Grun)

1882
In 1882, Rev. Jacob M. Koehler founded the institute that would become the Scranton State School for the Deaf. An ordained minister who was himself deaf, he was concerned for Pennsylvania's uneducated deaf children, and was a leading advocate for compulsory education of the deaf. At the turn of the century, he served as President of the National Association of the Deaf (1896-1900), was twice President of the Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf, and was the U.S. Representative to the World Congress of the Deaf in Paris in 1889. (PHMC)

The Kinzua Viaduct was built for a branch of the Erie Railroad to carry coal northward, across the deep valley of Kinzua Creek. When constructed in 1882, it was the world's highest and longest rail viaduct. It was rebuilt in 1900 to carry heavier loads, and continued in service until 1959. Kinzua Bridge State Park was created in 1963. The bridge now carries tourist excursions of the Knox, Kinzua, Kane Railroad and is open to pedestrian traffic. (PHMC)

1883
Excavations from 1883 to 1895 at the Indian village of Teaoga (Athens, Bradford County) reveal burials of an "Andaste chief and his followers." (PHMC)

1886
November 30: The first electric streetcar system in the United States began operation in Scranton in 1886. (PHMC)

The Statue of Liberty dedicated. (Grun)

1887
Charles S. Peirce lived in Milford from 1887 until his death in 1914. He is credited as America's most original philosopher and greatest logician and founder of "pragmatism." A great part of his work was written while he was in Milford. (PHMC)

1888
The Climax Locomotive plant opened in Corry. Between 1888 and 1928, more than 1,000 geared steam locomotives were built here. These were widely used on logging railroads in the U.S. and other countries. The geared locomotive made formerly inaccessible tracts available for large-scale lumbering, a key to the industry's growth at the turn of the century. (PHMC)

1891
Thomas J. Foster founded the International Correspondence Schools in Scranton in 1891. Foster was born in Pottsville January 1, 1843 and died in Scranton October 14, 1936. He was a pioneer in education by mail, and was a noted editor, publisher and veteran. He was an early advocate of mine safety laws. (PHMC)

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by A. Conan Doyle published in a British magazine. (Grun)

W. L. Judson invents the "hookless fastener." (Grun)

1892
Iron and steel workers strike in United States. (Grun)

1895
First professional football game played at Latrobe, Pennsylvania. (Grun)

1898

The Battle of Manila Bay in 1898 began with Dewey's famous order, "You may fire when you are ready, Gridley." Captain C. V. Gridley of Erie, served on Dewey's flagship, the *Olympia*, and is buried in Erie. (PHMC)

United States declared war on Spain over Cuba; Americans destroy Spanish fleet at Manila; Spain cedes Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Phillipines to U. S. for $20 million. (Grun)

1899
Dr. Matthew J. Shields organized a first aid plan for miners at Jermyn in 1899. His plan became the basis for the Red Cross's industrial first aid program, which he helped to establish. Dr. Shields died in Scranton January 23, 1939. (PHMC)

1900
At the 1900 Olympic Games in Paris, Walter B. Tewksbury of Tunkhannock won five medals in track and field (two gold, two silver, one bronze). In 1900 he was also co-holder of the world record for the 100-meter dash. He has been inducted into both the National Track & Field Hall of Fame and the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. As a student at the University of Pennsylvania, he was intercollegiate champion in the 100 and 220 meter dashes, 1898 and 1899. He graduated with a degree in dentistry in 1899. He practiced dentistry, coached track and field, and was active in the Tunkhannock community. (PHMC)

1901
Queen Victoria died. (Grun)

1903
The Wright Brothers successfully flew a powered airplane. (Grun)

1908
The Ford Motor Company produced the first Model T; 15 million were eventually sold. (Grun)

1909
September 3: *The Pioneer*, a gravity railcar of the Pennsylvania Coal Company Railroad, was presented by the company to the City of Scranton in 1909. The car was used on the line from Hawley to Pittston from 1850 to 1884. (PHMC)

The first commercial manufacture of Bakelite begins the "Plastic Age." (Grun)

1911

April 7: On the morning of April 7, 1911, the Pancoast Mine in Throop (Lackawanna County) was the scene of a disastrous fire. Seventy-two coal miners died of suffocation, and a government rescue worker was also killed. On June 15, a new state law was enacted that required all interior buildings at coal mines to be built of incombustible materials. (PHMC)

September 30: A concrete dam at Austin, built by the Bayless Pulp and Paper Company in 1909, failed. It sent torrents of water and debris down Freeman Run into Austin and Costello, causing great destruction and killing 78 people. The dam was nearly 50 feet high and 534 feet long. Second only to the failure of the South Fork Dam that destroyed Johnstown in 1889, this disaster inspired legislation (1913) to regulate the construction of dams within the state. (PHMC)

1912

May 17: The liquefied petroleum gas (LP gas) industry began near Waterford (Erie County) in 1912. The first domestic customer, John W. Gahring, had "bottled gas" installed for lighting and cooking on May 17, 1912 at his farm house near LeBoeuf Station. (PHMC)

While living in Lackawaxen (1905-1918), Zane Grey wrote one of his most well-known books, "Riders of the Purple Sage," in 1912. Grey is buried in Lackawaxen, near his house. (PHMC)

In the United States, 5 million people visit the cinema every day. (Grun)

1914

World War I begins in Europe. (Grun)

Between 1905 and 1914, almost 10.5 million immigrants entered United States from eastern and southern Europe. (Grun)

1915

John A. Mather died in Titusville. From 1860, he was a noted photographer of the oil industry. He was born in Bury, England in 1829. (PHMC)

The Tunkhannock Viaduct, the largest reinforced structure of its kind, opened in 1915 on the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad. It is 2,375 feet long and rises 240 feet above Tunkhannock Creek. The bridge was built for a reloactiaon of the railroad between Clarks Summit and Hallstead. Novelist Theodore Dreiser called the viaduct "one of the true wonders of the world." (PHMC)

Albert Einstein postulated his General Theory of Relativity. (Grun)

The Ford Motor Company produced its one millionth car. (Grun)

1917
March 21: Loretto Perfectus Walsh enlisted in the U. S. Navy on March 21, 1917, just six days before the United States entered World War I. She was the first woman to enlist in the Navy; she served in Philadelphia as Chief Yeoman until her discharge in 1919. She was born in the Lackawanna County community of Olyphant in 1896 and died in 1925. A marker recognizing her achievement is located at the American Legion Post in Olyphant. (PHMC)

United States entered World War I. (Grun)

1918
World War I ended; approximately 8.5 million killed, 21 million wounded, 7.5 million prisoners and missing. (Grun)

1919
Unity House, a vacation and labor education retreat near Bushkill Falls, was founded by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) in 1919. Each year it hosted several thousand visitors, including union members, retirees, and public officials, and offered cultural events significant to the labor movement. Unity House was the only workers' resort of this size in the United States. It closed in 1989 due to declining employment in the domestic apparel industry. (PHMC)

American steel strike began; lasts until January 1920. (Grun)

The United States enacted laws to restrict immigration. (Grun)

1920
The United States produced 645 million tons of coal, 443 million barrels of oil, licensed 8,890,000 vehicles. (Grun)

18th Amendment enacted; Prohibition began. (Grun)

1922
James M. Thoburn died in Meadville and is buried in the Greendale Cemetery. He was a Methodist missionary to India, South Asia, and the Philippines from 1859 to 1908. Upon retirement, he lived in Meadville. (PHMC)

The Ku Klux Klan began to assume political power. (Grun)

1923
Gifford Pinchot begins his first of his two terms (1923-1927 and 1931-1935) as Governor of Pennsylvania. His first term brought major governmental reorganization. His second term was famed for paving rural roads throughout the state, including Route 6, to provide unemployment relief and to "get the farmer out of the mud." Pinchot was born in Connecticut in 1865 and died October 4, 1946. He is buried in Milford. The family home, Grey Towers, is near Milford. (PHMC)

1925
Adolph Hitler reorganized Nazi party and published volume 1 of Mein Kampf. (Grun)

The Charleston and crossword puzzles are popular in the United States. (Grun)

John T. Scopes tried for teaching evolution in Tennessee; he was convicted, then acquitted on a technicality. (Grun)

1927
The Ford Motor Company produced its 15 millionth Model T. (Grun)

1929
Disney introduced "Mickey Mouse"musicals to American movie-goers; "talkies" kill silent films. (Grun)

Stock market crashed; Depression follows. (Grun)

1933
Hitler granted dictatorial powers in Germany. (Grun)

Public Works Administration created to put unemployed to work. (Grun)

1934
Robert Houghwout Jackson joined Franklin Roosevelt's administration in 1934. He served as U.S. Solicitor General, 1938-39, and as Attorney General, 1940-41. In 1941 he was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, where he served until 1954. He was the Chief U.S. prosecutor during the Nuremberg war crime trials in Germany following World War II. Jackson was born in Warren County on a farm near Spring Creek. (PHMC)

1936

In 1936, 75 percent of Pennsylvania farms had no electric service. Between 1936 and 1941, with Federal support, 14 consumer-owned cooperatives were formed in PA. The Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative Association was incorporated April 30, 1936 in Crawford County, was Pennsylvania's first. Its (and Pennsylvania's) first pole was place along PA 198 near Woodcock Creek Lake (east of PA 86) on August 5, 1936. Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative, serving parts of 8 northeastern PA counties, was incorporated October 24, 1936. (PHMC)

Christy Mathewson was one of the first five players to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936. He was born in Factoryville (Wyoming County). He attended Keystone Academy, 1895-98 and Bucknell University 1898-1901. A gentlemen in the rough-and-tumble era of baseball in the early 20th century, he played for the New York Giants (1900-16) and the Cincinnati Reds, 1916-18. He pitched 373 winning games, a National League record. He served overseas in World War I. (PHMC)

1936
Bruno Hauptman convicted of kidnapping and killing Lingbergh baby. (Grun)

1938
40-hour work week established in U. S. (Grun)

1939
Coal strike by United Mine Workers, led by John L. Lewis. (Grun)

World War II began in Europe. (Grun)

1941
United States entered World War II when it declared war on Japan, Germany, Italy. (Grun)

1945
World War II ended. (Grun)

1950
Douglas MacArthur leads U. N. forces in Korea. (Grun)

1953
Korean Armistice signed. (Grun)

1963
President John F. Kennedy assassinated. (Grun)

Civil rights demonstrations in South. (Grun)

1964
United States involved in Viet Nam. (Grun)

1968
Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy assassinated. (Grun)

1969
300,000 attended Woodstock Music and Art Fair in upstate New York. (Grun)

U. S. astronauts walked on the moon. (Grun)

1972
Break-in at the Democratic National Headquarters at the Watergate Hotel, Washington; cover-up eventually resulted in President Nixon's resignation. (Grun)

Gas shortages in United States. (Grun)

Paris peace talks continue to resolve War in Indochina. (Grun)

1973
Cease fire agreement ended War in Indochina. (Grun)

1974
President Nixon resigned. (Grun)

NO DATE
Conneaut Reservoir
Raised some ten feet by a 23-mile feeder from Meadville, this lake was the vital source of water for the highest part of the canal, four miles to the west. Lake water and traffic flowed north to Erie, south to the Ohio River. (PHMC)

Edwin L. Drake is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Titusville. He sank the first oil well in the region. He is commemorated at the cemetery by a bronze figure, "The Driller," by Niehaus. (PHMC)

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