

HISTORICAL PAPER.

THE FIRST FURNACE USING COAL.

Prior to 1840 no pig iron was successfully produced in this county, or, in fact, in any other portion of the world, except with charcoal as a fuel. Attempts had been made to use charcoal and anthracite mixed, and the latter alone, but they were failures. With the discovery of hot blast, the conditions changed and it was then found that anthracite coal alone could be successfully used in the production of pig iron. As the timber to produce charcoal was not plentiful in Lancaster county, the change to anthracite created quite a small "boom," for those days, in our county, especially as there were many local deposits of brown hematite, or limonite, ores that it was thought could be used to considerable advantage. The fever became contagious, each one seeming anxious to be an "iron master," in which name there seemed to be something particularly attractive, and many paid dearly for the honor!

So far as the records in my possession show the furnaces to use anthracite coal in Lancaster county were :

Shawnee furnace, at Columbia, built in 1844 45 by Robert and James Calvin. Archibald Wright and nephew erected a second furnace here in 1854.

Henry Clay furnace, on the Pennsylvania railroad and canal, between Chickies and Columbia, was built in 1845, by Peter Haldeman, of Columbia.

Chikiswalungo furnace, later changed to Chickies, at the mouth of Chickies creek, was built by Henry Haldeman, who resided just below Bainbridge, for his sons, Professor S. S. Haldeman and Dr. Edwin Haldeman.

Marietta furnaces (two) were erected by Mr. Shoenberger and Henry Musselman, one in 1848, the other in 1849. Later the firm became Musselman & Watts. The latter, Henry M. Watts, was a son-in-law of Mr. Shoenberger.

Rough and Ready furnace, later changed to Cordelia, which is situated on

Shawnee Run, about two and one-half miles northwest of Columbia, was built in 1848 by Cross & Waddell.

Conestoga furnace, in Lancaster, was built as a charcoal furnace in 1846 by Robert and James Calvin and George Ford, a Lancaster lawyer. Later the furnace was changed to use anthracite coal.

Safe Harbor furnace, near the mouth of Conestoga creek, was built by Reese, Abbott & Co., "a few years after 1846."

Sarah Ann furnace, on the north side of Big Chickies creek, was erected in 1839 by Jacob Gamber. It was later owned by Governor Daniel R. Porter, who changed it to anthracite.

Donegal furnace, on the Pennsylvania canal, between Chickies and Marietta furnaces, was built in 1848, by James Myers, of Columbia ; Dr. George N. Eckert and Daniel Stein.

S. Charles furnace, at Columbia, was built in 1852 by Clement B. Grubb, of Lancaster.

Eagle furnace, which adjoins the Chickies property, was built in 1854, by S. F. Eagle, Peter Haldeman and Joseph Cottrell. This furnace was purchased by the owners of the Chickies furnace, when its name was changed to Chickies No. 2.

Musselman furnace, later changed to Vesta, was the last blast furnace erected in our county. It was built by Musselman & Watts, the owners of the Marietta furnaces, in 1868.

Owing to the various changes in the modern conditions of producing pig iron all except three of the above thirteen blast furnaces have either been abandoned, or torn down or sold for "scrap iron. Of these three the two at Chickies are now in operation.

The first in Lancaster county to use anthracite fuel were the Shawnee, at Columbia; Henry Clay, above Columbia, and Chikiswalungo, in the order named.

The eight furnaces along the Pennsylvania canal, between Columbia and Marietta, were built there owing to facilities that waterway gave them for transportation, all their coal being received and iron shipped by canal. The ores at first came from the surrounding local mines and were hauled to the furnaces in wagons.

In 1828 Henry Haldeman purchased the Chickies *property* from the estate of

Christian Hershey, deceased. There was then standing on the property a small saw mill on the grounds of the present mansion. Shortly after purchasing the property he erected the present larger saw mill at the mouth of Chickies creek. This mill was run for him by Samuel Zink. In 1836 Henry Haldeman took his son, Prof. S. S. Haldeman, in partnership in the lumber business. In 1842 Henry Haldeman retired from the partnership, transferring his remaining interest to his second son, Dr. Edwin Haldeman, then a practicing physician. The firm then consisted of Prof. S. S. Haldeman and Dr. Edwin Haldeman under the firm name of E. Haldeman & Co.

Prior to Henry Haldeman's purchase of this property, there was a fulling mill on the same, the remains of the dam for which can yet be seen under one of the present turnpike bridges. There was also a ferry across the mouth of the creek used by travellers before the river turnpike road was built, there being no bridge at that time. The Columbia and Marietta turnpike was incorporated January 21, 1814, but the road was not constructed until 1826-30, at the time the State built the canal along the river shore. "This turnpike followed the canal level from Columbia to Chickies Rock, where it ascended and curved around a large rock down to the face of Chickies Rock, thence along the canal level. This was one of the finest drives in the county. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company having purchased the road bed, the turnpike was changed to its present location over Chickies hill."

Samuel Evans, in his History of Lancaster county, writes : "The Marietta Railroad Company was incorporated in 1832 to build a road from Marietta to a point on the Columbia and Philadelphia Railroad, about six miles east of Columbia. When the Legislature re-chartered the United States Bank, that institution paid a bonus to the State of some thousands of dollars. Henry Haldeman, who had much influence, opposed the re-chartering of this bank, and to overcome his opposition the bonus was taken and appropriated towards the construction of the above railway through his Chickies property. Surveys were made and the line of road located about twenty feet

above the bed of the present Pennsylvania Railroad. A portion of the road bed was graded for about two hundred feet in the rear of the large mansion house at Chickies, but nothing more was done. The grading is still shown in the yard of same at this time."

In 1833 Henry Haldeman built as a residence for his son, Professor S. S. Haldeman, the large mansion now standing at the base of Chickies Rock. Professor Haldeman was the architect, making and originating all the detailed drawings and specifications, which are in a good state of preservation to-day.

In 1845 Henry Haldeman built the Chickiswalungo furnace. This furnace and all his other property at Chickies he gave to his sons, Samuel and Edwin, on July 4, 1845.

The furnace first went in blast January 15, 1846. It was originally but thirty-two feet high and eight feet across boshes, but was modernized from time to time, but the original stack remained until 1886, when the old plant was, practically, dismantled and a new one erected, including machinery, boilers and hot blast stoves. From the time the furnace was built up to July, 1893, a period of over forty-seven years, the furnace was never out of blast for more than six months at any one time. During the depression in the iron business in 1893, it went out of blast, but is now in operation.

In 1852 Paris Haldeman, a younger brother, was admitted in the firm of E. Haldeman & Co. In 1869 Prof. Haldeman retired from the business and the heirs of Edward B. Grubb, of Burlington, N. J., entered, they having purchased the Eagle furnace adjoining the Chickies property. This co-partnership continued after the death of Dr. Edwin Haldeman in 1872, until the Chickies Iron Company was formed in 1876. In 1888 the firm of Haldeman, Grubb & Co. was formed, consisting of Paris Haldeman, C. Ross Grubb and Horace L. Haldeman. Paris Haldeman retired from active business in 1891, leaving the members of the firm as at present, C. Ross Grubb and Horace L. Haldeman.

The principal ores used at the Chickies furnaces were obtained from the Grubb and Haldeman's ore mines at Silver Springs, some six miles from the furnaces,

and from Cornwall, Lebanon county. Of late years Cornwall ore has been used to produce a Bessemer pig iron.

The several ore properties at Chestnut Hill, which adjoin each other, are, when taken as a whole, one of the largest hematite ore deposits in this State. Ore was first discovered there on the Greider farm, between 1825 and 1832, by Simeon Guilford, the distinguished engineer, who died at Lebanon last year, at the advanced age of ninety-three years, and mining has been carried on since the first discovery up to the present day. Most of the furnaces in and around Columbia and Chickies depend on these mines for their principal supply of ore.

There has been some controversy as to the orthography of Chickies and, as frequently is the case, those knowing the least about the subject have the most to say. It is a well-known fact, recognized by those competent to give an opinion, that the spelling of words is by no means a safe guide to pronunciation. In an address to the Spelling Reform Association, delivered by the late Professor S. S. Haldeman, in 1877, he aptly said: "Our spelling is so lawless that we take unscientific rules for our guide and instead of following the great law that speech is older than spelling, we make it newer; and if the spelling depends upon some hidden fact a word may be sacrificed to a fetish or bit of paper with writing upon it. People who learn only spelling and neglect the laws of speech are continually trying to reconstruct words from spelling, the significance of which they do not understand."

In early days, when little attention was given to the matter, there were a number of ways in which the name was spelled, the most common being *Chicques* and *Chiques*, generally with the *qu*. The name is derived from the Chikiswalungo creek, meaning "the place of crabs," which was then also spelled *Chiquesalungo*. The *qu* came from the French surveyors, employed by the French Indian traders, who, in making their maps, used the *qu* to give the *k* sound, pronounced by the Indians as if spelled *Chikis*. This was quite natural and possibly correct from a Frenchman's point of view, as much so as the spelling of any French geographical name, but if we

follow that language we would have to change America and the United States into *Amerique* and *Etats Unis*.

In 1846, when the blast furnace was built, it was necessary to give it a name, as well as the brand of pig iron to be produced. Care was taken to investigate the subject by Professor Haldeman, who, at that time and prior, was recognized as an authority on languages and phonology, including Indian dialects of which he had written as early as 1844. After much investigation the name adopted was *Chikiswalungo Furnace*, as is also shown by the furnace account books for the firm, of which Professor Haldeman was the senior member.

This name was used until June, 1858, when owing to the inconvenience of its length it was shortened to *Chickies*, as at present, by Professor Haldeman's advice and consent. In a communication to a local newspaper, of December 8, 1877, referring to another correspondent's communication, he writes : "The original form *Chikiswalungo* was so cumbersome that it broke in two, **giving** us names for the two towns *Chickies* and *Salungo*. The original is too inconvenient for post-office and map purposes and the philanthropy which imposed a name like *Philadelphia* is to be doubted. *Naples* and *Paris* are preferable to the old names *Neapolis* and *Lutetia Parisiorum*, and, in fact, abbreviation is one of the laws of language..... The post-office department uses *Chickies*, the Pennsylvania railroad *Chiques* (*apt* to be called *Cheeks*), but of late I often write *Chikis*."

In a letter of Dr. E. Haldeman, of December 27, 1856, he twice uses *Chikis* in referring to the turnpike and creek and this latter spelling was used by Prof. S. S. Haldeman in the later years of his life for the headings of his communications. He also gave the latter as correct to Prof. Persifer Frazer, Jr., geologist in charge of the survey of Adams, York, Lancaster and Chester counties, for the Second State Geological Survey of Pennsylvania, 1876-8, for which the reports were published in 1879. Prof. Frazer wrote him that as the record was to appear in a State document, which would go down to posterity and there seemed to be some question on the subject, he applied to Prof. Haldeman as the only

authority he recognized on the matter ; the latter gave *Chikis* as correct, and so it appears in these, as well as other publications.

Whilst we would not attempt to dispute Prof. Haldeman's decision, it would have created much confusion, from a business standpoint, to change the name of the post-office, railway station, telegraph and express offices, names of the furnaces, brand of iron and the Company making the same, after having been in use for a quarter of a century, from *Chickies* to *Chikis*, especially as the difference was so slight. No one now pretends that *Claques* is or ever was correct, except possibly those who do so either from nonsensical sentimental reasons, considering the *qu* more elegant, or else through ignorance.

J. I. Mombert, D. D., in his "History of Lancaster County," published in 1869, in reference to Indian localities, on page 386, gives the "modern name" of this creek as *Chiquesalungo* and the "Indian name" as *Chickeswalungo*, meaning "the place of crawfish•"

The scenery around Chickies is varied and picturesque. One of the most beautiful views in this, or any other county, can be seen from the top of Chickies Rock, with the Susquehanna winding around at its base, dividing the red and white rose counties of Lancaster and York. A short distance back from the rock can be seen the Chikiswalungo and Donegal valleys, with their fine buildings and farms under the highest state of cultivation, in fact the cream of the greatest agricultural county in the United States. James Buchanan once remarked that this view reminded him of the best agricultural portions of England, and we have frequently heard *the* remark from strangers, "This is God's own country."

There are some interesting Indian legends connected with Chickies Rock and I feel that it would be well for our society to collect and record such matters for future generation; before they are forgotten or corrupted. The most unique as to the rock is given in a poem, written some years since by Walter Kieffer, entitled:

CHIKISWALUNGO.

Land of Penn! where lies a glen
Fairly filled with mystic story,
Artist's brush nor poet's pen
Could e'er *paint* its wondrous glory;

Chikis-wa-lungo! where Wanunga,
Bravest of the Indian legion,
Told the romance of each war dance,
Told of vict'ries in the region.

High o'er all there hangs a pall,
Seeming lonely, sad, forbidding;
Lock again from out the glen,
See the trees with vigor budding,
Jutting outward, leaning forward From
the rocks that hang above ydu,
On that spot, full many a plot
Closed with vow like this, "I love you!"

And forever rolls the river,
Full two hundred feet below;
Susquehanna, shout Hcsanna, As
thy waters onward flow! Surely
God, upon the green sod
On the banks that form thy fetters,
Set his impress of divineness In
most rare and radiant letters.

Here Wanunga on Salunga.
Woody the maided, Wanhuita,
Told the story of his glory,
How he slew his rival, Sita; Never
maiden was so laden
With perplexing doubt and fear, In
her bosom dwelt a passion For
a pale face lingering near.

Then the pale face, with a rare grace,
Sought the maiden in her bower, Never
dreaming, danger teeming, Till
Wanunga held the power ; Hark! a
rustle, then a tussle,
All is silent as the grave,
Then Wanunga, from Salunga,
Leaps with maiden 'neath the wave.

And the river rolls forever,
Never giving no its dead,
But tradition (superstition)
Says there sounds a solemn tread,
As the pale face, with such rare grace,
Walks upon the giddy summit,
Watching ever for his treasure, Torn
from him like fiery comet.

And yet the pale face will forget
The story here depicted,
And the tale of love, on the rocks above,
Are still not interdicted;
For many a pledge, on that rocky ledge.
Ascends to heavenly portals,
And the vows there made are thought more
staid,
Than the common vows of mortals.

If the attempt is made to collect these
Indian legends, I would suggest that it be
done intelligently, otherwise it will be-
come a farce, as was the case with a cor-
respondent, a few years since, in one of
our local newspapers, who, referring to
his address before a high school, and the
advisability of interesting the school
children in such matters, wrote :

"Swatara was named after an Indian
hunter, who could speak some English,

who shot a deer across the stream and ejaculated 'sweet arrow.'

"I have only time in this paper to give one of those from which the name and spelling of our beautiful stream was taken, Chiquesalungo. Several centuries ago a tribe of Indians was encamped on the banks of this lovely stream which is now the rich and fertile valley of Rapho township. Just east of Mt. Joy, near Cedar Hill seminary, is a beautiful dell, surrounded by large trees and dense shade, where lovers often meet. One evening in the long ago an Indian maiden and her lover met here in early September [How the month was fixed the Lord only knows]. The night was balmy and fair. As they sat on a rude log, discoursing about sweet love, they almost got enchanted with the beauty that surrounded them. The harvest moon, now near Its full, was rising slowly in the east and shed a radiance of unearthly beauty on the scene. The sharp cadences of the katydid, the ripple of the meandering stream as it passed along the dell, all assisted to make the scene one of unequalled loveliness. They proposed to each other to take a walk along the stream, and as they walked and talked, happy in the charms of each other's company, and as love takes no note of time or distance, it was near the bewitching hour of midnight as they ascended a hill. From its top it seemed like Beulah Land, away across the valley, as it lay bathed in moonlight. The scene was truly enchanting, and they talked about its beauty and their happy wigwam homes, and, looking beyond the hills, they fancied they could see their happy hunting grounds, where they would be forever happy. These souls,

' Proud science never taught to stray,
Far as the solar walk or milky way.'

"And as they were thus walking and musing in each other's arms, (?) they fell over a terrible precipice (Chiques Rock) and met a romantic death. But before they died she was able to say to him Chiqua ' and he answered 'Salunga.' They were buried on the banks of the beautiful stream that bears their name, and the low moaning of its waters the broad Susquehanna is ever singing a sweet requiem to their memory and their monument is the romantic Chiquesalungo."

My only object in consuming your time by repeating such useless slush is to illustrate the point to which I desire to call your attention, that is, the importance of recording these legends with, at least, an ordinary degree of intelligence. Think of one, who feels competent to address a high school, recording in print such material, and leading the unsuspecting youth to believe that Swatara was ever pronounced by any intelligent being as "Sweet Arrow;" there is no "sweet" in the pronunciation. And then to walk those poor lovers some six miles from near Mount Joy to Chickies Rock and when they tumble over it (mind the night was "fair" so they could see) to **have** the maiden **say**—"The place of" and the young buck reply "Crabs," which is what "Chikiswalungo" means.

May our growing generation, hungry for knowledge, be protected from such history (?) and I trust our society will assist in so doing.

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