

A FULLING MILL IN 1714.

In 1716 Stephen Atkinson, to whom liberty had been granted about two years before to settle on a neck of land between Edmund Cartlidge and the Conestoga Creek and to build a mill and make a dam, and he having built a good fulling mill a warrant was made out for the neck of land and 10 or 20 acres over the creek next his dam.

In the year 1728 he took 138 acres in the bend of the Conestoga. This mill was located in the bend of the creek, between Reigart's and Graeff's Landing. The mill and dwelling were on the south side of the creek and fell in Lampeter township, when the county was organized. This was the first mill in the county which obtained its water power direct from the Conestoga river. After Mr. Atkinson built his dam, it proved to be a complete barrier against the ascent of shad and other fish to the upper part of that stream. The citizens residing along the water course above the dam came down in the night-time and tore the dam away. The Legislature compelled Mr. Atkinson to construct a passage way in his dam to allow the fish to ascend the stream.

Mr. Atkinson died in 1739, and the mill was run by his son, Matthew Atkinson. Thomas Doyle, of Lancaster, married Elizabeth, daughter of Stephen Atkinson. They were the ancestors of Major John Doyle, a distinguished officer of the Revolutionary war, whose remains are buried in front of St. Mary's Catholic Church on Vine street, in Lancaster city. Captain Thomas Doyle, brother of John, also distinguished himself in the Revolu-

tionary war, and after its close joined General Wayne's "Loyal Legion" in his campaign against the western Indians.

Joshua Minshall, an Irish Quaker, married a daughter of Stephen Atkinson. He moved to the west side of the river at Wright's Ferry, in 1730. He was captured, with others, by adherents of Lord Baltimore, and thrown into prison at Annapolis, Md., February 21, 1733. He adhered to Penn's interests, and was against the pretensions of Lord Baltimore. His son, Thomas Minshall, was a prominent person in York county.

Hon. John Wilkes Kittera, the first member of Congress from Lancaster county under the United States Constitution, who **served** for ten years, married a great-granddaughter of Stephen Atkinson, and a most distinguished lady she was.

John Snyder, son of Governor Simon Snyder, married a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kittera. Miss Mary Snyder, daughter of John Snyder, now resides at Selins Grove, Pa.

Grist and Saw Mill.

Willism Smith, in the year 1728, took up 152 acres of land along Beaver creek, where the village of New Providence now stands. He built a grist and saw mill in 1729. The mill, with meadow containing four or five acres, was in Strasburg township. The balance of the land ran in a southerly direction and was embraced within the limits of Martictownship. In 1731 a public road was laid out from Lancaster to his mill, and in the year 173— a public road was laid out, leading from his mill to navigable water, at the mouth of Rock Run, in Maryland. This was at the head of tide water. The great quantities of flour manufactured at this mill, and others, in the lower end of the county, found their way, in a year or two after

the Rock Run road was laid out, over another road which terminated at Charlestown, a seaport town in Cecil county, Md. This being the nearest market along navigable water, it commanded a large portion of the trade from this county for several years, and to the time when a public road was built to Newport on the Christiana creek, in Delaware. Mr. Smith had two sons who became prominent in Colonial times, namely Thomas and William.

Thomas had his father's land patented in his own name in 1736, and in 1740 he purchased a farm adjoining on the west, now owned by the Mylins. In the year 1752 Thomas Smith was elected Sheriff for this county. While he held this office he kept open house in Lancaster, where he entertained his country friends, and in consequence of this liberality he went out of office poorer than when he entered upon its duties.

In 1755 Thomas Smith and his brother, William, purchased several hundred acres of land about three miles and a half northwest from "Smith's Mill," where they built a furnace, which stood upon the farm now owned by the Dillers. And in the same year they built a forge about four miles south of their furnace, along Pequea creek. They gradually purchased farms around their furnace and forge properties, which numbered more than four thousand acres.

In 1756 Thomas and William sold their grist mill and meadow to Michael Groff, and that part of the land which was located in Martic township (New Providence) they sold to Jacob Groff (who owned the Eshleman mill, to which 'Squire Hildebrand refers. Mr. Eshleman married his daughter and they were the ancestors of the late David G. Eshleman, Esq). Christian Groff

also purchased some of the Smith land. Three acres of iron ore land were reserved for the use of Martic Furnace, which was located upon land now owned by the Mylins. This seems to be a lost ore mine and is overgrown with trees perhaps of a hundred years growth.

In the year 1761 the Smith brothers purchased a farm along the great road leading from Chester Valley to McCall's Ferry, containing one hundred and twenty-one acres. Twenty-five acres of this land, which lay along a running stream at the Green Tree Tavern, they plotted and laid out into town lots and named the place "Smithburg." The lots were disposed of by lottery. I believe there is but one dwelling upon this town site now and that was erected about twenty years ago by the late Joseph McClure. This is one of the *lost towns* of the county. Thomas Smith failed and was thrown into prison for debt in the year 1769.

William Smith, brother of Thomas, married Dinah Edwards, daughter of John Edwards, who resided near the Blue Ball, in Earl township. He was elected Sheriff of the county in 1758. About this time he moved from Strasburg township to Earl. After the expiration of his term, and about the time of the failure of the Smith Brothers, he was appointed one of the Justices of the Common Pleas Court. After the Constitution of 1790 was adopted he was commissioned a Justice of the Peace for Earl township, an office he held until his death, in 1806. He moved from Blue Ball to Diffenderffer's "New Design," now New Holland, where he erected a stone dwelling and had his office. A few years ago it was owned and occupied by one of his descendants. His great-grandson, George Smith, was postmaster in New Holland for some

years,

and was removed by President Cleveland in 1885.

The Smiths were members of the Established Church of England, and were great favorites with the ruling class in Philadelphia.

Some Early Sheriffs of the County.

The following extracts taken from a letter in the Shippen papers have a peculiar interest in connection with the Smiths and others.

Edward Shippen to Col. James Burd, November 24, 1779, page 280.

The young man (Captain Worke*) who makes his addresses to Peggy is of a good family. He bears a good character. I thought it advisable, as soon as prudent after the wedding, that the young couple should remove to old Mr. Worke's until they could get a place in the country to their mind. Mr. Yeates told me that he understood that they were to reside in this borough. I replied that I was very sure that the profits of a Sheriff's office would never admit of that, when the fees were more than double to what they are now ; not to mention that is the most dangerous office a man can undertake. A Sheriff ought to have the heart of a stone to stand against the cries of women, beseeching him to take their husbands' words and fair promises, and so not to put them into prison ; frequently to the great loss of the Sheriff. The Shippen papers do not show that Peggy ever married Captain Joseph Worke.

Tom Smith, the Sheriff (though he lived part of his time in the country), was almost ruined by the office. It is indeed true, he was put in jail some time after he was out of office, but that was

*Son of Capt. Joseph Worke, of Donegal

township, elected Sheriff October, 1779. The Workes lived a mile and a half south of Donegal Church.

because he was involved in an iron works. Joseph Pugh, was Sheriff from 1755 to 1757, his successor, was so reduced by that business that he was obliged to remove into a remote part of Virginia with his poor family.

Then came in Jimmy Webb, owned and resided where Knapp's Villa is, was Sheriff from 1767 to 1769, who rented a house in town, where he muts live like a gentleman and make every leading man in the county quite welcome that came to see him. If he had not had a good estate he would have failed.

Frederick Stone, who was Sheriff from 1772 to 1773, succeeded him, who thought himself as good a gentleman as his predecessor ; but he, a poor, good-natured, tender-hearted man, soon got into jail, and is at this day an object of pity.

After him Johnny Ferree, who was Colonel in the Revolutionary Army, and Sheriff from 1773 to 1775, of Bettelhausen, (Strasburg borough,) nine miles off, set up for Sheriff, and carried it by a great majority of votes, and called on me for a recommendation to his Honor, Governor Penn, for a commission, which I refused to give until, among other things, he promised to live very frugally, and settle his accounts with me at every Court and pay me the Governor's fees, or fines, and my fees, etc. He was indulged to live at his own house at Bettel House, coming to town once or twice a week, by which means he was able to do everybody justice and save some money to himself.

It must be remembered the emoluments of the Sheriff's office one hundred and fifty years ago were not what they now are.

An Old Grist Mill.

Samuel Taylor, a Quaker, who was born on Tinicum Island, in the Delaware,

built a grist mill, in Strasburg township, upon a small stream in the year 1727. It was probably on Little Beaver Creek, north of Smith's mill, which stood at the cross roads where New Providence now is. On May 8, 1728, Samuel Taylor married Elizabeth, daughter of Justice John Wright, of Wright's Ferry. About 1734 William Taylor sold his mill and farm and purchased several hundred acres from Samucl Blunston where Wrightsville now is. His son, Christopher, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and was la the battles of King's Bridge and Long Island. The Barbers and Boudes inter-married into this Taylor family.

Richard Loudon, in 1727, purchased a farm adjoining Taylor's land, in Strasburg township. On June 5, 1728, he married Patience Wright, sister of Mrs. Taylor. When the county seat was permanently located at Lancaster he was appointed Prison Keeper. When some of the Marylanders were imprisoned there Betty Lowe, a sister of one of the prisoners, came to Lancaster and induced Mr. Loudon to accept her services in his family, where she was for several days kindly entertained. A body of armed Marylanders came to Lancaster in the night time, when Miss Lowe admitted them to Mrs. Loudon's dwelling, where, after a severe struggle, they subdued Mr. and Mrs. Loudon, and Betty led the way to a bureau where the jail keys were kept. The Marylanders were all liberated.

Colonel John Loudon, a distinguished officer of the Revolution, was a sen of this Quaker Prison Keeper.

Letter From the Surveyor General.*

PHILADELPHIA, 24th, 7th, 1714. LOVING
FFRD: Isaac Taylor. The

bearer hereof, Christopher Schleagel,
*This letter was written by James Steel, the Surveyor General, to Isaac Taylor, the Surveyor of Chester County.

complaining that a certain person hath seated himself near the mill he has lately built at Conestoga, by whose means the Indians that are thereabouts are likely to be very troublesome, if not dangerous, to him, and that the said person, so seated, hath no other right than what the Indians have given him, and also that the land where he is seated ought to be included in the 300 acres that is yet untaken up of the Thousand Acres first granted to him, of which he says there is but 700 as laid out. These are to desire thee to order the person soe seated to remove of the said land without Delay, and use thy endeavors to make the man easy and acomodate him in laying out yc 300 Acres soe tar as thou can without offending the Indians.

I am with real love and good will thy assured ffrd.

JAMES STEEL.

Turnpike from York to Columbia.

Judge Ephraim Cutler, of Ohio, arrived in York In August, 1809, with a large drove of cattle. In his diary of September 3, 1809, we read : "The Dutch are remarkable for having selected *the* very best lands. They are sure to root out the Irish. There is an irreconcilable aversion between these people. The Dutch are slow, cold-hearted and economical ; the Irish warm and quick in their feelings, generous and vain. How can such materials assimilate? *They* have nothing alike, and there is no adhesive principle to cement them, and of course they do not mix. I am told there is scarcely a Dutchman among the two hundred men at work on the turnpike, although this road is entirely through Dutch settlements." It is an interesting question to know what became of these early Irish contractors and laborers.

Irish Laborers.

Pennsylvania is indebted to the Irish

race for the successful completion of her turnpikes and public works. In the year 1800 and 1801, when the turnpike between Lancaster and Harrisburg was being constructed, large numbers of Irish laborers employed thereon made Elizabethtown their headquarters. Many of the old citizens of that place and vicinity were Catholics, who worshipped in a church in that place. Some of the contractors made that place their home after the work was completed. In the year 1801, when General Thomas Boude, of Columbia, was a candidate for a second term of Congress, the Irish laborers at Elizabethtown voted solid for the Democratic candidate and defeated Boude by a *few* votes. The Celt was potent in politics, as will be seen, at a much earlier period than is generally supposed.

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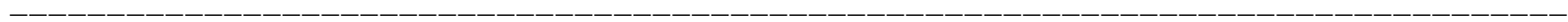
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