

The subject assigned to me for investigation was the "Eastern Branch of the Octorara and its Tributaries," with their present and extinct industries as far south as the hamlet of Steeleville.

I have carefully examined the geography and history of this region and find much that is inaccurate and many important landmarks missing. Although I have personal knowledge of nearly half a century of this territory, and have heard many of the traditions relating thereto, both historical and biographical (some of the yarns rather tough ones), yet I am not self-confident that my work is perfect, having to cull from a mass of contradictory traditions from equally reliable traditionists, who evidently are impressed by that biblical text found in Second Thessalonians, second chapter, and fifteenth verse, which reads, "Stand fast and hold the traditions which ye have been taught." I have endeavored to verify the results of my investigation which I now have the honor to present to this learned society.

Here I desire to extend my thanks to Hon. Wm. McGowan, Postmaster John Borland, both of Christiana, and to Squire H. H. Bower, of West Grove, Chester county, for valuable assistance rendered in compiling and collating this record.

I also want to enter my protest against a very common spelling of the term Octorara. The ending of the last syllable should be an a and not an o. The name Octorara is of Indian origin and was used to designate a sub-tribe of Indians, having a village or encampment near the eastern

banks of this stream on lands now owned by Lewis Newcomer, of Upper Oxford township, Chester county.

History and traditions are alike silent as to whether they belonged to the Shawanese or Delawares. The term is also applied to the entire southeastern slope of Lancaster county, which is drained by this stream. The name has also been appropriated by at least five churches. The post-office at Andrews Bridge is named Octorara, and numerous beneficial and social organizations have borne this title.

The Eastern Branch of the Octorara is formed by the union of the waters of Buck run, Williams run, Pownall's run and Pine run. Each of these streams has its source near the watershed of the Mine Hill range.

This region, in which are found the many sources of the numerous tributaries contributing to the formation of this romantic and beautiful stream, is now included in the township of Sadsbury, where the first settlements, in what is now Lancaster county, were made while the territory was yet in the mother county of Chester previous to the organization of Lancaster county in 1729. This territory on either side of the inter-county line was largely settled by Friends, they being induced to locate here because of the Penn reservation of one thousand acres of land, which was here established immediately south of what is now the Gap station, on the Pennsylvania Railroad. This reservation was surveyed at the time Wm. Penn visited King Wopaththa, of the Shawanese Indian tribe, A. D. 1700. This tract of land is still known as Penn's Manor, the name being perpetuated through title deeds, notwithstanding Penn named the reservation Springtown, a very appropriate name.

Several of those who accompanied

Penn on this occasion, serving as staff officers, as it were, to the proprietor, also pre-empted tracts of land in this vicinity some of which were in the Pequea Valley, then known as Conestoga, and others on the southern slope of the hills extending south of and embracing the ground upon which Christiana now stands.

To return to the subject proper, I think I can truthfully assert that no stream within the boundaries or confines of Lancaster county can show such utilization of its water power in the past and present as the Eastern Branch of the Octorara and its tributaries from the diverse sources to its mouth. Particularly was this true during the early half of the nineteenth century. The longest tributary to the Eastern Branch of the Octorara is known as Buck run. It is an intra-county branch, and rises on the southern slope of the Mine Hill ridge, on the farm owned and operated for years *by* Hon. Wm. Hamilton, recently Senator, representing Lancaster county in the General Assembly. This branch, about three miles long, meanders through the farms known as Maxwell's, Webster's and others, receiving contributory branches. Where it enters the farm of Jacob Townsend it is now, and has been for more than a half century, under contribution by the Townsend saw mill, which was built in 1841 by John Townsend, father of the present proprietor. Near to the saw mill is the Smyrna creamery, recently erected. One-half mile down the stream we find a flouring mill, known as Spring mill, in good condition. It was built by John Townsend, Sr., in 1841, and is now owned and operated by John F. Reed. Along the road leading from Smyrna to Christiana the stream was again four decades since laid under tribute by one Christopher Corbett, a *Peculiar* character, who may have been **an** ancestor of the noted pugilist.

He erected mills for sawing timber and cleaning cloverseed, but their existence was of short duration, and even the ruins have been obliterated. On this stream, in the western part of Christiana, stands **an** unused flouring mill, which was erected A. D. 1816 by Dr. Robert Agnew, father of the late Professor David Hayes Agnew, **M. D.**, who for years was professor of surgery in his alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania. The quaint old farm house, in which the professor was born, is still in good repair. For years the driveway leading to the farm buildings was on the embankment of the mill pond.

This mill w is known as Earnest's, and later as Hanway's, but the power has been abandoned and decaying walls guard the site. If you will pardon the digression I will state that this mill was the scene of the premeditated, atrocious, diabolical violation of the constitution of these United States, by which act one Reuben Chambers, although not specifically mentioned in that instrument, nevertheless was entitled to all the rights and immunities guaranteed to citizens of this nation, yet, notwithstanding this assured protection, he was deprived of valuable property, to wit : sundry bags of sumac tops and berries, as depicted by a former narrator. Although foreign to my subject, yet, following closely the text of his biographers, permit me to assert that the world may never know what was lost to humankind by this wanton destruction of Rhus Glabrum, since Reuben was famed for manufacturing and compounding medicinal preparations unthought of by the medical profession.

Reuben, alone of all the great army of veterinarians, could provoke emesis in equines. I think 'Squire Evans' Brackbill's gray mare was the subject of the

experiment at a period after her subjugation by means of the blue horse cart, which was loaded with stones.

The Williams run rises on the Maxwell farm a few hundred yards from the source of Buck run, and passes through the farms of Rea Moore, Calvin Carter and Isaac Slokom, and then forms a junction with Buck run on the western border of Christiana.

The Pownall run rises on the Hathaway farm, runs a southerly course, crossing and recrossing the Pennsylvania railroad, and empties into the Williams run near the confluence of that stream with Buck run. After the union of these waters the stream enters the Noble mill pond to contribute to the formation of the East Branch of the Octorara. The inter county stream, known as Pine run, continues as the eastern boundary of Lancaster county for one and one-half miles north of Christiana, when the inter-county line leaves the stream on the farm of Benjamin Pownall and bears off northeast to the course of the stream. Pine run rises near the site of the former Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, on the farm of Mrs. Shaw, on the southern slope of the Gap hills. One-half mile south of its course are found the ruins of Lear's mills comprising flouring, sawing and clover mills. These mills were formerly Gest's mills. Continuing south, near to Salsbury meeting house, thirty years ago, was the Amos Townsend saw mill. Below these ruins we find the site of the Denny machine shops, unused for years.

Within the borough of Christiana water power was furnished by Pine run, which was utilized for nearly sixty years to furnish power for the foundry and machine shops now operated by the Christiana Machine Company, but the power has not been used for eight years, having been supplanted by steam power.

The head waters of Pine run are now utilized by the borough of Christiana in furnishing the water supply to her inhabitants. The water is conducted by small pipes leading from springs to a common reservoir or basin, from which it flows to the borough through larger pipes by gravity, a distance of two miles. Within the borough there is a head pressure of one hundred and sixty feet, rendering fire engines unnecessary. The water is generally distributed through the town and is assuredly an excellent system of water supply, furnishing as it does to Christiana the most potable water of any borough or town in Lancaster county. Neither mud nor microbes need apply.

After the confluence of Buck and Pine runs in Noble's dam, the name of the Eastern Branch of the Octorara is given to the stream. This dam is in the southern part of Christiana and furnishes power to drive a flouring and feed mill. Years ago there were saw and plaster mills attached. These mills are yet known as Noble's mills. Forty years ago they were owned and operated by Thomas Whitson, of anti-slavery fame, the father of Thomas Whitson, Esq., of the Lancaster Bar. These mills are now in the occupancy of Henry Rakestraw, who also operates a creamery nearby. South of Nobleville, on the old Noble farm, now owned by Henry Rakestraw, are found the ruins of a woolen factory which was burned fifty years ago.

Near this locality the stream is reinforced by the waters of Valley run, which rises in Bart township, flows in a southerly course past Bart meeting house, then adopts an easterly direction to its mouth. The first utilization of its waters was sixty years ago, when Hood's tanyard exacted tribute. Only tradition can point the site. Journeying down the stream we find

the chopping mill and creamery of Cyrus Brinton. This building a half century ago was a woolen factory known as Rose Hill. Later, lime spreaders were here manufactured. Both enterprises were managed by Lewis Cooper.

One mile east of this plant we find the ruins of the Burnt Mill, formerly known as the Brick Mill, built by Samuel Irwin in 1825, and for years owned by his son, Ellis Irwin ; then later the property of Wm. Spencer. In 1853 it was burned ; the site alone remains. This mill was being operated during the time of the Christiana riots by Castner Hanway, who, with Elijah Lewis and Jos. Scarlet, was tried for treason to the United States by reason of being implicated in this first battle of the great American conflict for human liberty and the emancipation of the American slave. The scene of this resistance to tyrants in obedience to God was on the south bank of this stream, about two miles distant from Christiana.

Near the confluence of this stream from the west the East Branch receives a tributary from the mother county, known as Glen run, evidently a token of maternal love. This stream rises in Sadsbury, Chester county, flows southwest through the borough of Atglen, immediately north of the Pennsylvania railroad. On this stream, years ago, was the Buckley forge, known as Greenwood. The buildings are now used as a foundry for manufacturing iron novelties, especially Mrs. Potts' sad irons. The Chalfant Company operates the works.

In the southern part of the town are found the ruins of Crawford mill. Glen run supplied the power. This mill furnished great quantities of cornmeal for export during the time of the famine in the emerald of the ocean.

When her children like lost Israel's tribes
were scattered as the leaves,
Yet round every standard but their own
are twining laurel wreaths.

On a branch of Glen run, flowing
from the east, the ruins of Boyd's mill
are found. A creamery occupies the
site.

Near the confluence of this stream with
the East Branch a flouring mill, late
known as Ann's. now Ferguson's, is be-
ing operated. Below this mill we come to
Mercer's dam, which, like all dams on the
East Branch, is long and rather narrow.
A half century since this dam furnished
power for two flouring mills, which were
built in the last century by one Downing,
saith tradition. Evans, In his "History of
Lancaster County," says by Sterrett
Brothers in 1781. These mills ground
much of the wheat raised in Pequea valley
on its way to the Wilmington market.
They were also used to grind corn for
Ireland during the famine, at which time
they were operated by John Mercer, father
of Captain John Q. Mercer, late of Lan-
caster city. Years since one of these
mills was converted into a paper board
mill, but this industry is on the wane.

Flowing into Mercer's dam from the
Chester county side is an unnamed stream
on which forty years ago was a tilt-ham-
mer shop for the manufacture of mow-
ing and cradling scythes operated by
James Moore. Here at Mercer's mills a
covered bridge spans the stream. The
road leads toward Cochranville, Chester
county. From Mercer's mills to
Steelville, a distance of three miles,
the east branch flows through what a
Western cowboy would denominate a
mountain gorge, bounded on either side
by ranges of lofty hills, broken at
intervals by canons through which
some tributary *flows*. The rocky ledges
and stony character of the soil, with a
forty five degree

elevation of the hillsides, renders any attempt at cultivation impossible until the table land is reached. These hills, covered as they are with a foliage presenting all the varied tints of the rainbow, present to the lover of natural scenery a panorama wonderful to behold.

Here in these mountain fastnesses nature has hidden many of her choicest floral germs. Here in the sweet seclusion of nature's first temples such eminent botanists as H. H. Bower, Esq., of West Grove, Chester county, and the late Howard W. Gilbert, formerly of the Lancaster city High School, received the inspiration which carried them into the front rank of scientists.

The grandly natural picturesqueness of the scenery along this part of the stream from the great valley to Steeleville is without rivalry in Lancaster county.

Twenty years ago, through the persistent efforts of Hon. Marriott Brosius, ably supported by the foreman of the road jury, the late lamented George W. Hensel, father of our own General W. U. Hensel, the Lancaster county court opened a driveway along the western bank of the stream from Mercer's mills to Steeleville, which is largely patronized by lovers of natural views, which are here beheld in all their pristine beauty. Here during the summer months are found camps of those desiring seclusion and restful enjoyment. Here picnickers abound and fishing parties are in evidence to catch the gamey bass, with which the stream was stocked twenty years ago.

This was the hunting ground of that famed trio of Nimrods, Prof. Hall, of Lancaster ; George Pownall and William H. Sproul, of Christiana, and woe betide the unlucky grouse, quail, rabbit or squirrel that became the object of their unerring aim.

Down the stream from the Mercer mills, along the Brosius road, are found the ruins of Sadsbury Forge No. 1, known as the upper forge, and Sadsbury Forge No. 2, known as the middle forge. They were purchased by James Sproul (who moved there from White Rock Forge, Little Britain township, A. D. 1828), from John Withers, who also owned and operated Mount Eden Furnace in Eden township.

A half mile down the stream we come to a break in the Lancaster county range of hills which led to the Sproul mansion, near which on the surrounding plateau were erected barns and stables required to accommodate the great number of horses and mules used in transporting the smelted iron from Lancaster to the Sadsbury forges and to return the finished bar iron to water transportation. This was before the era of the Pennsylvania railroad. Teams were also necessary to haul the charcoal for the surrounding country to the forges, where it was consumed in the reduction of the iron.

I well remember, during the boom of 1844, of seeing processions of six to eight six-horse teams all engaged in hauling the product of a single furnace plant to the Pennsylvania railroad.

Near to the headquarfers mansion the No. 2 Sadsbury Forge, known as the middle forge, was in operation, No. 1 forge furnishing chafery iron, which was manufactured in No. 2 forge into octagonal bars, and were largely sold to a New England company, the Whitney, to be used in manufacturing gun barrels.

After Mr. Sproul's death, which occurred in 1847, No. 1 forge was unused. Mr. Goodman and son continued the bloomery enterprise at No. 2 forge for some time, but the scarcity of charcoal, and their efforts to manufacture coke

having failed, this forge was also abandoned and only ruins remain.

Journeying southward the nett utilization of the stream was without doubt the first effort to manufacture iron on the East Branch and probably was inaugurated by one Duquesne. Evans says by Michael Withers about the middle of the last century. This forge afterward became the property of James Buckley, who purchased a large tract of land in this locality, a portion of which became the property of James Sproul, A. D. 1837, he having purchased it from the Buckley brothers, sons of James Buckley.

Years ago, when writing up the local history of Chester county, I received the above tradition from Dr. A. V. B. Orr, who was closely identified with this locality from his birth, in 1809, up to his death, in 1880. Even the ruins of this forge are almost obliterated, a high stone wall, part of a coal house, alone remaining to mark the site of the Duquesne forge.

A half mile down the stream we come to the ruins of Ringwood forge, which was built by the Buckley brothers early in the present century. John McGowan, father of Hon. William McGowan, became proprietor of the forge in 1837 and here manufactured forge iron until 1848. Charles Cloud, of the Pennsylvania railroad, was engaged here for some years as proprietor, when Thomas Bailey succeeded to the business. Bailey attempted to manufacture iron from the slag of former operators, but failed. His assignee, Wm. Borland, however, was successful in the enterprise. Twenty-five years ago a freshet tore out the plant, which was not rebuilt. Three-fourths of a mile below Ringwood forge, through a rift in the Lancaster county hills, a stream known as Knott's run contributes its waters to the swelling East Branch. On this run General Steele built a large cotton factory. The

stream, though not abounding in water, furnished ample fall to guarantee sufficient power. This enterprise was a failure, and for years only stone walls remained to tell the tale of the General's venture. Thirty years ago a paper board mill was erected on the site, but this attempt was abortive, and crumbling walls alone appear in evidence.

The water, after operating the large factory during the Steele administration, was conducted around a spur of the southern range and by means of an aqueduct was again required to furnish power for a less pretentious cotton factory, but in after years this building was converted into a dwelling, and as such is in fair repair at present time, though lacking modern improvements. Thus far the waters of the East Branch and tributaries in their journey to the Susquehanna, except Glen Run and the Tilt-hammer stream, have only furnished power for present and extinct industries on the Lancaster county side of the stream. Now the sites of decaying industries as we enter Steeleville (so named by General Steele) are only found upon the Chester county side. Covered bridge, No. 2, is found here. Steeleville three score and ten years ago was a place of moment. The busy mart for the entire region, it was not only a business centre but it was a social and political centre also. Her business men were of the most enterprising type. Her politicians were patriots. Two of her citizens were Colonels in the Continental Army, Colonel Taylor and Colonel Thompson, and General Steele served his country with distinction during the war of 1812. Her matrons and maidens were amongst the fairest of the fair and the hands of the latter were sought in marriage by the gifted and educated at home and abroad. But Steeleville's prowess is no more ; it

is only a country cross-roads post-office villa, fast hastening into obscurity. Business activity is lost. The dignified citizen has departed. Science no longer has a foothold.

The lyceum, which numbered amongst its members men who have adorned the professions, men who have given to the scientific world gems from nature's hidden stores, men who have contributed to the ennobling of humanity, has long since ceased its meetings and crumbling walls which once echoed in response to oratory alone remain.

Here in this comparatively deserted hamlet we view the site of a former paper mill built by General Steele and successfully operated by him for many years, but the industry ceased shortly before his death, fifty years ago, and only vestiges of the plant are found.

To the antiquarian is shown the site of a tanyard built and operated by Thos. Woods for decades, but in consequence of the scarcity of oak bark and new methods in competition this industry was discontinued.

The only present industry is a flouring mill owned and operated by John Evans, which supplies the demands of the surrounding farmers.

Tradition tells of a copper mine once worked in Steeleville at a time unto which the memory of the oldest inhabitant runneth not back, traditions all fixing the time previous to the revolution. Twenty-five years ago a weak effort was made to locate and reopen the mine, but beyond locating and finding evidence of the existence of former shafts and drifts, nothing was accomplished ; no ore was found.

This gorge, through which the East Branch flows from the great valley to Steeleville, was at one time, early in the present century and even as late as forty years ago, as my day book shows, dotted

with tenement houses wherever it was possible to erect a dwelling with safe ingress and exit. There were nearly two score of them on the hillside tenanted by the employes of the various industries. For years these buildings have been deserted, and those not razed by the hand of time are fast crumbling into ruin. The only habitation except the old cotton mill on this stretch of three miles is the Goodman mansion, erected on the lawn of the former Sproul home and which is now owned by Thomas Griest, a brother of our townsman, Ellwood Griest, editor of the Lancaster *inquirer*. Thomas Griest owns and operates a large farm on the table lands adjacent to the mansion house.

The southeastern slope of Lancaster county drained by the Octorara has not only been celebrated in the past and present for its industries and agricultural production, but the people comprised within its area, principally descendants of English Friends and Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, are noted for industry, integrity, intelligence and piety ; imbued as they are with a love for civil and religious liberty, their patriotism is intertwined with their religious convictions, and their sympathies reach out to other lands less fortunate in their forms of government.

In conclusion, permit me to say in personification of our good old city of Lancaster that no brighter jewels bedeck her starry crown, as you well know, than some of the gems gathered from the valley of the Octorara.

Still laughingly on the East Branch flows,
By the haunted dell where the hazel grows ;
Ever onward, never finding repose,

For its waters so sparkling and clear;
Enriching the verdure on its sinuous shores,
Willingly giving, of its bounteous stores,
As it hastens along o'er its pebbly floors,
A creation of God for his children so dear

Early Industries on the Moran,

(Continued from page 204.)

At the meeting of the Lancaster County Historical Society, held in the Iris Club rooms, on the seventh of January last, I had the pleasure of submitting a paper on the past and present industries of the East Branch of the Octorara and its tributaries, from its many sources along the Mine Hill divide and including the entire region drained by this stream, as far south as Steeleville, which hamlet reposes on the Chester county side of this inter-county water line. Progressing southward from Steeleville, along a continuation of the Brosius Hensel road, the valley of the East Branch suddenly expands, by the recession of the bounding hills, until it is one-fourth to one-half a mile wide, without gorge or defile, for a distance of eight miles, near to Pine Grove, where the junction with the West Branch is effected.

In all this region traversed by the historic Octorara only fertile meadows, sometimes guarded by abrupt hills, greet your view. These meadows, during the grazing season, furnish in abundance luxuriant pastures, fully appreciated and appropriated by the many herds of sleek, fat, contented kine, which, after cropping the nutritious herbage during the early morning hours, retire to the cool, inviting shades of friendly groves, and there, prototed from the heated rays of the summer's sun, chew their cud in silence and repose, until aroused from their quietude by the familiar voices of the rosy-cheeked dairy maids, each summoning their charge to the scene of the evening milking.

Half a mile south of Steeleville a stream of considerable volume, known as Annan's Run, enters the East Branch from the Lancaster county side. This brook rises on the Wm. Borland homestead and, flowing somewhat south of an easterly course through the farm of David J. Jones, effects its confluence with the absorbing stream.

This Jones property is part of a tract of land deeded by the Penn Proprietors of the province to John Devor in 1734. In 1743 Col. James Taylor, of Revolutionary fame, bought the Jones tract and erected thereon a stone house, which even now at this late day is in quite good condition. The walls of this structure are quite thick. Neither sand nor lime entered into its composition. Clay, properly tempered, was used to cement the stones which were required in the construction of the building.

The house was evidently intended to subserve the double purpose of a dwelling and also as a fortification, within which the inmates would be safe during the frequent Indian incursions. The windows or embrasures were limited to two lights of eight by ten inch glass, one above the other. Some of these loop-holes have given place to a more modern style of window, yet enough of the port-holes remain to vindicate the date stone in the western gable which bears this motto, "The Lord of all is my *suport*," (spelled with one p). Below the motto appears the date 1743. This date 154 years ago suggests the query : Are there any buildings extant in Lancaster county bearing an earlier date of construction ?

One hundred years ago an oil mill was in active operation near the site of the fortified dwelling. The waters of Annan's Run had been diverted from their natural

channel to furnish power for the grinding of the flaxseed. Near these buildings a causeway existed for many years prior to the advent of the white man, evidently built by the Indians, across a swampy piece of ground, to gain access to the flowing waters. Tradition tells of an Indian burying ground on the east bank of the stream.

Twenty years ago Mr. Emmor Jones discovered and developed on this tract of land quite a good quality of roofing slate, but want of transportation to market precluded its utilization. Doubtless future generations will operate these quarries. After traversing southward for a half mile the fertile meadows, recently the property of the late John C. Jones, we come to the Ross fording bridge—an open structure across the stream, which, in the dry seasons of the year, affords a safe, dry-shod crossing, but when there is a rise in the creek the Lancaster county approach to the bridge becomes useless and, to use the language of the gamins, is no good. A few rods below the bridge Lancaster county furnishes Shaw's Run to the swelling stream.

Here on the west bank a rocky ledge fifty rods long looms up to view as the foreground of a high hill. The ledge is known as Wolf Rock, which years ago furnished safe retreats for these animals, from which they made excursions to the neighboring settlers' sheep folds, they being fond of lamb, either chops or cutlets. A long, deep pool, whose waters leave the eastern ledge of the rocky ridge, is noted as a fishing resort, and those who delight in Izaak Waltonian pleasures do here congregate during the open season from the entire region roundabout to catch the wary bass.

On the summit of the Wolf Rock bill a **grove** of pine trees three acres in extent

is found. It is a prominent landmark in this region and is known as Roney's Pines, the grove receiving the name of the proprietor, and is not named for Annie, the sweetheart of Joe. South of the rocks on the Chester county side is a beautiful grove on the farm of the late Hamilton Ross, which was the annual camping ground of the Steepleville Bachelors' Club, with which select society a few favored benedicts were admitted, after pledging themselves not to divulge the secrets of the organization to their wives. It is needless to say I never became a member, though frequently a guest. The games indulged in were archery and croquet.

Near to the camping grounds Chester county contributes Officer's Run to swell the waters of the East Branch. This stream was extensively utilized years ago from its mouth to its source. Ascending the stream we first find the site of Love's distillery, next Robb's clover mill, of which only landmarks are found ; then Rambo's saw mill in ruins on a tributary. Of Robinson's clover mill, the site alone remains. Above we find Hodgson's grain mill in good condition and near the headwaters are the decaying buildings of Squire Gilfillin's tan yard. The industry has ceased to exist.

One hundred rods down the stream from the confluence of Officer's Run, on the Chester county side, we come to Pine Hill, on the farm of W. A. Homing. This hill is the especial habitat or home of the red foxes and is celebrated in sporting literature. Those gentlemen who indulge in the manly sport of fox hunting seek the laurel-covered bluffs of this rocky ridge in the early morn, there unleash their hounds, certain before long to rouse reynard from his lair. Soon the baying of the dogs gives evidence that the nimble -

footed quarry, with flowing train, is on the alert, endeavoring to outstrip his insatiate pursuers, whose melodious sounds awake the echoes of each surrounding cliff and are enchanting even to the ear of the fleeing fugitive, although he well knows retributive justice is on his track, and, should he be overtake; his lite would pay the penalty for having robbed some farmer's poultry yard the night previous.

Often have we checked our horses, when driving past this sportsmen's paradise, when the hunt was on, to listen to the symphony of the hounds, recalling those lines by the late Hon. J. B. Everhart, whose memory Chester county ever delights to honor as one of her favored and favorite sons, He thus characterizes the music of the **ohase** :

And surely never yet was heard,
From tongue of man, or throat of bird,
From reed or tube, or string or key,
From all the craft of minstrelsy,
More stirring, joy-inspiring sounds
Than our rude orchestra of hounds
Pours o'er the listening land,
As if the unseen sylvan powers
Went choiring through the matin hours
At Dian's fond command.

But, since my education in fox hunting aesthetics and lore was sadly neglected in my younger days, I most respectfully abdicate the position of historian of Pine Hill in favor of our County Commissioner, Mr. J. R. Rutter, a gentleman with heart attuned to nature's laws, and who is familiar with every bridle path in these forest recesses and for years has been personally acquainted with many of the foxes of this region. Here oft

The challenge loud his horn rang out,
And Reynard knew the sound ;
Not waiting for the opening pack,
He spurned the frozen ground.

And bounding onward far and wide,
Left old Pine Hill behind ;
And safety sought in hasty flight
From scenes he deemed unkind.

The well-trained hounds, with steady bay,
Follow fast his scented trail;
They gain upon his flying feet,
His speed will not avail.
For hours he toils o'er hill and dale,
Though fleetest of his kind ;
A refuge from his closing foes
Alone in earth to find.

At the foot of the western slope of Pine Hill are found the ruins of Love's saw mill, long since abandoned. The power was derived from the East Branch. Continuing down the stream, we come to an abrupt rocky ledge on the east side. This is the site of the famous Abner Davis quarries, from which immense flag stones are obtained, which are highly prized for building purposes. A short distance below these quarries we find the ruins of Pennook's Mills. They were built early in the present century, but the site alone is found. This was the last power on the East Branch until after the junction in Pine Grove dam. The stream only furnishes about **six** feet fall to the mile in this part of its course.

One-half mile south of these ruins we enter the village known as Andrews' Bridge, consisting of a half dozen dwellings, a hotel and country store, with a blacksmith and a wheelwright shop. Here is located the Octorara post-office, one among the first established by Uncle Samuel in the county, and for many years was the distributor of a weekly mail, consisting of an average of three letters and a copy of *The Dollar Newspaper*. Now it is the dispenser of a daily mail requiring a goodly-sized mail-bag. Three score and ten years ago there was a fulling mill or woolen factory on a nameless tributary in this town, owned and managed by Betsy Kent, who also was the proprietor of a country store, from which she sold free labor goods to the abolitionists of the surrounding county, who were largely

in the majority, this being a Free Presbyterian and Friends settlement.

The chief feature of interest in this hamlet is the immense bridge which here spans the East Branch and is known as Andrews' Bridge No. 2, the town taking the name of the bridge, which was erected in 1814. The bridge received its name in commemoration of the Andrews family, who early settled in this locality and owned several of the surrounding farms. Andrews' Bridge is 450 feet long and the road bed is thirty feet wide. There are four archways, one of thirty-eight feet span and twelve feet high, two arches spanning twenty-four feet and ten feet high and one span twelve feet long and five feet high. It is built of solid masonry, including side and wing walls, and is one of the finest structures in Eastern Pennsylvania. The Newport road traverses this bridge. This road was originally an Indian trail, afterward appropriated by the early settlers without warrant, but about fifty years ago was regularly ordained by the Lancaster and Chester county courts.

Along the line of this road in Chester county, on the table lands, tradition points out an Indian war dance ring, and one hundred and fifty rods south of the ring the same authority locates the position of the Indian village referred to in a former paper. Immediately south of Andrews' Bridge, on the Lancaster county side, eighty years ago there was a distillery where peach brandy and apple jack were made. The building is now used as a dwelling.

One-half mile south of Andrews' Bridge we come to a farm long famous for fertility, which is deserving a place in history. It embraces land in both counties, the improvements being on the Lancaster county side. They include two sets of farm build-

Inge, the property having at one time been in two separate tracts. The mansion house proper is a large stone structure, erected in the early part of the present century by one Black. In 1837 it became the property of Dr. Obed Baily, a gentleman who would have graced a chair in any of our leading medical colleges, notwithstanding he frequently visited his patients on foot, costumed in overalls and straw hat. In 1856 Mr. Clarkson Brosius, father of our present Congressman, purchased the property and here resided up to the time of his death, October 8, 1863. He was a thorough gentleman and devoted to his calling, that of farming. He was methodical, scientific and enterprising and was regarded as a model farmer. He was instrumental in organizing the Octorara Farmers' Club in 1856, which gave an impetus to higher farming in the community. After the death of Mr. Brosius the property passed into the hands of Wm. H. Sproul, who for years resided here, but is now a distinguished citizen of Chester, Delaware county. Pa.

During the occupancy of this historical homestead by Dr. Obed Baily, his only sons, Elisha and Joseph, entered the Medical Department of the Regular Army and rapidly gained promotion during the late unpleasantness and now rank as Colonels. Two nephews and Dr. Milner also donned their Esculapian robes while residents of "The Old Homestead." One of the nephews, Dr. Wilson Baily, late a member of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania from Chester county, distinguished himself as a major surgeon during the rebellion. This was the home of our Congressman during his boyhood, his birth place being on an adjoining farm.

Here Senator Wm. C. Sproul, now representing Delaware county in the Pennsylvania Senate, first saw the light of

day, and on an adjoining farm Byron Baldwin, Surgeon in the United States Navy, was born. Two hundred and fifty rods westward our fellow citizen, Wm. F. Beyer, .Esq., began his earthly career. The James Martin homestead, which furnished two doctors in medicine and one in dental surgery, was also contiguous to the Dr. Baily residence. Such an emanation of talent in one generation, from so circumscribed a rural territory, less than a square mile in extent, is seldom found.

A half mile south from "The Old Homestead" Lancaster county contributes Beyer's Run to swell the common flood. This run received its name from the late Mr. Thomas Beyer, a prominent citizen of Coleraine township. He was the father of our own Wm. F. Beyer, of the Lancaster Bar.

This stream has its source near Nine Points, in Bart township, on the farm where our distinguished fellow member, Mr. John F. Meginness, now of Williamsport, Pa., spent his early boyhood. It flows past the old Brick School House, where the veteran editor of THE NEW ERA once wielded the birch. At least three of the members of the Lancaster County Historical Society were his pupils when *he* presided in this temple of erudition. Three miles down the stream we find the first utilization of its waters in furnishing power to drive the machinery of William Hastings' mills, embracing clover, saw, sorghum and eider mills. They were built early in the present century by James Martin, father of the late Dr. John Martin, of Georgetown, Dr. Josiah Martin, of Strasburg, both of Lancaster county, and of Dr. Joseph Martin, of Stewartstown, York county. Mr. James Martin was a Christian gentleman in every sense of the word, and was courageous in support of his convictions. He advocated temperance,

the abolition of slavery and other reformatory measures. He was one of the promoters in establishing the Free Presbyterian Church at Andrews' Bridge. He had one peculiarity, that of expressing himself in rhyme. I remember, when a small boy, of accompanying some neighboring farm hands to this mill for the purpose of making cider. In my desire for observing everything observable I noticed two cardboards conspicuously posted, one on the grinding mill and the other on the press. Not being an adept in reading script, it required some time to decipher the notices.

The first read:

"Please carry your pumice over the road,
That the next one who comes may not balk
with his load."

The other one gave notice

"That two men bearing upon the screw, Are
free from all damage, if any they do ; But
three men bearing upon the screw Must pay
for all damage, if any accrue."

The cider mill was of the type used fifty years ago, the press being worked with a screw and wooden lever, the patrons doing the necessary work.

Near the mouth of this stream, on the farm of Howard Newcomer, a tan yard, known as Swayne's, afterward Hood's, was in active operation about forty years since.

The next industry was a pottery, now extinct, on the Chester county bank of the stream and was owned and operated by Mahlon Brosius, the grandfather of our distinguished Congressman, Hon. Marriott Brosius, whose birthplace is on the Lancaster county side of the creek, fifty rods from the pottery site. Here it was that during his early boyhood he often doffed his shoes and stockings to wade across the stream to start the hydraulic ram which furnished the water supply to the farm buildings, then little

dreaming that those chubby feet were destined in after years to worthily wear the sandals of the Great Commoner. A covered bridge here provides safe dry-weather transit. One mile south we come to Bell's Mills, erected by Colonel Bell, nearly one hundred years ago, for the manufacture of paper. Three score and ten years ago Robert Hodgson converted them into flour, feed and saw mills, for which purposes they are used at the present time. Forty-three years ago the late William S. Davis became proprietor and the property continues in the Davis family. The power used to drive these mills is derived from Bell's Run, which rises in Bart township, near Bartville. Three miles from its source we find the ruins of one of the oldest grain and saw mills in this region. It was erected by Daniel Beyer, the grandfather of the present generation by this name, in Cole-raine and Bart townships. He came from Montgomery county and settled on this farm in 1789. He was a millwright by trade and the mills were his own handicraft. He operated them personally up to the time of his death in 1840.

Near to Bellbank, the modern name for Bell's Mills, we find covered bridge No. 3. It is a dry-weather bridge, the Lancaster county approach being subject to inundation when the water overflows its banks.

Three-fourths of a mile down the valley the East Branch receives from the Chester county side quite an increase in volume by the accession of the waters of Muddy Run, which rises in West Fallowfield township and flows a southwesterly course through the townships of Upper and Lower Oxford to join the common flood. The water ^{powers} of this stream years ago were fully utilized. In a distance of five miles seven industries were

In operation. Ascending this stream one-half mile to Cream P. O. we find a creamery. Originally this power was used to drive a grist mill. This was converted into a paper mill and, after being burnt out twice and as often rebuilt, the power was utilized in making gilt-edged butter. Ascending the stream, we come to Coates' saw and paper mill, for years on the decline. The next industrial site is the ruins of McHenry's paper mill. Up the creek we come to McCreary's flour and feed mills in good condition. The next in order are the Evans' mills, grain, saw and sorghum, to which a creamery is attached, all in fair repair. Continuing onward we find the ruins of Bentley's mills. The next enterprise was located on the head waters and shows a feat of hydraulic engineering worthy of historical notice, perhaps without a parallel in either Lancaster or Chester counties.

Sixty-five years ago an Englishman, named Parker, erected a cotton factory in a locality he named Glenville, on the head waters of this stream. He built an embankment twenty-five feet high across the valley to retain the water of two small branches, which was to be utilized in driving the factory machinery ; but the great amount of evaporation from the fifteen to twenty acres of water surface during the summer months rendered the supply inadequate for the purpose intended. One hundred rods below the factory the stream was reinforced by two tributaries, one from the north, the other from the south. These streams he ascended until on a level with the factory dam and from these points ditched these branches around their respective hills until their waters flowed into the common reservoir. The power still being insufficient, he then ditched the tail race from the factory around the northern hill until he ob-

tained sufficient fall to the bed of the stream. This waste water was then conducted onto a very high breast or pitch. back water wheel, upon the outer rims of which buckets were secured, and as the wheel revolved they would fill with water from the pit and carry it to the top of the wheel where it was discharged into **an** aqueduct that conducted it to the upper race, from whence it flowed back into the dam, to be again used in driving the machinery of the factory. It was claimed that this hydraulic engine would raise thirty per cent. of the water flowing upon the wheel. I think twenty-five per cent. was nearer the mark. Poor Parker was fond of gaining, and, although quite rich when he came to Glenville, his associates managed to fleece him of his wealth. He sold the property to Gen. Josiah Harlan, who had served as organizer of the Turkish army in his younger days, but he suffered the factory and all the appurtenances to crumble into ruins. He afterward became Colonel of the Eleventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, and after the war returned to a brother near West Chester, where he died. The power is now used to drive a flour and feed mill.

Returning to the East Branch, 300 yards below the mouth of Muddy Run we come to the Iron Bridge, No. 4, spanning the stream, where was previous to the advent of the bridge the Long Fording. This bridge, like others on this stream, is a dry-weather bridge. The approaches to many of them on the Lancaster county side having to cross the valley of the stream, are subject to overflow when there is high water. These meadows bordering the East Branch, and through which we **have passed, are** annually visited in the months of March and April by goodly numbers of Wilson's Snipe (*Scolopax Wilsonii*), the most highly prized of all

our game birds. These annual visitants stop during their migration northward to replenish their haversacks with the, to them, toothsome angleworm. This information is especially dedicated to that prince of Lancaster sportsmen, Captain John B. Peoples, who will doubtless don his shooting toga and hie him away to the East Branch meadows to verify the statement, taking our friend, Mr. Leidigh, of the People's Bank, with him.

The next tributary of the East Branch to claim attention is a Lancaster county stream known as Cooper's Run. It rises west of Bartville, flows east of south and empties its waters on the farm belonging to the heirs of the late Col. Andrews. Descending the stream from its source, the first tribute exacted is by a grist mill known as Morrison's. It was erected early in this Nineteenth century by Morrison, and has continued in the family until a few years since. Down the stream 150 rods we come to the ruins of Truman Coates' clover and saw mill. Mr. Coates died, without issue, a few years since, and in his testamentary document he kindly remembered the Lancaster Home for Friendless Children. One mile farther down and near the mouth of the stream we find the ruins of Col. Andrews' mill. After three score and ten years of service in grinding the grists of neighboring farmers it, fifteen years since, lapsed into desuetude. Continuing down the East Branch we come to covered bridge No. 5, known as Worth's bridge. It is also a dry weather bridge, and affords transit on the farm of Ex-County Commissioner Albert Worth. One mile down the creek on the Chester county side we come to the dilapidated village of Mount Vernon, so named, although situated in a ravine. Three score years ago it was the most populous town of the entire region, its only rival being

the village of Hopewell, The cotton works are situated two miles distant in a southeasterly direction. The cotton factories and paper mills in Mount Vernon gave employment to scores of people, who in turn opened up a market for the surrounding farmers' produce. Oxford, three **miles east, was** then only a stage station on the through route from Philadelphia to Baltimore, but after the Baltimore Central Railroad, forty years ago, passed through Oxford new possibilities were opened up for the latter, whose growth was then remarkable and now numbers 2,000 inhabitants. Mount Vernou and Hopewell lost their prestige, industries were abandoned, enterprise ceased its wonted vigor, and degeneracy ruled supreme. The East Branch is here crossed by covered bridge No. 6. Less than a mile down the stream the junction with the West Branch is effected at a place known to local geographers as the Loop, from the fact that the East Branch and Octorara proper form a semi-circle around a Chester county hill near to the head of Pine Grove Dam. In this paper, as well as in a former one, I have briefly referred to the past and present industries located upon the Chester county tributaries of the East Branch, they properly belonging to the Valley of the Octorara. Though conventional lines separate this territory for political purposes, the people are bound together by ancestral, social and religious ties which geographical restrictions cannot efface.

And, while we to the manor born are proud of our empire county, her past history, her present standing in all that tends to make her grand and great, her unrivaled soil, her climate arid general environments, together with the achievements of her sons and daughters, yet we must acknowledge and greet our mother

county as a worthy rival in everything pertaining to education and the development of industrial institutions. After a residence of more than three decades along the inter-county line I, although a Lancastrian in every fibre, am glad to claim Chester county as my Alma Mater.

Here we leave the valley of the Ootorara, including my native township, Coleraine, with its many cherished memories and bitter recollections, which are always thickly strewn along the pathway of him who assumes the responsibilities of the family physician.

DR. J. W. HOUSTON.