CHRISTIAN MYERS, MIGRANT IRON MASTER AND A FOUNDER OF CLARION COUNTY

By Paul E. Beck

Christian Myers was born on a farm near Bareville, Lancaster County, June 24, 1796.

Of his boyhood and youth, no record remains. On May 30, 1819, being then 23 years of age, he was married to Martha Henaberger, of Mount Joy, Lancaster County. The wedding took place at Cooper's Hotel, Lancaster City.

Myers and his bride settled in East Petersburg, Lancaster County. Their home was a large double house built of bricks brought from England and laid in Flemish bond. Subsequently, and for many years, it was used as a tavern, the Captain Lawrence, which carried a famous sign by Peter Lehn Grosh (1798-1859) showing the blue-coated Commodore above his brave legend "Don't give up the ship." This house is still standing (1927) and is in good condition. It stands at the northeast corner of State and Lemon Streets.

In 1816, several years previous to Myers' marriage, a number of well-to-do Lancaster county farmers had united to form what was known as the Lancaster Land Company. This company was organized for the sole purpose of purchasing, as an investment, an extensive tract of land in what was then the almost virgin wilderness of western Pennsylvania. The tract lay in the area covered by the counties of Jefferson and Venango and included the greater part of what later became Clarion County.

The tract purchased by the Lancaster Land Company comprised 187,110 acres of land. The price paid for this vast territory was $73,280.77. The purchase was consummated on May 26, 1816.

The names of the men who composed the Lancaster Land Company were Christian Kaufman, J. Sherer, D. LeFevre, Christian Huber, John Bachman, Daniel Reigart, Benjamin Long, Chris Stauffer, Jr., George Morry, Lewis Urban, Henry Shippen, Samuel Miller, Gerhardt Buback, Daniel Reyner, George Snyder, John Houtz, James Humes, Joseph Ogilby, Thomas Crawford, Henry Carpenter, Jr., Jacob Miller, Henry Bear, Benjamin Bear; with Henry Shippen, James Humes and John Bachman as an executive committee.

It may be said in passing, that the Lancaster Land Company acquired this land from the Holland Land Company. The latter company was a syndicate of Dutch capitalists who, in Amsterdam, Holland, had loaned vast sums of money to Robert Morris for use of the patriots of the revolutionary war and had taken the Pennsylvania lands as security. The names of the men composing the Holland Land Company were Willem Willink, Nicolass Van Staphorst, Christian Van Eeghen, Hendrick Vollenhoven and Rutger Jan Schimmelpeninck and Pieter Stadnitzki.

Harm Jan Huidekoper, who represented the Holland Land Company, kept a diary in which there is recorded an interesting and valuable description of early Lancaster. Huidekoper was en route, on horseback, from New York to Meadville. He writes in July, 1802: "The town of Lancaster is situated in a valley surrounded on three sides by higher ground than that on which the town stands, which does not add to its beauty, and the streets are ill-paved and very dirty. It owes the undesirability of its site to one of the Provincial Governors under the British regime, who, owning much property in this quarter, laid it out in town lots. According to one of the citizens who was my informant, the town has a population of about nine thousand. I cannot answer

for the accuracy of this, and am tempted to suspect that, as men often think they add to their own importance by exaggerating the importance of their place of residence, the good man had done this. However, the size of the place rather astonished me, for I could not see what had attracted so many person to a spot so utterly lacking in those natural advantages which in this country often cause very rapid growth in towns. From what I could gather, Lancaster has very little trade and the products of the interior only pass through it. The inhabitants are largely German, or descendants of Germans, as one sees at a glance, for the houses are built in the peculiar style common in Germany, half stone or brick, half wood."

In 1826, Christian Myers purchased a half interest in the Bear-Carpenter-Miller section of the Lancaster Land Company's holding in western Pennsylvania.

In that year, 1826, desiring to view and examine the lands of which he had become part owner, Christian Myers, now thirty years of age, set out on a journey to the western wilderness which was later to become Clarion County. Myers had heard that there were indications of vast beds of underlying iron ore in the new country. He, therefore, prevailed upon his friend Henry Bear, an expert iron master, to accompany him. Bear's eastern home had been Cornwall, Lebanon county. The great ore banks of Cornwall, with their blast furnaces, etc., had been worked since 1732. So, from a lifetime of observation and experience, Bear understood the construction and operation of the primitive iron furnace thoroughly well. Myers and Bear made the trip from Lancaster to Venango county on horseback.

Arrived there, the two settled near the junction of Little Toby Creek with the Clarion river.

(Regarding the source of the name "Clarion" as applied to the river, Davis' history of the county says: "In 1817, upon act of legislature, three viewers were appointed to survey a road from Bedford to Franklin. One night, while lying in their tent on the banks of the river, they were struck by the clear sound of the distant ripples. The river's current was then fringed by a wall of close and massive timber which condensed and reflected the murmur giving it a silvery mellowness which it has almost lost by the stripping of the banks. One of the party, Daniel Stanard, a lawyer and surveyor, remarked that the water sounded like a distant clarion. "Why not call it the Clarion River?" said David Lawson. The name did not remain permanent at once but the suggestion of the word Clarion gradually gained favor until, after a space of some years, the title had become universally accepted and established. "Clarion" displaced the early and less euphonious Stump Creek.)

The two pioneers, Myers and Bear, built a log shack and, in 1828, having found iron ore, timber, limestone and water power in abundance, they erected the first iron furnace in the county. It was known as Clarion Furnace—named, of course, after the river for neither the county nor the town of Clarion existed in 1828. The furnace stood on Clarion river just west of the mouth of Little Toby creek. The "stack" as these early furnaces were called, was thirty feet high by eight feet at the "bosh" or widest part of its interior.

In 1828, having made up his mind to remain in Clarion County, Myers went back to Lancaster and returned with his wife and two young sons, Amos and Christian.

Clarion Furnace was the pioneer stack in the county which, later, was to become known as "The Iron County."

Myers and Bear were so successful that their venture was quickly followed by others. Shippenville and Lucinda furnaces were built in 1832 and 1833 respectively. These again were followed by many others. The industry grew rapidly. Every year saw the erection of new stacks. The climax was reached in 1845. Eight new furnaces were built in that year. (A few were added after 1845, but the industry had then begun to decline.)

Henry Bear, Christian Myers' partner, was the designer and builder of the first furnace in Clarion County. All the furnaces which followed his were accurate copies of the original Clarion Furnace. Bear's furnace, which never was improved upon in all the years of the county's iron era, was built of rough stone. The great blocks were dressed at the edges and keyed with wooden cross beams. It was thirty feet high. Its side walls were thick and strong for, though its barrel-shaped interior was but eight feet in diameter at its widest part, the stack's outside dimensions measured 24'x24' at the base.

The inside of the stack was lined with fire brick. This had to be renewed every few years. For that purpose, an entrance was left in the front of the furnace. This opening was kept walled up while the furnace was in blast.

Charcoal was the fuel used in iron manufacture. In the later years of the industry, charcoal was supplanted by coke in many of the stacks. For the manufacture of charcoal, almost every wood except hemlock was available in the county. Chestnut produced the most charcoal to the quantity of wood employed; birch, the least. The wood was burnt in small clearings called "coalings" or "hearths."

Each furnace required about twenty-five hundred acres of timberland and, of course, a good head of water power. To produce one ton of iron, required three and one-half tons of ore, about five hundred pounds of limestone as flux and two hundred bushels of charcoal.

In Clarion county, the ore was mined from drifts or banks. Sometimes, when the bed lay near a level surface, open excavations were made. These were called "strippings." The ore was hauled to an open space called the furnace yard which lay on a level with the top of the stack. The furnaces were always built at the base of a little bluff or against an abrupt hillside. This was done to facilitate the conveyance of the ore to the mouth of the furnace or "tunnel head."

After a preliminary burning, to free it from dross and dirt, the ore was wheeled on a bridge to the tunnel head and dumped in.

The process of charging the stack was as follows: A thick bed of charcoal was laid in the bottom of the shaft. Upon this was placed a layer of ore which was followed by a layer of limestone. Upon the limestone rested another layer of charcoal. Then layers of ore, limestone and charcoal in rotation until the stack was charged for its full height. All items of the charge were in lumps. This was to keep the general charge open for the passage of gases.

Finer material would have prevented this necessary exit of the gases. The iron in the lowest zone was reduced by the terrific heat from the underlying charcoal and trickled to the base of the mass. Impurities, chiefly silicon dioxide (SiO_2), fluxed with the limestone to form a glassy slag which also trickled down and covered the molten iron. At intervals of about six hours (four times a day, usually) the iron was drawn off through openings in the sides of the stack at its base. These openings were called notches. They were kept solidly closed with clay. When the iron was to be drawn off, the clay was broken in with a bar. At the end of the run, the notch was re-luted, as it was called, with clay.

The liquid iron spurted out through the opening made by the bar and ran into a bed of wet sand where it filled the familiar moulds known as "sows and pigs." The term "pig-iron," of course, arises from the plan upon which these moulds were laid out.

Before the iron could be drawn off, the slag had to be taken out. This was done through a notch or opening at a slightly higher level than the one intended for the iron and on another side of the stack.

The air-blast entered the furnace from still another side. The bellows made use of to supply the air-blast were commonly of two patterns. First,

and somewhat rare, there was the conventional blacksmith's bellows. It was heavily weighted with boulders for the compression and was lifted by a water wheel. Second, and far more generally used, there was the double or continuous bellows. This consisted of two large, box-shaped pits solidly lined with wood into which two box-shaped wooden plungers fitted snugly. These plungers were suspended from either end of a walking beam which was operated by water power. The air blast entered the stack through an underground passage called the tuyere (twe-air). In furnaces known as "cold blast," the air current was driven directly from the bellows to the interior of the furnace. In "hot-blast" stacks, the air passed through a heated coil of pipe before entering the shaft.

The upper masses of the charge in the stack were always comparatively cool, progressively becoming hotter as they slowly descended, until they came to the intensely hot bottom zones of reduction and fusion. The process was continuous. The construction of the shaft below the bosh helped to support the cooler charge above and to prevent it from crushing down into the reduced metal.

The top of the furnace was closed by an inverted, bell-shaped cap which was suspended inside the shaft. This cap could be lowered to receive the ore from the dump.

The furnaces at first produced from fifteen to twenty-five tons of pig iron per week, according to their capacity. But in later years, by improved processes and larger and stronger blasts, the weekly output often reached fifty tons.

These crude, but historically vastly important iron furnaces, were troublesome to handle and their product difficult to standardize. The writer's brother once asked a descendant of a former prominent line of foundry men why it was that the old-time iron masters usually gave their furnaces a feminine name. With a sly wink, the old gentleman answered: "I think it was because they never could tell exactly how their furnaces were going to act."

The iron was sent down the river to Pittsburgh in great, flat-bottomed boats which were sided up to increase their carrying capacity. As there was no means of bringing these barges back, upstream, they were sold in Pittsburgh where they was a ready market for them.

The chief loading points for this vicinity were as follows: At Clarion, just where the state highway bridge now spans the river; at Hahn's Ferry, which was at the mouth of Piney Creek; at Callensburg and at Redbank. These places were the scenes of much active life and bustle for it frequently happened that several hundred men would be found there at one time, loading barges for the various iron companies.

The larger furnaces, such as Lucinda, Madison and Shippenville, employed from seventy-five to one hundred hands. The smaller ones, as Washington, Wild Cat and Mary Ann, from twenty-five to fifty. The men were miners, teamsters, woodchoppers, charcoal burners and furnace men. Their wages ranged from twenty to twenty-six dollars per month, which was good compensation for those days. One-fourth of a man's wages was usually paid to him in cash; the balance in orders on the company's store.

Between 1845 and 1854 more than one-half of all the iron made in northwestern Pennsylvania was manufactured in Clarion county. Indeed, at one time there was a newspaper published there called the "Iron County News."

The county's iron exports in those years realized an aggregate income of more than $700,000. While it is true that this figure was an exceedingly large one for that early period, and while it is also true that the thriving industry brought with it an era of booming prosperity, yet the gloomy fact remains that a majority of the individual iron operators themselves failed. The profits realized in prosperous times were not sufficient to tide them over

the crises in the trade. Besides this, though they themselves were forced to support heavy payrolls, they often were obliged to accept promissory paper in return for their finished product.

Meantime, Christian Myers and Henry Bear continued the operation of their Clarion furnace and were prosperous. They held their partnership for about fifteen years when it was dissolved and Myers carried on the business alone.

Christian Myers was a man of high public spirit. No man was better known thereabouts in those times than he and no one more generally liked. His integrity and the sincerity of his motives were so universally recognized that his advice and counsel were sought on every side.

In 1836 he was elected a member of the Constitutional Convention which met for the purpose of revising the constitution of the state.

Up to 1840, there had existed no such specific area as Clarion County. But in that year, at the instance of Christian Myers and a few others, the county of Clarion was erected out of parts of Armstrong and Venango counties.

In 1839, seeing that the new county was certain to be sanctioned and erected by the legislature, Christian Myers, Philip Clover and James P. Hoover who owned all of the land upon which the town of Clarion now stands, offered it to the commissioners as a site for the proposed county seat. The owners made the offer upon condition that if it were accepted they should receive one-half the proceeds of the sale of building lots.

The site had the advantage of being elevated and level. It was centrally located in the county, was near the river and was directly on the Bellefonte and Meadville turnpike,—the great thoroughfare which has now become the Lakes-to-the-Sea Highway.

The offer was accepted by the commissioners.

In 1840, Myers received from Governor Porter a commission as Associate Justice of Clarion County. Thereupon he became known as Judge Myers, an appellation by which he was known for the remainder of his life. His appointment was renewed in 1841 for four years and again renewed in 1854 by Governor Shunk for a similar period. In politics, Judge Myers was a strong democrat. In 1844, he was a presidential elector on the Polk-Dallas ticket. He had been a prominent public speaker in that campaign.

In 1844, the timber in the vicinity of Clarion furnace having been exhausted, Myers built a new stack in Monroe township near Reidsburg, about six miles from the town of Clarion. Being an enthusiastic Polk man, he called the new furnace "Polk" in honor of the president. But in 1846, owing to the repeal of the tariff of 1842 by the deciding vote of George M. Dallas which he considered as a violation of party pledges, Myers served his connection with the democratic party and re-christened the furnace "Martha" in honor of his wife.

The repeal of the protective tariff by congress in 1846 was the death blow to the iron industry of Clarion county. One of the Clarion newspapers, in printing the announcement of the catastrophe, framed its columns in mourning. Prices dropped from $28 per ton to $20 which figure hardly covered the cost of production.

But enterprises in which so much money had been invested could not lightly be abandoned and the industry struggled on for several years longer. The acute effects of the repeal were not fully felt until 1850 when a number of local iron companies succumbed and went out of business. In the years immediately succeeding, there were a few passing revivals of the trade but the period of depression following the civil war brought with it the final decay of the furnaces in Clarion County.

About 1843, Christian Myers built the substantial brick house at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Main Street, now known as the Rankin property. Before that time, he had lived for a few years in the brick house on the east side of the road facing Martha Furnace, below Reidsburg. He had removed to that home from the original log dwelling at Clarion Furnace (Penn Mills) which he had occupied since coming there in 1828.

In 1850, Judge Myers was elected to the state senate. He filled the office of senator in a most acceptable manner, serving his constituents with honor and fidelity.

In 1855, he became the first president of the Clarion Fair Association. On November 8th of that year the association purchased four acres of land at the west end of the town of Clarion for one hundred dollars. The lot was fenced, suitable buildings and sheds erected and a small, one-eighth mile race track laid out.

In 1858, Myers and several associates built one of the very first steam saw mills in the state of Pennsylvania. It stood at Penn Mills near the mouth of Little Toby Creek and in close proximity to the historic Clarion Furnace, at that time long since out of blast. The sawmill was a large one for that date having a cutting capacity of 15,000 feet per day. (In 1865, a terrific storm devastated the valley of Little Toby, undermining the mill, carrying away the boiler and destroying the tramway which led to the river. The sawmill was never rebuilt.)

In 1859, Governor Packer commissioned Christian Myers a justice of the peace for the town of Clarion.

Myers was a warm personal friend and supporter of Andrew G. Curtain and was largely instrumental in western Pennsylvania for his election as civil war governor of the state.

In 1861, Judge Myers was appointed by Governor Curtain to the post of Chief Grain Measurer for the port of Philadelphia, an office which he held for six years. During this period he spent most of his time in Philadelphia though he kept his home in Clarion. In 1868, however, he removed with his wife to Philadelphia. The office of grain measurer for the port of Philadelphia was the last public position which he filled. At his retirement from it, he was in his seventy-second year.

His vivid interest in the political life of the country never waned. He numbered among his personal friends William H. Meredith, Andrew G. Curtain, Judge Woodward, Col. John W. Forney, Col. Alexander McClure, Chambers McKibbin, Henry H. Hueston, of the eastern, and Judge McCandless, S. A. Purviance, Judge McCalmont, Judge James Campbell, Judge William Corbett, Jacob Black, Esq., Mr. Richard Shippen and General Moorehead of the western part of the state.

Throughout the entire range of his official career, as in his business connections, Christian Myers was known for his honesty and firmness. He was a faithful and competent public servant; in private life a man of unsullied honor and irreproachable character.

Because of the fact that Myers left Clarion in 1868, few persons now living there remember him. Squire Sweny, 81 years of age, has given the writer much valuable information on the subject. Mr. Sam Lowry, now in his eighty-sixth year, vividly recollects the erect and stalwart form of Judge Myers who, riding into town from his furnace each morning on a magnificent grey horse, would dismount before the post office.

The only remaining photograph of Judge Myers is in the possession of his granddaughter, Miss Martha E. Hetherington of Philadelphia. It shows him to have been a man of firm but kindly expression and of splendid physique. Miss Hetherington says of him: "Christian Myers was six feet tall

and of commanding appearance. His eyes were blue; his hair brown in early life. For many years his hair was snowy white while his face was fair and ruddy with the glow of health. He was ill but one week in his entire life."

Of the thirty-one furnaces once flourishing here, Washington furnace alone remains,—a melancholy memorial to its departed fellows. It stands in the southwestern corner of Clarion Township on the road leading from Mechanicsville to Reidsburg. This venerable stack is in a fairly good state of preservation. All the other furnaces have disappeared. In most cases, the masonry of the old ruins was of such a high order that the superbly hewn blocks of stone have long ago been hauled away to be used again in building the foundations of barns and bridges.

The lower part of the historic Martha Furnace is still standing a short distance south of Reidsburg. It is used as a spring house.

Monroe Furnace, in Monroe township half a mile south of Washington furnace, remained almost intact until the summer of 1922. At that time, a blind horse which was grazing on the upland meadow that had formerly been the furnace yard, fell into the tunnel-head and was killed. Thereupon, the ancient stack was dismantled, its cavity being filled with rocks torn from its top and sides.

Christian Myers died in Philadelphia on October 6, 1877. His age was eighty-one years. His name is enrolled in the Capitol at Harrisburg as a representative citizen of Clarion County.

His wife (born Martha Henaberger of Mount Joy, Lancaster Co.) died in Philadelphia in 1880. Both are buried in Mount Moriah Cemetery, Philadelphia.

Christian Myers may well be said to have been the

FATHER OF CLARION COUNTY.

LIST OF IRON FURNACES FORMERLY OPERATING IN CLARION COUNTY

The furnaces usually were named for the localities wherein they stood, for the wives of their owners or in honor of various presidents of the United States.

1 Clarion Furnace, built 1828. Stood on Clarion river, just west of the mouth of Little Toby creek. Thirty feet high, by eight feet across the bosh. Owners, Henry Bear and Christian Myers; afterwards Myers alone who, in 1851, assigned to Nelson Hetherington. (Hetherington was Myers' son-in-law.) Produced 1,300 tons of iron a year. Abandoned in 1852 on account of difficulty in reaching ore and because its timber supply was exhausted.

2 Shippenville Furnace, 1832. Hot blast. Stood at the junction of Deer Creek and Paint Creek, one mile southeast of Shippenville. Owned by Richard Shippen and Jacob Black. Thirty-two feet high; nine feet bosh. Produced, 1856, 1,500 tons. Abandoned 1859.

In connection with this furnace, there was a forge,—the only one in the county. It stood a mile further down Deer Creek and made, altogether, fifty tons of bar iron.

3 Lucinda Furnace, 1833. On Paint Creek in Knox township. Owners were James Humes and George Hamilton. Their furnace was purchased from John F. Steinman, Humes' assignee, in 1843, by Hon. James Buchanan (afterwards president) and John Reynolds of Cornwall, Lebanon County.

Buchanan visited the furnace in June, 1843. The iron made at this furnace had a high reputation with mill and foundrymen. Stack was hot blast, thirty feet high, eight feet bosh. Produced, 1856, 1,500 tons. Abandoned in 1858 on account of scarcity of timber and low prices.

4 Beaver Furnace, 1835, on Deer Creek two miles from its mouth. Cold blast at first; hot blast later. Used steam and water power. Thirty-three feet high, nine feet bosh. Output, 1852, 1,500 tons. Abandoned 1854. Owners Long, Blackstone and Co.

5 Madison Furnace, 1836, on Piney Creek two miles from Clarion river. Thirty-two feet high, nine feet bosh. Produced, 1856, 2,500 tons of mill iron out of the argillaceous ores of the coal measures close by. In 1872, made 3,048 tons. One of the first furnaces hereabouts to use chills.

Was abandoned in 1873 owing to the panic of that year.

6 Jefferson Furnace, 1838, thirty feet high by eight feet bosh. Stood on Beaver Creek at Jefferson station. It was run very irregularly. Produced, 1845, eight hundred tons. In 1856, about 600 tons of forge metal out of limestone and bog ores. Abandoned in 1858 chiefly on account of lack of timber.

7 Clinton Furnace, 1841, on Hemlock Creek in the extreme northwest corner of Washington township. Was thirty-three feet high, nine and one-half feet across the bosh. Production, 1856, was 2,000 tons of forge metal out of fossil buhr-stone and fossil limestone, lower coal measure ore, mined two miles south of the furnace.

8 Elk ("Smearkase") Furnace, 1842. A small stack on Deer Creek one mile above Deer Creek Furnace. Twenty-two feet high by seven feet across bosh. Production, 1845, about 700 tons; 1854, 400 tons. Timber exhausted in 1855; furnace abandoned.

9 Buchanan Furnace, 1844, cold blast. Stood on the north bank of the Clarion River opposite Callensburg. Thirty feet high by eight feet bosh. Average 1,200 tons a year. Abandoned 1858 because its timber was then gone.

10 Tippecanoe Furnace, 1844, cold blast operated by steam. Named for the Harrison administration, "Tippecanoe and Tyler too." Stood on Canoe Creek, one and a half miles above Eagle Furnace. Made, 1845, one thousand tons of metal. Timber all gone in 1851.

11 Mary Ann Furnace, 1844, cold blast. Stood on Paint Creek at the crossing of the Franklin-Brookville turnpike (present Lakes-to-Sea highway). Thirty feet high, eight feet bosh. In 1846, produced 1,100 tons of iron. Abandoned in 1851.

12 Deer Creek Furnace, 1844, cold blast. On Deer Creek at the turnpike crossing just west of Shippenville. Abandoned 1851.

13 St. Charles Furnace (originally "Cocheco.") Built 1844. Thirty-three feet high, ten feet across the bosh. Stood on Leatherwood Creek about two miles from the low grade railroad. Cold blast at first; hot blast introduced in 1857. In 1850, made 2,000 tons. Dismantled 1865.

This was the only furnace that employed raw coal. The Second Geological Report for Clarion County says of it: "Though essentially a charcoal stack, this furnace was run for one year on coke made from the Freeport lower coal, and for nearly a year on raw coal from the Freeport upper bed which, in this vicinity, is of a 'block' character. Innumerable thin layers of mineral charcoal disseminated through the bed, divide the bituminous portion into such thin laminae that any appreciable swelling or melting of the mass is rendered impossible, and each lump preserves its shape until it is entirely consumed."

14 Wildcat Furnace (sometimes called Franklin), 1843, steam, cold blast. Stood on Wildcat Run, one mile southeast of Rimersburg. Was twenty-eight feet high, seven and one-half feet across the bosh. In 1847, produced 1,380 tons. Blown out in 1857 but not abandoned till 1863.

15 Black Fox Furnace, 1844, steam hot blast. Stood on Black Fox Run in Perry Township, one mile from the Allegheny River. Thirty feet high, nine feet across bosh. In 1856, made 2,000 tons. About 1868, the boiler exploded, killing one man and severely injuring several others. The furnace never resumed.

16 Pike Furnace, 1845, steam, hot blast. Stood near Wildcat Run, three-fourths of a mile north of Lawsonham. Thirty feet high, by eight feet across the bosh. Originally built as a cold stack. The iron was made from limestone ore, soft brown and hard blue, in beds which crop out among the coal measures horizontally around the furnace. In 1845, made 1,700 tons. In 1856, 1,500. Blown out and dismantled in 1869.

17 Prospect Furnace, 1845, steam cold blast. Stood on Cherry Run one mile south of Callensburg. Thirty feet high, eight feet bosh. In thirty-nine weeks of 1856, made 1,450 tons of mill-iron out of blue coal-measure limestone ore from many banks within three and one-half miles radius. Abandoned 1862.

18 Sligo Furnace, 1845, first cold, later steam hot blast. Was on Licking Creek, near Sligo, Piney township. Changed to hot blast 1857. Used chills. Produced, 1856, 2,400 tons rolling mill metal. Abandoned in 1871.

19 Monroe Furnace, cold blast. (Year of erection not available.) Thirty feet high by eight feet bosh. Stood on Piney Creek in eastern Monroe township. In 1855 it produced 1,250 tons. Went finally out of blast in 1882. Was standing until the summer of 1922 when it was dismantled.

20 Limestone Furnace, 1845, cold blast. Thirty feet high by eight feet bosh. Stood on Piney Creek in Limestone township. Made about 1,000 tons a year. Abandoned in 1853.

21 Martha (first called Polk) Furnace, 1845, steam cold blast. Built by Christian Myers. Thirty feet high by eight feet bosh. Stood near Reidsburg in Monroe township. It was erected as a successor to Clarion Furnace (see No. 1) where ore and timber were growing scarce. It was owned and managed by Nelson Hetherington, Myers' son-in-law, most of the time. In 1854, it made 1,260 tons. Dismantled in 1856 because timber was exhausted.

(Judge Myers, the first proprietor, was an enthusiastic Polk man and called this furnace after Polk. When Polk sanctioned the repeal of the traffic of 1842, Myers became disgusted and re-christened the furnace after his wife.)

22 Hemlock Furnace, 1845, steam cold blast. Thirty feet high, seven and one-half feet bosh. Stood on Hemlock Creek close to Clinton Furnace. In 1856, about 1,200 tons. Abandoned about 1860.

23 Licking Furnace, 1845, cold blast. Stood on Licking Run near Lickingville, Washington township. Seven and one-half feet bosh, thirty feet high. In 1846, made 1,200 tons. Later, only about 400 tons per annum. Abandoned in 1856.

24 Helen Furnace, 1845, cold blast. Thirty-two feet high by eight feet bosh. Stood on the Scotch Hill road, eight miles from Clarion. In twenty-six weeks of 1856, made 756 tons of iron from ore mined back of the tunnel head. Stopped manufacture about 1857.

(This furnace is locally called "Heelen" and for the following reason: It was erected on the old McNaughton farm by Robert Barker and Wilson S. Packer, in 1845. The builders named it "Highland" furnace in honor of Alexander McNaughton who prided himself in being a Highlander. But, the word being pronounced after the north Scottish dialect "Heeland," the name was soon corrupted to "Heelen" furnace, leading to the erroneous supposition that it was christened with a feminine name (Helen). The name of the township has the same origin and is commonly, but incorrectly, pronounced "Heelen" township.)

25 Catfish Furnace, 1845, steam cold blast. Thirty feet high by eight feet bosh. Stood on the Allegheny River at the mouth of Catfish creek. In thirty-three weeks of 1856, it made 925½ tons of metal from carbonate and red ores mined within one mile to the northward.

26 Washington Furnace, 1846, steam cold blast. Thirty feet high by eight and one-half feet bosh. Stood in the extreme southwest corner of Clarion township some half mile north of Monroe Furnace. In 1846, it made 1,000 tons. Blew out in the spring of 1855 having made 706 tons that year.

Washington Furnace still stands (1924). It is located on the road leading from Mechanicsville to Reidsburg. It is in a fairly good state of preservation and, so far as I have been able to discover, is the only stack still standing in Clarion County.

27 Richland Furnace, 1846, steam cold blast. Thirty feet high by eight feet bosh. Stood on a branch of Turkey Run in Richland township. Made, in 1854-55 and 1856, an average of 550 tons per year.

28 Eagle Furnace, 1846, cold blast. Thirty feet high, eight feet bosh. Stood on Canoe Creek, a mile from the Clarion River. Made 700 to 800 tons per year. Abandoned 1858.

29 Corsica Furnace (originally called Mount Pleasant) 1849. Thirty feet high by eight feet bosh. Stood in Clarion township, northwest of Corsica and a little north of the pike (now L-to-S highway). Made about 500 tons yearly.

30 Redbank Furnace, 1859. The first stack on the present site was thirty-nine feet high by eleven feet bosh. It was later raised to sixty-four feet and its equipment was much improved and modernized. The old furnace used coke and produced an average of 95 tons per week. In 1887, there were 40 coke ovens in connection with the plant and the capacity of the stack was 150 tons of metal per week. Suspended operations in January, 1883.

31 Sarah Furnace, 1860. Stood at the bottom of the bend of the Allegheny about one mile above Catfish. Abandoned about 1867. Built by S. F. Plumer after his retirement from part ownership of Prospect Furnace and named for his wife.

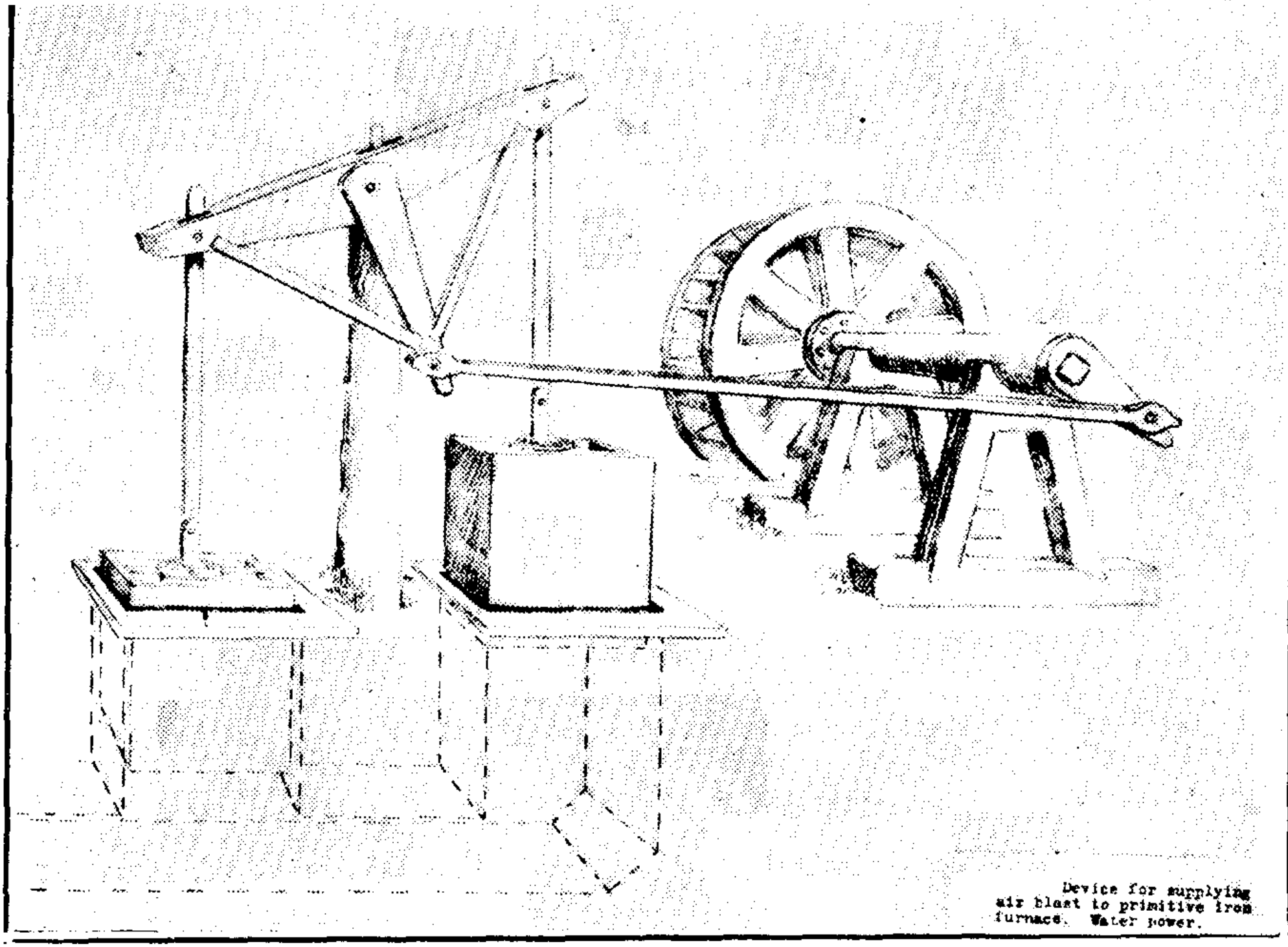
(For names of owners and operators of most of the furnaces named above, see Davis' History of Clarion County—1887. In addition to the 31 stacks here named, Caldwell's Atlas mentions two more: Callensburg and Perry furnaces; of which no data recorded.)

The writer heartily acknowledges his obligations to the following persons for valuable information:—

Miss Martha E. Hetherington
Mr. Samuel Lowry
Squire J. H. Sweny
Mr. John Meissinger
Mr. Robert Campbell
Mr. Jacob Black
Prof. Herbert H. Beck
Theo. R. Wilson, Esq.
Dr. R. L. R. Snyder
Mrs. Sara Kuhns
Mr. George M. Myers
and some others.

And to the following:—

Davis' "History Of Clarion County"
Caldwell's "Atlas Of Clarion County"



Device for supplying air blast to primitive iron furnace. Water power.

Air-blast engine of Lancaster County Type, introduced into Clarion County by Christian Myers and Henry Bear, in 1828. Drawn by Paul E. Beck, from description furnished by John Meissinger, Robert Campbell and Jacob Black, old residents of Clarion who, as youths connected with the iron industry, acquired an intimate knowledge of the early furnace and its operations. These men subscribed to the accuracy of the drawing.

Author: Beck, Paul E.

Title: Christian Myers, migrant iron master and a founder of Clarion County / by Paul E. Beck.

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): Myers, Christian, 1796-1877.
Bear, Henry.
Clarion Furnace (Clarion County, Pa.)
Iron mines and mining--Pennsylvania--Clarion County --History.
Iron industry and trade--Pennsylvania--Clarion County --History.
Clarion County (Pa.)--History.

Publisher: Lancaster, Pa. : Lancaster County Historical Society, 1927

Description: 143-149 p. ; 23 cm.

Series: Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society ; v. 31, no. 9 & 10

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