

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.

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## LIST OF IRON FURNACES FORMERLY OPERATING IN CLARION COUNTY

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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 Shipperville. Abandoned 1851.

13 St. Charles Furnace (originally "Coheco.") 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, 1846, 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.

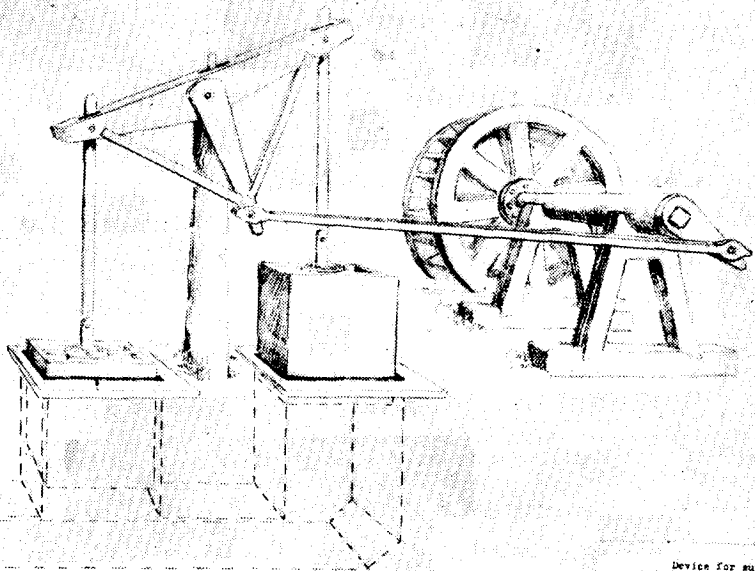
(For names of owners and operators of most of the furnaces named above, see Davis' History of Clarion County—1887. In addition to the 31 stacks here named, Caldwell's Atlas mentions two more: Callensburg and Perry furnaces; of which no data recorded.)

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

Miss Martha E. Hetherington  
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Mr. John Meissinger  
Mr. Robert Campbell  
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Mrs. Sara Kuhns  
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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.