

HISTORY OF THE BEAVER VALLEY.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

BEAVER VALLEY, April, 1873.

Beaver Valley, Pa.

Prior to the occupancy by the whites, of the site now covered by the pleasant little borough of Fallston—away back in the dark days when the shot of the savage or his war whoop startled the soldiers daily, while yet the old "Block House" was standing and was occupied by troops on the opposite side of the river, it was quite a resort for hostile bands of Indians.

The old saw mill was the first industry put to work in Fallston. It could tell a story that would be of much more interest than anything this pen may be able to record.

In the year 1806, Evan and John Pugh erected a flouring mill, which was operated for a long series of years, and remained standing until 1859, when it was burned to the ground.

During the year 1809, the first woolen factory in the valley was put in operation. Mr. Septimus Sharpless purchased a few shares of the water power, and started this industry which has proved to be one of the most beneficial interests in the valley.

The first settlers at the foot of the Falls of Beaver were attracted by its great natural resources and advantages for manufacturing purposes. As far as can now be learned, it is probable that the first man who dared to claim these wilds as his own, and attempt to improve them, was John McKee, of McKeesport.

But during this period, quite an interest was being taken in the water power now so thoroughly tested by manufacturing, so that had become celebrated in different parts of the country.

Capital was being turned toward this region, and business men were learning the great natural advantages of it for all kinds of business.

Mr. Townsend for the consideration of \$200, "a certain tract of land situated on the west side of Big Beaver creek opposite to the Block House, at the lower falls of said creek in the county of Allegheny, adjoining lands of Daniel Leet on the south, Hill on the west, and Gen. Daniel Broadhead on the north, and said Beaver Creek on the east, containing 275 acres."

There is no business for which these water falls are better calculated than that of making paper, and why this mill was ever abandoned, must ever be a cause of wonder.

Matthew Gilliland commenced a merchandising business in that year, and a large cotton factory was put to work by C. C. Walcott, of Steubenville, Ohio, which was afterwards changed to the manufacture of jeans in 1836.

A GOOD FARM. This farm contains 53 acres of first class soil, mostly cleared; with enough of good timber, situated about four miles from New Brighton, on the new cut road in North Braddock, Beaver county, Pa.

A GOOD DAIRY, STOCK OR GRAIN FARM. In Big Beaver township, Beaver county, Pa., containing about 140 acres—of which 120 acres are cleared, 35 acres first bottom land; 20 acres in oak timber, and 5 acres in chestnut.

A SPLENDID GARDEN OR DAIRY FARM, containing about 107 acres, of which 83 acres are cleared and under a high state of cultivation, well fenced, mostly post and rail, and in splendid order.

Stockton, who also connected with it a merchandising business. There is no business for which these water falls are better calculated than that of making paper.

In the year 1836, the wire and rivet mill, which has now gained almost a national reputation, was established by Robert Townsend, Robert Beer, Reese C. Townsend and a Baird, of Philadelphia, under the style of R. Townsend & Co.

Afterward, when the business had become more fully developed, it gave employment to a large number of the most capable and intelligent of workmen.

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James Caldwell & Co. NEW STOCK OF WINTER GOODS, JUST OPENED. IRISH AND FRENCH POPLINS, REPPS AND VELOURS, CASSIMERES, DRA DE FRANCO MERINOS, EMPRESS CLOTHS AND SATENS, BLACK ALPACAS AND MOHAIR LUSTRES, BLACK SILK WARP CASSIMERES, EMPRESS CLOTHS AND MERINOS, BLACK SILKS, BRIDGewater, FINEST IN THE CITY.

Business Directory. BEAVER. M. & J. LAWRENCE, Physicians and Surgeons, office that formerly occupied by U. S. Revenue Assessor, Third street, Beaver, Pa. ap251-ly. THOMAS DONEHO, M. D. Office lower door in John Borden's building, Beaver, Pa. ap251-ly.

Directory. COINING OFFICERS. President—Judge A. V. Johnson. Associates—Milton Lawrence, Joseph C. Wilson, Prothonotary—John Caughey, Clerk of Court—John C. Hart, Sheriff—Chamberlain White, Register & Recorder—James I. Stokes, Treasurer—Charles F. White, Commissioners—Daniel Neely, Samuel Torrence, Hugh L. Marshall, Clerk of Commissioners—J. B. Barringer, Counsel to Commissioners—J. R. Harrar, Coroner—Daniel Corbus, Auctioneer—H. Christie, C. H. Hood, C. C. Riggs, District Attorney—H. McCree, County Surveyor—D. M. Daugherty, Jury Commissioners—James Warneck, Robert Potter, Hiram Platt, Trustees of Academy—J. F. Lowry, J. P. Cross, John Murray, Samuel Magaw, Henry Rice, Mattam Barragh, Benj. C. Critchlow, James M. Smith.