

The Town of Salisbury.

Salisbury was laid out in 1794 by Joseph Markley. It is therefore one of the oldest towns in the county. Its first house was built by Peter Shirer and Martin Weimer. Many additions have been made to the original plat, and over all these the town has spread, although for many years there was scarcely any perceptible growth. The first store in Salisbury was kept by Peter Shirer, on the corner now occupied by the building known as the Mont Evieu House or M. Hay building. The town's first hotel was kept by John Welsh, prior to 1800.

Salisbury grew but little until after the branch railroad, of which it is the terminus, was built. It is now a very important shipping point and the chief mining town of the county. It is situated in the heart of the rich Elk Lick coal region and is also surrounded by an excellent farming community. About a dozen large collieries are in active operation in the immediate vicinity, and when these are operated to their fullest capacity there is an enormous amount of money paid to laborers in this vicinity every month. Lumbering has also been a great industry in the vicinity of Salisbury, but it has been operated to such an extent that but few good tracts of timber remain.

Just outside the borough limits is located the large plant of the Standard Extract Company, a gigantic manufacturing establishment where chestnut wood, sumac and bark are used for the manufacture of tannic extract. This large factory is run day and night, has an electric light plant and gives employment to a large force of workmen. Its capacity is from thirty to forty barrels of extract per day. Salisbury has great natural resources, and as a field for profitable investment in manufacturing, is hard to excel.

Salisbury is a wealthy town, and in the matter of money at interest, ranks second only to the county-seat. In the number of stores and the paying of mercantile tax it ranks third among the towns of the county, while it takes fourth place in population.

The town's population in 1890 was 689; at present it has about 1,000. Its citizenship is all that could be desired, and its business houses, including a bank, rank among the best in the county. No town in the county has better school and church facilities.

On the 19th of last March Salisbury was the scene of a most disastrous conflagration, which consumed some of its newest and most costly buildings. The total loss was estimated at \$50,000. The buildings destroyed were a fine new hotel, a mammoth hardware store, a very fine drug store, several residences and a fine new business block in which were a clothing store and the *Somerset County Star* printing plant. The loss to the town was a great calamity, but already several costly new structures are arising from the ashes and the town will soon recover from its heavy loss.

Water works, electric light and the annexation of West Salisbury to the borough have been agitated for some time, and if these things are brought about Salisbury will easily hold third place in population among the county towns and also be a close competitor for second place. The town was incorporated as a borough in 1862.

The Town of Berlin.

Berlin, in point of population, ranks third among the towns of Somerset county. The town was founded by Germans, who named it after the chief city of their fatherland. It is not positively known at what date the settlement commenced, but it is believed to have been prior to the Revolutionary war. At any rate, Berlin is generally conceded to be the oldest town of any note in the county.

For some years during the pioneer days Berlin was the chief business center of the county, and when the county of Somerset was erected, in 1795, Berlin would undoubtedly have been chosen as the county-seat, had it not been for the more central location of Somerset.

As far back as 50 years ago Berlin was quite a good sized country town, and while its growth has been very slow, it has nevertheless been steady and very substantial. It is a town made up largely of retired farmers and people who own their own homes and small tracts of land. As Philadelphia is known as the city of homes, so also may Berlin be called the borough of homes, when we speak of the towns of Somerset county. Berlin is said to have more free-holders than any other town in the county, as there are comparatively few people in the place who do not own some real estate. It is a wealthy town, and in the matter of money at interest, is exceeded by no boroughs in the county, except Somerset and Salisbury.

In the early days Berlin had quite a number of small manufacturers, such as the country tanner, the country hatter and others, but these industries have long ago ceased to exist. About 1842 Charles Stoner established a foundry in Berlin, the first in the county, and for some years did a very extensive business. Many of the stoves manufactured at this foundry are still to be found throughout the county. The Berlin Pulley Works, a large manu-

facturing establishment, was erected a few years ago and is a credit to the town.

In 1845 a fire occurred in Berlin, in which 13 stables and 26 houses were on fire at one time; but by heroic work only three buildings were destroyed.

Many of the town's ancient buildings are still standing and are in a good state of preservation. They are also much better buildings than were usually erected in their time. Of late years some very fine modern residences and business houses have been erected, and the town, upon the whole, makes a good appearance.

Berlin, like the other towns of the county, has excellent school and church facilities; her people are intelligent, generous and enterprising. The town also has a weekly newspaper, an old and well-established bank, good hotels, numerous fine stores, etc. The book store of Chas. F. Cook is a recent addition to Berlin business houses and deserves special mention. Its proprietor is a most exemplary and enterprising young business man.

Berlin is the terminus of the Berlin branch of the B. & O. railroad and is quite an important shipping point. Some mines are operated in the vicinity with considerable success. The town's population in 1890 was 912; at present it is over 1,000. The place was incorporated as a borough in 1837.

The Town of Confluence.

Confluence, one of Somerset county's most prosperous and rapidly growing towns, was ushered into existence by the building of the Pittsburg division of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad. It is beautifully situated at the junction of Laurel Hill creek and the Youghiogheny and Casselman rivers, and from the confluence of these three beautiful streams the town takes its name. The town is advantageously located and is one of the main shipping points between Cumberland and Connellsville.

Confluence was laid out in 1870, by the Confluence Land company, an association which purchased from A. N. Tissue, Jacob Sterner and Peter Meyers the land on which the town is situated. In 1873 the place was incorporated as a borough. The first house within the borough limits was erected by Henry Adams, one of the pioneer settlers. The first store was opened by Van Horn & Liston, in 1871.

This town built up rapidly for a time, then seemed to be on a standstill and made very little advancement for several years. At present, however, no town in the county is growing more rapidly than Confluence, as within the past two years the largest manufacturing establishment in Somerset county has been erected here. This is the large steam tannery of W. S. Cobb & Co., a syndicate of wealthy Boston capitalists. The buildings of this mammoth plant are of the following dimensions: Main building, 80x104 feet; Beam house and tan yard, 85x290 feet; Leech house, 35x175 feet. The main building is four stories high. The latest and most improved machinery is used in all departments, and the product of this tannery is of the best and finds a ready sale. The works employ 175 men and more are constantly being added. The company will soon put in an electric light plant of its own. Confluence is to be congratulated on being so fortunate as to secure this large manufacturing plant, and judging from well founded rumor, other large plants will likely be located in that town also.

The big tannery has enthused new life into the town, and it has been building up very rapidly since its advent. Confluence is to-day known as the "boom town" of Somerset county, a title it may well feel proud of. The population of this thriving borough was only 444 in 1890, but at present is estimated at 800. The town has good hotels, good schools, churches, fine stores and a most desirable class of citizens and business men.

The Executive Committee.

The success of the Centennial celebration will depend in a great measure on the efficiency, patriotism and hard work of the Executive Committee. This is the most important committee of all and the people will look to its members to do their full duty. W. H. Ruppel, Esq., is chairman of the committee and the other members thereof are: Hon. A. J. Colborn, Rev. H. King, J. C. Lowry, Esq., G. R. Scull, Esq., R. M. Linton, Hon. A. H. Coffroth, Chas. H. Fisher, C. J. Harrison, Valentine Hay, Esq., J. A. Berkey, Esq., Francis J. Kooser, Esq., Oliver Knepper, H. C. Beerits and Geo. H. Love.

Somerset has a splendid electric light company and it furnishes to its patrons as good light as we have seen anywhere. Such streets as have the arc service are finely lit up. But there are not enough arc lights distributed over the town. As the price charged the borough by the company is but \$60 per year per lamp, it is surprising that more arc lights are not put on the streets. Some of the districts of the town are absolutely in darkness, in fact not any better off than during the old coal oil lamp service. It is astounding that the citizens in these districts that are in darkness stand such gross imposition and neglect. Why do they not demand their rights?

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