

Well-known Local Blacksmiths



Bulford's Blacksmith Shop: Bulford's smithy at Trucksville was once a familiar business spot for farmers and riders who brought their horses here for shoeing and their wagons for repairs. Joseph Bulford, at one time assisted by his brother Bill, operated in a building across from present Dr. Flack's veterinary hospital for many years, employing several helpers. Interested greatly in his community, Mr. Bulford was president of Trucksville Fire Company, and the old fire cart was housed in his shop. He was also active in Toby Creek Lodge, I.O.O.F. His daughter, Mrs. Ernest Norrie still resides in Trucksville. Later used by various gas station owners and finally as an antique shop, Bulford's smithy was torn down to make room for the new Memorial Highway construction.

Daddow's Blacksmith Shop: Wesley Daddow was a familiar figure in Dallas, and ran this blacksmith shop on Main Street, seen in this postcard view from the old days. The shop was located pretty much where Besecker's is now, between Becky Monk's store and the trolley station. It was the place to get your horse repaired at the turn of the century. Daddow had the earliest Ford agency in Dallas. Borough engineer John Jeter recalls how Daddow was plagued with Ford's restriction on local dealers, so that it was sometimes impossible to get a car if you wanted one. Daddow was later street commissioner. Family lived on Main Street, later moved to the present Berger home on Machell Avenue. The last blacksmith shop in Dallas was Alex Johnson's, behind the depot in Billy Bulford's mule barn.

Other Back Mountain Smithies

Most old-time communities had blacksmith shops, because you didn't want to have to carry your horse too darned far. Besides the smithies mentioned already in Dallas, there was another located in the old hotel barn at one time. In Monroe Township, the lumber industry called for many horses. There was also a wagon factory, and presumably considerable call for blacksmiths. In Ross Township in 1880, according to "History of Luzerne, Lackawanna, and Wyoming Counties" (Munsell, N. Y.), there were blacksmith shops at both Bloomingdale and Sweet Valley. Humans could get shod at Broadway, where there was actually a shoe repair shop. Booming metropolis at Orange, according to the history, had two blacksmith shops, as well as wagon and harness shops. Lehman Township's first smithy was at Huntsville, near the Jackson line, in early 1800's, Jonathan Heusted, owner. Others followed. Early blacksmiths in Jackson Township were Benjamin Higgins and Ira Bronson, early 1800's. By 1880 there were two smithies listed at Huntsville.



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