

## FIRST FAMILIES OF MAHANNOY CITY\*\* -- Map of 1864

The following paper on "First Families of Mahanoy City" by Mrs. Augusta Dillman Thomas is based on a pictorial map of the borough published in 1864.

Valuable data has been gleaned from an old map of 1864. The surveys were made in 1862 by Walter Scott and W.J. Sox of Philadelphia. On the borders of the map are pictures of several large coal breakers existent in Schuylkill County but the only Mahanoy City operation shown in the early days is "Hills" (now Mahanoy City colliery), which was owned by Hill and Harris. The breaker on this map stands in the foreground showing the trestling leading from a point midway between the breaker and the present Lehigh Valley tracks, to the tip of the breaker. A fair view of the town can be seen in the background.

There is an excellent view of Main Street, looking toward the Mansion House, which is easily recognized beyond the Philadelphia and Reading railroad bridge. Houses are dotted here and there amidst a dense forest that covered the town in 1862. A clump of pine or spruce trees, judging from the shading on the map, can be seen at what is now the corner of Main and Pine streets and the corner of Main and Spruce streets. These trees gave the names to these streets at a later period. There are also two pictures on this map of collieries in the vicinity of Mahanoy City which were owned by Bowman Brothers, and Wiggan and Treibles.

A directory of Mahanoy City printed with this map gives the names of the town's leading businessmen. As might be expected in a "boom" town, there are many civil and mining engineers, stone masons, plasterers, carpenters, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, and saloonkeepers. There is only one church -- the Presbyterian. Among the civil and mining engineers are the names of P.J. Collins, Frank Carter, William H. Carter, David Stewart, Thomas S. Westcott, J.E. Van Horn, R.B. Davies, who was superintendent at the Hill and Harris colliery, and Charles King, agent for the railroad company.

The stores were conducted by Thompson and Brother, grocery and drygoods; R.B. Swayze; George R. Goodman; Edward Boyer; Nathan Fehr; E.F. Smith, hardware; Michael Allebach, jewelry; C.C. Hagenbuch, druggist; and Dr. Phaon Hermany, druggist. The four doctors of which the community boasted were Phaon Hermany, George F. Brendle, Robert B. Swayze, and Louis M. Thompson.

The hotels were: Mansion House, southwest corner of Main and Center streets, owned by Wilbur F. Smith; Washington House, northwest corner of Center and First streets, owned by Harrison Derrick (now occupied by Timm's hotel property);

Mahanoy House and saloon, owned by Emanuel Boyer (site of Noonan's store); and the Eagle Hotel, owned by Seth Kaley (site of old Kaier Hotel on North Main Street).

Liquor stores and restaurants were owned by Charles Kaier; Thomas Landy; John Hofman; Joshua Hold, whose saloon was known as "The Miner's Arms"; Carl Scheurman, whose establishment was located at the southwest corner of Sixth and Mahanoy Streets; and Joseph Hughes, who had a saloon and restaurant known as "The National House" in the middle of the north side of the 200 block on West Center Street.

Blacksmiths listed included: William Schweitzer, Phineas Gerber, H. Baumgarten, and Philip Fox, who was also a wheelwright.

Carpenters were W.P. Wallerius, Evan J. Griffiths, J.C. Ritner, Frank Roth, John Mahan, Lawrence Brennan, Samuel Reinhart, Solomon Faust, James B. Hawley, John F. Murphy, Charles Krebs, and Bernard Banks.

Stonemasons and plasterers were John Miller, C. Bartholomew, R. Vastine, John Fricke, Henry Litsch, John Mayer, and M.L. Johnson.

Harnessmakers were Jacob Bricker and Hughes.

Butchers were John Knapp and John Quinn.

Boot and shoemakers were Daniel A. Crawshaw and Jacob Drehr.

One attorney-at-law is listed, John R. Conyngham, Esquire.

The map also displayed the course of the creek in 1862. The channel of the creek crossed from Mahanoy street over to Fourteenth street turning north at Twelfth street to Center street. It then ran west on Center street for as far as Eleventh street, turned south and came back nearly to Pine street. It again crossed Market street near Eighth street where it was augmented by a northern branch. Then it took its present course where it was again augmented by a southern branch near Linden street and a northern branch near Catawissa street. Here it crossed Center street (near Catawissa street) and flowed along the railroad embankment. The creek then turned south forming an island in the middle of Center street between A and B streets. Continuing it went over to Pine street and again turned north and C street and then continued along the railroad. Comparing the course of the Mahanoy creek in 1862 to the course it has now, we can but admire the constructing skill of the engineers who have confined its course to stone walls

through the center of town and its subsequent covering of concrete which has hidden much of its polluted unsightliness from view.

This map shows the names of the following lot owners: On Center street, just east of Main street, on the south side, were four houses: Emanuel Boyer's hotel, Smith's store, Edward Boyer's grocery and drygoods store, and George R. Goodman's grocery and drygoods store. On the north side of the street were: Dr. Louis M. Thompson's general store (site of the Union National Bank); Walborn's saloon (site of Ryan's Tobacco store and Morris Cutrate drugstore); Peter Otterbach's saloon (site of Heiser's hardware store). E.F. Smith & Co. hardware store (site of the former Seivert store); and Sum and Derrick hotel, known as the Washington House corner of First and Center streets).

Between First and Second streets, on the south side of Center street, were Gunthner, Brown, F. Kear, J. Turner, and R. Kaer, who owned six lots. On the north side were Stichter & Thompson hardware store (site of State theatre); Thomas Landy's liquor store; Charles D. Kaier's liquor store, Jonas and Peter Bowman's homes, with lawns on the west and east (site of Schertzinger's jewelry store and Domson building and Elk's theatre).

Between Second and Third streets, on the south side of Center streets, resided W. Davis and D. Fisher. The north side was vacant except for a small house at the corner of Third and Center streets owned by Edward Britt.

Between Third and Fourth streets, on the south side of Center street, were the properties of Henry Litsch, M. Wallerius, J. Howell, and a family named Webster. On the north side resided the families of J. Quinn and T. and S. Lebo.

Between Fourth and Fifth streets on the south side of Center street, were the homes of William Monroe, who had a saloon (site of Ginthner residence); Patrick Ryan, who had a saloon (site 406-408 East Center street). Patrick Ryan had been blinded by a premature explosion at one of the mines. The other houses on this side of the street were owned by Kingeter, Wolf and Walborn. There were no houses on the north side.

Between Fifth and sixth streets on the south side of Center street, resided a family named Bausman. On the north side resided R.P. Jones.

Between Sixth and Seventh streets on the south side of Center street, J. Kanute resided. There were no houses on the north side.

Between Seventh and Eighth streets, on the south side of Center street, there were no houses but on the north side there was a family named Lebo at the corner where the road turned toward Pleasant Hill and Delano.

On Center street, west of Main street, on the south side, stood the Mansion House, extending back to the creek. On the north side were F. Ritter, Miss Lebo's store, and in the middle of the block were the home and office of Patrick J. Barry, contractor.

Between Locust and Linden streets on the south side of Center street were the E.S. Fry store and the store of Cowley and Enterline. These two houses were the only ones on that side. On the north side (site of the Dillon property) were Coleman and Cranshaw, boot and shoemakers.

Between Linden and Catawissa streets, on the south side, were four houses owned by John Wilde, Alexander Fister, P. Silk and George Wiggan's store, managed by Samuel Parmley.

On the north side of Center street, between Linden and Catawissa streets were four houses owned by Enoch Wilde, Joseph Hughes, J. Hofman, and Henry Sharp, whose house was located on the site of the Pennsylvania (now Kurtz) hotel.

There was only one house west of Catawissa street, on Center street, and it was owned by J. Mahan. It was located at 330 West Centre street.

On North Main street, north of the Philadelphia and Reading railroad bridge, on the east side of the street, were the families of Roth; Faust; M. Fry; the Eagle Hotel, owned by Seth Kaley; Solomon Faust; Evan J. Griffiths; W. J. Williams; and a family named Reese. On the west side of North Main street resided the families of Thomas and Michael Fitzgerald; M.L. Thompson; William Nagle; Joshua Holt, who owned "The Miner's Arms"; and a family named Knowles.

On South Main street, on the east side, at the corner of South street, stood the Presbyterian church, the first church in the borough and the only church at that time. The present Sunday School room was then the auditorium. Next to the church, to the south, were the homes of P. Miles, W. Keegan, Phineas Gerber, and a family named Wallace. On the west side of the street resided C. Bartholomew (site of Dr. A.P. Seligman's residence at 82-84 south Main St.).

On east Mahanoy Street there were only a few houses. On the south side between Main and First streets, was a vacant lot owned by Dr. L.M. Thompson and two houses owned by William Jones and David Stewart. There were no houses on the north side of the street. Between First and Second streets on the south side of Mahanoy Street, were three houses owned by John Fricke, a family named Walf, and Michael Flanagan.

On the north side resided John Tobias.

Between Second and Forth streets, on Mahanoy street, there were no houses. Between Fourth and Fifth streets, on the north side of Mahanoy street, resided the families of A. Smith, Hasker (Hersker), Jones, and P. Baster. There were no houses on the south side of the street in this square. Between Fifth and Sixth streets on the north side of Mahanoy street, resided the families of Henry Pirman (Pierman),

Richards, and Rutehart, while on the south side, at the corner of Sixth and Mahanoy streets Carl Scheurman had a hotel. Between Sixth and Seventh streets, on the south side resided the families of Washington, Raegan, Tobias Schraeder, and William Raegan. The families of Bensinger, Porter, and Landy resided on the north side of the street. Between Seventh and Eighth streets on the south side of Mahanoy street, resided the family of J. Ryan.

On West Mahanoy street, between Main and Locust streets, on the south side, were the homes of Dr. Louis M. Thompson, at the corner of Main and Mahanoy streets; Nathan Fehr and Rufus Vastine resided at 32 and 34 West Mahanoy street. On the north side, between Main and Locust streets was the home of Charles Egolf, at the corner of Main and Mahanoy streets. (This was later the home of David Bowman, Sr.). At the corner of Locust and Mahanoy streets was the home of Charles Morgan, Sr. Between the Egolf and Morgan houses were the homes of Bernard Banks and Galvin. Between Locust and Linden streets, on the south side of Mahanoy street, was the Raegan Brothers sash Factory, and opposite, on the north side of the street was a lumber yard.

On West Spruce street, between Harrison and Locust streets, on the south side, resided the Boyer, Stine, and Bottom families. Opposite on the north side, was one house, the owner is not known.

Between Locust and Linden street, on the south side, resided the families of David M. Lewis, Daniel Faust, Bartley Gorman, David Reese, John Morgan, and John Leach. On the north side resided the families of Charles Latham, David Faust, and a Mr. McTavely.

The log schoolhouse was on the same side but nearer to Linden street. Between Linden and Spruce street on the south side of Spruce street resided F. Roth and the Diehl family. On the north side of the street resided the families of Gabbert, Kline, Miller, Roads, and Feichtner. Between Catawissa and A streets, on the south side, resided the families of Samuel Rinehart and E. Miller. The north side had no houses.

Between B and C streets, on the south side of Spruce street, resided a family named Hanake. There were no houses on the north side nor beyond what is now C street until Stony Point was reached. Here there were eight houses. Alexander Fister resided here when he was foreman at Silliman's (North Mahanoy) colliery. Lawrence Brennan also resided here. The names of the other families residing here were: Dresch; Rowbottom; Harry Skeath; Jacob Becker; Mrs. Bridget Madden; and Hassel, who later moved to Ohio. It was Mrs. Fister who named the section "Stony

Point", selecting that title in preference to "Rocktown", which had been suggested by mining officials because of the rocky condition of the surface.

On East Spruce street, on the north side, resided the families of Fox and E. Bast. There were no houses on the south side of that street.

On West Pine street, between Main and Locust streets, on the north side, stood the Mansion House livery stables. No buildings were on the south side. Between Locust and Linden streets, on the north side, there were three houses, but the owners are not known. There were no houses on the south side. Between Linden and Catawissa streets, on the north side of Pine street resided the families of M. Ryan, Shissler, and Edward Fogarty, Sr. There were no buildings on the south side.

On East Pine street there were no buildings in this year 1862.

It must be remembered the streets were not named in the early days as they are now and the houses were not numbered until the free delivery of mail came into effect in the 1890's. Of course there was a Center and a Main street. The town was laid out by Frank Carter, a civil engineer from Pottsville, who later built a residence at 30 East Spruce street. His brother, William, resided in a small house outside the town, in a section later known as "Hesse Stadt" because it had been settled by Hessians from Germany.

The only church in 1862 was the Presbyterian. Note: *St Canicus is also shown on the 1864 map.PTC* .

Other denominations, such as the Congregational and Reformed which established local churches in the same year the town was incorporated, met there or in the log school house on West Spruce street. Several congregations, in 1864, erected large tents in which they could worship.

In looking over the names of these early pioneers we find only a few of the descendants of the first families of Mahanoy City still living in our midst (1934). Among these descendants of the first families of the borough are the Boyer, Goodman, Hermans, Kair, Scheurman, Krebs, Fricke, Litsch, Knapp, Parmley, Bowman, Hagenbuch, Fisher, Quinn, Fister, Ginthner, Cowley, Wilde, Keagan, Jones, Flanagan, Morgan, Dennis, Latham, Galvin, Gabbert, Ryan, Fogarty, Rhoads, Landy, Becker, Silliman, Kanute, Feichtner, Reese, Moyer and Richards families.

Descendants of the first families living in Mahanoy City when this list was compiled January 1, 1934, are:

Fister: Miss Jennie Fister; Hermany: Miss Sallie Hermany and Mrs. Sue Dyatt; Emanuel Boyer: William Boyer, Roy Boyer, Harold Boyer, Calvin Boyer, Mrs. Irma Powell, Leon Powell, Jacob Becker: Misses Mary and Clara Becker, Jacob Becker, Jr.

Goodman: George Goodman, Jr., Miss Emily Goodman; Kaier: Mrs. Lloyd Fahler, Mrs. Josephine Haughney, Charles Haughney, Mrs. Josephine Ryan, Charles, John, and Josephine Ryan and Joseph Lieberman.

Scheurman: Mrs. Lena Quin, Lowis Quin, Mrs. Bertha Hopkins; Krebs: Harry Krebs, Charles Krebs, Mrs. Hattie Bacon, Mrs. Helen Hensyl, Louise Hensyl; Fricke: Mrs. Timothy Walsh, Mrs. Barbara Gothie, Charles Gothie, Charles Walsh, John, Joseph, and Anna Fricke; Litsch: Henry Litsch, 3rd, George Litsch, Mrs. Maizie Keating, Mrs. E.F. McAtee, Mrs. Helen Maher, Miss Margaret Litsch, Misses Theresa and Regina Litsch, Frances, Hellen and Henry Litsche, 4th; Joseph, Mary Robert, Kathryn, and Charles Maher.

Knapp: John Knapp, Jr., Mrs. Rosie Haldeman; Parmley: Charles S. Parmley, Mrs. Charles Hendricks, H.M. Hendricks, Miss Grace Hendricks, Mark Parmley, and Miss Florence Parmley; Silliman: Miss Jane Silliman, Mrs. Mary Suender, Mrs. Katherine Curley, Edward S. Silliman.

Bowman: Mrs. Isable Dillman, Mrs. Augusta D. Thomas, Miss Sallie Hermany, Mrs. Susan H. Dyatt; Hagenbuch: James Hagenbuch, Joseph Hagenbuch, Jr., Mrs. Mary Breisch, Grace Breisch, Raymond Breisch, Clair and May Breisch, Mrs. Ethel Fenton, Evelyn and James Fenton; Fisher: Roy Fisher, Roy Fisher, Jr., Edward Fisher, Sr., Edward Fisher, Jr., Clara, Mary, Edna, Robert Fisher, Mrs. Emma Miller, Bertha, Shirley Ann, Harry, Stella Fisher and Mrs. Mary Donahue.

Keagan: William Keagan, John Keagan; Quin (Quinn?): John Quin, Thomas Quin, Philip Quin, Lois Quin; Cowley: Miss Lillie Cowley; Wilde: Roy Wilde, Joseph Wilde, Mrs. Annie Wilde, Harold and Norman Miles, Mrs. Jennie Bailey, Joseph Wilde, Sr., Mrs. Hazel Henninger, Joseph Wilde, Jr.

Flanagan: James Dolphin, Sr., James Dolphin, Jr., John Dol[phin]; Morgan: Miss Gertrude Morgan, Mrs. Gwenllian Drasher, John F. Davies, Warren Davies, David B. Davies, Mrs. Gwenllian Walters, Paul Walters, Benoni Walters, Jr., Wayne D. Stitzer, Harry A. Stitzer, Elwood Young, Mrs. Gladys Stitzer, John F. Davies, Jr., Rhea Young, Charlotte D. Young, Robert M. Young, William H. Young, Jr., John M. Stitzer, and Marbeth Stitzer.

Smith: Mary and Verna Smith; Latham: Mrs. Alzina Heiser, Mrs. William Peter, Mrs. Dorothy Dennis, William Filer, Marian Helene Filer, Mrs. Lillie Tregellas,

Mrs. Lois Marsh, William Marsh, Jr.; Galvin: Miss Julia Galvin; Gabbert: Gerald Gabbert, Rae Ann Gabbert, Mrs. Kathryn G. Thomas, Mary Kathryn Thomas; Fogarty: Edward Fogarty, 3rd, Edward Fogarty 4th; Anna Fogarty, Mrs. Marguerite Klitsch, Carol and Joseph Klitsch; Landy: Thomas Ryan, Michael Ryan, Mrs. Joanna Ryan, Joanna Landy, Richard Ryan, Paul Ryan, John Charles and Josephine Ryan; Jones: Harry Jones, Sr., Harry Jones Jr., Rhoads: Edward Rhoads, Mrs. Malena Gabbert, Gerald Gabbert, Ray Ann Gabbert, Mrs. Kathryn Thomas, Mary Kathryn Thomas.

Ginthner, Jr.: George Ginthner, 3rd, John Ginthner, Fred Ginthner, Mary Ginthner, Mrs. Barbara Wary, Margarate Ginthner, Barbara Ginthner; Ryan: Thomas Ryan, Michael Ryan, Mrs. Joanna Ryan, Ricahrd Ryan; Dennis: Misses Mabel and Irma Dennis, Harry, Walter, Betty, Dorothy William George, Wellington, Wilbur Dennis, Mrs. Dorothy Shober, Lois Shober, Mrs. Katherine Wagner, Mrs. Bernice Dougherty,;

Feichtner: John, Frank, John, 2nd, Anna, Edith, William, Mrs. Elizabeth Ryan, Charles, Francis, Joseph, and Anna Ryan; Kanut: Charles Kanute, John Kanute, Mrs. Millie Dennis, Walter, Harry, Dorothy, Betty Jean Dennis, Mrs. Dorothy Shober, Lois Ruth Shober, Mrs. Mary Millard, Mrs. Ida MacLaren, Margaret, Walter, and James MacLaren, Frances Nause; Richards: Mrs. Mary Kneib, Thomas Richards, Mary Berwick, Mary M. Richards, Anna L. Richards, Mrs. Phene Bevelheimer and Griner family. Also Reese and Moyer family descendents.

