

1817, where the present Lutheran house of worship stands. The old house was destroyed by fire in 1848, and the present structure was afterwards erected. The first Lutheran minister was Rev. Eyer; first Reformed, Rev. Engle. The Baptists erected a church in 1836. The first Baptist minister was Rev. Thomas Smiley. He was followed by Rev. George Higgins.

Schools.—Educationally the inhabitants of Clinton are abreast of the times. They have six school houses, bearing the following local names: Muncy Station, Mountain, Baptist, Clinton Mills, Pine Street, and Mountain Grove. The report for 1891 shows an average of six months taught by three male and three female teachers, for which they were paid an average of \$35 per month.

ARMSTRONG TOWNSHIP.

The territory of Armstrong was first embraced in Washington township. In 1787 part of its territory was given to Lycoming township, and in 1825 it was organized into a new township and called Clinton. In 1842 enough territory was taken from Clinton to form a new township, and it was called Armstrong, in honor of James Armstrong, a prominent member of the bar, and afterwards a Supreme court justice.

Armstrong township is the eighteenth in size in the county and contains 13,440 acres, with a population of 7,385 by the census of 1890. It is bounded on the east and north by Clinton township and the river, on the west by Bastress, Susquehanna, and Limestone, and on the south by Washington and Clinton townships. Three-fourths or more of its surface are very hilly and broken, and the great Bald Eagle mountain crosses it from east to west, leaving but a narrow strip of tillable land on the south side of the river at its base. Mosquito valley, or more properly a great basin, lying southwest of the borough of DuBoistown, is hemmed in by high mountains. It is reached by a narrow ravine from the latter borough, through which Mosquito run, a stream of pure mountain water, dashes. A road runs through the ravine up the valley and over the mountain into Nippenose valley, another peculiarly shaped basin in Limestone township.

Mosquito Valley contains a number of good farms and is pretty thickly settled. Its soil is noted for the production of grass. Fruit trees grow well and there are several fine orchards. The surrounding mountain scenery is bold, attractive, and pleasing to the eye. On account of its secluded condition and pure water, several summer cottages have been built on the banks of the stream in the upper part of the valley, where the owners and their families spend the heated term very pleasantly. Fish ponds were erected a few years ago and an effort at raising trout made, which proved quite successful as long as they were protected and carefully looked after.

The great Indian trail from White Deer valley crossed the mountain and descended into the eastern end of Mosquito valley, passed down the stream through the ravine, and came out at DuBoistown. It was a famous path in Indian times and was much traveled, and over it many white prisoners, including women and children, were hurried along into captivity. In after years, when Culbertson built his mill at the mouth of Mosquito run, and the settlers in White Deer valley traveled it with their grists of grain on the backs of horses, it came to be known as Culbertson's path. It is distinctly visible in many places to-day, and can be easily followed over the mountain.

The geology of this peculiarly isolated valley and the bold mountains which surround it, affords an interesting study. Abraham Meyer, Esq., local geologist, writes:

Armstrong township consists of formation (No. III), Hudson river and Utica slates making the surface and rim around Mosquito valley, a small oval valley at an elevation of about 800 feet above tide. Next above this occurs formation (No. IV), Medina and Oneida sandstones and conglomerates, which form the greater part of its area, making a mountain crest on the north and the south at an elevation of 1,900 feet above tide. Next above these, geologically, is formation (No. V), Clinton shales, on the north slope of the river mountain, inclined at a high angle and well exposed in some of the railroad cuts. Succeeding these, but concealed, is formation (No. VI), Lower Helderberg limestone.

Mosquito valley has long been noted for its so-called marble quarry, which has furnished some good ornamental tiling, but no marble. It has been called the Trenton group, but a visit to the quarry will convince any one that it is a calcareous slate and not a true marble.

Another error has been made by many confounding the black shales and slates of this formation—(No. III), Hudson river and Utica slates—with Hamilton and Marcellus (VIII b) and (VIII c) of the Chemung, on the north side of the river. The Hudson river formation (No. III) is some 5,000 feet lower in the geological column than the (No. VIII) black shales. The topography of the two localities will show that (No. III), black shales, is 335 feet higher.

The surface of this township is much varied and many striking phenomena are presented, which are well worth being studied by those interested in geology.

Mosquito valley in early times was covered with a dense thicket of underbrush and heavy pine timber. How it obtained its name is unknown, unless the early explorers and settlers gave it that title on account of the myriads of gnats and mosquitoes which evidently abounded there.

Settlement.—Among those who laid early land warrants were: Thomas Hartley, February 11, 1773, warrant for 277½ acres; Michael Graybill, 277½ acres; George L. Leffler, 283 acres; John Kern, 290 acres. According to the law of that time one man was forbidden from taking up more than one tract. It was evaded, however, by getting others to warrant land and then purchase it from them for a nominal consideration. Colonel Hartley evidently desired to become the owner of the entire valley, for on March 31, 1773, Graybill, Leffler, and Kern conveyed their tracts to him, which made a total of over 1,000 acres in his name. June 30, 1773, he conveyed one-half of the four tracts to James Rose, of Philadelphia; and August 21, 1795, Hartley conveyed to Seely Huling and Thomas Huling the four tracts named "Kelsoe," "Ledbury," "Grammont," and "Hartley," making 1,115¼ acres. The increased acreage probably resulted from more care in surveying. A mortgage for £3,375 15s was executed by the Hulings, August 26, 1795, to secure payment.

Marcus Huling, the father of Seely and Thomas Huling, who made this large land purchase, settled in the eastern end of Mosquito valley, near where the Indian trail passed a fine spring, in the year 1795. His family consisted of a wife and five or six children. He built a cabin, a saw mill, and a distillery, cleared land, and was a man of enterprise. When he and his wife died they were buried on a piece of ground overlooking what are now the ruins of the marble mill. Their son Thomas, who afterwards conducted the distillery and carried on an extensive business, was buried by the side of his parents when he died, as well as his wife and many others. To-day a few rude stones in a thicket, in the midst of a large cultivated field, mark the site of this early graveyard.

When Thomas Huling died the other members of the family had left the valley, and the property, which had not been paid for, fell back into the hands of the original owner, and it again lapsed into a wilderness and virtually remained in that condition until reclaimed by German settlers in 1832. When Colonel Hartley died, December 21, 1800, his administrators experienced much difficulty in settling his estate, and the litigation which ensued probably retarded settlements in Mosquito valley.

Lumbering.—Owing to the heavy growth of choice pine, lumbering became one of the earliest industries. Huling's saw mill, built where he settled, was the second one on the stream. It was erected about the beginning of this century. Much of the lumber manufactured at these mills was hauled to the river, made into rafts, and floated to market. Altogether, from the mouth of the stream and through the valley, there have been eleven saw mills. The pine in the valley has long since been consumed, the mills have rotted down, and the sound of the saw is no longer heard.

Storage Reservoirs.—The eastern part of Armstrong township, lying on the river, is very rich agriculturally, and the well tilled farms are admired by all who see them. The township has contributed much of her best land for the formation of two boroughs—DuBoistown and South Williamsport. The two principal streams in the township—Mosquito and Hagerman's runs—drain an extensive territory on the north side of Bald Eagle mountain, and fall into the river, the first at DuBoistown, the latter at South Williamsport. Both furnish water for the City of Williamsport, which is conducted across the river by mains. The reservoir of the water company in Mosquito valley has a storage capacity of 21,000,000 gallons; the second, on Hagerman's run, has a capacity of between 7,000,000 and 8,000,000. Two fine roads cross the mountain into White Deer valley.

Schools.—There are but two school houses in this township, viz: Mosquito valley and Gibson's. The latter is located on the river below Williamsport.

Churches.—There are no churches in Mosquito valley. The early German settlers were mostly Lutherans, while those living in the southwestern part are Roman Catholics and worship at the church in the adjoining township. About 1856 a Methodist chapel was erected near Remington's, but it fell into disuse and was finally burned. Latterly religious services have been held in the fine brick school house about the center of the valley.

BRADY TOWNSHIP.

This township was set off from Washington, January 31, 1855, and named after the distinguished Brady family, members of whom lived within its limits. The reviewers appointed by the court were William F. Packer and Charles D. Eldred. It is a small township, being the fortieth in size, with an area of 4,280 acres and a population of 475 by the census of 1890. Brady lies in the southern part of the county and is shaped like a triangle. It is bounded on the east by Clinton and the river, on the north by Clinton, on the west by Washington, and on the south by Union county.

Geologically the township consists of a synclinal valley, commencing with the inferior measure which here forms the rim of the valley, formation (No. V.)