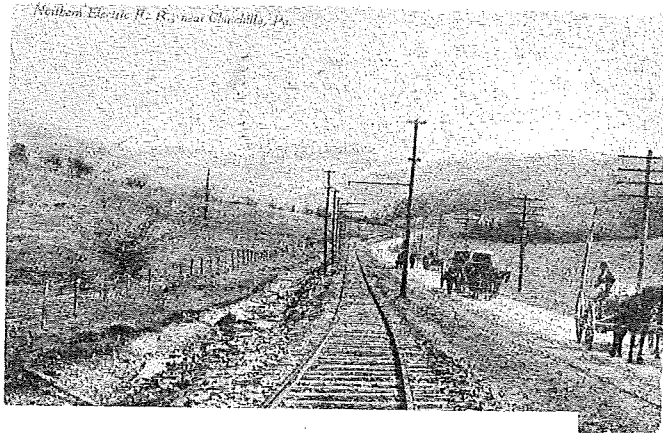


Property - Clark's Summit Methodist Church

HISTORY OF THE ABINGTONS



NORTHERN BOULEVARD
C. 1907

NORTHERN BOULEVARD
C. 1984



by Rev. William P. Lewis

HISTORY OF THE ABINGTONS

Delivered To The Lackawanna Historical Society

CATLIN HOUSE

Wednesday, February 22, 1984

**DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
BILL LEWIS 1927 - 1984
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PUBLISHED BY Norman Brauer, Dalton, Pa. 18414**

by Rev. William P. Lewis

INTRODUCTION

Bill Lewis delivered this monograph just two short months before his untimely death in April, 1984. It is reproduced here, word for word, as recorded on tape at the time along with pictures of the slides he used.

The integrity of his presentation has been preserved, no words added nor deleted, and with no effort to improve the picture quality.

Bill's untiring efforts to aid anyone who asked for Abington's area history and genealogy places him in a special category and is the Raison d'être for dedicating this publication to his memory.

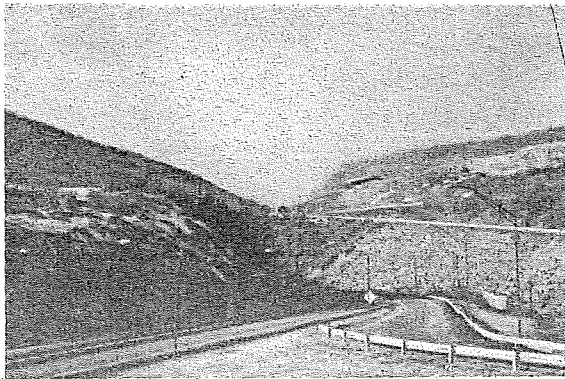
August, 1986

Norm Brauer

Thank you very much, Dr. Earl, for that very nice introduction, and I'm glad that all of you have come. Tonight, I hope I can tell you something about my native people with a collection of topics and old photographs taken in the Abingtons that will tell you something about the past and the present, of that delightful residential area of Lackawanna County. Can you all hear me? In the front room?

So, we begin at the highway near Viewmont Mall, the entrance, or doorway, to the Abingtons, what is known as Leggett's Gap, and go through a path through the mountains out of the Lackawanna Valley into the Abington region.

Leggett's Creek flows down through that path. Here are a couple of views of it in the springtime.



Slide 1. Leggits Gap N from Traffic Circle.



Slide 2. Leg. Gap-rush thru notch at city line, Scranton, PA.

These slides were taken at various times of the year. Leggett's Creek was named for James Leggett, who was one of the very early settlers of Providence. Beyond these hills there is no coal--there never was--no minerals whatever, but there is very good farming



Slide 3. Legg. Gap - N from Scranton city line mkr.

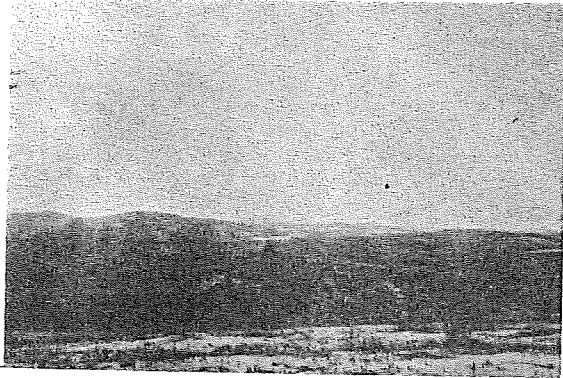
land, and now it is a whole very desirable residential area. Originally, the whole of the Abingtons, like a great deal of Lackawanna County, was all dense wilderness. There were no clearings--no roads--no settlements--nothing in the area. It was densely wooded and populated only by bear, wolves, deer, wildcats, and other wild animals.

There was one Indian trail that went up through the Abingtons, but there was never any Indian villages in the Abingtons.



The Indian villages were here in the Lackawanna Valley, but there is no record of them anywhere in the Abingtons. The Indians, however, did go back and forth through the area, and they hunted a good deal in the Abington woods, and, in ensuing years, farmers have often found arrowheads on their fields, indicating the Indians certainly did use it as a hunting ground.

Here we are--the Abington Hills or the Endless Mountains of Northeastern PA.



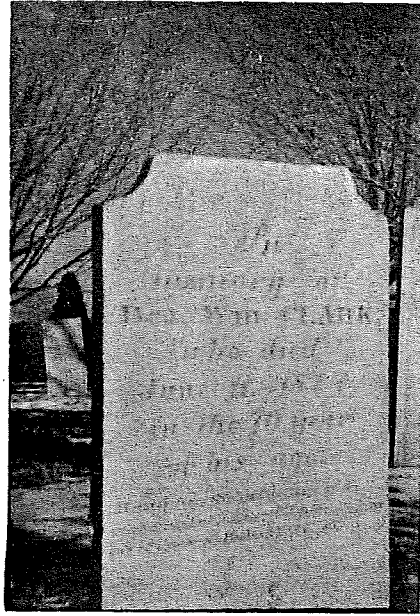
Slide 4. Hills of Abington.

As I often say, and like to say, "You can go all over the country and come home to Northeastern Pennsylvania, and find just as beautiful scenery here as you'll find anywhere." The fact is that this land is good farming land, and that's the reason it was first settled. New Englanders going West in the early 1800s, looking for new land that was cheap and was good fertile soil, and, certainly, the Abingtons was.

Now, one of the very first settlers was Deacon William Clark, who came in 1797 to Clarks Green from Plainfield, Connecticut.

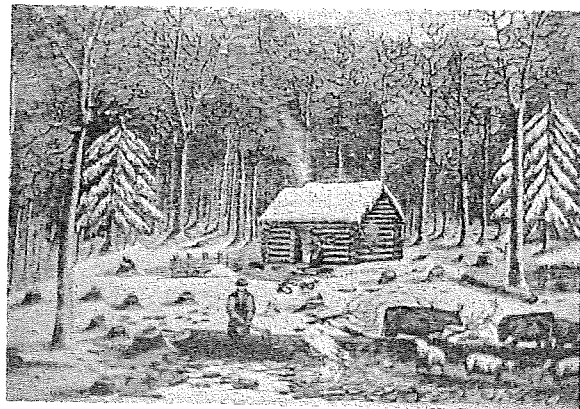
He had been a soldier in the Revolutionary War and had fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill. He and his family decided to leave Eastern Connecticut and come to the Abington region in 1797. He was one of the first settlers. There were four settlers who had come the year before, and, following him, a great many settlers came entirely from Rhode Island and Connecticut. Now, Clark not only gave his name to Clarks Green and Clarks Summit, but there a number of Clark's

descendants who still live in the area.



Slide 5. Grave of Deacon William Clark.

When the settlers came here, the woods was like that etching, and they had first of all to chop down the trees and build a log cabin, and then slowly clear the fields and make a farm. Pioneer life in Northeastern Pennsylvania and in the Abingtons was exactly like it was in Kentucky or Tennessee or Illinois, or wherever. It was typical pioneer country, and the pioneers lived in the same way in the same style as pioneers all across America. They were hardy souls. You know, we have money today to pay for things to get them done, but they didn't. All they had was their backs and their arms and legs. Can you



Slide 6. Early Clearing of settlers.

imagine going into the wilderness and buying a piece of land and then cutting down the trees and clearing it up and making a farm and slowly turning it into civilization, out of a wilderness?

Deacon William Clark had a large family. Two of his sons became rather prominent. One of them, Jeremiah Clark, built this house.



Slide 7. Jeremiah Clark Tavern, circa. 1813, Clarks Green.

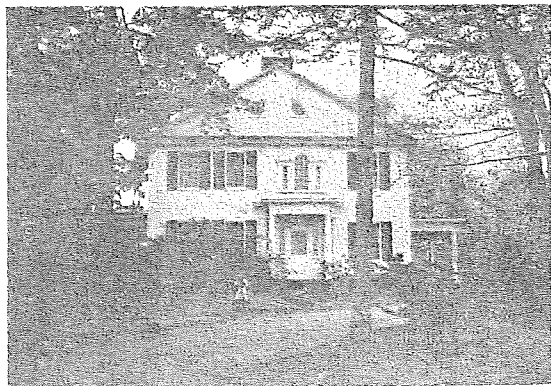
It did stand at the top of the hill in Clarks Green. It has since been moved down North Abington Road, and the Assembly of God Church is on that site at the moment, but

Jeremiah Clark was one of the sons of Deacon William Clark. Another son was William Clark, Jr., who built this beautiful house in the center of Clarks Green.



Slide 8. William Clark House. 1811

Now, Clarks Green got its name because originally there was a town "green" in a "town park" in the center of the village. This was typical of the greens that you find in New England villages. That is how Clarks Green got its name.



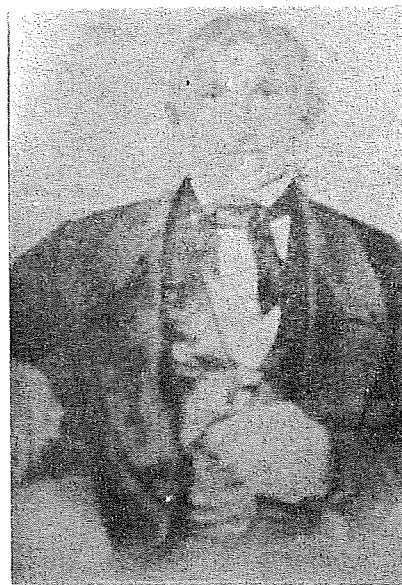
Slide 8A. (Wm. Clark house)

This house is probably one of the finest architectural examples of a New England Colonial style, which was built about 1814. It is one of the oldest houses in the Abingtons. Probably the most prominent settler of all of the New England Yankees who came to Pennsylvania (or to the Abingtons) was Elder John Miller. All of the people to the Abington region came from either Rhode Island or Connecticut. They were New England Yankees. Among them was John Miller, who came from Plainfield, Connecticut, in 1801. He not only was a farmer but he became the first preacher and was the first teacher. He conducted the first school, and he was also the first postmaster. He set up the original Abington Post Office.

Now, let me say something about the Abingtons and where the name came from. Abington Township was established in 1806, and originally it was a huge, big area which included South Abington, Clarks Summit, Clarks Green, Glenburn, Dalton, West Abington, LaPlume, Abington Township, which was Waverly, besides a part of Factoryville, and all of Benton, Scott, and Greenfield Township.

It was a very large township, and it was named for Abington, Connecticut. There is a

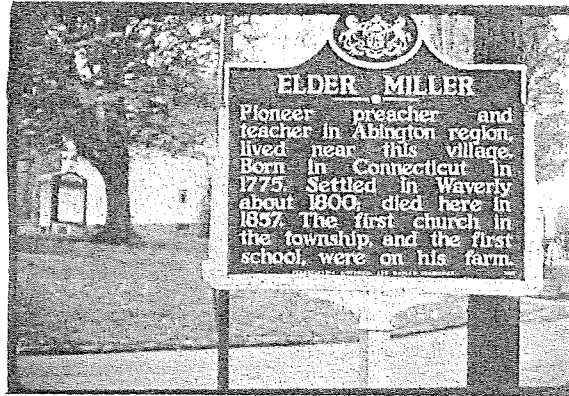
town called Abington out in the center part of Connecticut today. Slowly, these various municipalities were taken off, but the whole region still has the name, the Abingtons. Newton and Ransom never were part of the Abingtons. They were a part of old Falls Township and never were included in the Abingtons, but the rest of the area is grouped together with one name called the Abingtons. Now, Elder John Miller lived near Waverly, and he was a great benefactor.



Slide 8B. Elder John Miller.

He helped to organize the first church, and he was the pastor of that church for 52 years. He gave land for a number of institutions and schools in the town, and he preached all over the countryside. He was probably better known than any other individual in the whole of the Abington Region. His descendants still live in the area, and two of his great, great grandsons now run the Agway Market in Clarks Summit. Their name is still Miller, and they live on the same farm that Elder John Miller cleared out of the woods. It is interesting that in the Abingtons, there are a number of families who still live on the original farms that their ancestors cleared and settled.

There is a tablet in Waverly that tells you something about Elder John Miller.



Slide 9. Elder Miller Tablet.

All of these pioneers originally lived in log cabins, and then, as time went on, and they became more prosperous, they would build a house. All of the old farm houses in the

Abingtons have that New England look.

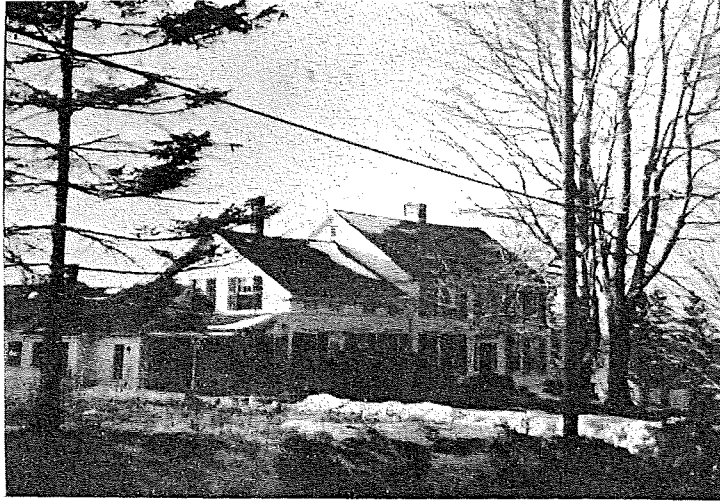
This one is the old Stephen Parker family homestead on Parker Hill between Clarks Green and Waverly.



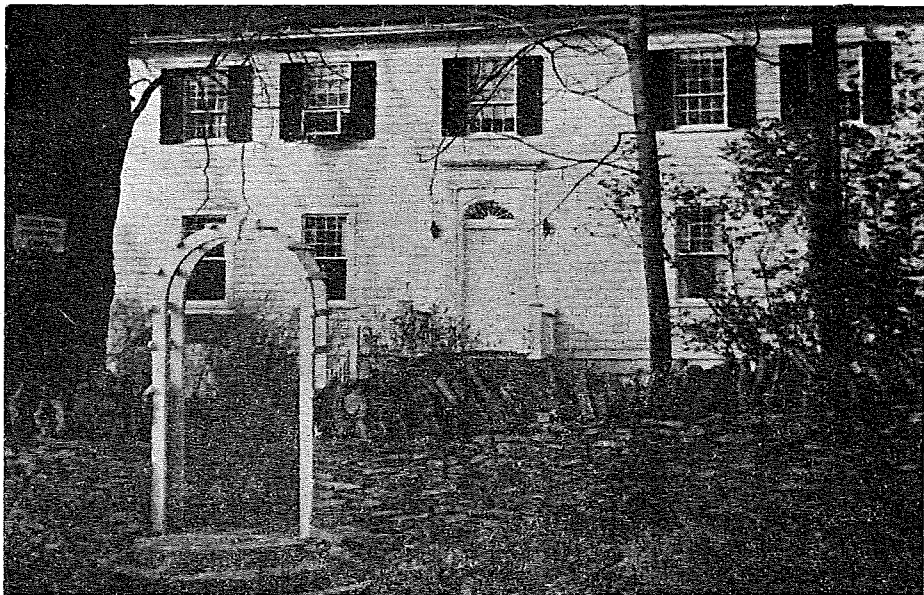
Slide 10. Parker Homestead, Clarks Green.

There is another picture of it, but it looks typical of New England farmhouses, which are added to from time to time, and the

buildings stretched out, and often, in New England, they connect to the barn.



Slide 11. Stephen Parker homestead.



Slide 12. Lemuel Stone House built in 1825.

This was a homestead of another pioneer in the Abingtons, Lemuel Stone. The building is now gone and was the Glen Oak Country Club, but, again, a New England farmhouse. He had a large family, and that's one reason

why, I guess, he built a large house. Unfortunately, that house burned and is gone. These New England settlers came here to establish farms and homesteads.



Slide 13. Jerem. Clark Home built in 1813. Stop on Drinker Tpk.

The one event that opened up the Abingtons to the outside world was the building of the Philadelphia and Great Bend Turnpike. The road that you see in front of this building, this house, is the Philadelphia/Great Bend Turnpike. It was a very important thoroughfare in its day. It was built, not from Philadelphia, but it connected with a Philadelphia road at Mount Pocono and came through Daleville and Moscow. in Dunmore at Drinker Street. It goes through Green Ridge corners and then it comes through Providence at East and West Market Street. From there it goes up to the Notch to Chinchilla, and then to Clarks Green and Waverly, Fleetville, over Pine Hills and Lenox to Harford up past the Harford Fair Grounds, and, eventually, it goes to Great Bend.

Now, in its day, this was a fairly good road. It was not just a mud road. It had a rock base, and you did have to stop occasionally to pay a toll on the road, but it was an important thoroughfare because there were daily

stagecoaches over the road north and south.

The mail came and went on this road, and the farmers used it to take their produce to market. Along the road, of course, enterprising citizens would build a tavern, or early hotel, and that's one reason why this house is so large because Jeremiah Clark, in Clarks Green, built this as a tavern on this Philadelphia/Great Bend Turnpike.

You could have lodging and meals here, spend the night, and go on your way the next morning. These taverns, old stagecoach taverns, were dotted along the turnpike, probably every twenty miles.

Now, as I said, it was a farming region, and the farmers, as the Scranton and Lackawanna Valley grew, the farmers found a market for their produce, for their milk and butter and eggs, vegetables, their grains, and so on, and you often saw them going down the road with a marketwagon to peddle their wares in Scranton and home again.



Slide 14. Typical Turnpike Scene Factoryville - Abington Turnpike

Another change that came to the area was the building of the DL&W Railroad. Now, this is a postcard of a station up the line, but I use it to tell you something of the story of the DL&W Railroad.



Slide 15. DL&W Station.

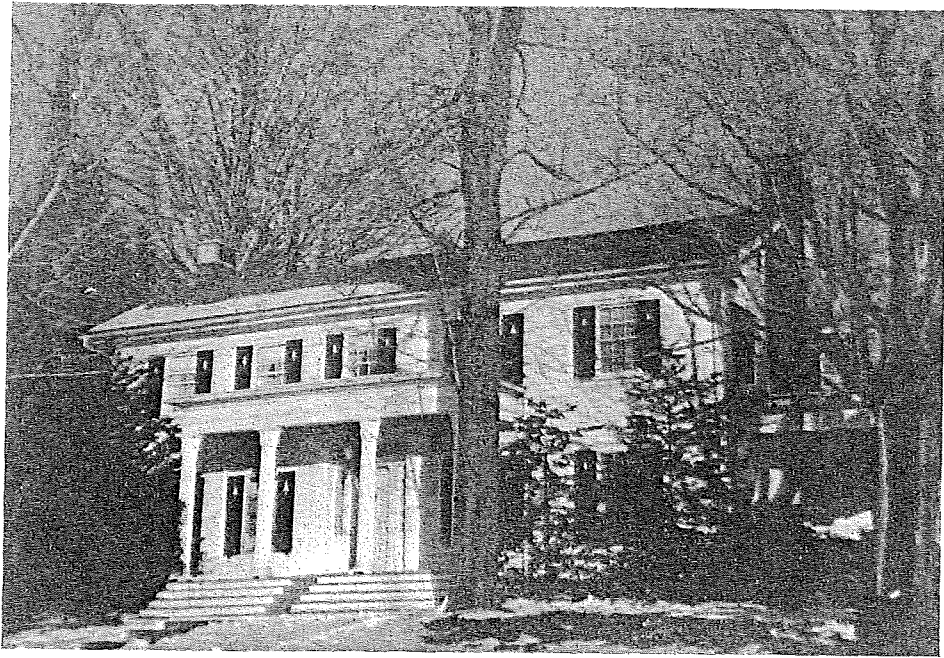
The Scrantons, as you know, and the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company, built the road in 1850 and 1851. It went up through the Notch and Clarks Summit and from there on

to Binghamton, New York. The purpose of the road was to ship coal out of the Lackawanna Valley. This brought some other changes in the Abington region because now farmers could get manufactured goods brought in by the railroad, and they could ship out their farm products on the railroad as well. It was an important turning point in the history of the region because the turnpike was no longer used once the railroads came in.

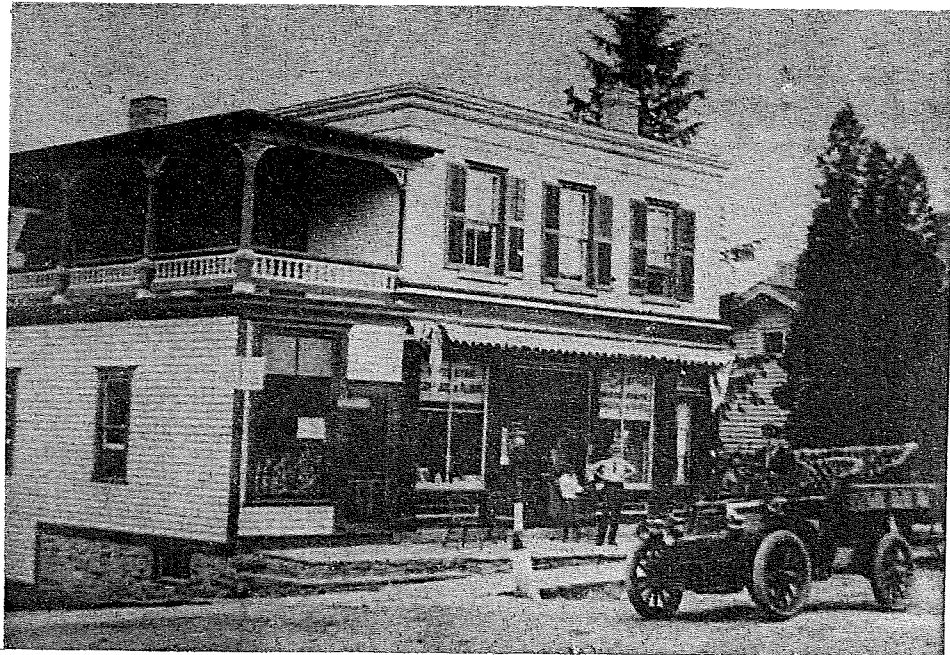
What I'm going to do now is go to some of the towns and villages in the Abingtons and tell you a little bit about each one of them and show you some of the historic buildings in those villages.

This is Waverly, and this home is the oldest house in Waverly.

It was built in 1828 and was the home for many, many years of Dr. Andrew Bedford, who was one of the early physicians in the Abingtons and also he established the first drug store. Now, I've taken some old photographs and put them on slides, and this is one of the stores at Waverly.



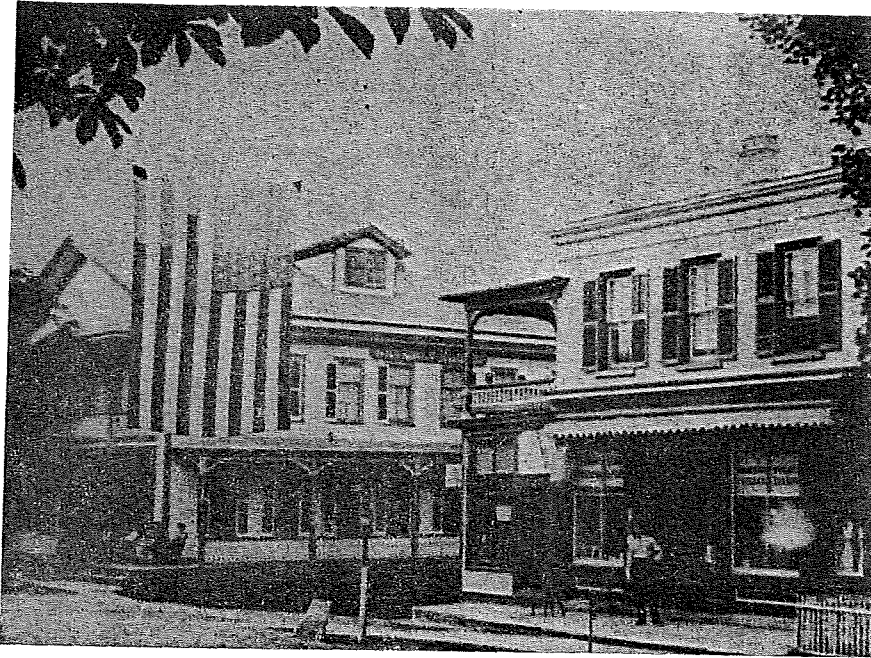
Slide 16. Andrew Bedford House--built in 1828-- Waverly, PA.



Slide 17. Waverly corner store--built in 1850.

The building is still there: It is an antique shop at the present time. There were a large hotel at Waverly, and a number of stores.

There were three general stores, as well as a hotel.

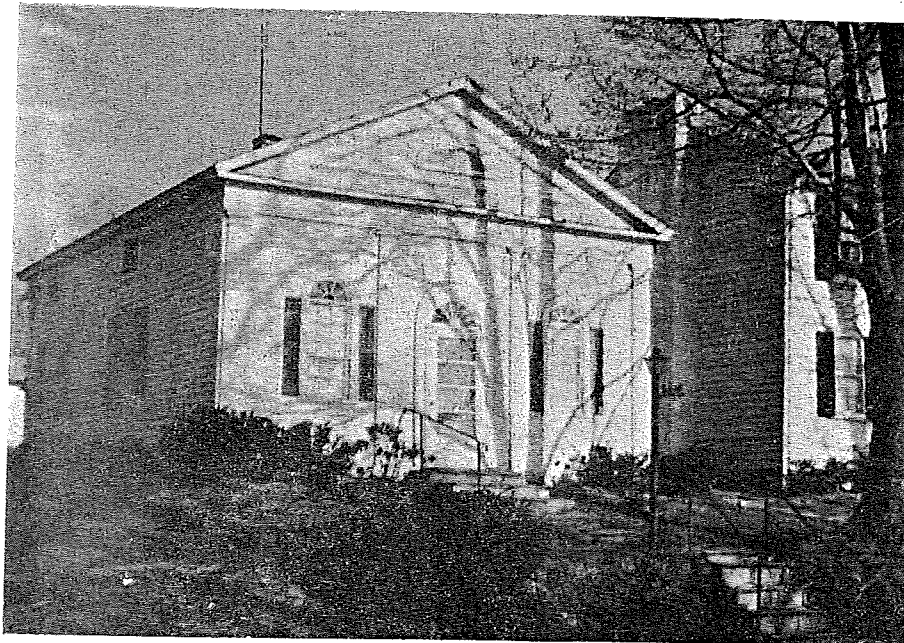


Slide 18. Waverly Hotel/Store--built 1850.

In addition, there were two blacksmith shops, a post office, a drug store, a farm machinery shop, a tinsmith shop. You name it--it was there. Waverly was the original trading center for the Abingtons. The trading business moved to Clarks Summit later on but originally it was in Waverly, and before it was called Waverly, it was known as Abington

Center because it was the center of the whole Abington region.

The earliest school in the Abingtons was taught by Elder John Miller and then, on Waverly's Main Street, is this lovely little Greek revival of a schoolhouse, which was built back in 1830 for the children of the surrounding neighborhood.



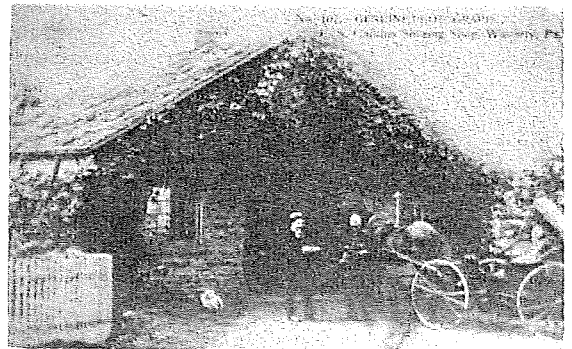
Slide 19. Old school was built in 1830, Waverly, PA

Waverly citizens have always been concerned about education and so they not only had a public school for the children but they established an academy there in the very early days, and the building with a big tower on it was the original building of Madison Academy. It was on the top of the hill in Waverly.



Slide 20. Madison Academy, Waverly, PA.

This photograph was taken at a time when they were going to tear down the old building, and they had just built a new Waverly High School. Of course, all along the turnpikes and roads, there were blacksmith shops, and this one is in Waverly.



Slide 21. Blacksmith Shop, Waverly, PA.

The building still stands. Before the days of automobiles, you had to get your horses shod and your wagons fixed, and the blacksmith was a Jack-of-all trades, who could do anything with metal and iron.

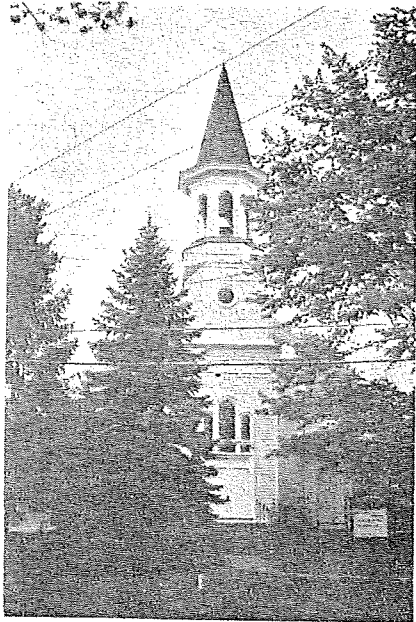
Another one of the houses in Waverly:

The Waverly Baptist Church is the oldest church of any denomination, Catholic or Protestant, in Lackawanna County. It was founded by Elder John Miller in the log cabin of Deacon William Clark in 1802 when a gathering of the very first settlers was there.

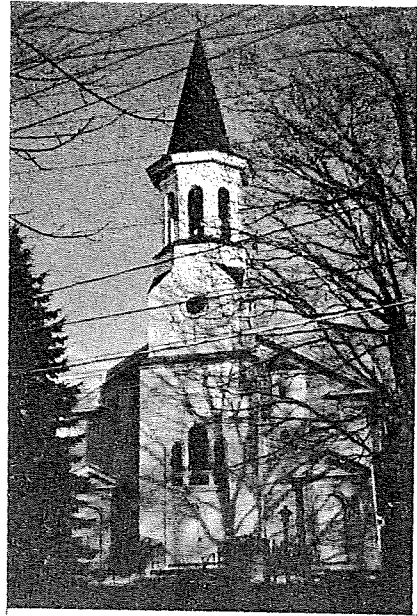


Slide 22. Fell House--Waverly

They eventually built this building at the corners in Waverly, a very fine structure, and the building itself is the oldest church building in Lackawanna County, as well as the oldest church organization. The building was built in 1849.

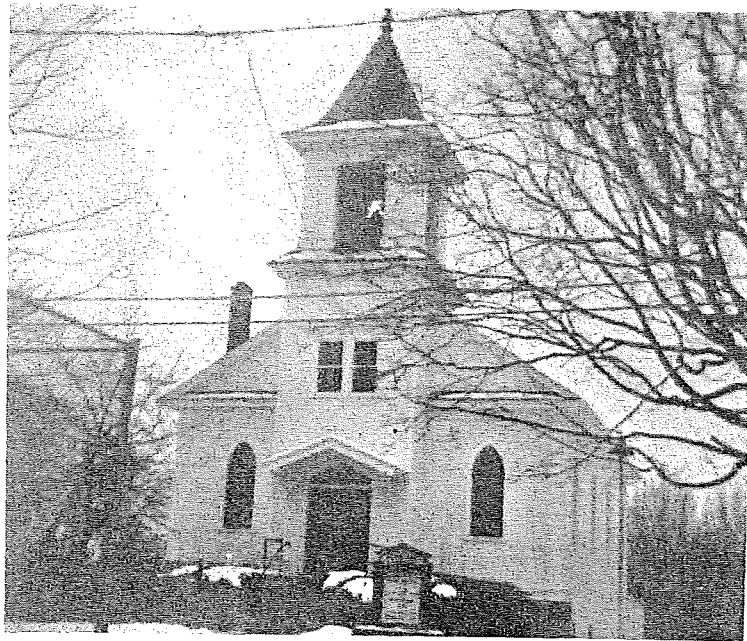


**Slide 23. Waverly Baptist Church
Carbondale Road
Waverly, PA**



**Slide 23A. First Baptist Church
of the Abingtons
Waverly, PA**

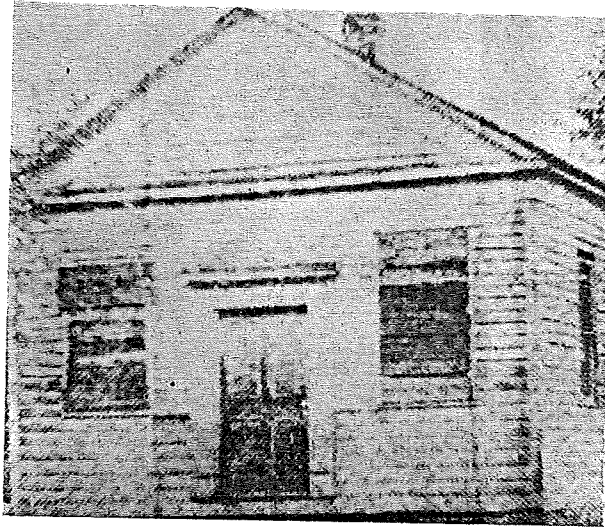
The Waverly Methodist Church, which is also in the Abingtons.



Slide 24. Waverly Methodist Church.

The Abingtons is full of very old religious organizations and churches. There was even a bit of color in the story of Waverly because during the days of slavery (Southern Slavery), there were a number of citizens in the Abington region who were sympathizers with the Abolition Movement and helping runaway slaves. Waverly was one of the stations of the Underground Railroad. By the 1840s, there were already enough runaway slaves who felt comfortable who had been given jobs by the

farmers of the Abingtons. They had located in Waverly, and they organized a black church. This was the Waverly African Methodist Episcopal Church. A little bit of a building, but this was the center of their life for many years. The building later got boarded up, and it's been transformed into a house now. And all the black people are gone. At one time there was a black colony in Waverly, and they called it, typical of those days, "Darky Hill."



Slide 25. A.M.E. Church, Waverly, PA.

Now, one of the early prominent citizens of Waverly was a lawyer from Wilkes-Barre, Horatio Nicholson. He was the lawyer for the DL&W Railroad, and he married an Abington girl, decided to come to the Abingtons

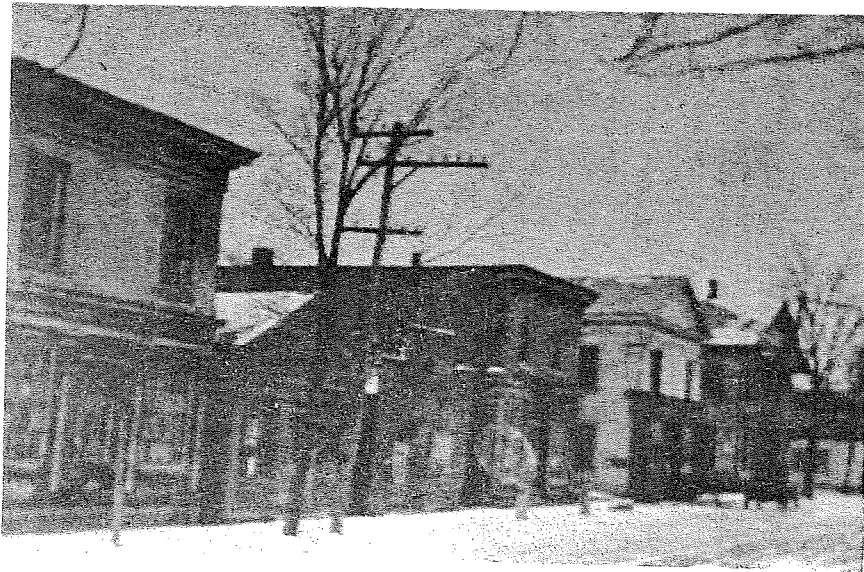
and build a very beautiful home in 1850. He lived there for several years. His wife lived there several years afterwards. It was a magnificent house for that period.



Slide 26. "Glenverly" Home of Horatio Nicholson.

Horatio Nicholson was the man who changed the name of the village from Abington Center to Waverly. He selected the name from Sir Walter Scott's famous novel. To continue with the story of Waverly a little bit, before we move on to Dalton, in later years

the trading community moved to Clarks Summit, and Waverly was left with rather empty, derelict buildings as you can see in this photograph which was taken just before they were torn down.



Slide 27. Old Buildings of Waverly, PA.

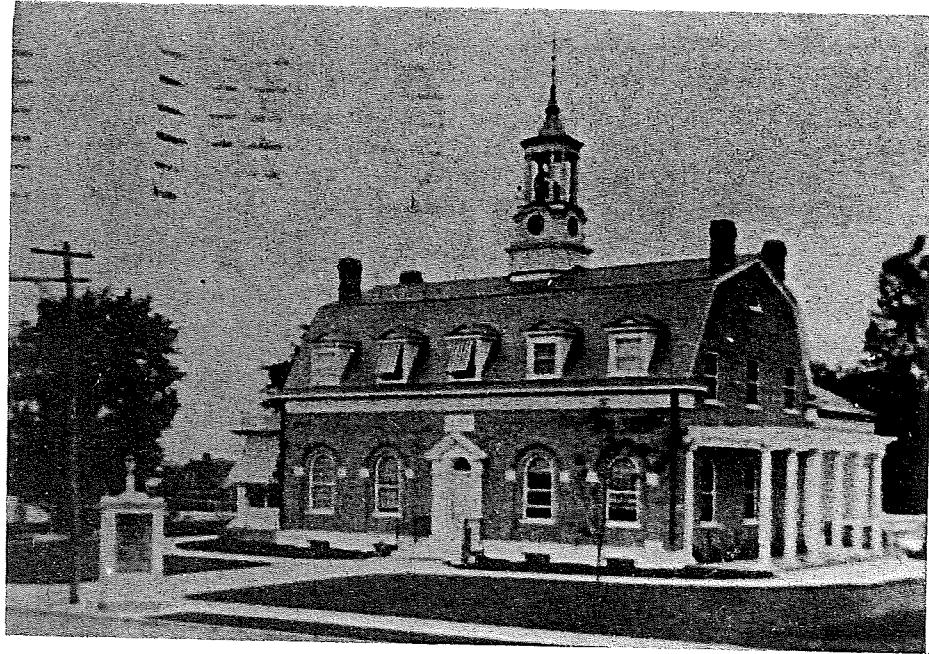
To go back just a moment, Horatio Nicholson built and lived in this house first but in later years, the Belin family, who were wealthy Scrantonians, bought it and moved to Waverly. When, in 1918, Mr. Belin died, his wife wanted to do something for a memorial. It was decided by the family to build a Com-

munity Center in Waverly, and the Belins provided the money for the erection of the Waverly Community House.

Now, this was what was in Waverly, and you can see that it was rather shabby and slight run-down looking. They bought all the properties and tore them down.

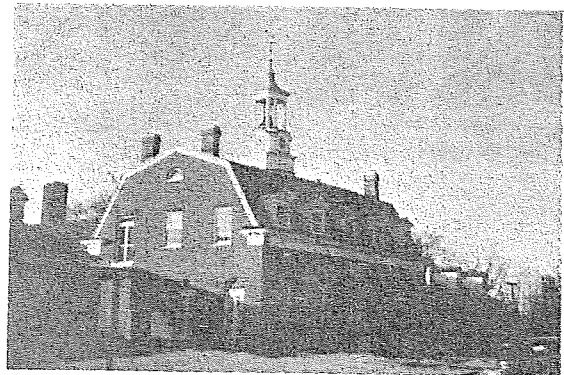


Slide 28. The Waverly Hotel.



Slide 29. Waverly Community Center.

There is the old hotel. It was empty at the time. The traffic had sort of by-passed Waverly, and so all of this was torn down, and the Waverly Community House was built in 1920. It was dedicated by Governor Sproul, the Governor of Pennsylvania, at the time. Now, this was a unique institution



Slide 31. Waverly Community House completed.



Slide 30. Waverly Community House sign.

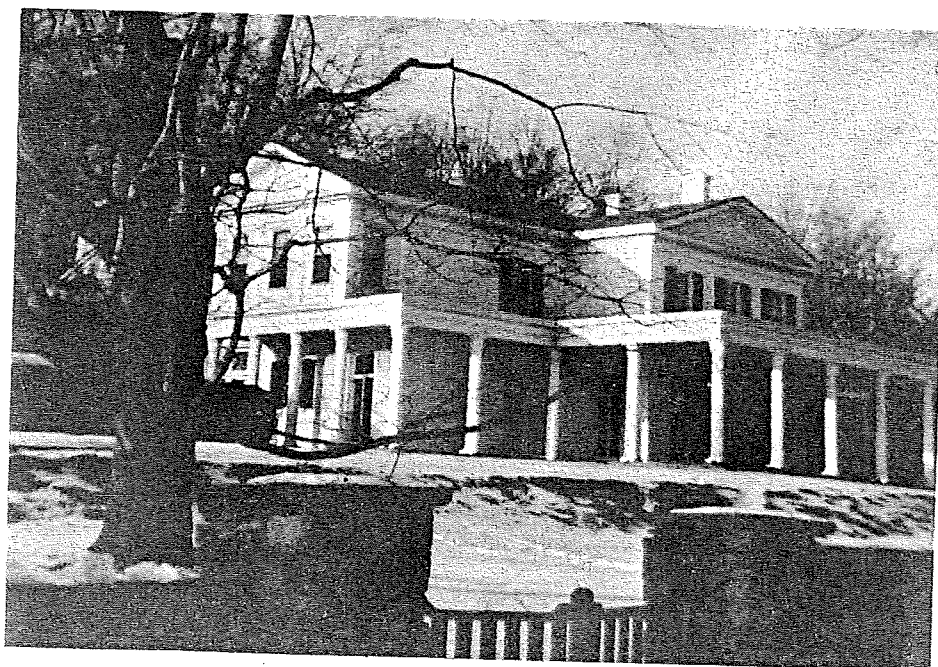
because Waverly is one of the few communities in the whole country that has a community center like this. Eventually, this was the initial unit. There were additions given in memory of Mrs. Belin. There is a library, post office, little store, an auditorium, bowling alley, community meeting rooms for all kinds of organizations, and a very fine, a very active, institution. You see, they added. The center portion of the building was built in memory of Mr. Henry Belin. The two side wings were given in memory of Mrs. Belin, who was the original donor.

Fortunately, we hope we have passed that kind of weather! This was the home that the

Belins bought, and it is still owned and occupied by descendants of the Belin family.

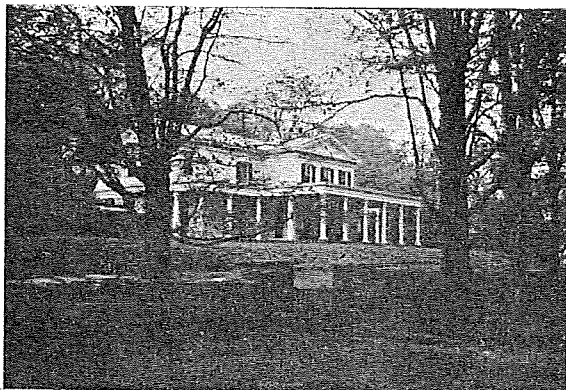


Slide 31A. Waverly Community House completed.



Slide 32. "Glenverly" H.W. Nicholson. (Belins)

The Belins originally came from Wilmington, DE, and are related to the DuPonts. Mr. Henry Belin here in Scranton made his money by selling DuPont blasting powder to the coal mines. Another view of the same house.

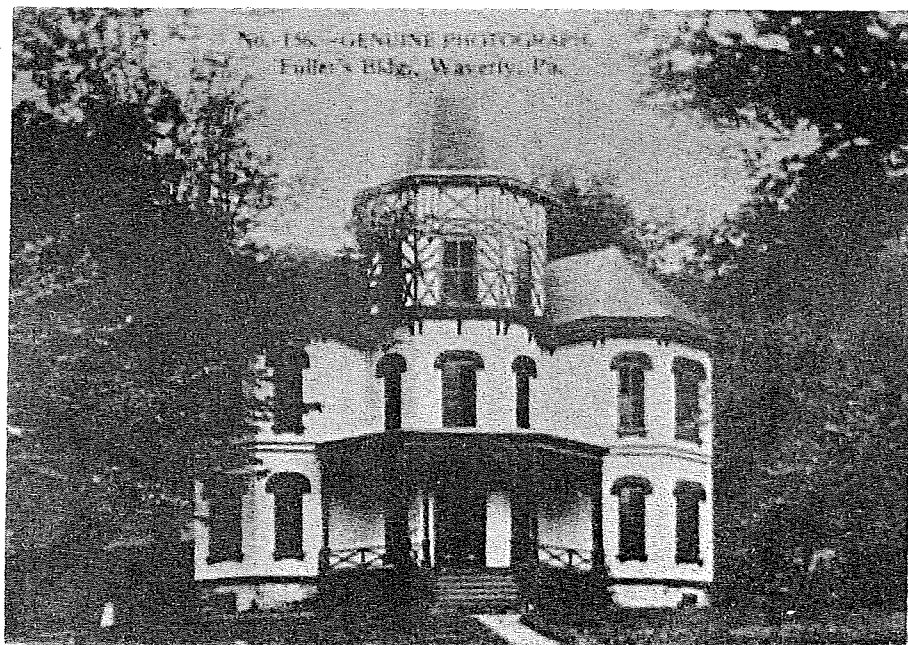


Slide 33. Another view of Nicholson house.

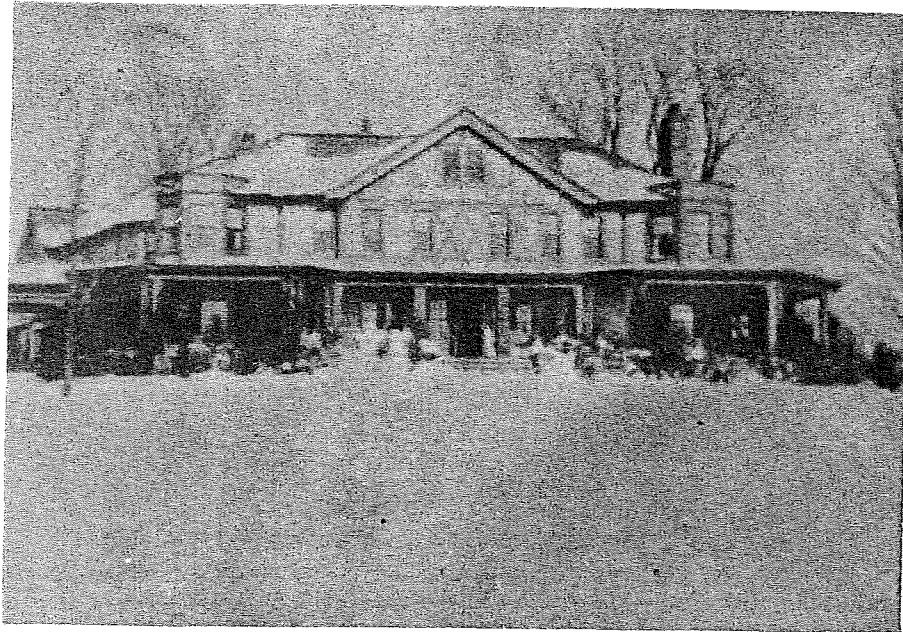
This brings us to another part of the story about the Abingtons.

History is the story of constant and continual change. Sometimes it is slow, and other times, it is quite rapid; but, following the Civil War, wealthy families, like the Belins and others, began to establish summer houses in the country, summer seats and estates. The very first family to go to the Abingtons were the Fullers, who were descendants of the Scrantons, and they built this house in 1876 at the time of the Centennial, and these families would go to the Abingtons to live in the country for the summer. The men would go back and forth to work in the city on the railroad, but the family, and a great deal of company, would live in these great big mansions during the summertime. Then, in the wintertime, they'd close them up and would move back to town.

There were a number of families, the Fullers, who established the International Salt Company, had a house this big, but, again, originally built only as summer residences.



Slide 34. Original Fuller House.



Slide 35. Fuller estate, Dalton, PA

C.S. Woolworth, who established the Woolworth chain of Five-and-Ten-Cent Stores with his brother, Frank Woolworth, had a summer home at Lily Lake, just between Waverly and Dalton, and the Welles family. This is the way some of those summer residences were built. They were huge, rambling

things with a great deal of verandas and porches, and surrounded by very beautiful landscaped gardens. Granted all this was before the turn of the century, and these were wealthy people who could afford to go to the country for the summer and build these big summer homes.



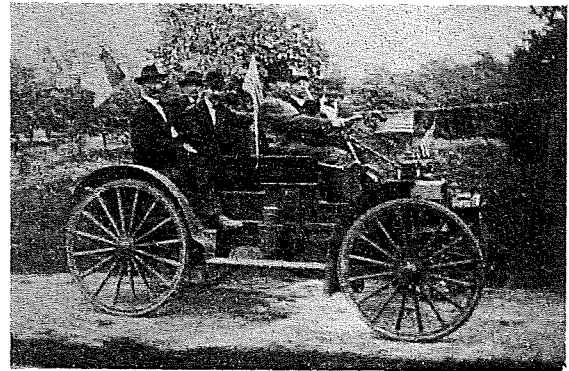
Slide 36. Woolworth Estate, Dalton, PA



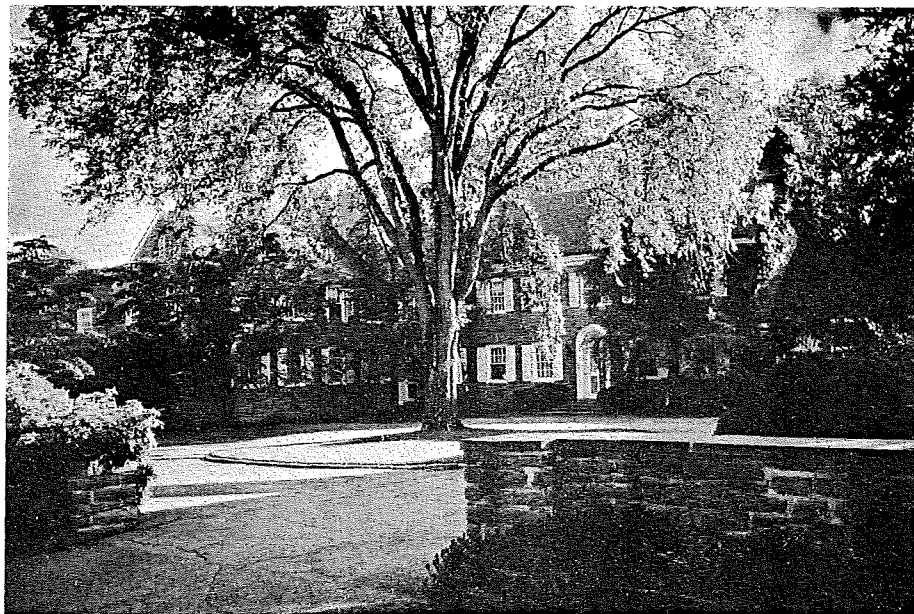
Slide 36A. Welles Residence.

In the days when the automobile came, they were the first ones to have an automobile.

The Scranton family eventually moved to the Abingtons as well. Marworth, the Scranton family home, near Dalton. (Referring to the picture.)



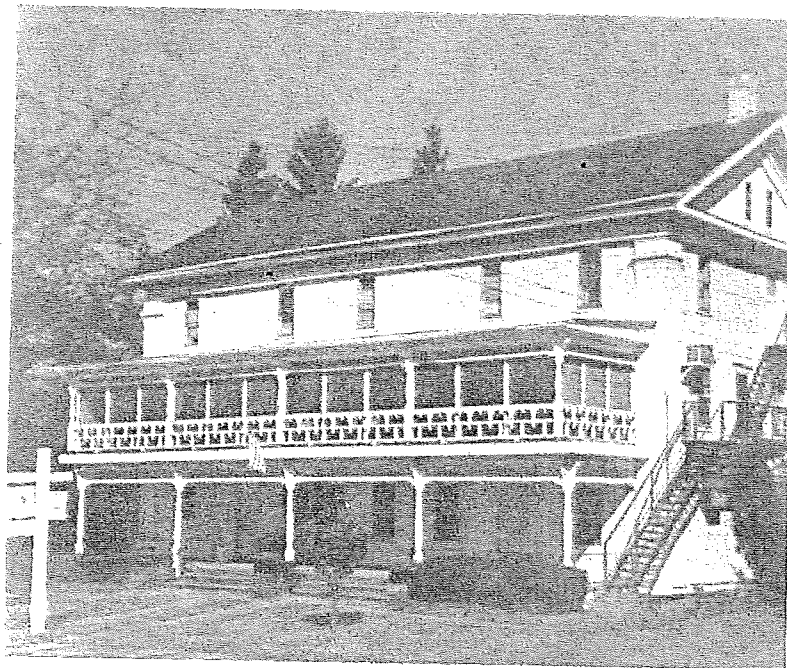
Slide 37. Early auto transportation.



Slide 37A. Marworth.

Now, we will move on to Dalton; and Dalton, like Waverly, is a very old community. It originally was called "Bailey Hollow" because the Baileys settled there from Rhode Island in the year 1801. Dalton has a number of significant and interesting old structures,

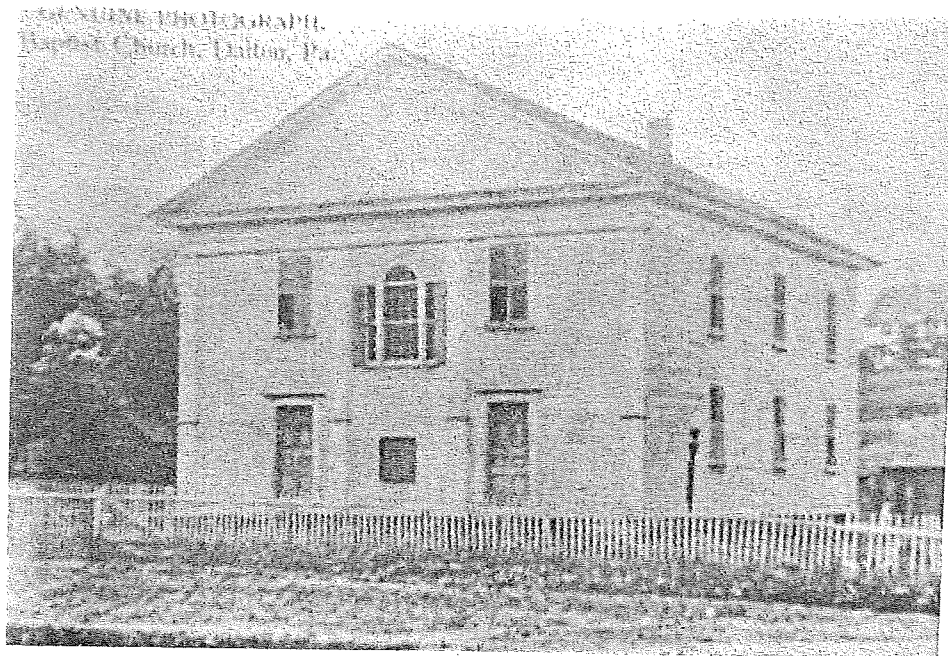
including the Dalton House in downtown Dalton, DAZZLING DOWNTOWN DALTON! which is a delightful place to go for eating and entertainment. This was built about 1855.



Slide 38. The Dalton House Inn.

Across the street, which is now the Dalton Fire Department, originally was an old

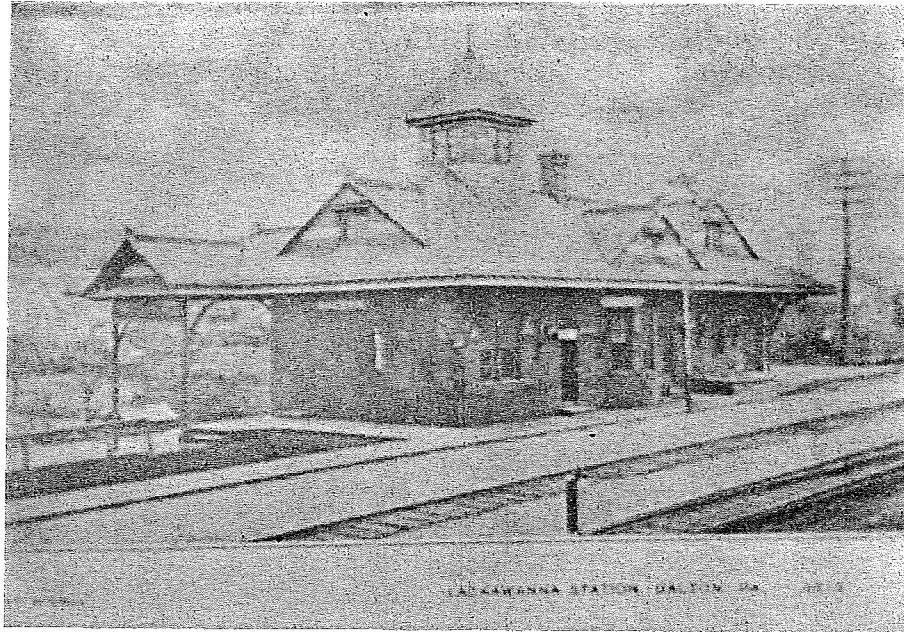
Baptist Church, built again in sort of New England style of architecture.



Slide 39. Dalton Baptist Church. 1929. Dalton Fire Company

The railroad came through Dalton, and eventually they had a station. This is not the first station, but this was the Dalton railroad

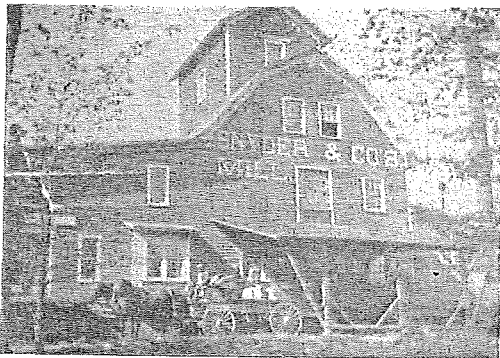
station for many years, where the Lackawanna Trail is today.



Slide 40. DL&W Station, Dalton.

Dalton had for many, many years a grist mill originally one water-powered mill. This one was steam-powered.

This is Dalton's Main Street today with the post office and the bank and a grocery store, the pharmacy across the street.



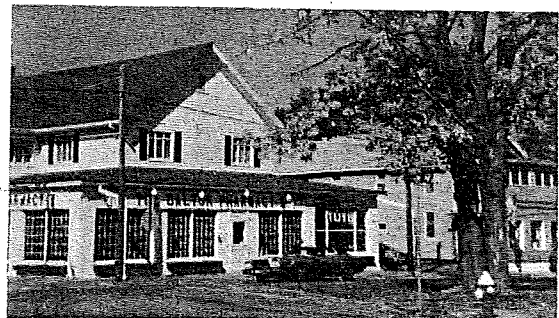
Slide 41. Snyder Feed Mill, Dalton, PA.

It was a very important place in those days--the feed mill--because you took your grain there to be ground for feed for your animals and flour for your own table.

You could sell your grain there or have it ground and taken away, or go buy your feed for your animals at the feed mill.



Slide 42. Dalton Main Street.



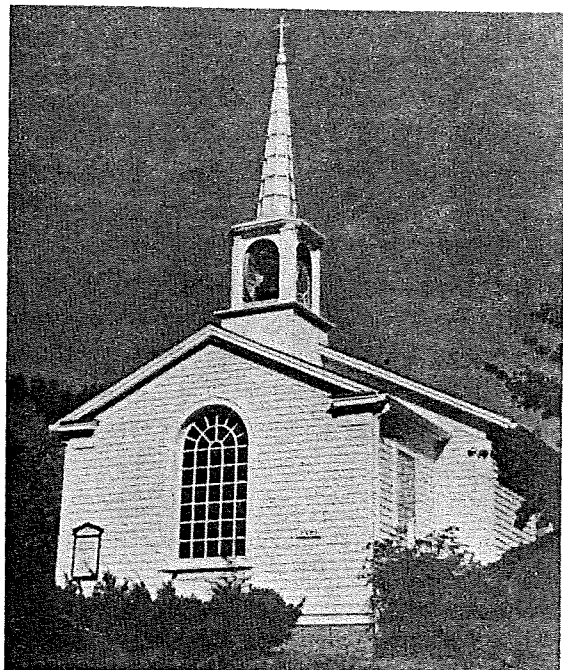
Slide 42A. Dalton Pharmacy.

This was the train going through Dalton back about the turn of the century. DL&W had very good service, and, in those days, you could get off at any one of the little towns and villages along the railroad. There was good passenger service but alas and alack, the railroads are completely gone, except for the return of Steamtown.



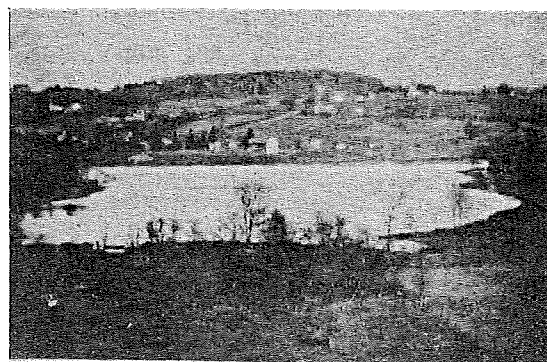
Slide 43. DL&W train and station, Dalton, PA.

In nearby Glenburn is the Church of the Epiphany. It is just a little residential community surrounding Glenburn Pond. This is an early view of Glenburn Pond. Located in the Abingtons also is Keystone Junior College at LaPlume. Actually, the buildings of

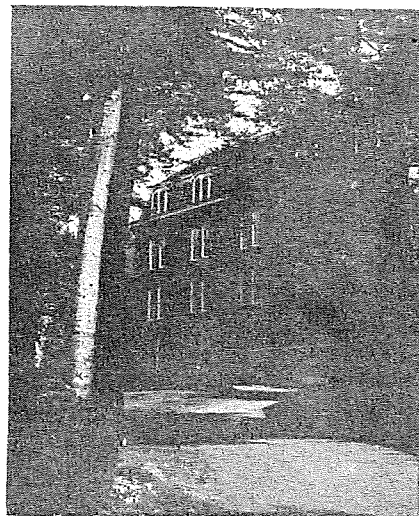


Slide 44. Church of the Epiphany, Glenburn.

Keystone are in Lackawanna County and in LaPlume Township and in the Abingtons. Factoryville is just over the line in Wyoming County.



Slide 45. Glenburn Pond and area.



Slide 46. Keystone Academy Factoryville.

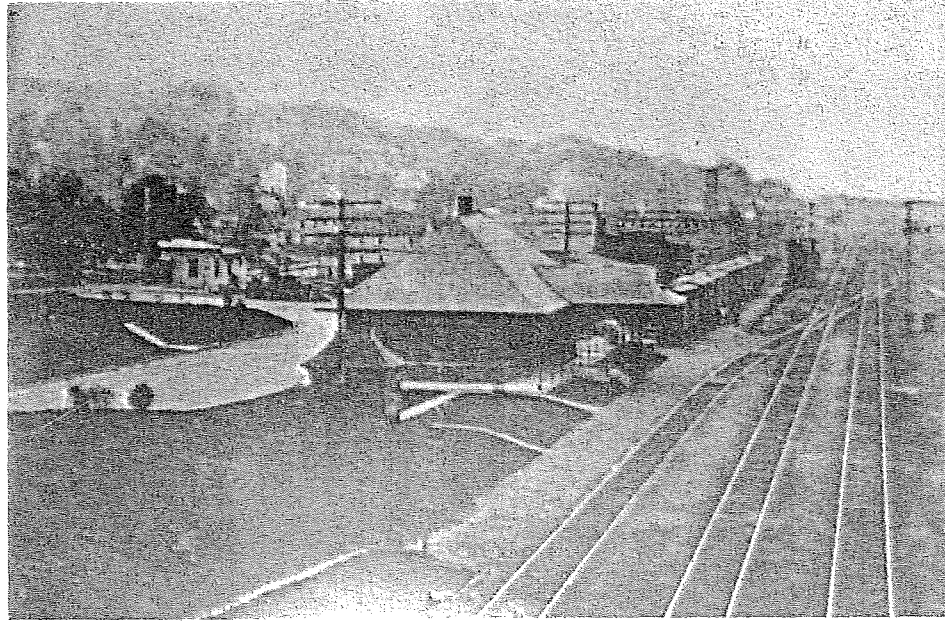
This is another view of the Notch with the railroad and the road is now a four-lane highway there, but you can see it was a very narrow, windy, twisting road originally.



Slide 47. Looking North toward Clarks Summit thru the Notch.

The railroad again made history because Clarks Summit got its name from it. This is the Clarks Summit Railroad station on the

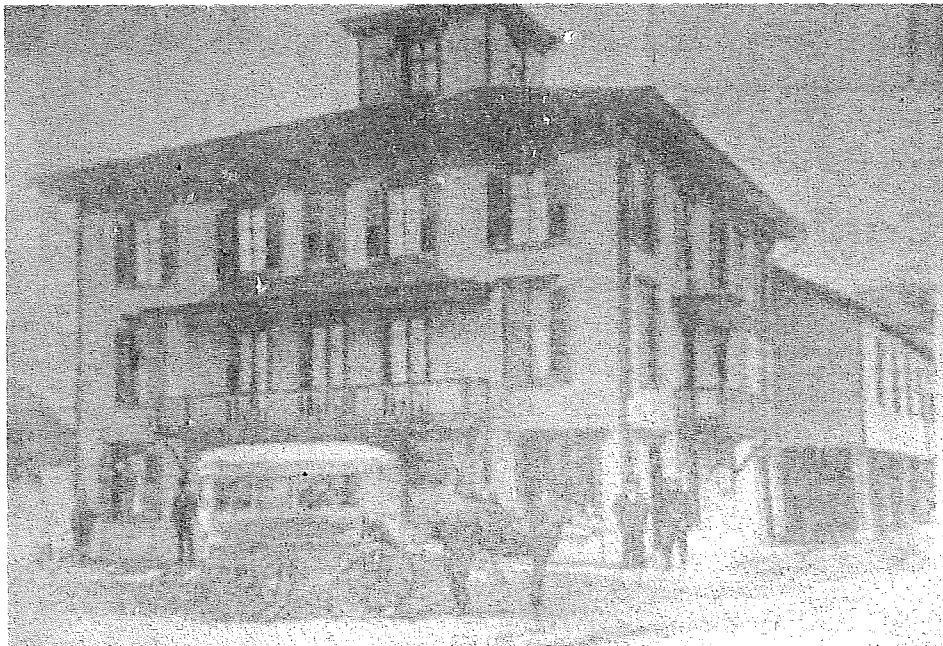
DL&W. This is how Clarks Summit got started--as a depot or a station on the DL&W Railroad.



Slide 48. DL&W Station. Clarks Summit, PA.

Of course, near the railroad station, there was a hotel. The good old days. There was always a hotel by the railroad station.

This was the original one in Clarks Summit. The building has been moved, and it doesn't look like that anymore.



Slide 49. Original ~~Railroad Station~~, Clarks Summit, PA.

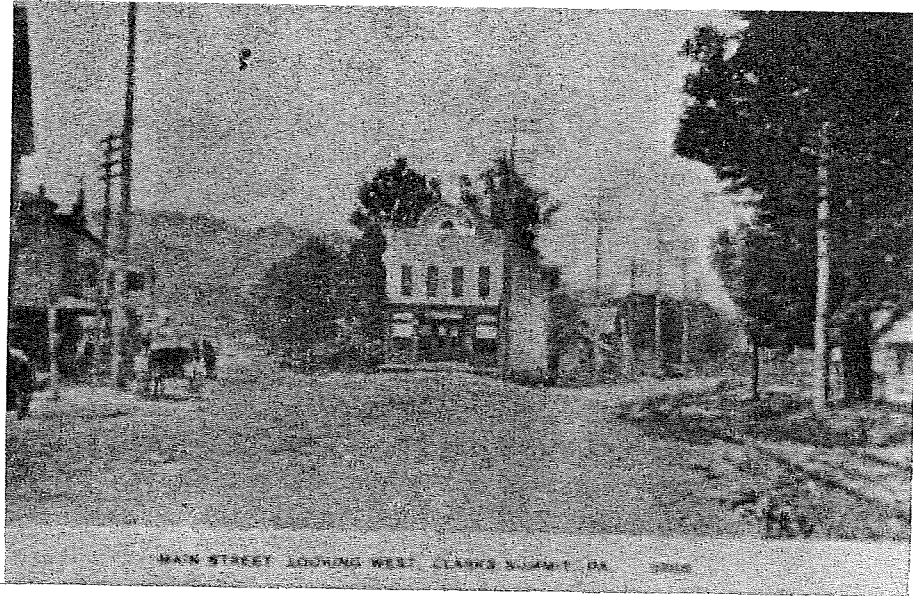
Tennant House

-25-

1902

First Services of Clarks Summit
Methodist Church held in
Parlor of Tennant Hotel.
before moving to Center St - Clarks Summit

This is a very early view of Clarks Summit.

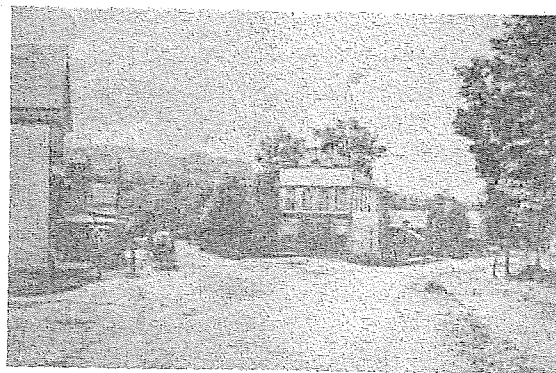


Slide 50. Early view, Main Street, Clarks Summit, looking North.

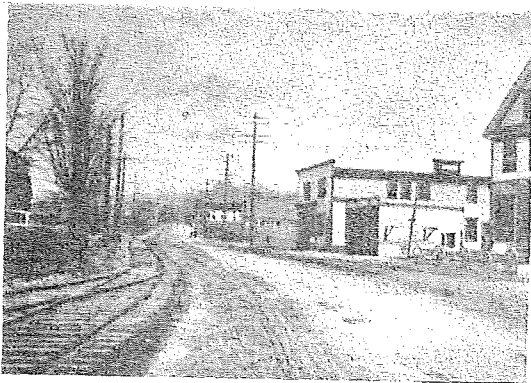
You can see what a kind of a sleepy little country town it was. Unpaved streets, a few stores and houses--a very small place.

This is the same view looking in the other direction.

Our Lady of Snows Church is about where the barn is on the left-hand side of the picture.

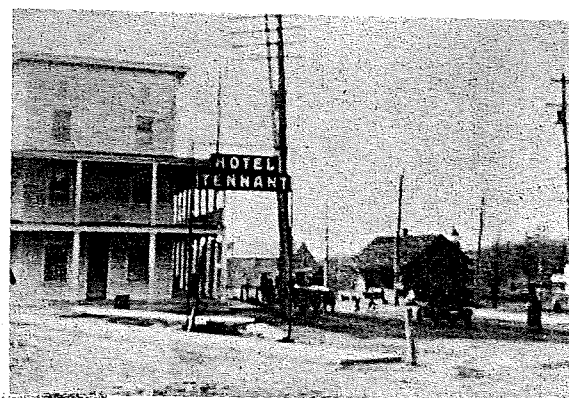


Slide 52. Early Main Street, Tenant Corner, Clarks Summit.



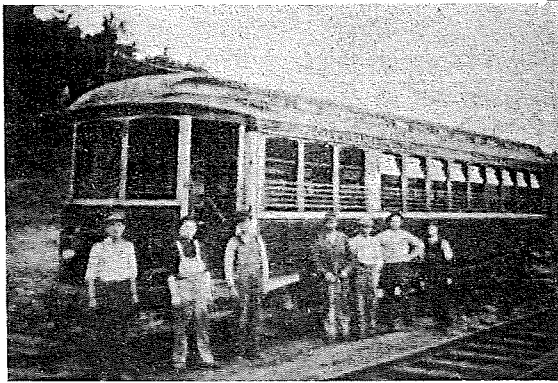
Slide 51. S. Main Street, Clarks Summit, and N.E. Street Car.

This is another view of Clarks Summit in the horse and buggy days. As you can see, it was a very quiet, little sleepy town.



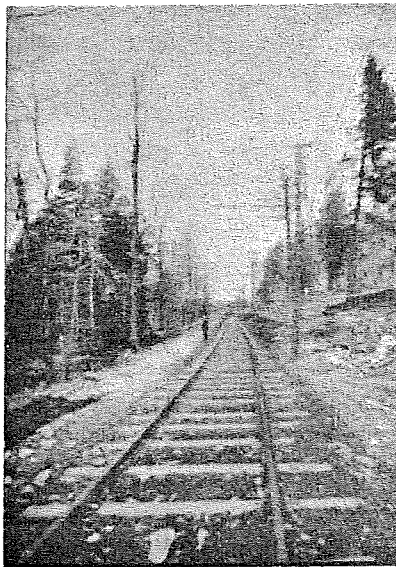
Slide 53. Tennant House, Clarks Summit, PA.

This is Clarks Summit a little bit later.



Slide 54. N.E. Trolley car and employees.

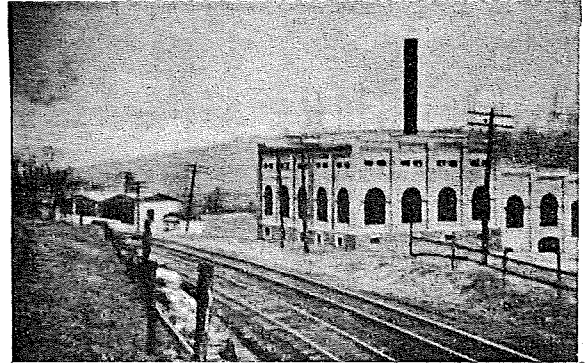
The coming of the Northern Electric Street Railroad. It was an inter-urban electric street-car line, which was projected from Scranton to Binghamton. It was never built all the way to Binghamton but it did run to Montrose. Now, when this streetcar line came up through the Notch, went through Providence and the Notch, and then up through Chinchilla and Clarks Summit, Glenburn, Dalton, Factoryville, and went to Lake Winola in the summertime, it was opened and started in 1907. Though it ran as a transportation system for only twenty-five years, it went bankrupt in 1932. It was the means of the building up of the Abingtons as a residential community, because this meant now that not



Slide 55. N.E. Tracks North thru Glenburn.

just the wealthy could go to the country for the summer but that working, middle-class people in the city could move out of the dust and dirt and soot and heat of the city and have a home in the country because you had very good service back and forth to work on the Northern Electric Streetcar.

There is a part of this line somewhere along the line, and then, of course, they built a power house at LaPlume to generate the electricity to run the streetcar line. The building is still there though it is in terrible condition.



Slide 55A. Abt. Elect. Power House, Brookside.

The Northern Electric not only brought people to the Abingtons and was the means of the building up of Chinchilla and Clarks Summit and Dalton in a tremendous way but it also brought electricity to the Abingtons. Before 1907, there were no electric lights anywhere in the Abingtons unless you had your own plant. But once this electricity was produced for the streetcar, then they could also produce electricity for the communities around the neighborhood. Now, there was only one catch:

They only could make so much electricity; and during the day, when the streetcars were running, sometimes your electric power might go very low; but at night, when the streetcars weren't running, then there was plenty of electricity for your lights.

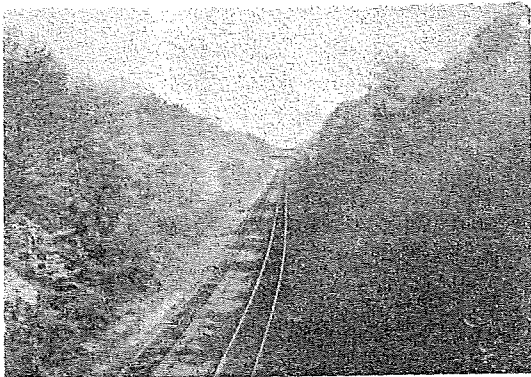
This is the trading store at Clarks Green, where the NuWay Market used to be, and there is now a professional building being built there.



Slide 56. Frace's Market, Clarks Green, PA

In the days of the horse and buggy, it was Frace's Market.

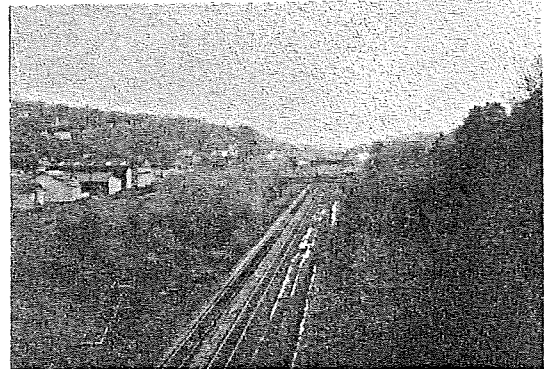
1912-1915--The DL&W Railroad was doing so well with the coal business that they modernized the whole road. They straightened the right of way.



Slide 56A. DL&W Railroad tracks thru Abingtons.

Ghey did a great many fills into valleys and cut through the mountains and built, at that time, the Nicholson Bridge. They were pulling tremendous trainloads of anthracite coal in those days, and it was important. And in Clarks Summit, they dug down to relieve the summit, or the elevation, and they put the railroad down in a sort of a ditch or trough. It

is still down there today though there is very little traffic. The D&H is using the line.



Slide 56B Railroad, Clarks Summit, so named by DL&W for 900 ft. Climb.

South Abington has two villages in it, unincorporated. One of them, of course, is Chinchilla, which is mostly a residential community. Out in the country, there is a little country area known as Edella.

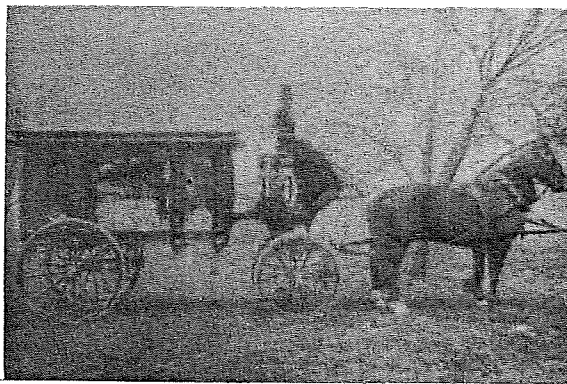
The Edella Post Office was, for many years, in this house. It is gone now, but Edella is rather unique, in that when they decided to establish a country post office here, the man who was the first postmaster, his name was Ed Clark. His wife's name was Ella. They

decided Edella would make a good name.



Slide 57. EDELLA, named for PO of Edward & Ella.

Now, of course, people died from time to time, and that's the country undertaker.



Slide 58. Undertaker wagon.

Now, we come to the present, and following World War II, farming slowly but surely died out in the Abingtons so that there are very few dairy farms now anywhere in the Abingtons. There is a good bit of truck farming in Newton Township and in Ransom Township but almost no dairy farms anymore left anywhere in the Abingtons.

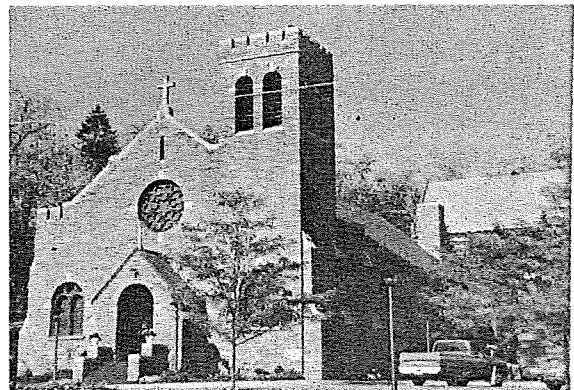
One of the things that made the changes in the Abingtons was the coming of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. It was built from the Northeast Extension from Philadelphia to Scranton and ending at Clarks Summit, in 1957. Then, in 1962, the PennCan (or Interstate 81) was also built through the region and came there, so this made quite an interchange at the upper end of Chinchilla, the lower end of

Clarks Summit. Any of you who have been up there recently know some of the tremendous business activity that is now in that neighborhood, with motels, restaurants, fast-food places, service stations, businesses--every kind--has built up because of this interchange of these highways.



Slide 58A. Turnpike entrance at N. Chinchilla.

Clarks Summit as well has grown tremendously so that it's a community of over 5,000 population. Probably one of the finest buildings in Clarks Summit is the Our Lady of the Snows Church, which is in the center of the borough. If you have never seen it, be sure to go in the springtime when the whole area is surrounded by flowers. They have a wonderful caretaker at Our Lady of the Snows Church.



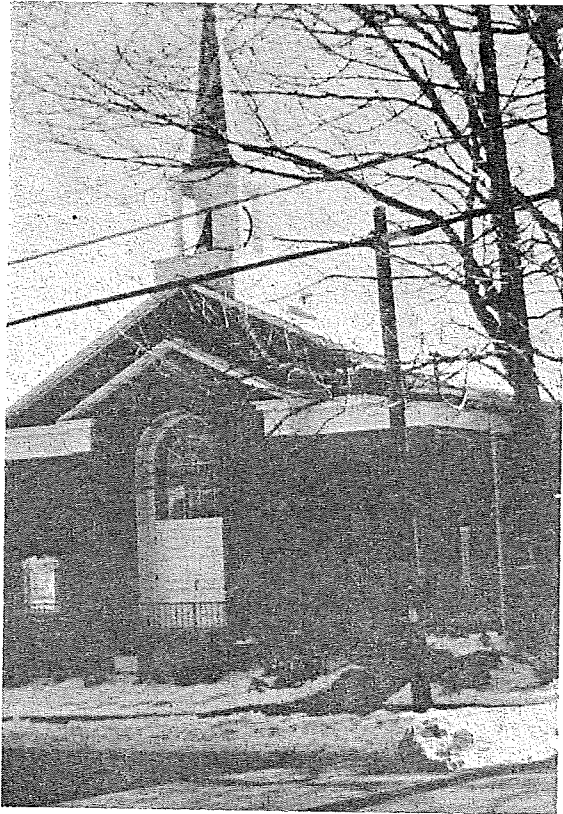
Slide 59. Our Lady of the Snows Church, Clarks Summit, PA

There are a number of other very fine new churches in the Abington region. This is the Clarks Summit Methodist Church.



Slide 60. Clarks Summit Methodist Church.

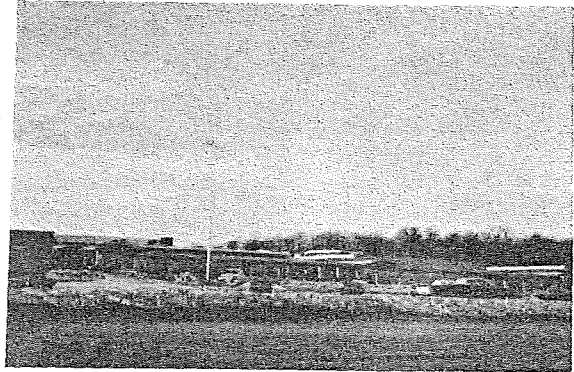
This is the Clarks Green Methodist Church.



Slide 61. Clarks Green Methodist Church.

Both are relatively new buildings, built in the last twenty-five years. There are a total of twenty churches in the Abingtons--seventeen of them Protestant--and three of them are Roman Catholic.

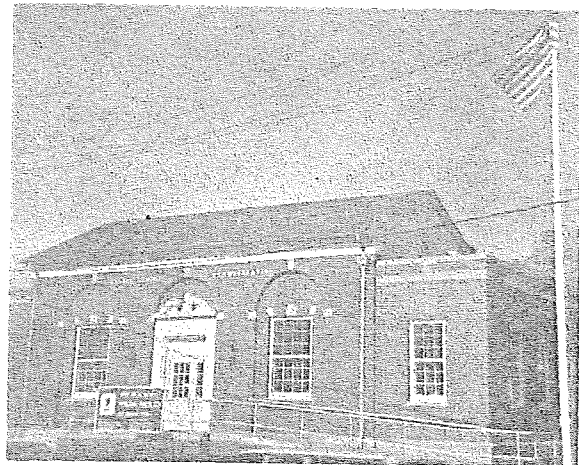
In recent years--all the schools in the Abington region were consolidated into the Abington Heights School District, and this is the North Campus, or the Senior High School, of the Abington Heights system.



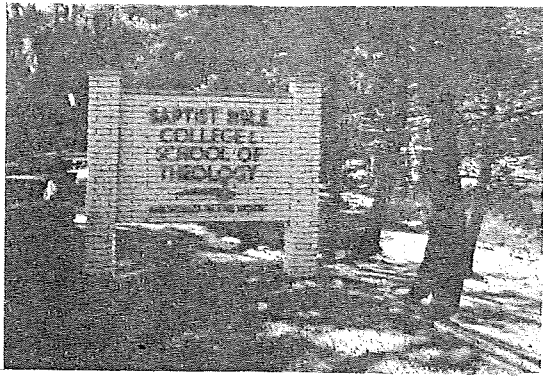
Slide 61A. New Abington Heights High School.

It is interesting to note that they have every day in the total school system, about 3,500 students and over 250 faculty. Education always has been and still is very important to the families in the Abingtons and a very high percentage of children from the high schools and from the families go on to college and further training.

The Clarks Summit Post Office--there is another educational institution there--the Baptist Bible College in Clarks Green--with over 500 students.



Slide 61B. Post Office, Clarks Summit, PA.



**Slide 61C. Baptist Bible College Sign,
Clarks Green, PA.**

There are three country clubs in the area. This is the Scranton Country Club on the Morgan Highway.



**Slide 62. Scranton Country Club, Clarks Summit,
PA.**

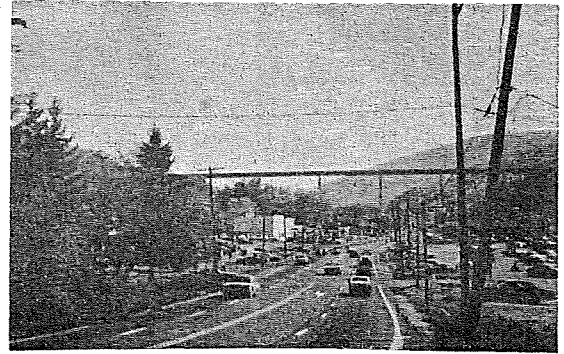
There is the Glen Oak and the Waverly Country Club. Very good golfing at the links at these country clubs. Perhaps more than anything else, a tremendous number of new homes, and residences of all sizes, descriptions, and costs have been built in the Abingtons. Anywhere you look there is a new residential development. There are new houses being built almost every day, and certainly every year.

The Abingtons are the fastest-growing area of Lackawanna County. The population shows significant growth every ten years. The population of the Abingtons--of that whole area--is close to 20,000--just a little bit under 20,000 of total population of the area now. There is the Turnpike bridge as it comes across what was the Northern Boulevard, has



Slide 63. New Homes in the Abingtons.

now been changed to Abington Way and shows a little bit of the shopping centers and some of the businesses. That's looking towards Scranton from Clarks Summit.



**Slide 64. Pennsylvania Turnpike Bridge--
looking South to Scranton.**

We'll conclude the slides with a fall shot of some of the beautiful flaming foliage that we get in Northeastern Pennsylvania.



**Slide 65. Rt. 81 interconnection at East Benton
and Jordan Hollow.**

I have just given you a kind of a brief survey history of the Abingtons and something of what it is today, but certainly it is the most desirable residential area of Lackawanna County, the fastest-growing area in the country--a very friendly, neighborly, and

community or civic minded section of the county. With it all, a very beautiful section--very picturesque beauty of Northeastern Pennsylvania. With that, thank you very much for your kind attention.