

## OUR REGIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Few places in the county have a more beautiful scenery than that found along the Blue Mountain, Stone Mountain and the Second Mountain.

The view from the top of the Blue Mountain is magnificent and the various shades of color among the trees and foliage in autumn cannot be surpassed anywhere.

The terrain between the Blue Mountain, so called because of its hazy bluish appearance, and the Second Mountain is a succession of low rolling hills and fertile valleys, almost parallel with each other throughout the extent of the township. A well defined range of several miles known as the "Summer Hill" and the Stone Mountain are the only elevations of importance.

Elevation range from a low of 570 feet to a high of 1660 feet above mean sea level.

The streams in the eastern half of the township include Panther Run, Long Run, Red Creek, Plum Creek and Bear Creek. These streams flow into the Schuylkill River, a part of the Delaware River Basin. Water resources in the area drained by these streams are under the auspices of the Delaware River Basin Commission. The streams in the western half of the township are Middle Swatara Creek and Little Swatara Creek. These streams flow into Swatara Creek and are part of the Susquehanna River Basin. The water resources in the areas drained by these streams will eventually be under the auspices of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission which is currently being formed.

Historically, Wayne Township has been an agricultural area, and although it will continue to be so for years to come, there are trends in some sections toward a more suburban character with some sections having pockets of concentrated residential development. With only a few small scattered manufacturing operation in the township, concentrated industrial development is absent.

## OUR FORBEARS

Penn's Holy Experiment was an invitation to those who fled Europe to escape the laws which destroyed liberty of conscience. Among our forbearers were people who valued "free" education as highly as they valued the right to worship.

The first great influx of Germans came to America between 1700 and 1750, many of them settled in Pennsylvania for the liberal policies of William Penn attracted them to the land.

Most of them came from the Palatinate, arriving in Philadelphia, they traveled northward. In addition to the German settlers there were a few Irish and Welsh families. They all came with the common object of bettering their condition in life, and securing homes in a land where they could enjoy "the right to Worship God" as their conscience dictated. Some of them were poor, even coming as indentured servants, others were well-to-do farmers. Finding the price of land North of the Blue Mountain very reasonable, they were tempted to venture into new sections of the interior.

As the incoming tide of settlers increased, it became necessary to push farther on, making clearings, and building crude houses for their families often close to springs, streams, or along Indian trails.

It is quite possible that they were confronted with the Indian population that still inhabited certain areas in Schuylkill County. Evidence that our region was a favorite Indian hunting place is that many arrow heads are found in certain areas.

Finding this new land an excellent Agricultural territory, our German speaking forbearers were mainly engaged in farming, producing only their own necessities, often "bartering" to produce for themselves.

It can be seen quite readily that the life of the early settlers was hard but they became one of a community which resulted in organizing the township and as the population increased gave root to our church and school.

## OUR NATIONAL ORIGIN

As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the United States of America, we are reminded of the many people of former years who gave of their wisdom to make our nation great. The founding of our nation was a happening born of man's reliance upon spiritual guidance. The first settlers who came to America brought their Bibles with them and relied upon Almighty God for guidance. Evidence of this is found in the fact that they built places of worship. These earliest settlers built a foundation for those who were to become the founding fathers of the following century.

Never in history were there gathered together so many outstanding minds as there were in the year 1776. The declaration signed in that year by these men stands as an outstanding legacy to us all and as a lasting tribute to the 56 men who signed it. These 56 patriots who pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the cause of liberty will be honored in every community across our land this year of 1976.

From the youngest, Edward Rutledge of South Carolina, to the oldest, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, all were champions of liberty who earned their honored places in our country's history as signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Our nation became the strongest and the most advanced nation in the world because of the strength and wisdom of men such as Monroe, Jefferson, Washington, and Franklin who are only a few of the many men of great caliber who laid its foundations.