

Black, Milford and Middlecreek Townships

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[Township Page Link](#)

Black Township

When Milford Township was divided in 1886, that part east of Coxes Creek and east of the Casselman River, below Rockwood, was given the name of Black, in honor of Judge Jeremiah S. Black. Judge Black was later Attorney General in Pennsylvania's only President's cabinet. (James Buchanon) When our ancestors came here to have a new life, timber and lumber products, coal mining and the railroad, plus aggressive agriculture built this area.

The first settler was James Wilson, who built a cabin here in 1775. Wilson later built the first sawmill in Black Township. In 1800 one of the early houses was used as a church and school house. The first store was operated prior to 1795.

Black Township was once famous for the split building stone produced by the Somerset Stone Co. near Milford. Milford Station on the Northern edge of the township, served as a railroad shipping point for lumber, railroad ties, and building stone. Coal mining was also an important industry in the township's early days. Wilson Creek, Shamrock, Bando and Blackfield were small mining towns. Somerset Coal Co. operated a mine at Wilson's Creek as early as 1902. All of the major industries of Black Township were tied to the railroad.



Middle Creek Township

Chapter LXXIV, Middle Creek, from

The History of Somerset, Bedford, and Fulton Counties, Pennsylvania,

1884

MIDDLE CREEK township is called after the stream of the same name which flows about midway between Laurel Hill and Cox's creeks. The township was organized in 1853.

The township contains several small veins of coal, which are mined for local use. A good quality of limestone is found. Considerable quantities of iron ore exist, but as yet they have not been utilized.

Caspar Harbaugh is supposed to have been one of the earliest pioneers in the present territory of Middle Creek township. He was originally from Germany. He served under Gen. Braddock in 1775, and resided in the eastern part of this state until 1789. In the spring of 1790 he came to the wild and sparsely inhabited region since known as Somerset county, and settled on the farm where Hiram Tedrow now lives, bringing with him a wife and two or three children. Harbaugh passed nearly all of the remainder of his life in this township. He died at the age of ninety years.

A few months after Harbaugh's arrival, Elijah Lyons, from Virginia, came and settled on the farm now owned by Alexander Moore. He was then a young man, but was married before coming to this neighborhood.

About 1791 Andrew Putman, from Maryland, settled on a farm adjoining that of Caspar Harbaugh. Like the other early settlers, he leased land from landholders residing in Philadelphia. Mr. Putman lived to be quite aged. He died about 1850. The farm on which he settled is now owned by Peter Whipkey.

Daniel Moore emigrated from New Jersey to this country about 1800. After making a location and beginning improvements on a farm in the southern part of this township, he left, and for some years led the life of an itinerant miller, working in various places. Later he returned to his farm and made rapid improvements upon it. He died in 1844, and his wife (Mary King) in 1852. They reared eight children, five of whom are still living. One son is in Ohio; Jesse is an old resident of this township; Catharine (Gross) lives in Milford township; and Mrs. Barron and Mrs. Whipkey, in Middle Creek. Jesse Moore is the father of Philip K. Moore, who owns a beautiful farm of two hundred and forty acres in the northern part of this township. Though Mr. Moore, senior, has passed the allotted threescore years and ten, he is still active; and being a man of observation and good memory, recalls much that is interesting concerning the early settlers, their customs and manner of life.

Alexander C. Moore, another son of Jesse Moore, is a prosperous farmer, residing one mile north of New Lexington.

William Moore was born and reared in this township. In 1838 he came into possession of the homestead farm, inherited from his father. He married Rosanna, daughter of George Pile, an early pioneer of this township, and reared five children: Louisa (Mognet), Cyrus B., Walter F., H. D. and Lyman K.

Cyrus B. served in the late war, and, after its close, established himself in the mercantile business at New Lexington, in 1866. Dr. H. D. Moore read medicine, and, after graduating, settled in New Lexington, where he now has a successful practice.

George Pile located in this township in 1818, on the farm which he bought of Andrew Putman, his father-in-law. He expended much hard labor in improving his farm and bringing it into good condition. He married Salome Putman. Their son, Josiah, is one of the thrifty farmers of this township. He resides upon a farm

which he purchased of Samuel Barclay.

George Putman was born in Somerset county, and lived in Milford township. His son John commenced life for himself as a farmer in 1848. he owns a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he purchased from his uncle, Michael Putman. Mr. Putman was a soldier in the late war; enlisted in the nine months' service in 1863. He has taken an active interest in educational matters, and has served as school director several times.

George Barron became a resident of Middle Creek township in 1817, moving from a neighboring township. His mother was captured by the Indians in Morrison's cove. (For particulars, see sketch of Milford Township.) Mr. Barron purchased a farm of John Weyant, and devoted his lifetime to improving it. His family consisted of ten children, all of whom are still living. Moses Barron owns one hundred and seventy acres of land in this township and operates a gristmill. He is a miller by trade, having learned the business thoroughly.

On the same site where Barron's mill now stands John Koozer erected a gristmill in 1806. it was largely patronized by the early settlers. Koozer's mill passed through various changes of owners, and, until it was purchased by Mr. Barron, always retained its original name. Peter Koozer had a carding-mill put in operation as early as 1808, near the present site of Baker's woolen-factory.

Jacob Baker was reared near Rockwood. In 1855 he came to Middle Creek township, and purchased from Thomas Van Horn one-half interest in a woolen factory. The following year Jeremiah Pile became his partner and the two conducted the business for six years. Mr. Baker's mill is almost new, having been built by him in 1876, at a cost of twenty-five hundred dollars. The factory contains a full set of carding-machines, a spinning-jenny and three looms. It is run by water-power. Mr. Baker manufactures blankets, cassimeres, waterproofs, barred flannels and yarns. Since his residence here he has made important improvements. Besides erecting the factory, he has built a brick house and a stable.

Hiram Tedrow moved from Milford to Middle Creek township in 1859, and settled on a farm known as the David Young farm, which he purchased from Dennis Hay. Mr. Tedrow has greatly improved his place. The farm consists of two hundred and twenty acres, and is in a high state of cultivation. The wife of Mr. Tedrow is Amanda C., daughter of Jesse Moore, an old resident of this township. Mr. Tedrow is a son of John K. Tedrow, whose parents were early settlers in this county. During the civil war Hiram was drafted into the army twice.

William R. King is a son of Mesmore King, who lived for many years in this township, although he was born in a neighboring township. The elder Mr. King was the owner of extensive tracts of land in various parts of the township. In 1875 he disposed of the greater part of his property and removed to Westmoreland county. William R. has also accumulated, as the result of industry and good management, extensive quantities of land, and is today the owner of over sixteen hundred acres.

Hon. Jacob R. McMillen was born and reared in old Turkey-Foot township, of which both his father and grandfather were residents. The name of the latter was Rush, and he was a soldier in the revolutionary war. J. R. McMillen came to Middle Creek in 1847, located in the southern part of the township, and purchased a tannery of Harris Luddington -an eccentric old gentleman, who was a "jack-of-all-trades" - a tanner, merchant, minister, lawyer, doctor, etc. Luddington had established the tannery and operated it only a few years when Mr. McMillen took charge. The latter had learned his trade with his father in Paddytown, in this county. Mr. McMillen conducted the business successfully for thirty-one years, then turned the management of it over to his sons, R. S. and J. J. McMillen, who are now conducting it. Mr. McMillen has been prominent in public affairs and an active member of the republican party. In 1866 he was elected associate judge of the county, and held the office during a term of five years. He was elected to the state legislature in 1872 and served two terms.

Michael Ansell settled on Laurel Hill in 1866, having purchased six hundred acres of land of Samuel King. The farm had been improved years before by John Pile, now of Fayette county. Mr. Ansell's farm is very rich in iron ore. There is also a mineral spring, the waters of which possess great medicinal virtues, situated upon the place. Mr. Ansell served in the late war in Co. C, 142d regt. Penn. Vols., and was in a number of severe engagements, but fortunately escaped being wounded. He enlisted in 1861 and was mustered out at the close of the war.

Joseph B. Critchfield, an old resident of Middle Creek, was born in Milford township. Early in life he came to Middle Creek, and after working several years at various avocations, married Harriet King and settled on a farm which he purchased of Elizabeth Miller, of Salem, New Jersey. After residing on this farm twenty-two years, he sold it to Walter Moore, and subsequently bought back thirty-eight acres of it, upon which he presently resides.

Isaac Barron, son of John N. Barron, who was a native of Berks county, settled in Middle Creek in 1868, on a farm purchased of Abraham Hostetler, which he greatly improved. Isaac Barron's mother, as mentioned in the history of Milford township, was captured by Indians. Mr. Barron married Charlotte Moore. Two of their children are living: William II., who was a soldier in the late war and now resides upon the homestead, and Mrs. Anna Rebecca Meyers, in Fayette county.

The first gristmill and the first sawmill in the township were built by Philip King, on Middle Creek, about 1880.

The first store in the township was started by Elias Stahl, about 1840. Stahl continued in business fifteen years, then sold out to Henry F. Schell.

In Middle Creek township the following industries are at present carried on: Two gristmills, one on Laurel Hill creek, owned by Moses Barron, the other on Middle Creek, owned by Israel Gross. The one general store and post-office (at new Lexington) are kept by Cyrus B. Moore. Baker's woolen-factory is elsewhere alluded to.

The following is a copy of the official list of voters of Middle Creek township in 1854, one year after the organization of the township: John Boyts, Christian Barkley, Dav. Barkley, Jr., John Bongard, Geo. Barron, Benj. Bowman, Moses Barron, H. B. Barnes, Henry Boucher, John Boucher, Chas. Cramer, Josiah Crise, John Cummins, Jos. B Crichfield, Dav. Cramer, Gabriel Christner, John Davis, Geo. Enos, Adam Felderkerchner, Geo. Ferguson, Jac. Gary, Adam Gary, John Hidler, A. B. Hostetler, Jos. Herrington, Jac. Hechler, Wm. Henry, John Hersh, John Infield, Derrick Kreger, John King, Henry Kreger, Jos. King, John R. King, Missimer King, Cassimer King, Sam. Kooser, Dan. Lee, Jona. Lions, Jac. L. Miller, Dan. A. Miller, Jesse Moore, John G. Miller, Jac. R. McMullen, Chas. McLelland, Abr. R. Miller, Mich. Nicholas, Hugh Nichel, Geo. Pile, Dav. Pletcher, Sam. Pletcher, Christian Phillippi, Sam. Phillippi, John L. Sayler, Jere. Sayler, Christian Schrock, Jac. C. Schrock, Henry L. Snyder, Dewald Snyder, Levi Snyder, Chris. Speicher, Jos. Saylor, Jona. Sayer, John D. Snyder, Mich. Sanner, Dav. Tedrow, Derrick Trimpe, Fred Uphouse, Henry Uphouse, Thos. Vanhorn, Abr. Walker, Henry Weyand, Peter Whipkey, Dav. Young, Dav. Younkin, Eli Sayler, Dav. Sayler, Francis Singer, Amos Schrock, Solomon Pile, Jere Pile, David'n Pletcher, John Weyand, Jac. Speicher, Peter Speicher, Noah S. Snyder, Sol. Boucher, Cassimer Cramer, Emanuel Caron, Geo. Feldkerchner, John Gross, Dav. Hoop, Hiram King, Geo. King, Arnold Kuhlman, Geo. Leer, Elijah Lyons, Jas. Mickey, Geo. Mickey, Jos. Mognet, Josiah Pile, Wm. Putman, Dav. Pletcher, Sol. young, Isaac Younkin, Simon Barron, Chauncy Barron, Hiram Barron, Dan'l Barkley, Hiram Boucher, Sam. Cramer, Chauncy Cramer, Wm. Curry, Geo. Davis, J. G. Elder, Jona. Emert, Jac. Hechler, Jr., Aaron Hechler, Josiah Heminger, Chauncy Meyers, Eli Younkin.

New Lexington

The village of New Lexington was laid out September 14, 1824, on the land of David and Magdalena Tedrow. The village is in the south-eastern part of the township, three miles west of New Centerville, in the midst of a thriving neighborhood. Its population consists of about one dozen families. The place contains one general store, a postoffice, three shoeshops, two smithshops and a tannery.

Lutheran Church

Middle Creek Evangelical Lutheran church was organized by Rev. William Uhl in 1850. Prior to the organization there had been preaching in the Putman schoolhouse for five or six years. The church edifice was erected in 1850, at a cost of twelve hundred dollars. The first church officers were: Diedrich Kreger, William Moore, George Pile and Frederick Uphouse. The pastors have been: Revs. Solomon McHenry, J. K. Bricker, John Tomlinson, Charles Young, Josiah Zimmerman, Reuben Smith, John Unruh and --- Zinn.



Milford Township

CHAPTER LXVII.
MILFORD. Township
Organization ~ Progressive
and Prosperous Farmers ~
Taxpayers in 1796
Pioneer Settlers -
Experiences ~ Anecdotes
and Adventures ~ Hard
Times
Early Manufactures ~
Rockwood ~ The Rapid
Growth of an Industrious
and Thrifty Village
New Centreville Borough ~
Gebhartsurg ~ Churches
and Schools.

THIS township probably contained several settlers during the time of the revolutionary war. At the beginning of the present century many farms had been improved, and the settlement was fairly prosperous. From that day until the present there has been a constant and steady increase in wealth and population. Today no township in Somerset county equals Milford in agricultural importance. Beautiful farms adorned with elegant and costly buildings ; neatly fenced, fertile and well-kept fields ; orchards and green woodlands greet the eye on every side, affording a rich and pleasing landscape. The farmers, of Milford are industrious and progressive. They are awake to the value of modern improvements and wisely adopt every idea which is calculated to advance their interests. The soil is fertile and productive. The people are prosperous and contented, thrifty and intelligent. They do not devote all their time and attention to the study of the art of money-getting, but find opportunities for self-culture. Not many years ago it was rare that farmers had libraries. They took a newspaper or two and had a few old books about the house. Today, many have choice and valuable collections of books, representing the best in ancient and modern literature, and standard periodicals are regular visitors in their homes. Nine churches and twelve schoolhouses embraced in the township and villages of Milford bear eloquent testimony respecting the people of the township and their position with regard to religious and educational interests. Two Prosperous towns peopled by as wide-awake and energetic citizens as ever blessed a community by their presence are included within the territory of Milford township. But we must leave the present and traverse the past in order to show who have been instrumental in effecting the prosperity which now exists. The following is a copy of the tax-list of Milford Township in 1796, and shows the names of the resident taxables of at least one-sixth of Somerset county :

Copied from "The History of Bedford, Somerset and Fulton Counties, Pennsylvania -- 1884"

1796 Tax List Milford Township

Adam Adams, Sr., Christian Ankeny, George Ankeny, David Ankeny, Henry Ankeny, Adam Adams, Henry Atherton, James Allen, John Althouse, Peter Ankeny, John Armstrong, George Ankeny, Isaac Allen, Christian Ankeny, George Ankeny, Enoch Abrams, Jacob Barkman, Henry Bruner, Paul Barnet, Joseph Brindle, Jacob Brindle, Archebald Bole, Jacob Barnharm, Sr., William Brook, William Bean, Daniel Bear, Conrod Beemer, Jacob Baker, Abraham Brand, Peter Bolon, Andrew Baker, Benjamin Brown, James Black, Jacob Bonnet, George Burcher, Richard Brown, Samuel Benford, John Biddle, Thomas Cox, Peter Copp, Adam Carrup, Jacob Cox, Henry Crossen, Robert Cox, John Corpenning, William Critchfield, Adam Creamer, John Campbell, John Dull, John Driver, Ezekiah Driver, Nathaniel Davis, Joseph Douglas, Thomas Faith, Abraham Faith,

Ludwick Flick, Adam Flick, John Fisher, Hugh Fulton, Conrod Frank. Samuel Friend, Jacob Feathers, Peter Friedline, George Friedline, Ludwick Friedline. Ludwick Fisher, Joseph Francis, Georre Friend, William Findly, James Fulton. John Gross. Henry Grindle. John Grindle, Henry Grove, John Gebhart., Jacob

Gushwa, David Griffith, Mathias Goshett, Peter Garey. Frederick Hensel, George Henry, John Herring, Ludwick Hart, Casper Harbaugh, Jacob Harbaugh, Nicholas Hull, Jacob Haynes, Andrew Hemminger, John Hemminger, Simon Hogh, Walter Hews, Jacob Hoover, Alexander Holmes, George Hitler, Peter Hess, Jacob Heighler, Jehue Jones, David Jones, William Mason Jones William Jones Thomas Jolly, Nathan Justice, Casper Kroop, Jonas Kline, John Kooser, Herman Krileigh, George King, Ludwick Keighler, Adam Koondle, George Kinder,

William King, Philip King, Esq. Michael King, Jacob Knable, Casper Kitsmiller, John Koons, David Kimmell. Adam Keffer, Mary Kooser, Conrod Kizer, John Lower, Jacob Lenhart, Jacob Lamer, Widow Logwood, Henry Laymer, Henry Lint, John Leech, Christian Lint, Gillian Lighteburger, Jacob Loury Hugh Linn, Frederick Long, Jacob Miller, John Miller (distiller), Jeremiah Miller, Frederick Mitchell, Robert. McConnell, Samuel Morrison, John Marteeny, William McCarty, John Miller, Jr., John Miller, Sr., Peter Moneigh, Daniel Moore. Peter Millhouse, Abraham Miller, William McDemmit, Thomas McCall, George McCall, Gutleip Mittock, Adam Nigh, Abraham Nafe, Henry Omvake, Andrew Oyler, John Oyler, Martin Philips, George Philipsk Jr.. Frederick Pitcher, Sr., Nicholas Parrone, John Pyle, Casper Pyle, Jacob Pyle, Francis Phillippi, David Penrod, Moses Packer, William Pergher, Peter Putman, Sarah Penrod, Isaac Penrod. George Pritts, Samuel Pritts, Andrew Putman, Michael Pyle, John Rone, George Ray, William Rambow, Moses Rambow, George Rhoads, Cornelius Riley, Christian Rice,

Gillian Gary, collector. Amount of tax collected, five hundred and forty-four dollars and sixty-three cents. Total valuation, real and personal, one hundred and eight thousand nine hundred and twenty-six dollars.



[WPA Cemetery Transcriptions:](#) Townships: Black, Middlecreek & Milford

Black Township Cemeteries	Milford Township Cemeteries	Middlecreek Township Cemeteries
Hauger Burial Ground /(Hauger Church Cemetary)	New Centerville Lutheran Cemetery	Barron Cemetery
Laurel Cemetery	Cramer King Cemetery	Bauman Cemetery
Rhoads Cemetery	Pleasant Hill Church Of The Brethern Cemetery	Singo Cemetery(Lingo was a WPA typo)
Sanner Church Cemetery	Rockwood I. O. O. F. Cemetery	Middlecreek Cemetery
Sechler Cemetery	Gross Cemetery	Saylor Cemetery I
Shultz cemetery (This Cemetery Is		Saylor Cemetery II

Actually In Somerset Twp)		(Nelson Saylor farm)
Smearman Burying Ground /(Poister Mill)		Schrock Graveyard
Vought Cemetery		Miller Cemetery
Moon Cemetery		
Bromm Cemetery		
Sheeler Cemetery		



Reformatted Files for Milford Township:

[Early Pioneers](#) ~ [New Centreville](#) ~ [Rockwood](#)

In addition to the information presented here, there were Census Transcriptions on the pages.

Those have been eliminated, but the files can still be accessed using the links below.

The Somerset County Volunteers did a lot of Census Transcribing for several years. All of that work can be found in a couple of places. In the effort to simplify the old Township Sites that will not be updated further, the links for the Census Transcriptions can be found below:

[The USGenWeb Census Project](#)
[The USGenWeb Free Census Project](#)



Copied from "The History of Bedford,
Somerset and Fulton Counties,
Pennsylvania -- 1884"
Gebhartsburg

Gebhartsburg (Gebhart's postoffice) is a small collection of houses, one-half mile east of New Centreville. Village lots were laid out in this place on November 22,

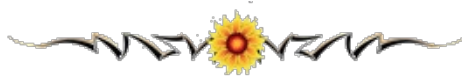
1834, at the same time with New Centreville. George Gebhart was the founder of the place, and Simon Gebhart, his son did the surveying. Until 1881, Gebhartsburg was the voting-place of Milford township. In that year, by vote of the citizens, two polling-places were established, the eastern half of the township voting at Rockwood, and the western half at Gebhartsburg.

The first house, after the lots were laid off, was erected by Henry Walter in 1835. It is a large frame building, used both as a store and a dwelling. In this building Charles A. Walter now carries on a successful mercantile business, but it is owned by the widow of John Weller. Opposite the old store is the site of one of the old log taverns of pioneer days. George Gebhart was the landlord, and is said to have entertained George Washington in the old house. The old structure disappeared about 1822, and the brick tavern stand, now owned by Mrs. Weller, took its place.

George Gebhart was the first blacksmith, probably over a hundred years ago. He had a shop on the old tavern site. It was afterward rebuilt on another spot, and has since been torn away and rebuilt twice.

The first schoolhouse in Gebhartsburg was erected in 1848, and rebuilt in 1860. The postoffice, the first in the township, was established about 1808. Postmasters: John Gebhart, Geo. Gebhart, John Knable, Robert Walter, and Charles A. Walter, present incumbent.

The cheese-factory at the lower end of Gebhartsburg was built by Charles A. Walter, in 1877, and is now owned by J. C. Weller. Gebhartsburg has one store, one hotel, one blacksmith-shop and a cheese-factory.



Copied from "The History of Bedford, Somerset and Fulton Counties, Pennsylvania -- 1884"

Early Manufactures

As nearly as can be ascertained at this late day, the first industries of the township were as follows: Wilson's sawmill, already mentioned; Kitzmiller's blacksmithshop, built on the present Peter Putman farm; a gristmill, erected by John Miller on the Bridigum farm, about 1783. The old mill was operated on the same site for a short time. The first distillery was built by John Shaff prior to 1800. The building is still standing in Rockwood, and is now a dwelling-house. The first carding-machine was set up in George Ankeny's gristmill, where Fiedler's mill now stands, about 18008. The carding machine, at that day, was an object of curiosity, and people from far and near came to see it work. An oilmill at the same place was started in 1822. both it and the gristmill were destroyed by fire in 1882, but the gristmill has since been rebuilt. George Gebhart, the pioneer

settler at Gebhartsburg, had the first brickkiln in the township. The first store in the township was opened by Michael Saunders, soon after the settlement began, on land now owned by David Wable. Saunders bought his goods from the East on packhorses, himself walking all the way. In those days two hundred and fifty pounds was considered a fair load for a horse.

Limestone of a good quality is found in great abundance throughout the township. It is said that the first bed was discovered on the farm of Adam Baker, now owned by Cyrus Walker and Archibald Livengood, one-half mile east of New Centerville. The first coal was also discovered, and the first mine opened, on the Baker farm. A good quality of coal is found in veins from two and one-half to four feet in thickness throughout the township. There are numerous banks where coal is mined for local consumption, but thus far none has been shipped from any of them.



Information on this Site: For Reference Only

Reformatted: 27 March 2022

Somerset County Coordinator: [Martha A Crosley Graham](#)

PAGenWeb State Coordinator: [Nancy Janyszeski](#)

PAGenWeb Assistant State Coordinator (Eastern Counties): [Mary Ann Lubinsky](#)

PAGenWeb Assistant State Coordinator (Western Counties): [Martha A C Graham](#)

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