

Gumble from Paupack, Pike County, Gus Braunbeck from Picture Rocks.

All of these families arrived in the interval from the late seventies to the early nineties, their contribution to community welfare entitles them to an honored place with the early pioneers in this record.

#### LUMBERING AND TANNING INDUSTRIES

The two great enterprises which resulted in the life of Hillsgrove as a village must be given consideration in these pages, I refer to the lumbering and tanning industries both of which have romantic interest for the younger generation, whose vision of the strenuous efforts of their elders commands their respect, admiration and the sentiment, that older men having made these industries their lifework, do glory in their accomplishments and contributions to industrial life altho their efforts were launched in the face of almost unsurmountable hardships. These same men cherish a lively interesting and a recollection of the men who shared bunk and lobby with them in the hey-day when all gloried in super-human strength.

Lumbering was the pioneer industry and provided motive and sustenance for the first settlers to continue it as the leading industry for over a century.

The first timber to be cut from the primeval forest was the pine, most of which was manufactured into lumber in nearby mills, depending upon water power derived from the Loyalsock and its arms. The usual course was to build a run-over dam across the stream, then divert the current into a race or pond at a place where either an over or under shot water wheel could be placed. These mills were crude affairs with up and down saws capable of making a cut through an average log in eight to ten minutes. The capacity being perhaps one thousand feet of lumber per day, the perhaps depending on high or low water. The first of these mills was built and operated by John Hill about 1789 and the last in operation was owned by Richard Biddle having

been destroyed by fire about 1889.

The advent of the tanning industry 1870—1871 and the demand for hemlock bark made hemlock logs, a by-product more valuable than bark. Rafting lumber down the streams passed out with the natural increase and development of tanning and the logs were driven to market on the roaring freshets in the 'Sock, the nearest mills were located thirty miles down the stream at Montoursville.

The later drives often aggregated 20,000,000 feet of lumber. The preparation for the drive or delivery of logs to the mills necessitated the cutting of the timber, skidding, driving from the small streams into the 'Sock or sliding down the mountain by means of log shoots or running logs down rollways and breaking rough-and-tumble landings. This work gave healthful employment to about two hundred men from September to April each year. The hazards to life were many the annual toll being two sometimes three human lives. The financial hazards equally as great, few men got rich lumbering in Hillsgrove township. The rate of wages was \$1.00 per day—if the employee got it all right, if the jobber for whom he worked failed and he did not pay it was all right again.

The hours were from daylight to dark ordinarily but in time of stress the result of weather conditions, lanterns and torches of the flambeau type lengthened the day at both ends, then a day on log drive was 4 A. M. to 9 P. M. with time out to eat five heavy meals consisting of every thing; tea, meat, eggs, pie, cake, biscuits, vegetables etc. The wages depending upon the skill and fortitude of the worker usually between three and five dollars per day.

The narrow gauge railroad built by C. W. Sones from Eagles Mere to Hillsgrove station in 1900 marked the passing of teaming and log driving, the hard wood lumbering gave fifteen more years to this industry.

The personal element in both industries is related elsewhere in these pages. The history of tanning may be summarized in a paragraph,