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The Flat Rock section was completed in 1819, and the water in it was at first only 3½ feet deep.—The first mill was built by Captain John Towers, in 1819. He may be justly regarded as the pioneer in the manufacturing interests of the place. Contemporaneous with him were Isaac Baird, William Brooke, Jerome Keating, Charles V. and George Hagner, Samuel Wagner, Mark Richards, John Rush, Thomas P. Darrach, John Alexander and John Wimpenny. That first mill, afterwards owned by Mr. Rising, and now by Mr. Joseph Ripka, began to run, for the first time, November 10, 1819. That day was the beginning of a new era in the history of that place; and soon other factories were in operation, and the quiet valley began to assume the appearance of a miniature town. The second mill was Mr. Hagner's—now Mr. Wimpenny's. The third, Mr. Richards'—now Mr. Nixon's.

The population increased so rapidly that the people thought the place was deserving a name, and the wise men sat in learned council on the subject. *Hydrotavia* and *Manayunk* were suggested, and on the 18th of September, 1824, the former was adopted; but this created so much dissatisfaction that another public meeting was held, and *Manayunk* was adopted, after the suggestion of Mr. Wateon. The success of *Manayunk* as a manufacturing town became a fixed fact, and in 1825 the population was nearly 1200. A post office was established there November 2d, of that year, and James Renshaw was the first Postmaster. A school house was also erected that same year, on ground donated by Peter and Jonathan Robeson, by deed dated Sept., 1824. It is on the westerly side of Main street, and is known as "the Robeson School." There are now

two large Grammar Schools, besides several Primary and Secondary.

The population in 1827 was about 1300, in 1830 it was 1800, and in 1850 it was 6158, composed as follows: white males 2925, white females 3232, 1 colored female.

In 1856, the population must have increased to nearly 10,000.

The first person born in Manayunk after the erection of the mills, was Christiana Margaret Baird. She was born January 23d, 1820.

Want of space forbids the insertion of full particulars about the numerous factories in Manayunk, and the amount of material manufactured.

The opening of the railroad to Norristown was regarded as another cause of progress. The cars drawn by horses reached Manayunk on Saturday, October 18, 1834, and on Saturday, August 15th, 1835, a locomotive was first seen in Manayunk, and the appearance of the iron horse astonished the "natives" of that day.

Of the early manufacturers, Messrs. Ripka, McDowell and Wimpenny still remain in active business, and much of the prosperity of the town is owing to their untiring energy.

Manayunk was created a borough June 11, 1840, and the first Burgess was Mr. Ripka. Many of the streets were surveyed and graded under the general laws, and considerable money expended for that purpose. Manayunk continued a borough until June 30th, 1854—when by a proclamation of his honor, Mayor Conrad, Roxborough and Manayunk departed this life, the first aged about 175 years, and the latter 35 years—leaving behind large families of mourning, sorrowful children.

Manayunk had never had but one newspaper, "The Manayunk Courier," the first number of which was issued January 1st, 1848. It was published by Richard Beresford. Its last issue was on Saturday, March 18th, 1848.

The rest of Mr. Jones' paper consisted of some interesting statements concerning "the Hermits of the Ridge," and "the Monks of the Wissahiccon." He said that attention was first called to these people by Mr. John F. Watson, whose laborious researches as an antiquary, the citizens of Philadelphia cannot value too highly. By means of "the Chronicon Ephratense," a quarto volume in German, published by the Seventh Day Baptists at Ephrata, in 1786, and of a manuscript volume, (kindly loaned him by Mr. Wistar, of Germantown,) containing the Latin Journal of one of the Hermits, and a series of his letters, Mr. Jones was enabled to present a sketch, which was listened to with much attention.

The leader of the Hermits was John Kelpius, a German by birth, and a man of education. He, with about forty others, also learned men, came to Germantown, on the 24th day of June, 1694; and, after remaining some time there, they went to "the Ridge,"—then a complete wilderness—where they resided in huts and caves. The spot where Kelpius located himself, was on Hermits' Lane, about half way between the Ridge road and Wissahiccon. On the supposed site of his cave or hut, Mr. Evan Prowattin has built a mansion, which he calls "The Hermitage." The religious opinions of Kelpius and his band of Anchorites, were very peculiar, being full of mysticism, partaking somewhat of the nature of those held by Jacob Boehman, the great Teutonic philosopher. They thought that the woman in the wilderness would soon appear, and they regarded the Millennium as close at hand. Several of the letters of Kelpius, are written in English; one is dated Roxborough, 1706, d. 25 Maji, and another "dated in the Wilderness, 1699, d. 11 Decembr." These explain his peculiar views, and show that he held to the peculiar tenets of the Pietists of that day. This Kelpius is said to have died in 1708, in his garden "in the middle of his days."

Among his followers were John Seelig alias John Schless, Conrad Mathias, (who, according to Mr. Watson, was the last of the Ridge Hermits,) Daniel Geiseler and Christopher Witt.

The first school in Roxborough was established as early as 1748. The house was a one story stone building; but in 1798 the present two story edifice was erected. The first land was dedicated for school purposes in 1748, by William and Hannah Levering. The house is still used for a school, and also as the Hall of "The Roxborough Lyceum." The name of the earliest schoolmaster is unknown, but a Mr. Sefton and Mr. Roderick were among the first. Shortly before the Revolution, Mathias Maris, a nephew of the founder of the School, was master. He was a man of considerable talent, a mathematician of some eminence, and a practical surveyor of well known repute. He removed to Baltimore about the year 1779, became a merchant, acquired a large fortune, and, having retired to his farm in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, he died there February 11th, 1811, at the age of 65. He was succeeded by John Holgate, Rev. Curtis Gilbert, John Righter, Joseph Dickerson, John Holgate, Jr., Thomas Patterson, Michael Conrad, Samuel H. Slingluff, Dr. Charles Johnson, Francis Murphy, Benjamin P. Hunt, James Thomas and Joseph H. Hoffman. The teachers are now appointed by the Public School Directors, and the property is managed by trustees.

The first church in Roxborough was the Baptist Church. It was organized August 23d, 1789, and consisted of 32 persons. The names of some of the constituent members are, Abraham Levering, Anna Levering, John Levering, Hannah Levering, Anthony Levering, Mary Levering, Nathan Levering, Sarah Levering, Samuel Levering, Rebecca Levering, Sarah Levering, John Righter, Sarah Gorgas, Michael and Jane Conrad, etc. The only one of that number still living is the aged Mrs. Gorgas. The first pastor was Rev. Curtis Gilbert, who died April 22d, 1792, at the early age of 23. The other pastors have been, the Rev. Thomas Fleeson, "the Blind Preacher," [grandfather of Mr. Fry, the author of the Opera of Leonora]; the Rev. Henry Keeling; the Rev. Samuel Smith; the Rev. Dyer A. Nichols; the Rev. Thomas Winter, the present worthy pastor, who came in 1840.

The meeting house was opened for worship October 24th, 1790. It was destroyed by fire on Sunday night, January 17th, 1830; but was rebuilt by September of the same year. The next church was that of the Primitive Methodists, on Cresson street, in Manayunk; but it soon became extinct.

The Dutch Reformed was organized in 1829, and in May, 1830, St. John's Roman Catholic Church was founded. On that occasion, the present Archbishop Hughes officiated, and the sermon was delivered by Mr. Hughes in the Dutch Reformed Church. The Rev. David Mulholland, the present Pastor, has officiated for more than a dozen years.

The Presbyterian Church was built next. Mount Zion Methodist Church in 1831, Ebenezer Church in 1843. About the same time the German Catholic Church was built, and in May, 1851, the Manayunk Baptist Church was organized. In Roxborough, the only other Churches were the Dutch Reformed, now Presbyterian, on the Ridge Road, built in 1835, and the German Lutheran Church, built in 1850.

The Parish of St. David's Episcopal Church, of Manayunk, was organized in 1831; the corner-stone of the House was laid August 13th, 1832, but the Church was not consecrated until May 1st, 1835. The Parish was first under the care of Rev. Robert Davis (who died in 1855), and he was succeeded by Rev. C. F. Cruse, as a Missionary. Rev. Frederick Freeman was the first permanent Pastor, and he was succeeded by the following gentlemen, to wit:—Rev. Lewis Janson, the Rev. Mortimer Talbot, the Rev. A. Prior, the Rev. Milton Lightner, and the Rev. B. Wistar Morris, who was elected July 25th, 1850.

Mr. Jones also gave some statistics about Roads and Highways, and stated that there was no Turnpike until 1812. There was but one Ferry over the Schuylkill, called Righter's Ferry, established by Letters Patent, January 13th, 1741. The Ferries were Levering's, opposite Manayunk, and Rush's, above Nixon's paper mill. These were succeeded by Bridges. The first was the Flat Rock, built in 1810—broke down when some marble teams were crossing—rebuilt, and on the 3d of September, 1850, at one o'clock at night, it was swept away by the great freshet. The Manayunk Bridge was built in 1833—but prior to this, Captain John Towers had built a foot bridge, but before its completion, a freshet swept it away.

The population of Roxborough has been on the increase. In 1741, the population was about 175; in 1779, it was 600; in 1785, it was 650; in 1799, it was 1000; in 1810, it was 1400; in 1828, it was 2400; in 1830, it was 3334, and in 1850, it was (exclusive of Manayunk) 2600—composed of 1331 white males, 1316 white females; colored males 3, colored females 10.

The post office at Roxborough was established June 23, 1823, prior to which the citizens had their letters sent to Germantown and Philadelphia. The name was changed to Leverington; November 23d, 1831, as there were so many post towns named Roxborough. The postmasters have been Aaron Levering, Robert F. Levering, Jacob Maison, John Omsensetter (who continued from January 23d, 1834 to September 23d, 1854,) Henry Yorgy, Chas. R. Keely and Arnold Highley.

Manayunk dates its origin from the construction of the Canal by the Schuylkill Navigation Company. Prior to that the only houses were Anthony Levering's, on Green lane; Ben. Levering's, on the hill above Washington street; and the two Tibben houses, in the meadow lands. Some of the wiseacres of that day were afraid that the canal would ruin their property, and especially the pasture for their cows.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania—A Sketch of Roxborough and Manayunk.

A special meeting of the Society was held on Monday evening, February 4th. Quite a number of gentlemen and several ladies were present, as by previous arrangement Mr. Horatio Gates Jones, of Roxborough, was expected to read a paper on local history.

At the appointed hour Mr. Jones appeared, and proceeded to read a paper entitled HISTORY OF ROXBOROUGH AND MANAYUNK.

He said he had obtained many facts from the old citizens of the place—who were the depositories of the early traditions—but that most of his information was derived from old deeds, wills and tombstones, and that there were no written records except those kept by the Managers of the Poor, beginning as early as 1753.

Roxborough Township was one of the earliest settlements in Philadelphia County, but on Holmes' Map it is undistinguished by any name—although it is divided into eleven tracts. The patentees were Richard and Robert Vicaris, John Jennott, Philip Palmun, Francis Fincher, James Claypoole, Samuel Bennett, Charles Hartford, Richard Snee, Charles Jones, and Jonas Smith. The plantation of Messrs. Turner was called "Sumac Park," a name still retained by that part of the estate now owned by Messrs. Andrew and Jonathan Robeson. The superficial area of the Township is between 4500 and 5000 acres.

Of the Patentees none but Fincher were residents. Mr. F. had 500 acres, which extended from the line of Germantown to Schuylkill river, and including the larger portion of Manayunk. He died in 1687, and his plantation was bought in 1687 and 1697, by Wigard Levering, who was a German by birth, and emigrated to America in 1684, and settled at Germantown, and subsequently at Roxborough. He died February 3d, 1744, at the good old age of one hundred and nine years, and was interred in the midst of his farm, in the Cemetery now in the rear of the Roxborough Baptist Church. He had two sons, William Levering and Jacob Levering, from whom the Leverings of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Missouri are descended.

The prominent persons among the early settlers were the Leverings, Rittenhouses, Vandarens, Robesons, Gorgases, Righters, Woods, and Cooks, but of all the pioneer families none remain except the Leverings, Rittenhouses, Righters, and Gorgases.

It was at a very early period that the water of the Wissahiccon Creek was used for mill purposes. On Holmes' Map that stream is called "Whitpain's Creek," a name, no doubt, derived from Richard Whitpain, a large landed proprietor in the present Montgomery county. According to that learned antiquary, Watson, Wissahiccon is an Indian name, and signifies "the yellow catfish stream." When or where the first mill was erected cannot be ascertained, but it is probable that "Paper Mill Run" has the honor of claiming the first mill in Roxborough. On that small rivulet, secluded and almost inaccessible in those early days, no doubt, the first paper mill in America was erected. The mill was erected by Claus and William Rittinghousen, who were of Dutch ancestry, and came to Pennsylvania from New Amsterdam. William Bradford was also part owner, but he rented his share to the Rittinghousens, now spelled Rittenhouse. The original lease, dated September 1st, 1697, is still in existence, and the rent reserved by Bradford was seven reams of printing paper, two reams of good writing paper, and two reams of blue paper. This mill, then so celebrated, was swept away by a flood, between 1699 and 1701, and so important was its reconstruction that William Penn wrote a certificate, recommending the citizens to give the sufferers relief. Claus Rittinghousen, the son of William Rittinghousen, who was the first paper maker in Pennsylvania, died in 1730, leaving numerous descendants, most of whom were engaged in mill; of various kinds.

As early as 1753 there was a mill at the mouth of Wissahiccon Creek, called "the Wissahiccon Mill." It is now owned by the Robesons. "The Monastery Mill" was also built at a very early day, and in 1779 there were eleven mills, all of which, except one, are still in operation. Those mills were as follows:—1. Vandaren's grist mill; 2. Vandaren and Martin Rittenhouse's grist mill; 3. Nicholas Rittenhouse's grist mill; 4. Jacob Rittenhouse's paper mill; 5. Abraham Rittenhouse's grist mill; 6. William Rittenhouse's grist mill; 7. Holget & Snyder's fulling mill; 8. Peter Caro's grist mill; 9. John Gorgas' grist mill; 10. Benjamin Gorgas' oil mill; 11. Thomas Livezey's grist mill. All these places were famous in early times, and the farmers for 50 and 60 miles distant hauled their grain thither. The roads to the mills used to be lined for miles with wagons, loaded with wheat and rye.

The first Inn was the Leverington Hotel, on the Ridge Road, built in 1731.

Mr. Jones then gave a brief history of the poor of Roxborough, from the year 1753. In 1757 the poor tax was about \$45—and of that sum \$37.24 were paid to a doctor, and \$2.66 to an attorney. In 1800 the tax was \$266. In 1803 decimals were first used by the Overseers, when the tax was \$287. In 1833 it amounted to \$2594. The paupers were boarded out until 1833, when a Poor House and farm were purchased for the township. In 1847 Manayunk bought the property, and since that time the boroughs of Manayunk and Roxborough have supported their own poor separately.