

ent Peter Putman farm ; a gristmill, erected by John Miller on the Bridigum farm, about 1783. The old mill stood about fifty years, and was then destroyed by fire. Afterward a powder-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 1808. 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 brought 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 Centreville. 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.

ROCKWOOD.

Rockwood, situated at the junction of the Baltimore & Ohio and the Somerset & Cambria railroads, is one of the most enterprising, thrifty and fast growing villages in southern Pennsylvania. The place is still young, and its business interests are constantly increasing in extent and importance. Rockwood now contains four general stores, two groceries, four hotels, three blacksmithshops, one tannery, one gristmill, one planing-mill, one tinshop, one shoemakershop, two carpentershops, one tailorshop, three churches and one graded school. Two ministers and two physicians are residents of the place.

The town was laid out by Philip Wolfersberger, in 1857. Martin Meyers was the principal surveyor. The first house was built in 1856, by P. & D. Wolfersberger. It was a two-story frame building, and was used both as a store and a dwelling. The first hotel was erected by John Poister in 1860, and is now owned by Alexander Rhoads. Solomon Bechtel erected the first blacksmithshop in 1857. The first tannery was built in 1869, by Henry Werner, present owner. The planing-mill of A. Growall & Sons was built in 1872.

The railroad depot at this place was built in 1871. The postoffice was established in 1868. From that date until 1871, mail was brought from Gebhart's, the citizens, by voluntary contributions, paying the mail-carrier. During the first quarter, the receipts of the office amounted to four dollars and fifty cents. The succession of postmasters has been as follows: F. B. Long, William S. Kreger, E. D. Miller.

The first schoolhouse in the place was erected in 1858, at a cost of three hundred and seventy-five dollars. The first teacher was S. A. Will, now an attorney of Pittsburgh, succeeded by E. D. Miller, George M. Baker, R. H. Dull and others. The graded school building, two stories, 48×50 feet, was erected in 1875, and to date has cost twenty-five hundred dollars. The present number of pupils in attendance is one hundred and twenty-five.

Among the recent improvements are the Rockwood House, built in 1882 by D. H. Wolfersberger, and the Merchants' Hotel, a very fine building, erected the same year by Samuel Buckman.

The village was first known as Shaff's Bridge, named after John Shaff, one of the early settlers of the township. The bridge was erected by Samuel Miller, in 1843. Afterward the name Mineral Point was given, on account of the minerals found in the vicinity. The present name was finally settled upon, after much discussion. At least half a dozen meetings were held by the citizens, at the schoolhouse, without coming to any decision. Finally E. D. Miller, P. S. Wolfersberger and B. S. Harrington gave the town the name which it now bears. Wolfersberger, being ticket agent of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, prevailed upon the managers of the road to call the station Rockwood, and Miller, who was then postmaster, succeeded in changing the name of the postoffice. Thus