

Buildings Added to Wilkes Campus Honor 2 Pioneers in Coal Industry

The facilities of the two latest additions to the Wilkes College campus will be available to returning students when classes begin Sept. 21.

Both buildings have been named after leaders in the anthracite industry of this area. Five-story Charles Parrish Hall, formerly the Glen Alden office building, will be used to accommodate the Retailing, Business Administration, Economics, Secretarial Studies, Business Education, and Political Science Departments. Isaac A. Chapman Hall, formerly the president's home, will be used as a women's dormitory.

Charles Parrish was an ambitious and enterprising businessman. At an early age he was employed by Ziba Bennett, proprietor of a store located on North Main St., where the present Bennett Building now stands. Soon afterwards he was made partner in the firm of Bennett, Parrish and Co.

Mr. Parrish was a man of deep thought, but few words. He devoted his whole energy to developing markets and means of transportation for coal. In 1858 he founded the Kimbleton Coal Co., and opened a successful breaker below Sugar Notch.

Organized Several Firms

Soon afterward he organized the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Co., one of the greatest coal corporations of the world. He was president of the corporation

until his death in 1896. In addition, he organized the Union, Pine Ridge, and Parrish Coal Companies, several mines of which are still in operation.

He was also director and stockholder of the Sunbury Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, director of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co., president of the Hazard Manufacturing Co. until his death, and was instrumental in bringing the Sheldon Axle Works to Wilkes-Barre.

In addition to his business interests, Mr. Parrish was also a civic minded citizen who while head of the Wilkes-Barre Borough council was instrumental in initiating improvements in the fire department, police department, and paving and lighting streets. He took an active part in equipping area volunteers for the Civil War.

Mr. Parrish was married to the former Mary Conyngham and was the father of three children.

Made Many Surveys

Isaac Abel Chapman was born March 23, 1787, at Norwich, Conn. At an early age he moved with his family to Brooklyn, Susquehanna County. His days were spent working on his father's farm and his evenings were spent studying.

Later he prosecuted surveys throughout the region now comprising Carbon, Luzerne, Susquehanna, and Bradford Counties. He made the first map of Lu-

zerne County, and located the Lehigh Company's gravity road from Summit to Mauch Chunk—one of the first roads in the United States. He opened mines at "Lausanne," now Nesquehoning, and made the first shipment of anthracite coal to towns along the Delaware River.

Mr. Chapman was also active in the fields of mechanics and literature. Among his inventions were syphons adapted to lockage and mining, the spiral spring car brake, submerged water wheel and other contrivances.

Was Once a Publisher
He was the publisher of "The Gleaner," a newspaper published in Wilkes-Barre in 1816. He was a noted poet and wrote numerous histories of the area including "History of Wyoming."

A student of law and horticulture, Mr. Chapman was a gracious host and entertained a large circle of friends. He has been described as a "man of pleasant, agreeable manners, and in his dress and habits the very embodiment of cleanliness and neatness."

In 1826 he began excavation of a tunnel to strike the coal vein of Summit Hill at a lower level. He contracted a cold which developed into typhoid fever. He died Dec. 8, 1827 and "lies buried on the hill, in the burial place near the railroad, which he leveled one year before his death, and which he traveled in the first coal wagon that ever ran on it."

PROPHETIC WORDS.

A CARRIER'S ADDRESS WRITTEN IN 1812, IN WHICH ISAAC A. CHAPMAN PREDICTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN INDUSTRIES—THE WARRING WORLD THEN, AS NOW, CLAD IN HOSTILE ARMS.

The carrier's address as a feature of newspaper life has dropped out of use except in small communities, and has given way to the almanac, but the Record has been handed one that pleased Wilkes-Barre readers eighty-five years ago, and that will be curious and interesting to republish now. It is by Isaac A. Chapman, father of C. I. A. Chapman of this county. It is the original manuscript and was sent to Steuben Butler for publication in his paper, the Literary Visitor. It shows the original punch holes of the copy book. It was written from Montcalm, Dec. 20, 1812, at which time Mr. Chapman was 26 years old. For a full sketch of Mr. Chapman see Historical Record, vol. 4, page 184. He was a prominent surveyor in this county, wrote the first history of Wyoming, published the Wilkes-Barre Gleaner in 1816, and was an enthusiast in mechanics and literature. He died lamented at the age of 41.

At the time the address was written, our country was in the throes of the War of 1812 and Mr. Chapman pathetically paints the sufferings of our armies, and in language truly prophetic looks forward to the time when the United States shall become independent of foreign commerce by developing its own manufactures, and when distant nations shall come to buy of us,—a prophecy which we have lived to see fulfilled. Though we boast to have made great advances in international relations and to have inaugurated an era of peace, the powers, just now so threatening, are about as they were when Mr. Chapman wrote in 1812.—
"Vain are our wishes, when with dire alarms
The warring world is clad in hostile arms."

The interesting old manuscript was handed the Record by C. E. Butler, son of Steuben Butler, publisher of the Visitor in 1813:

ADDRESS

There is a copy in Isaac's handwriting of the contract forming the Lehigh Coal Co. referred to in this article,--it is in the Historical Society, it is between Miner and Chapman, I do not recall Cist as a partner, it is dated 1812 or 13.

THE HISTORY OF COAL.

A Few Facts About the Early Days of the Great Industry.

[Hazleton Sentinel.]

The projected monument to Philip Ginter has set many of the coal region students delving in history and the following facts were unearthed by one of our readers who has made a rather exhaustive study of the subject.

In the first place stone coal was actually used by the garrison at Fort Augusta in 1755. This fort stood at what is now the town of Sanbury, the county seat of Northumberland County. Mention of this is made by the celebrated Dr. Plunkett and documents in the British war office. A certain ensign named Hawley or Howley wrote that in the winter of 1758 the house was heated by stone coal brought down the river from near Nanticoke, and that a wagon load had been brought from a place six leagues from Fort Augusta, which point must have been at or near Shamokin.

It is a fact known to few that the first coal operators to do any active business or take any decided step to opening up the coal trade were two printers, Charles Miner and Jacob Cist. Miner and Cist ran a little paper up in Wilkes-Barre in 1813, when the second war with Great Britain was going on. It was called the *Gleaner*, and they must have done well on it even if they did have to take produce for subscriptions. The *Gleaner* appeared to have kept Messrs. Miner, Cist, Isaac Chapman and John W. Robinson, and kept them pretty well, for they were enabled to lease the lands of the Lehigh Coal Mine Co. in 1813. In 1815 coal brought \$8 a ton. The sum of \$1 a ton was paid for mining it. When the war ended coal dropped to \$6 a ton. Miner, Cist & Co. had their contract cancelled and Hazard, White & Hauto stepped in and made a little money.

In 1830 Hazard and White bought out Hauto. Now Hauto seems to have been the Harry S. Ives of the early days. He had no money of his own, but he had gall and wealthy friends and he knew how to work the latter. If Mr. Hauto was alive to-day we could expect him to figure as a promoter of a British syndicate scheme. There were no flies on Hauto and when White & Hazard wanted to get rid of him they had to agree to pay him a half cent royalty on every bushel of coal mined and sent to market. Hauto immediately organized the "Half Cent Company" and issued 1824 shares of stock at a par value of \$50 a share which would have given him \$92,700. In 1830 the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company bought the royalty, but no one knows what they paid for it. If the royalty were in existence to-day it would be worth \$100,000

a year and if it were paid on the total tonnage of the L. & S. and Lehigh Canal it would be near \$600,000, a sum big enough to let Hauto go back to Germany and buy a title. The town of Hauto perpetuates the name of the sharpest man of those early days. White and Hazard are forgotten except by students.

The Beaver Meadow road was chartered in 1830 and the Hazleton railroad in 1836 was run from Hazleton to Weatherly and Penn Haven.

An Aged Squire's Memories.

[Daily Record, September 4.]

Squire Zeigler has been justice of the peace in Wilkes-Barre for the past 15 years. He obtained his commission when the borough of Wilkes-Barre had but a north and a south ward and has been continuous in the same office ever since. What is also worth noting is that it was 50 years ago yesterday that he crossed the Wilkes-Barre Mountains in a stage coach, then a young man 21 years of age, to the borough of Wilkes-Barre. It had at the time a population of 4,000. It took him several days to get here from New York. He made his voyage from Germany to New York in a sailing vessel, which took them several weeks to accomplish the voyage. He states as an incident that occurred on the voyage that in mid-ocean they passed the steamer President, which was making her second trip across the Atlantic. They sighted her from the vessel he was on and were surprised by receiving a salute from the President's guns. The passengers of the ship on which Squire Zeigler was were afterwards told that it was a salute to Queen Victoria, who, on reaching 21 years of age, was assuming the crown of England. The steamer President on her next outward voyage from the United States was lost at sea. Squire Zeigler was 71 years of age last July and is still justice of the peace in the 8th ward.

With reference to an item in Saturday's Record, Dr. George Urquhart has this to say:

In Saturday's Record the population of Wilkes-Barre is stated to have been in 1840, 4,000. Pearce's Annals give the population of Wilkes-Barre in 1830 as 733; in 1830 as 1,201; in 1840 as 1,708; in 1850 as 2,723; in 1860 as 4,259.

1840 was an epoch in the history of this town and county—for in 1840 Chambers, Biddle & Co. erected the rolling mill at South Wilkes-Barre at a cost of \$300,000; during the operation of these works for a year or two Wilkes-Barre increased greatly in population and business, but the establishment was then sold on a debt due the Wyoming Bank, and purchased by the Montour Iron Co. and removed to Danville. The Scranton furnace was also commenced in 1840 and was successfully blown in for the first time in 1841.