

Rediscovering the Colesville Cemetery Friedensville, Pennsylvania Zinc Mining District A Work in Progress

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Where is Colesville?

4 Miles South of Bethlehem
Lehigh County
Upper Saucon Township
Friedensville Zinc District



(Google Earth, 2023)

Historic Overview of Upper Saucon Township

Lehigh County lands purchased from William Penn's sons in early 1700s.

William Allen - Namesake of Allentown, PA - 1735.

Allen deeded land to the Moravian Church 1741 - became Bethlehem, PA.

Area supplied George Washington's army during Revolutionary War.

Early German, English, and Welsh settlers.
Quaker, Mennonite, Lutheran, and Reformed.

Lehigh Canal - 1829 (Anthracite Coal).

Lehigh Crane [Anthracite] Iron Works - 1840

Railroads - after 1855.

Upper Saucon was largely agricultural...

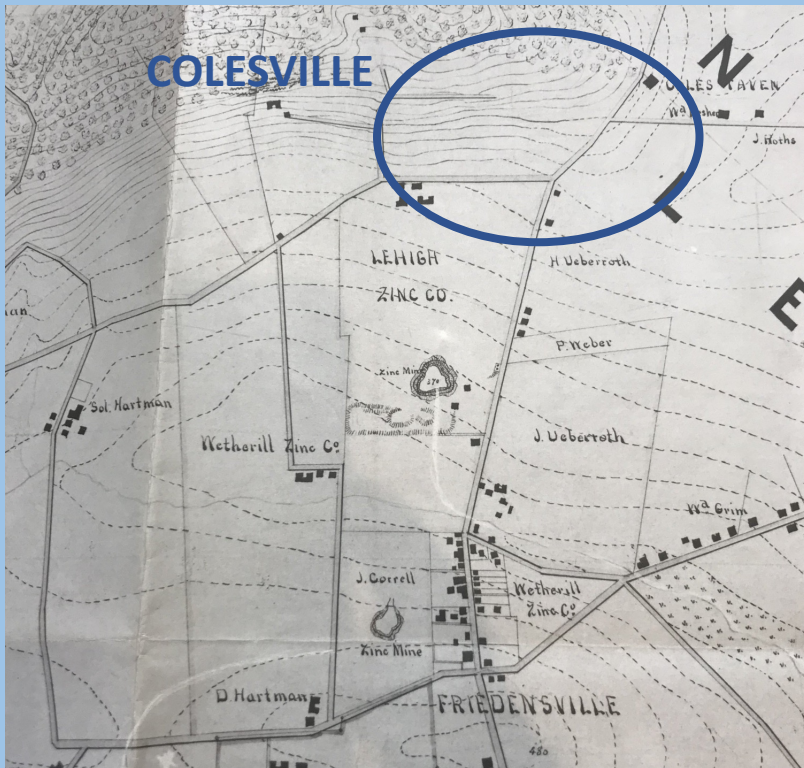
...UNTIL ZINC WAS DISCOVERED IN 1845.



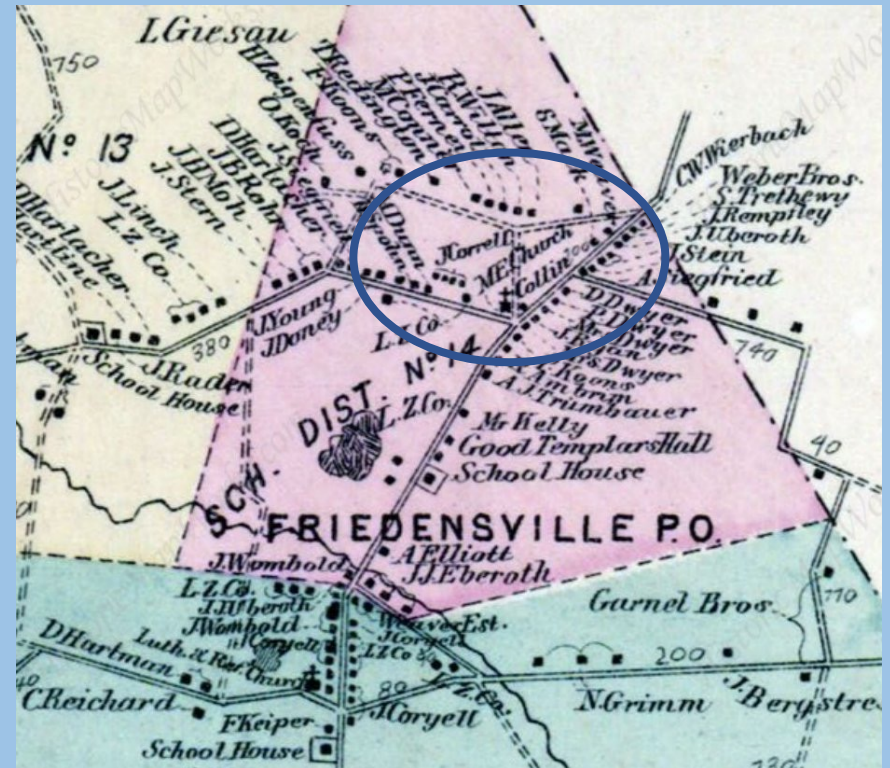
Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Friedensville - 1839 . (Author photo)

Growth of Friedensville and Colesville

Mining was the first industry in Upper Saucon Twp.
Towns prospered during the 1860s and 1870s.



1862 Map of the Zinc Mining Region, Drawn for Joseph Wharton, G. A. Aschbach. (Lehigh University Archives)



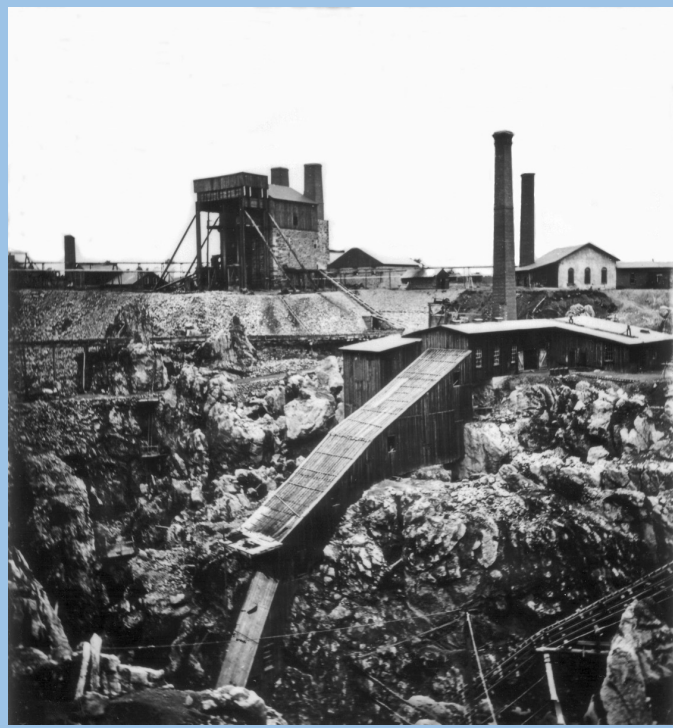
1876 Map of Upper Saucon Township (F. A. Davis, Atlas of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania)

Zinc Discovery Changed Everything

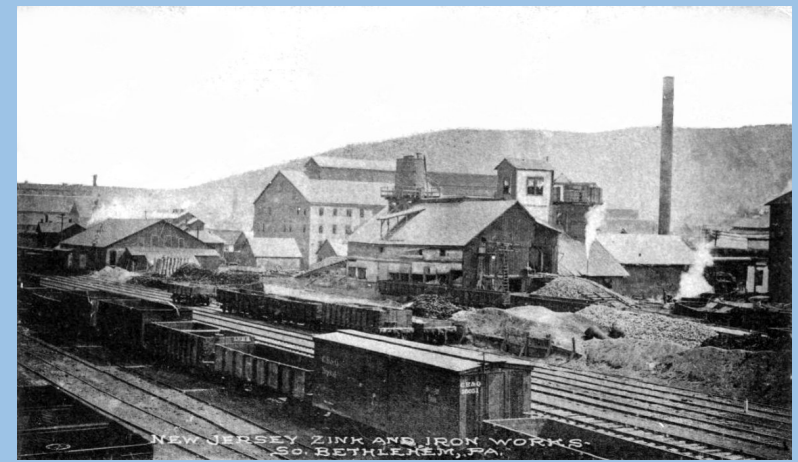
5 Historic Mines
Lehigh Zinc Company Smelter
Water Problems



Correll Mine, ca1876.



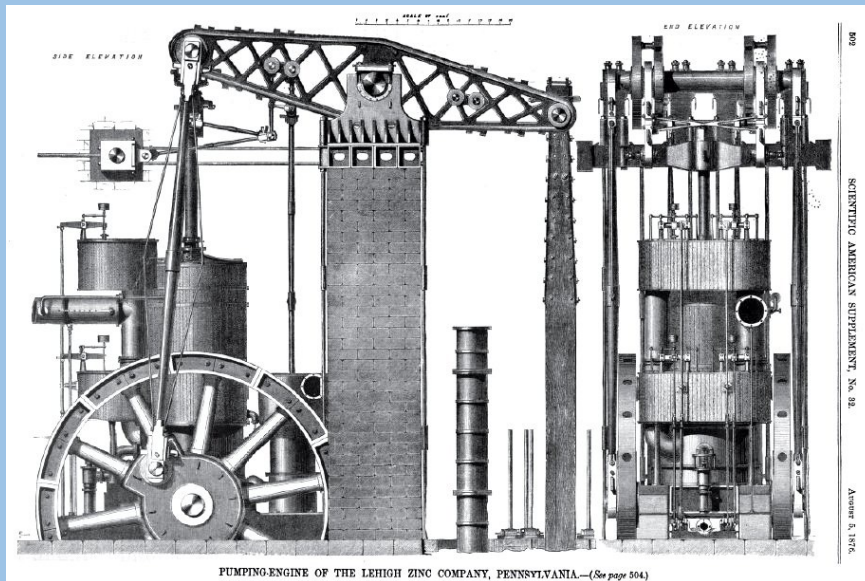
Ueberroth Mine, ca1876.



Lehigh Zinc Works, NJ Zinc, ca1900.

THE PRESIDENT Pumping Engine 1872

World's Largest Single Cylinder Stationary Steam Engine.
Solution to the Water Problems.
Brought an Influx of Miners and Engineers.



(Scientific American, August 5, 1876)

See Mark's MHA Nuggets, May 16, 2023
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75zp1TlcYTo>




Model of The President by Anthony Mount,
National Museum of Industrial Heritage.
(Author photo)

Who Were the Miners?

1870 Census Analysis, Upper Saucon Township, PA

OCCUPATIONS*

DOMESTIC GROUP	45% (820)	includes wives
FARMING GROUP	14% (256)	
MINING GROUP	13% (243)	
TRADES GROUP	11% (207)	
LABOR GROUP	8% (148)	
OTHERS	9% (163)	
	(1837)	

*Over 100 different occupations were grouped into the above categories (Not the groups used by Census Bureau). Mines would also utilize persons from the Trades and Labor Groups. Occupations not listed for children.

(Kaas, NC10)

MINING GROUP PLACE OF BIRTH

PENNSYLVANIA	37% (90)
ENGLAND	21% (51)
IRELAND	21% (51)
GERMANY+PRUSSIA	9.9%(24)
OTHER US STATES	5.8%(14)
OTHER	5.3%(13)

Two clusters of miners,
Friedensville and Colesville.

Colesville Methodist Episcopal Chapel

Served growing population of English miners, many from Cornwall.

Land donated by Lehigh Zinc Co.

Built by Dr. Henry S. Clemens, MD, Friedensville.

It is shown on the 1876 map.

Cemetery adjacent to the chapel.

Ministers:

Reverend Nathan Durrell, 1863-1865.

Reverend Cummings, 1865 to 1868.

Reverend Kimball, 1868 to 1871.

The 1870 Census lists J. W. Knapp, a Methodist Minister.

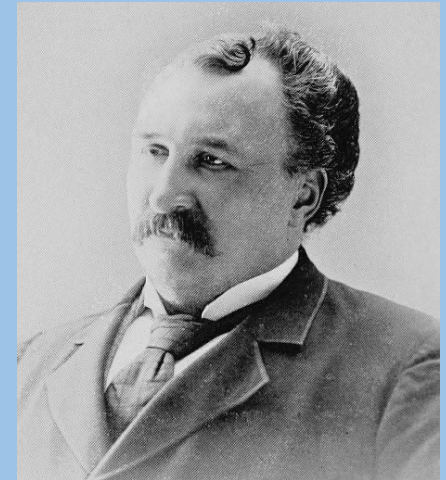
Reverend Harrison, 1871 to 1874.

Reverend Hawkins, 1874 to 1877, last permanent minister.

Mines close in 1876.

Chapel used by other denominations.

Cemetery abandoned.



Dr. Henry S. Clemens

...THE suspension of operations at the zinc mines at Friedensville, near Bethlehem, is a sad blow to that town. Many of the workmen are going to work in the mines in Missouri, and others are going in other directions.

(Philadelphia Inquirer, 27 November 1876)

Remembering the People

SAMUEL ADAMS (1843-1872)



A Cornishman born in St. Hillary, Cornwall. From a family of tin miners. Married to Susan Roscorla, a Bal Maiden, St. Erth, in 1864. Emigrated in 1869. Died in a mining accident. No children. Susan remarried after his death.

A MAN FALLS 90 FEET AND IS KILLED.—Samuel Adams, a miner in the Lehigh Zinc Company's zinc mines, at Friedensville, while in the discharge of his duties, yesterday, by some means or other, fell down one of the shafts to the depth of 90 feet, being of course instantly killed. Adams was a married man of about 30 years of age, was sober and industrious, and much respected by his co-laborers. He was a member of the Keystone Lodge, No. 78, I. O. O. F., of this place, which Lodge will attend his funeral in a body at Friedensville, on Sunday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, as will also Mystic Lodge, No. 157, K. of P.

Remembering the People

MARY JANE COLLINS BENNETT (1847-1868)



Born in Camborne, Cornwall. Parents, William Collins and Mary Ann Skinner. Wife of Thomas Bennett, a Foreman at Uberroth, from Camborne, Cornwall. Died of complications of childbirth. Her surviving daughter, Marie Elizabeth Bennett Kauffman, had a long line of descendants. Thomas remarried and had eleven other children.



Remembering the People

SARAH HARRY (1834-1872)

LOUISA MARY HARRY (1872-1872)



Sarah and husband, William, emigrated from Cornwall to the US in 1865.

William was one of the operators of The President pumping engine at the Ueberroth Mine in Friedensville.

She died of complications of childbirth. Daughter, Louisa Mary, buried with her at age 4 months. Her four other

daughters survived. William remarried in Providence, RI, and had five additional children.

William's brothers:
James & Richard, New Almaden, & Joseph Harry, Grass Valley.



Remembering the People

WILLIAM MILES (1817-1882)



Mystery man. Burial after chapel closed. Cornish tin miner married Charity Richard. Both from Breage. Seven children. Emigrated around 1867.

Worked in iron mines, Morris County, NJ. 1880 Census, reported him “feeble.” Sons worked in MI Copper and Butte, MT.

Why is he in the Colesville Cemetery?



Remembering the People

Martha Jane Stevens Gumma (1845-1879)



Born in Gold Hill, North Carolina. Father, Martin Stevens, from Phillach, Cornwall. Mother, Jane Tonkin, also Cornish. They emigrated before 1842. Husband, Charles Gumma, an English (Cornish?) miner, came to US in 1862. Married around 1870 in North Carolina. They had three children born in NC, NJ, PA. She died of complications of childbirth. Her three other children survived.



Remembering the People

THOMAS JACKSON (1807-1868)

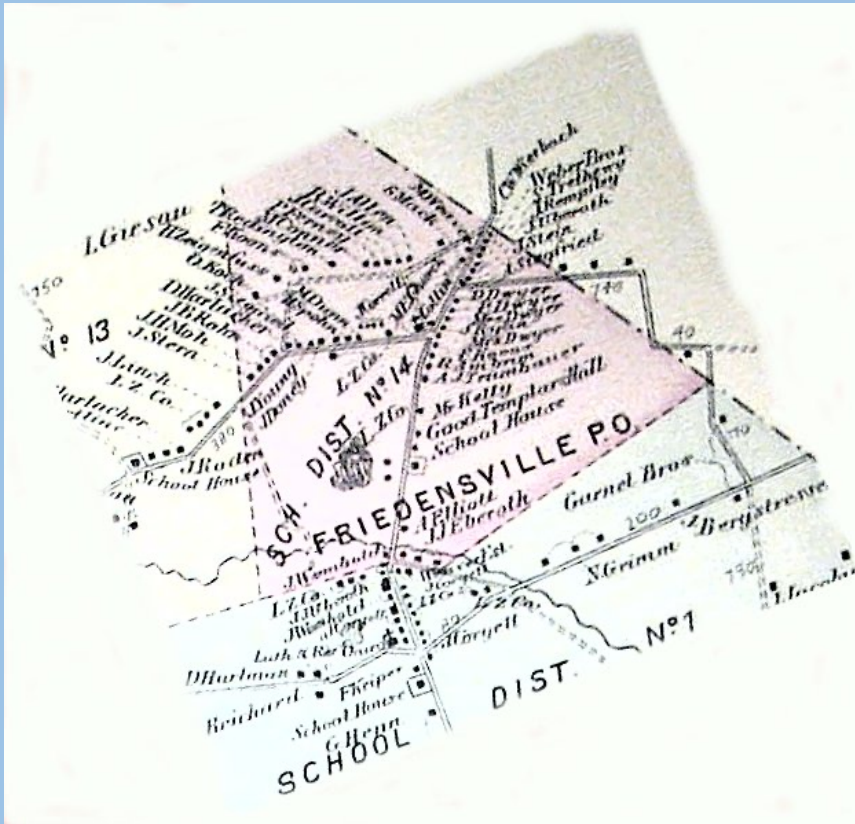


Thomas Jackson was a Trustee of the Colesville chapel. We believe he was born and baptized in 1807 in Mary Tavy, Devon. In 1870 there were 2 Jackson mining families in Upper Saucon Township headed by brothers born in Mary Tavy. William Jackson worked in mining in TN, NC, PA, and RI. Robert returned to Cornwall. No connection between Thomas Jackson and the other Jackson families has been established yet. **Work in Progress.**



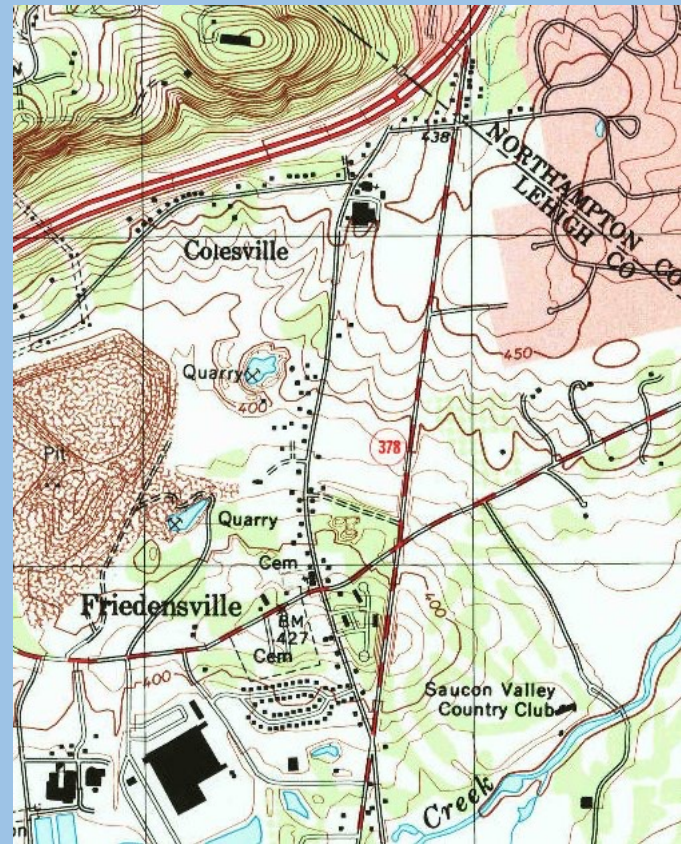
Impact of Interstate-78 Construction

Part of Colesville is gone forever.



1876 Map of Upper Saucon Township
(F. A. Davis, Atlas of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania)

Allentown Quadrangle 1999 Topo Map
(USGS)



1976 Bicentennial History of Upper Saucon Twp. 1998 Heritage Study, Saucon Valley Parkway

Photos (Clockwise from top left): Collins House ca1869; Colesville Hotel est1815 (1900);
Correll Zinc Company Houses pre1876; Church of the Assumption est1968 (2022)



Helping the Cemetery Survive

1976 Bicentennial Project, St. Michael's School.

2000 Eagle Scout Project, Troop 191, Daniel Stalsitz.

What's Next?

- Identify those interred.
- Research their stories.
- Raise awareness, Findagrave.com.
- Search for descendants.
- Establish care for the cemetery (Church of the Assumption).
- Restore the gravestones.



THANK YOU

THE HARRY BROTHERS OF BREAGE, CORNWALL

Father, Charles, killed at Wheal Vor at age 36 - Mother, Elizabeth, raised 7 brothers
Worked in Cornish tin and copper mines - 4 immigrated to America

WILLIAM HARRY (1836-1905)

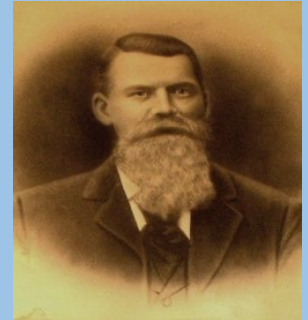
- Married Sarah Reynolds in Cornwall (4 children)
- Immigrated 1865
- Married Elizabeth Williams in USA (5 children)
- Friedensville, PA, Ueberroth Mine, Operator of The President pumping engine
- Providence, RI, Water Works, Engineer

JOSEPH HARRY (1840-1910)

- Immigrated 1865
- Married Leminhah Champion in USA (6 children)
- Hardrock gold miner, Grass Valley, CA
- Empire Mine closed for his funeral

JAMES HARRY, SR (1834-1905)

- Married Elizabeth Carolyon in Cornwall (4 children)
- Immigrated 1869 via Panama
- Gold quartz miner, Grass Valley, CA
- Mine Captain and Supt., New Almaden Mercury Mine, CA
- Kept the mine alive by discovering new ore



RICHARD HARRY (1844-1907)

- Immigrated 1862
- Married Mary Louise Rouse in USA (14 Children)
- Hardrock miner at New Almaden Mercury Mine, CA
- Became a Mine Captain

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Cemetery Owner

Students of St. Michael's School, 1976 Bicentennial Project

Boy Scout Troop 191, Daniel Stalsitz, 2000 Eagle Scout Project

William Curnow, Cornish Genealogist, Port Charlotte, FL

Sue Bond and Martin Hayes, Volunteers, Devon Family History Society, UK

Pat Kaas, Findagrave.com, Colesville Methodist Cemetery Page and Memorials,
<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2764477/methodist-cemetery?>

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