

DAYTON AND PARKER CITY.

Historical and Descriptive.—Dayton, a progressive borough of over five hundred population and a well-known school town of western Pennsylvania, is situated in Wayne township, eighteen miles northeast of Kittanning, which is its banking and shipping point. It was laid out in 1850, of lands of Robert Marshall and John Lias, was incorporated June 5, 1873, and is said to have been named after Dayton, Ohio. There were two or three houses and a store on the site of Dayton prior to 1850. The post-office was established July 13, 1855, with James McQuown as postmaster. The Methodist Episcopal church was organized about 1821 and the United Presbyterian church was the old Glade Run Associate Presbyterian church, which was formed in 1831. Dayton Union academy was established in 1852. On December 1, 1873, the Dayton Soldiers' Orphans' school was incorporated. Prior to its incorporation the company erected school buildings which were burned in 1873 and were replaced by the present school buildings. The Dayton Soldiers' Orphans' school, opened under the charge of Rev. T. M. Elder, and has accomplished a most remarkable and highly useful work. The growth of Dayton in population and business has been slow but steady.

Parker City, the metropolis of the oil region of Armstrong county, is situated on the Allegheny river and the P.K. and A. V. railroads and is forty miles northwest of the county seat and eighty-two miles above Pittsburgh. It is named for Hon. John Parker, who laid out a part of it in 1819 under the name of Lawrenceburg. In 1840 the iron industries on Bear creek went down and Lawrenceburg slowly declined until 1865, when it did not contain over fifty inhabitants. The oil excitement of 1869 came, and Lawrenceburg in a few months could enumerate its population by hundreds. At the same time Parker's Landing, which contained a few houses, increased likewise in population, and March 1, 1873, both places were incorporated as Parker City. In 1873 and again in 1879 the place was visited by destructive fires. In 1879 the oil production decreased largely, and Parker City went down from four thousand population to about fifteen hundred. Several industries had been established prior to 1879, and in time they caused an increase of population and business. The borough is now in a prosperous condition, with nearly two thousand population. It has five churches, seven schools, an opera-house, one newspaper—the *Phoenix*—and good gas and water works. It also contains two foundries, a glass works and a planning-mill.

The Parker City water works were erected in 1872, the gas works were built in 1877 and in 1880 the planning-mill was erected. In 1880 Parker city glass works were built and now employ near one hundred hands. Its newspapers have been: *Oilman's Journal*, 1871-72; *Parker City Daily*, 1874-79; and the *Phoenix*, which was established in 1880.

The first physician was Dr. Boggs, who located about 1824, and the oldest resident physician is Dr. A. M. Hoover. Among the prominent physicians are: Drs. Hoover, Eggert and McCullough. The Petroleum agricultural associate was formed in 1881. The churches of Parker City are; Presbyterian, organized in 1819; Catholic, 1831; United Presbyterian, 1834; Methodist Episcopal, 1836; Baptist, 1875; and Lutheran, 1879.