

EAST FRANKLIN, PINE, BOGGS, VALLEY,
MANOR AND KITTANNING TOWNSHIPS.

The territory of these six townships constitute the central part of Armstrong county.

East Franklin Township was organized from the eastern part of Franklin, on January 27, 1868, and contains an area of twenty-six and a quarter square miles. One of the early settler was Col. James Sloan, and many of the early tracts were known by peculiar names, such as Polignac, Hop Yard, Quimper and Loire. In 1859 a company was organized for the purpose of making oil from cannel coal, but the burning of their refinery and the development of petroleum in 1860 caused it to cease operations after having made one hundred barrels of oil.

Montgomeryville was founded in 1851, Belleville in 1855, and Adrian post-office was established June 26, 1862.

Pine Township was formed from Kittanning on June 20, 1836, and derived its name from Pine creek. A Mound-builder's earthwork was near Slabtown, and an Indian village was on Mahoning creek, from which the Loebouf trail led out of the county toward Lake Erie. Fort Muncy or Wallis was erected in 1778 at the mouth of Wolf creek, and on August 8th of that year an Indian war party attacked some reapers in a field, and killed two of them. Orrsville was laid out in 1819, and Goheenville was founded in 1850 by G. W. Goheen. Wm. Turnbull built a saw-mill in the township prior to 1790, and shortly after 1807 William Peart, Sr., erected a grist-mill. The Midland Oil Mining association drilled unsuccessfully for oil in 1876, but in a well at 1060 feet struck a strong vein of gas. The legal name of Pine township is Pine Creek township; but custom has dropped the word Creek. Out of its territory Valley township was erected in 1855, and Boggs township taken in 1878.

Boggs Township was erected out of the southern part of Pine township on June 10, 1878, and its history is included in that of Pine township.

Valley Township was erected out of Pine township on December 13, 1855, and was named by Judge Buffington, who declined to have it named for him. Robert Beatty erected a grist and saw-mill in 1810 on the "Monticello" tract of land. Monticello furnace was built in 1859, and the post-office of the same name was established July 15, 1864. Troy Hill was laid out some time after the year 1870. Dewalt Mechling settled between 1784 and 1790 on the "Roan" tract into his township. In 1872 natural gas was struck at a depth of 1005 feet.

Manor Township was erected in December, 1849, from Kittanning township. It was named Manor on account of Kittanning or Appleby manor (one of the forty-four manors surveyed under Penn's directions in Pa.), which was within its territory. On this manor, along the Allegheny river, between Tub mill and Fort runs, was a military fortification, consisting of a fosse, parapet and fort. Relics found about it and around it indicate that it had been built by the Mound-builders, and subsequently used by the Indians and the French. James Claypole, John Guld and others, between 1790 and 1795, used it as a fort during threatened Indian invasions. Fort Armstrong was built during the Revolutionary war on the site of Kittanning, and Claypoole's Block-house was erected between 1790 and 1795 on the Allegheny river. Bloody run is said to take its name from the fact of three men being shot on it by Indians, who were followed and surprised by a

company of soldiers at the mouth of Pine creek, where three red warriors were killed by the pursuing party. In 1787 William Green and his sons, James, John and Samuel, from Fayette county, settled in the southern part of the township when the Indians had their war-dances on the site of Rosston. On April 28, 1791, the Indians attacked the house of James Kirkpatrick on Crooked creek, and killed two men, and wounded a child. Manorville was laid out June 28, 1854, and incorporated June 6, 1866, and Rosston was laid out Sept. 18, 1854.

Kittanning Township was taken from Armstrong township on April 11, 1807, and since then it has been reduced to its present proportions by the erection of Plum Creek, Cowanshannock, Manor, Burrell and Wayne, and the larger part of three other townships. It contains the battle-field of Blanket Hill and the post-office of the same name, which was established May 1, 1850, and is now kept by Mrs. Nancy J. Bkose. Fergus Moorhead (see sketch) was captured near Blanket Hill. John Guld, an Indian scout, was an early settler, and is said to have built Beers' Mills. The paper town of Benton, one of the lost towns of the county, was laid out Feb. 10, 1836; but its site was never graced by a single house.

The Lower Barren measures, carrying the Freeport Upper Coal bed, extend through the central part of East Franklin, the southern part of Pine, the northern part of Boggs township, and occupies the larger part of Valley, and nearly all of Manor and Kittanning townships. The remaining portions of these townships (embracing all of their main, and many of their minor creek valleys) are in the Lower Productive Coal measures. In East Franklin, Pine, Boggs and Valley townships are many heavy beds of ferriferous limestone.