

## **RED BANK, WAYNE, COWANSHANNOCK, PLUM CREEK AND SOUTH BEND TOWNSHIPS.**

*Historical and Descriptive.*—These five townships lie along the eastern boundary line of Armstrong county. Nearly all of Red Bank and Wayne townships are in the Lower productive Coal measures, and have heavy veins of ferriferous lime, while small areas of these measures are to be found in the western part of Cowanshannock, the southeastern and southwestern parts of Plum Creek and the central and western parts of South Bend. The remainder of the three last-named townships are in the Lower Barren measures, and contain valuable beds of the Upper Freeport coal. A small area of the Pittsburgh Coal-bed lies in the southwestern part of South Bend township.

*Red Bank Township* was organized September 18, 1806, and now contains only about one-seventh of its original territory. In the northwestern part of the township was "Old Town," an Indian village, which was founded prior to 1770.

Presque Isle was founded in 1850, and Independence was established in 1855.

*Wayne Township* was formed from Plum Creek, on March 19, 1821, and was named in honor of Gen. Anthony Wayne. The North American and Holland land companies owned considerable land in this township. Glade Run Presbyterian church was organized, in 1808, with eight members: James and Margaret Kirkpatrick, William and Mary Marshall, William and Martha Kirkpatrick and William and Mary Shields. The first grist-mill was built by Joseph Marshall, Sr., in 1822, the first fulling-mill was erected in 1828 by David Lewis, and the first grange in the county was organized in Wayne township. Glade Run post-office was established Dec. 17, 1828, Belknap, Sept. 32, 1855, and Echo, July 14, 1857.

*Cowanshannock Township* was formed from parts of Kittanning, Plum Creek and Wayne townships, on December 22, 1848, and was named after the creek of that name. On the Thomas McCausland farm are vestiges of an old fort of Mound-builder origin. Atwood, named from being at or near the woods, was founded by Dr. Allison, who cleared the town site in 1860

Green Oak was laid out in 1869, by W. Chrisman, and Rural Valley dates its existence as a town from the establishment of its post-office, in 1830, but was not laid out until six years later.

*Plum Creek Township* was taken from Kittanning on June 20, 1810, and derived its name from Plum Creek. Several townships have been carved out of its original territory. It was settled at an early day and contained two block-houses, one of which, on the Downs farm, was once attacked by Indians, who captured and carried off John Sloan and his sister Nancy. Among the early settlers were George Miller, who came in 1766, and Absalom Woodward, Sr., who arrived in 1788. Elderton was laid out by the name of New Middletown, on Nov. 20, 1820, by Robert J. Elder, and Whitesburg, named in honor of Major James White, was founded in 1828. Capt. Andrew Sharp, who served under Washington, came to this township in 1784, and ten years later traded his farm for one in Kentucky, and with his wife and six children and some twelve others embarked on a flat-boat to make the trip to his southern home. At the mouth of Two Mile creek, below the site of Apollo, where he had fastened up the boat for the night, he was fired on by seven Indians. While cutting his boat loose he received two balls, one in his left side and the

other in his right side. He died from the effects of these wounds at Pittsburgh, on July 8, 1794, forty days after he was wounded.

*South Bend Township.*—On June 4, 1867, South Bend was formed out of part of Kiskiminetas and Plum Creek townships. Thirty-five tracts of land in this township were surveyed as early as 1773. There was a black-house on Jones' Hill and another at Townsend's Mills, both of which were built prior to 1795. This township had one of the numerous Soldiers' Aid societies that were formed in the county during the late war. Among the early settlers were the Browns, Clarks, Hoovers, Householders, Kings, Sloans, Todds and Woodwards.