ORIGIN OF THE NAMES GIVEN TO THE COUNTIES IN PENNSYLVANIA
By James McKirdy
(Continued from July issue)

SCHUYLKILL

The northern part of Berks County with adjacent parts of Northampton, lying near the Schuylkill had become so well settled by 1811 that a separate county government was desired. By Act of March 1, 1811, parts of Berks and Northampton were erected into a county which was named for the river. It was a portion of the land purchased from the Indians for $500 by the treaty of 1749. The Dutch were the early explorers of the Delaware River. In the course of this exploration they are said to have passed the mouth of the Schuylkill without perceiving its existence. From this circumstance they named the stream Schuyl-kil or “hidden channel”. (1)

LEHIGH

The following year, another part of Northampton County, lying in the valley of the Lehigh River was erected into a separate county, by Act of March 6, 1812, to which the name of the river was given. (1)

The name Lehigh is said to be a corruption of the Indian name of the river Le-chau-wiech-ink or Le-chau-wek-ink or Le-chau-weck-i, a compound of Lechauwiechen “the forks of the road” and -ink, a local suffix, thus signifying “at the forks” or “at the place of the forks”. This was shortened by the settlers (mainly German) to Lecha, which, some writers say, was in current use in the early part of the nineteenth century. (2)

LEBANON

Lebanon County was formed by Act of February 16, 1813, from parts of Dauphin and Lancaster.

It was named for the Borough of Lebanon, which was laid out about 1750 by one George Steitz, by whose name the village was known for many years, especially among the German settlers. In the records of the Province the town is designated as early as 1759 as “Lebanon Town, in Lancaster County and Lebanon Township.” (1) The name was given to it by the pious German settlers, from Mount Lebanon in Palestine, the loftiest and most celebrated mountain range in Syria, forming the northern boundary of Palestine.
The origin of the name is not entirely clear, and has been variously accounted for. It is assumed by the best authorities that it came from the Hebrew word "laban" which means "to be white". Lebanon is thus emphatically "The White Mountain". Some suppose the name to have originated from the snow by which the ridge is covered during a great part of the year. Others derive it from the whitish color of the limestone rock of which the main body of the range is said to be composed. The former, however, seems to be the more probable. One authority says: "It is a singular fact that almost uniformly the names of the highest mountains in each country have a like meaning. Thus Mont Blanc, Himalaya (in Sanskrit signifies "snowy"), Ben nevis, Snowden, perhaps also the Alps (from alb "white" from Latin albus, and not as commonly assumed, from alp, "high")."

COLUMBIA
This county was erected from part of Northumberland by Act of March 22, 1813.
It takes its name, of course, from the name used in personifying the United States. This name in turn was formed from the Latinized form of the surname of Christopher Columbus. He was an Italian by birth, and his name originally was Cristoforo Colombo, which the Spaniards changed to Colon, and which was later Latinized to conform to Latin grammatical rules. The name is said to come from that of St. Columba, the Irish missionary, through Irish monks who were active in Northern Italy. The name, Columba, is the Latin name for a "dove".

UNION
On the same day, March 22, 1813, another portion of Northumberland County was set apart as Union County. It takes its name, of course, from the Federal Union. The word union comes from the Latin "unus" meaning "one".

PIKE
On March 26, 1814, the southern half of Wayne County, lying along the Delaware was erected into a separate county which was called Pike County, in honor of the explorer whose name goes down through time as the name of a mountain in Colorado, Pike's Peak. Zebulon Montgomery Pike was born in New Jersey in 1779. He joined the army at the early age of 15 as an
ensign in his father's regiment; and became lieutenant in 1800. In July 1806 he started on an expedition to explore the territory acquired by the Louisiana Purchase. He ascended the Missouri and the Osage Rivers, into the present State of Kansas, and then proceeded south to the Arkansas. He ascended thus to near the present site of Pueblo Col., viewed what is now known as Pike's Peak, and went to the site of the present Leadville. While searching for the Red River, he reached the Rio Grande on Spanish territory, and was apprehended but after some delay was escorted to the boundary and released. He took a prominent part in the war of 1812 and served as adjutant and inspector-general in the principal army. In the expedition against York (now Toronto), Canada, in 1813, he landed and stormed one of the redoubts. The retreating garrison blew up the magazine, and a descending fragment of rock crushed him so badly that he died in a few hours.

The name Pike may have come from a number of sources. Some Pikes may have been named for the woodpecker (in French pic) on the analogy of Goldfinch, Nightingale, Crow, Raven, etc.; or the name may be from the name of a fish or from the name of the old pike formerly carried by infantry before the days of gunpowder. But it is probable that the name comes from "peak", i.e. peaked hill, "at the peak", taking into consideration that Peak is a very common place name in England, especially in hilly parts, it may be said that the ancestors of most people bearing this name were named from that place name. If that be true Pike's Peak is quite an anomaly in nomenclature, Peak's Peak. (2)

Pike or peak, is a very old word, meaning a sharp point.

PERRY

The next county to be formed was Perry County. The people of Cumberland County just north of the mountain from Carlisle found it inconvenient to cross the mountain or go around by way of Harrisburg to transact business at the county seat. On March 22, 1820 this portion of Cumberland County was cut off as a separate county and given the name of Perry, in honor of Oliver Hazard Perry, whose brilliant naval victory on Lake Erie was so heartening to
us during the War of 1812. (1) While Perry's victory was a National rather than a State affair, yet it has always been regarded as a part of Pennsylvania's achievements in that war.

Perry was born in Rhode Island in 1785, and died on his birthday August 23, 1819. He entered the navy as a midshipman. In 1813 he was called to command the projected fleet on Lake Erie to confront the British fleet there. Perry's fleet was largely built and fitted out in Erie, but several vessels were fitted out in what is now Erie County, New York. At this time the northern frontier of Pennsylvania was little more than a wilderness, and all the supplies and artisans necessary in the construction of the fleet were brought overland from the seaboard, while the timber for the larger vessels was cut "fresh from the forests adjacent to the little town of Erie."

Perry succeeding in getting his vessels ready to leave the harbor early in August, though he still needed seamen. Leaving Erie, the fleet went towards the head of the lake, where various maneuvers took place for some days. He went to Put-in-Bay on September 6, and on the 9th determined to attack the enemy.

In accordance with his plans the fleet started out to meet the British on the morning of September 10th, 1813. At the main yard of his ship was the square battle flag, a blue flag bearing in white letters "Don't give up the ship", the famous phrase which the dying Lawrence is said to have uttered. The victory was decisive. When the battle was over, and Perry saw that he had won, he wrote in pencil on the back of an old letter, resting the paper on his cap, the following dispatch to Gen. Harrison: "We have met the enemy and they are ours; two ships, two brigs, one schooner and one sloop."

At the time of his victory he was only master commander, but was immediately promoted, and received the thanks of Congress and a medal. He afterwards commanded a ship in Decatur's squadron in the Mediterranean, and, in 1819, was sent against the pirates in the West Indies. He died on the Island of Trinidad.

The name Perry, is said by some to come from the name of the beverage, perry, fermented pear juice, (Latin
pirum, a pear). This gave rise to the famous cartoon published after the victory showing the Queen of England holding out to the disgusted king a frothing bottle of perry. But it is more probable that the name comes from the name of a pear-tree, or the name of a place. A Walter atte pyrie lived in Oxfordshire in 1273; and the name Peary or Perry is such a common English name that it must surely come from a place name. (2) Some writers claim Pierre the French name for our Peter, as the origin of Perry, which they say was popularized in England as Perry. If so, the name goes back to petra, a rick or stone in Latin and Greek. (3) Everyone will recall the famous pun in the New Testament “Thou are Peter (Petrus) and on this rock (petra) I will build my church, etc, etc.”

JUNIATA

The county adjoining Perry to the northward was the next county to be formed. By Act of March 2, 1831, a portion of Mifflin County was separated to form a new county which took its name from the Juniata River. (1)

Some conflicting explanations are offered as to the meaning of this word. Some, whose knowledge of Indian tongues is obviously limited, state that it means “beyond the great bend” a solution that will not bear close analysis. Beyond the great bend from what? The Indians didn’t name places after that fashion.

The Handbook on American Indians, published as a bulletin by the United States Government, comes closer to the real meaning of the word. It says that the name comes from Tyu nan-yate or “projecting rock” in the Seneca and other Iroquoian tongues, a name said to refer to the famous “Standing Stone” discussed above under Huntingdon County. (2)

But Jordan in his History of the Juniata Valley has the best reasoned explanation hitherto presented. He says “Contemporary with the Susquehannas and dwelling West of them was a tribe of Indians known in early histories by various names. Prior to the 18th century Western Pennsylvania was a region unknown to the white man. No trader nor adventurer had yet extended his journeys that far from the coast, and all that can be learned of this early tribe is based on tradition. On Smith’s map of 1608 they
are referred to as "Attaocks". Eight years later Hendricksen made a map on which this tribe appears as the "Iototecas". The Plantagenet Pamphlet of 1648 calls them the "ihon a Does"; and on Visscher's map of 1655 they are given the name of "Onajutta-Haga". All these terms were finally crystallized into "Juniata" by which name the river running through the country they once inhabited is still known. The Juniata were of Iroquois stock, and the tribal name is derived from that language. Professor A. L. Guss, who devoted considerable time to the study of Indian legends and traditions, says "The name Juniata, like Oneida is derived from Onenhia (onenya or onia) a stone, and kaniote, to be upright or elevated, being a contraction and corruption of the compound." Due to the fact that the names Juniata and Oneida were derived from the same source, some writers have suggested that the latter tribe once inhabited the Juniata Valley; or at least the tribe living along the Juniata River in early days, was a part of the Oneidas. There is no evidence to show that the Oneidas ever were a resident tribe in the Juniata Valley; and it is probably only a coincidence that the two cognate tribes adopted names similar in sound and meaning."

MONROE

The inhabitants were increasing in number along the Delaware and in 1836 by Act passed April 1st parts of Northampton and Pike were separated to form a new county to which the name of Monroe was given in honor of James Monroe, President of the United States.

James Monroe was born in 1759 and died July 4, 1831. (1) He was a cadet in Gen. Mercer's regiment, participated in several engagements and was made a captain for his bravery.

He studied law under Jefferson; was U. S. Senator from Virginia; Minister to France in 1794-1796, but recalled because of his objections to Jay's Treaty; Governor of Virginia 1799-1802; again Minister to France; in 1803 Minister to England; Secretary of State under Madison, and in 1814 and 1815 performed duties of Secretary of War. He was elected President in 1816. After his first term, so faithfully had he adhered to the promises of his
inaugural address that he was not only nominated but re-elected by an almost unanimous vote in the electoral college, only one vote being cast against him for sentimental reasons.

In his message to Congress on December 2, 1823, he used this language “We owe it, therefore, to candor, and to the amicable relations existing between the United States and those (European) powers, to declare that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety.” This has since become known as the “Monroe Doctrine”. (2)

The name Monroe, spelled also Munroe, Monro, Munro, is a Gaelic place name. It is said to have originated in Ireland, the first man to bear it being Occon Ro whose son, Donald, born in Ireland, went to Scotland in the beginning of the 11th century to assist Malcolm the Second. Malcolm it is said, gave him the barony of Fowlis (Tighearna Folais). His descendants added to the original name the syllable Mon. Such is the tradition. Apart from tradition the name is a place name, meaning “red bog” from moine, “morass or bog” and ruadh “red”. (3)

It might be added, as being of interest, that it is generally believed that the first actual settlement in Pennsylvania was at Shawnee, in what is now Monroe County, by people from Holland. (4)

CLARION

The next county was formed by separating those parts of Venango and Armstrong that lay nearest to the Clarion River. It was erected by Act of March 11, 1839. The name of the county is, of course, the name of the river. (1)

The first official mention, it is said, of “Clarion River” is in an Act of Assembly passed in the session of 1819, authorizing the Governor to appoint three commissioners to survey a road from Milesburg to the Clarion River. In 1817, an act was passed authorizing the survey of a State Road from Bedford through Indiana Town to Franklin. Viewers were appointed for this purpose, one of them Daniel Standard, a lawyer and surveyor, of Indiana; another was David Lawson, his assistant, who was very familiar
with the country. They camped, it is said, on the banks of the river, and, while lying in their tent, were struck by the clear sound of the distant ripples. The river was then fringed by a wall of close and massive timber, which reflected the murmur of the waters, giving a silvery tone to the echo. Standard remarked that the water sounded like a distant clarion. "Why not call it the Clarion River?" said Lawson. The suggestion was not immediately acted on, as the return filed in the clerk's office of Armstrong County indicated it as "Stump Creek". Yet the name of "Clarion" gained favor and was introduced by one of the framers of the Olean road act. The Olean Road was laid out in 1819. The change of name was very gradual, for the old inhabitants, as is usual and quite human, clung to the former titles. It was not until about 1840, that "Stump Creek" and "Toby Creek" disappeared altogether. This river has had many names, "Tobeco", a name given it by the Indians, "Riviere au Fiel", a name given by the early French; (2) then "Toby Creek" and "Stump Creek" and finally "Clarion River".

A clarion is a clear-sounding horn. It comes through the French from Latin. M. E. clarioun, claryoun; Old French clairon, claron; Late Latin clarionem, an accusative from clario; from clarus, clear. Its root is a very old one in the Indo-European languages. (2)

CLINTON

In the same year, on June 21, 1839, another county was erected, from parts of Lycoming and Centre, to which the name of Clinton was given. No one seems to know with any certainty for whom the county was named. From the way the county actually secured separate government, the name was not carefully considered beforehand but hastily taken at the last minute before the legislative measure was made law.

Those who originally proposed the new county desired to name it Eagle County, for Bald Eagle Mountain Bald Eagle Creek and other places, all named for the notorious Indian Chief Bald Eagle. According to his own account, one Jerry Church, was a prime mover for the new county. (1) The project met with great opposition. It is said numerous unsuccessful attempts were made to get
a bill through the General Assembly erecting the county. Finally, if we may credit Church's tale, the name Eagle was suddenly dropped and the name Clinton substituted with the intention of misleading the opposition. If that was the plan, it succeeded for the bill went through, and Clinton County joined the sister counties.

Some writers say that the county was named for Gen. Henry Clinton, (2) but that is absurd, as he was very prominent on the British side during the War for Independence. It may have been named for any one of a number of Clintons who have been more or less prominent in the history of our country, the most likely being Gen. James Clinton, or De Witt Clinton of Erie Canal fame, but that is only surmise.

The name, Clinton, is an old English place name. It is said to come from Glinton, a parish in Northampton county, and this, in turn, from Glimpton, an estate in County Oxford, styled, and often written, Clinton in the early records. (3)

**WYOMING**

The region containing the famed Valley of Wyoming was made a separate county in April 4, 1832, from a portion of Luzerne County. This valley noted in song and story for many generations, is a part of the great Susquehanna Valley, and gave its name to the county. (1)

When the petition for its organization was presented to the General Assembly, it is said, the petitioners asked that the proposed county be called Putnam County in honor of the celebrated Israel Putnam, and the name of one of the townships of the future county. Through the influence of a member from Luzerne County the name Wyoming was substituted. Without detracting in the least from the fame of Putnam, it may be said that the change was a most laudable one, for in sound and historical connotation the present name leaves little to be desired in historic and actual beauty.

The name is an Indian place name. It has been variously rendered but the concensus of the best opinion is that it means "extensive plain" or extensive flats". (2) It is said that this name was applied by the Delawares to the beautiful valley long before the arrival of the whites.
Cook has an interesting note in his editions of Gen. Sullivan’s Journal: “Wyoming” he says “is the Delaware name given to a valley on the Susquehanna River, of three to four miles in width by about sixteen in length, extending from the mountain range above the Lackawanna, where the river winds its way through a gorge a thousand feet deep southwardly to where the river again finds its way through a range equally lofty and precipitous. This is the Schahentoa, or Schahen-dowane, of the Iroquois, signifying “great plains”, as does also the Delaware name of Wyoming. From its earliest known history, this valley was a favorite place of Indian residence, and was probably the seat of an Iroquois tribe called Schahentoar-rions by Brebeuf in 1635, whom he describes as allies of the Hurons, and speaking their language.” (3)

The American Indian Handbook, criticizing in a way Heckewelder, the famous missionary, says “As Schahentowanen in “Schahen-towanen-hronon” signifies “it is a very great plain” and was the Huron and Iroquois name of the Wyoming plain of flats, it seems probable that Heckewelder’s suggested derivation of the name Wyoming from a Delaware or cognate term is merely a translation of the Iroquois term. Heckewelder says that m’cheuomi or m’cheuwami “signifieth extensive level flats,” and because of the large falls in the river, it is called, he says “m’cheuwamisipu” by the Delawares and “Quahonta” by the Six Nations, which is the nominal stem in the Iroquoian term in question. The locative of the Delaware term would be m’cheuoming or m’cheuwaming, meaning “at the great flats or plain” which the English have changed into Wyoming”. (4)

CARBON

Parts of Northampton and Monroe were taken away by Act of March 13, 1843 to form a new county, to which the name of Carbon County was given. This of course is the scientific name for coal, coming from the Latin carbo, meaning “coal” but another kind of coal—charred wood or charcoal. (1) It is said that the name was given to the county for the reason that anthracite coal was first discovered on Sharp Mountain, in what is now Carbon County. (2)
ELK

This county was formed by Act of April 18, 1843 from parts of Jefferson, McKean and Clearfield. It was given the name from the noble animal that used to be numerous in the woods of Pennsylvania.

The term elk is an old name in English. In early English it was eolh, and is related to old German elch, old Norse, elgr, and is from or cognate with the Latin name for the animals found by Caesar in the wilds of Western Europe, alces, (1) a name familiar to all those who, at eleven o'clock, remember the absent.

BLAIR

On February 26, 1846, an Act was passed forming a new county from parts of Huntingdon and Bedford. To this new county the name of Blair was given in honor of John Blair, (or John Blair, Jr.) a leading politician in those days in Huntingdon County. (1) He represented the western end of Huntingdon County in the General Assembly and seems to have been a citizen of great personality, influence and enterprise. He lived in or near Hollidaysburg. To show the further extent of his standing among his fellow men there may be cited the fact that the first canal boat that arrived in Hollidaysburg was named "John Blair" in his honor. (2)

The name is the same as our English surname Field or Fields. It is from the Gaelic blair or blar which is common in Scottish names, and means a field or plain, (3) It may be of interest to know that this word is akin to Blarney, the name of the celebrated place in South Ireland. This Irish name comes from blarna, "little field". (4)

SULLIVAN

Sullivan County was erected by Act of March 15, 1847 from a portion of Lycoming County, and was named for Gen. John Sullivan, who led the great punitive expedition against the Six Nations in 1779, under express command from Washington, whose confidence he enjoyed to a high degree. (1) After the war he was chief magistrate of New Hampshire and later, by appointment of Washington, was Judge of the United States District Court of New Hampshire.

The name Sullivan is a very old Irish surname com-
ing down from early Irish history to the late prominent citizen of Boston. The Sullivans were for many centuries a numerous and powerful sect settled in the southerly part of Ireland. In common with other Milesian families they traced their origin to a very early period. Down to a comparatively recent era the O'Sullivans possessed extensive territories in Munster, and along the shores of Bantry Bay up around the Lakes of Killarney. There were really two branches, one, O'Sullivan Beara near Bantry Bay and another, O'Sullivan Mo'r in Kerry.

The founder of the family is said to have been one Fingin (we assume the modern Finnigan) son of Aodh Dubh, King of Munster. From him is said to have descended the O'Suile bhan family, which name has been anglicized into O'Sullivan and Sullivan. (2)

The name is said to be from suile bhan (bhan), meaning "white eye". The word "suile", genitive "sul", is said to come ultimately from Latin sol, "the sun".

Whether this points to an ancestor with a cataract in one eye or whether the name is a place name is not definitely known. Joyce, in his work on Irish place names says "Two miles west of Thurles, the road crosses Soolvane Bridge, which spans a little river of that name. In the south of Ireland the arch of a bridge is called the "eye"; and this name is very plain Suil-bhan, "white eye" or "white arch". Soolvane Bridge gave its name to the river," which seems largely surmise on the part of Mr. Joyce, as rivers are usually named generations before a bridge is thrown across them. (3)

Another curious attempt at an explanation is that suilvhein means "eye like hill" or "prospect hill", which is likewise a hasty, unbased surmise.

The sole point on which most writers seem to agree is that the name was from two Irish words meaning "white eye".

**FOREST**

This county was erected by Act of April 11, 1848, from parts of Jefferson and Venango. Part of Venango was added to it some years later. It was given the name of Forest County to commemorate the great forest that covered not only the county but the whole state and from
which the state took its name which may be roughly translated “Penn’s Woods”. (1)

The word forest (Old French, forêt) comes from medieval Latin forestis (sc. silva) unenclosed land, from Latin foris, outside. It was applied in Old French and Middle English as opposed to enclosed land or park. (2)

FULTON

This county, the last to be erected along the southern border, was taken from Bedford by Act of April 19, 1850, and given the name of Fulton in honor of Robert Fulton, (1) whose genius, with Robert Livingston’s aid, gave us our first practical steamboat. Fulton was born in Lancaster County. He early developed considerable ability as an artist, and in fact gained some success as a painter of miniatures. His ability was such that Benjamin West took him as a pupil. Fulton turned his attention to engineering matters and made himself familiar with the steam engine, then just improved by Watt. While abroad he became acquainted with an American, Robert R. Livingston, who already for some years had experimented with steam engines as applied to boats. Livingston had been granted by New York State the exclusive privilege of navigating by steam the waters of that state. With the aid of Livingston Fulton perfected his design for a steamboat for navigating the Hudson River. Fulton was finally included in the provisions of the Act, and in September, 1807, the “Clermont,” the first steamboat to navigate the Hudson made a successful voyage from New York to Albany.

The county is said to have received its name through the whim of Senator Packer, of Lycoming County, who was unfriendly to the proposition, though not absolutely hostile. In the petition asking for the new county the name “Liberty” was proposed. The success of the measure in the House was largely due to the efforts of Hon. Samuel Robinson from Bedford County. In the Senate, the fate of the measure depended on Senator Packer. A citizen, residing within the limits of the proposed county, a personal friend of Packer and of another Senator who opposed the bill, urged these legislators to forego their objections to the bill. One Senator yielded, but Packer was not so easily won over. Finally he agreed to support the
bill on condition that he be permitted to name the new county. They yielded to this puerile whim; and when the bill came before the Senate, it is said, Packer moved to amend by striking out the word “Liberty” wherever it appeared in the measure and substituting therefor the name “Fulton”. (1)

The name Fulton is an old English place name. It has been often assumed to come from Fullerton or Fullarton, which are also English place names, but it is not certainly known. Fulton was the name of a border village in Roxboroughshire. One conjecture that it comes from Anglo-Saxon ful, foul and tun, an enclosure, is too absurd to waste much time over. People did not name places after such a fashion.

LAWRENCE

This county was formed from parts of Beaver and Mercer by Act of March 20, 1849. It is said to have been named for Perry’s flag-ship at the Battle of Lake Erie (described above under Perry). (1) Whether this is so, or whether the county was named for Captaian Lawrence, (2) is not known, but it amounts to the same in the end for the same Lawrence is meant ultimately.

Captain James Lawrence, born in New Jersey in 1781, entered the navy as midshipman; became lieutenant in 1802. In the “Enterprise” he took a distinguished part in the destruction of the “Philadelphia” in the harbor of Tripoli. In February 1813, he commanded the “Hornet” when it defeated the “Peacock”. In March 1813, he was commissioned Captain and took command of the frigate “Chesapeake”. On June 1, 1813, the Chesapeake fought the British frigate “Shannon”. Lawrence was mortally wounded, and, as they carried him below, is said to have uttered the famous command “Don’t give up the ship”.

Lawrence is a variant of Laurence, which comes from an old Latin word laurus, a laurel. The word means “crowned with laurel”. It is approximately equivalent to laureate, laureatus. In ancient days a poet was crowned with a laurel wreath in appreciation of his merit.

MONTOUR

This small county was taken from Columbia by Act of May 3, 1850. It is said to have taken its name from Mon-
tour's Ridge. Others say the name came from the one after whom Montour's Ridge received its name. (1) At any rate the county was named directly or indirectly for one of the most striking personages that ever walked the stage of Pennsylvania's history.—Madame Montour.

Who this woman was, or whence she came is not certainly known. Conrad Weiser saw her in 1737 while on his way to Onandago and lodged at her dwelling. (2) He states that she told him she was a French woman by birth, of a good family but then, in mode of life, a complete Indian.

By 1744 she had embroidered her story a bit. Witham Marshe in his Journal of the treaty with the Six Nations, visited her while in Lancaster. (3) She spoke French well, so he says. She told him she had been born in Canada, and that her father was a French nobleman, who was Governor, and that she had been carried away by the Indians when she was 10 years old; that she grew up as an Indian and had married a "famous war captain" among the Indians. There doesn't seem to have been any governor in Canada of that name, and furthermore, the whole story of her birth seems to have been the product of her later years when she was courted and flattered as a power among the Indians with whom she lived. The following account, from another source, seems far nearer the truth.

"She was a white woman by birth and an Indian by adoption and choice. What her maiden name was is not known. She had the name of Montour from her Indian husband, one Roland Montour. As the name is clearly French, Roland an Indian must have been given a French name by the French settlers in Canada; and even his Indian name, if he ever had one, is as completely lost as is Madame's. Her superior intelligence, it seems, manifested itself even to the brains of the savages, before she had long been with them, and become one of them; and they yielded to her superior powers. That she never turned renegade to her own race, is the one fact that has preserved her name in grateful memory, and is the sole cause of her name now being known to mankind at all. It is not known how long Roland lived after their marriage. It seems they had four children, one a daughter who married an Indian and, at
one time lived near Shamokin. There were three sons. "Madame Montour was always friendly to the whites, and often had it in her power to aid them, especially in the meetings of the whites and Indians in making treaties. The esteem in which she was held, in her day, may be inferred from the oral message sent to her by Governor Gordon, by his deputies. It ran "Give kindest regards to Madame Montour, and to her estimable husband and speak to them to the same purpose." Count Zinzendorf spoke in terms of great praise of her in his account of the Indian troubles in Wyoming. She took an active part in the treaty of Lancaster in 1744. This was a very important agreement with the Six Nations and it is proper to concede more to Madam Montour in bringing the Indians to agree to it than to anyone else. She left two sons, one of whom lived to be a much respected man in his day, looking much more like a sun-tanned French officer of the army than an Indian. It is not known when Madame died nor where she was buried. (4)

Queen Esther, the fiend of Wyoming, was her granddaughter. The name, Montour, is a French place name of unknown meaning. In France, it is also spelled Montours. It may be from "Mont" and "ours" or from "mont" and "or", but, that is only speculation. (5)

Snyder

On March 2, 1855, a portion of Union County was taken to form a separate county which was called Snyder County in honor of Simon Snyder, at one time a Governor of this state and a resident of the county. (1)

Simon Snyder, was the son of a German immigrant from Oppenheim. He was born in Lancaster in 1759, learned the trade of tanner and currier; was a member of the General Assembly; ran for governor in 1805, but was defeated; was elected in 1808. He was governor from 1808 to 1817.

The name is a Dutch word for tailor. The word was also used for tailor in English years ago, but is now obsolete. His father must have changed the name on coming to this country, or the son did, for in Germany it is spelled Schneider. In Dutch it is spelled Snijder which comes from snijden, to cut—a snijder is "a cutter". (2)
Our word tailor, (French tailleur) comes from a late Latin taliare, "to cut". In Italian it is tagliare.

**CAMERON**

Cameron County was formed by Act of March 29, 1860 from parts of Clinton, Elk, McKean and Potter counties. It was named for Simon Cameron, a man famous in politics in Pennsylvania. (1)

Simon Cameron was born in Lancaster County in 1799. He was a natural leader of men with a predilection for "practical politics". He was elected to the United States Senate in 1845, and again in 1857. He resigned in 1861 to enter Lincoln's cabinet as Secretary of War. He resigned January 11, 1862 to become minister to Russia. He was again elected to the United States Senate in 1866 and in 1873. He practically dictated the policy of the Republican party in Pennsylvania for many years—as "boss". He died in 1889.

The name Cameron is one of the best known Scottish names. It is generally taken as coming from Cam meaning "crooked, bent, distorted" and sron, "nose" i.e. cruiksron or crooked nose. The word is often writtencamsbron; in fact the Gaelic word for a Cameronian is Camshronach. (2)

**LACKAWANNA**

The youngest of our counties is Lackawanna County. It was erected from a portion of Luzerne by Act of April 13, 1878.

The name Lackawanna or Lackawannock is said to come from the Delaware language and reached its present form through many corruptions. The original meaning of the word is approximately "the place where two streams of water meet"; (1) this was applied to the confluence of the Susquehanna and the Lackawanna. From this the river took its name, as did the valley through which it runs, and ultimately the county.

*The Handbook* goes farther in saying that the present form of the word represents the Delaware lechauwanne signifying "the stream forks" from "lechau" and "hanne." (2). If this be so, and it seems highly probable, we thus have the names of two counties, seemingly very dissimilar, coming from the same Indian root-words, Lehigh and Lackawanna.
REFERENCES

SCHUYLKILL:

LEHIGH:

LEBANON:

COLUMBIA:

UNION:

PENDER:

CLARION:
2. See Father Bonnecamp’s Map of his voyage down the Allegheny. A very clear, distinct copy may be found at page 274 of W. M. Darlington’s *Christopher Gist* (1893).

CLINTON:

WYOMING:
2. Pearce, *History of Luzerne County*, p. 159, says that the name comes from Maughwanwame “large plains”.
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**CARBON:**

**ELK:**

**BLAIR:**
   Ewing and Slep, *History of Altoona and Blair County*, p. 15; 208.

**SULLIVAN:**

**FOREST:**

**FULTON:**

**LAWRENCE:**

**MONTOUR:**
   In the Appendix there is a brief account of Madam Montour and her descendants.

   5. It is possible that the name came from Mont de Theodore or Mont Theodore, through the forms Thioeurs, Thiour, Thour and Tour, see Kremer’s *Beitrag zur Erforschung der französischen Familiennamen* (Bonn, 1910) p. 62. Larousse gives Montours as the name of a small commune in the arrondissement of d’Ille et Vilaine.

**SNYDER:**
   2. Servaas de Bruin, *Nieuw Engelsch Woordenboek*.

**CAMERON:**
LACKAWANNA:
   Pearce, History of Luzerne County, p. 160.
   Brinton and Anthony, Lennape—English Dictionary, s. v., lechanhanne.
   Trumbull, "The Composition of Indian Geographical Names" in Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society (1870) II, 12.

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46. S. G. Boyd. Indian Local Names with Their Interpretation. 1885.
47. W. C. Reichel. Names which the Lenni Lenape or Delaware gave to Rivers, Streams and Localities. 1872.
70. *Harpers' Cyclopedia of United States History*, 1902.