Old Bayardstown was not without important schools and educational history. St. Philomena's parochial school, still in existence, has already been mentioned. The Polish St. Stanislaus's Roman Catholic Church and its parochial school occupy a whole block of ground at Smallman, Twenty-first and Twenty-second Streets and are large and flourishing institutions. But they are of comparatively recent date, having been established about fifty years ago.

The old Pike Street Public School on the north-west corner of Pike and Thirteenth Streets was a large one, an enormous three story brick building but with no play yard. Lacking the conveniences we now have, the children played in the streets. Many of the larger boys and girls worked in the glass factories and mills. When these shut down from time to time, the classes in the school would be greatly enlarged. It was not unusual at such times for one teacher to have from sixty to seventy scholars.

The Principal of the old Pike Street School was Professor Andrew Burtt, the author of Burtt's Grammar. His assistant was Elizabeth Wilkinson, the well known writer who wrote prolifically under the nom-de-plume of "Bessie Bramble." Her sister, familiarly known as "Sis" Wilkinson, was also a teacher in this school. In the upper rooms Rev. end Hawk and his wife taught and every morning the Bible was read and prayer offered before lessons were taken up. In earlier days such religious service was considered a sacred duty.

A second public school was later established on the north side of Liberty Avenue west of the Incline Plane. For many years this school had at its head the well known Principal, Professor McClymonds.

The changing conditions in the district brought about the construction of the present Ralston School on the south west corner of Penn Avenue and Fifteenth Street. It was named for a prominent man, a leather manufacturer of the city. His daughter, Miss Jennie Ralston, one of the best
known and most successful teachers in the city was connected with the Grant School until her death a few years ago after a long period of service. On the completion of the Ralston School the Pike Street and Liberty Avenue school buildings were sold. In the new school Professor Burgoyne was Principal for many years. Severing later his connection with the school he joined the staff of the *Pittsburgh Evening Leader*. He was the author of many poems and published a book of verse. Among the well known teachers of the school were two sisters by the name of Munn, and Miss Jennie Johnston who taught the primary room in this school for thirty-two years and is still, in another school, actively engaged in teaching.

A private school which deserves historical mention was that kept for many years by Professor Rommel, a German school located in Volk's Hall at the northwest corner of Liberty Avenue and Twelfth Street. Professor Rommel was liked and highly respected by all who knew him. He was very patriotic and an ardent admirer of Abraham Lincoln and Carl Schurz. During the Lincoln campaign of 1860, there stood at the southwest corner of Penn Avenue and Twelfth Street the largest liberty pole hitherto erected in Pittsburgh. It was surrounded with a platform for speakers. Mr. Rommel took great pride in hoisting “Old Glory” daily and lowering it every evening. Boys were always eager to assist and carefully obeyed his command, “Never let it touch the ground.”

This liberty pole aroused the envy of the Democrats. Wishing to surpass the Republicans they attempted to erect a large hickory pole at the northeast corner of Penn Avenue and Twenty-fourth Streets. They were unable to raise it. Robert Liddell, afterwards mayor of Pittsburgh, was the Democratic leader. His father-in-law, Joseph Spencer, called upon some Republicans to help, which they did, though they did not cease to heap ridicule upon the Democrats. As was mentioned earlier, Old Bayardstown was loyal to the Union, and rallied to the cause in the Civil War.

Old Bayardstown was early a place of busy industrial life. Among its prominent branches of industry were tanning, iron and steel manufactures, glass making, and brewing.
There were three tanneries in the district. The tannery of George A. Bayard, to which reference has already been made, located on the north side of Penn Avenue between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets, produced many different kinds of leather. Water used in this plant was obtained from a small stream, which then ran where Spring Way is now located. On the Allegheny River banks at the foot of Nineteenth Street, belonging to Mr. Ralston, was a tannery where so-called white oak sole leather was produced. James Y. McLaughlin had, next to the river between Thirty-first and Thirty-second Streets, a tannery where patent leather exclusively was made, supposedly the first plant of its kind in the United States. Pittsburgh in fact was at this time an important leather center.

In the iron and steel industry one of the most famous of the many plants in Old Bayardstown was the Fort Pitt Foundry. Locally known as Knapp and Wade, this institution was very important during the Civil War, producing a large number of cannon and a vast amount of war material of different kinds. Under the name of McIntosh, Hemphill and Company it continues in existence at 12th, 13th, Etna Street, and the Allegheny River.

One of the oldest iron works in the district, Zug's Iron Works, now known as the Sable Iron Works, was also located at 13th, Etna St., and the river. The early buildings of this mill were entirely wrecked by a terrible boiler explosion in which several men were killed and many injured, while sheets of sheet iron roofing were blown high in the air and sailed around in the air like kites. Christopher Zug, the founder, was a large man, who, although of German descent, always dressed like an old fashioned Quaker. He was very fond of high spirited horses, which he drove himself. The destruction of his plant by the boiler explosion nearly ruined him financially. In his humility he disposed of his high stepping horses and began to ride about in a buggy, driving one of the homeliest mules imaginable, one which had been used in the mill to truck iron and coal to and from the puddling furnaces and had patches of hair burnt off here and there. To the surprise of his friends also, Mr. Zug, who had been a leading Lutheran, began, after his mill was wrecked, to associate himself with Spiritu-
alists, who were looked upon then as nothing more than fortune tellers.

Shoenberger's Mill, occupying the territory from Fourteenth to Sixteenth Street between Pike Street and the river was considered one of the leading iron works of the city. John H. Shoenberger, its founder, was claimed by the Germans as one of themselves. There are in Pittsburgh several families who spell their name Schoeneberger, a German name meaning beautiful hill. John Shoenberger was a leading citizen. He endowed St. Margaret's Hospital and gave it the ground on which it stands, in memory of his wife. The old Shoenberger home and its beautiful grounds are now a part of the Allegheny Cemetery, the superintendent of which occupies the old residence. The large works and iron furnace are now known as the American Iron, Steel and Wire Company. Whereas in earlier years iron products, particularly cut nails were manufactured, steel products and steel wire nails later were made. The American Iron and Steel Wire Company, always large producers of nails, also manufactured horse shoes, being one of the first, if not the first, to manufacture them by machinery. Their trade in this product was literally world-wide.

While the firms above mentioned are especially significant there were many others of historical significance in the same industry in old Bayardstown. At the risk of too much detail they must be given some consideration.

William Smith had a very extensive cast iron pipe foundry at 24th Street, from Spruce Alley to the Allegheny River. For years he supplied nearly all the water mains for the city. He secured his contract when iron was high in price, but soon pig iron dropped in price by about one half. The city officials tried to reduce the amount of pipe contracted for in the specifications, but Smith held the city to its contract. Then the city condemned large amounts of the pipe as being under weight and defective in casting. Smith finally failed in business. The Totten and Hogg Iron and Steel Foundry came into possession of the plant and still occupy the old site.

A Mr. Coleman had for many years an iron mill at 16th to 17th Street and from Etna Street to Mulberry Way. It was later demolished and is now occupied by railroad yards.
Mr. James Marshall had a foundry on 17th Street for years. Going into the pig iron business on a large scale, he accumulated an immense stock only to have the price drop almost fifty percent. The foundry is now located at 28th Street from the Allegheny Valley Railroad to the river. The oil well supply company, located between 21st and 22nd Streets between the Allegheny Valley Railroad and the river has been in existence since crude oil was discovered.

The Carnegie Steel Company had its origin in old Bayardstown. Two brothers, Andrew and Anton Kloman, had a small forge at the time of the Civil War, on the north bank of the Allegheny River just below Millvale Borough. Here they made gun carriages and forgings for the Government, which when finished were floated across the river to the United States Arsenal. Andrew and Thomas Carnegie, seeing the great possibilities, took the Klomans into business with them in an enterprise known as the 28th St. Union Iron Mills, the first of the many mills of Carnegie. Anton Kloman soon retired from the firm and with others formed the Iron City Tool Works with a new plant at 32nd and Smallman Streets. Though the new partners were all skilled mechanics and remained in business for some years the firm was later disbanded. On the other hand the 28th St. Union Iron Mills was from its start a great success. In turn the Carnegie Company built the Union Iron Mills at 33rd Street and the Lucy Furnace at 52nd Street and later other plants in different parts of the country.

The Pittsburgh Manufacturing Company had a plant at 28th Street and Railroad Street. On Liberty Avenue, opposite the present site of the Union Depot, Aaron French had a railway steel spring factory, the first of its kind in the country. In earlier days the railways used India rubber blocks for springs or cushions. The old steel spring works, now known as the American Railway Spring Company, were re-located on Liberty Avenue, between 17th and 21st Streets.

For many years, McConway, Torley and Company had their malleable iron works on Liberty Avenue at 26th and 27th Streets. They drifted into the manufacture of car couplings and other castings. Their enterprise was enlarged and re-located at the Allegheny River from 48th to
49th Streets. Captain William McConway is still living and is one of the leading citizens of Pittsburgh, having been for years a member of the City Council. His partner, John Torley, returning home from a political mass meeting, along with a number of persons, was killed in the great railroad wreck at 28th Street. His death was a loss to the community for he was a leader in work among young men, furnishing books for their organizations and for libraries which they patronized.

The Black Diamond Steel Works at 30th Street and the Allegheny River, owned and operated by James Park, and after his death by his sons, are still in operation as a plant of the Crucible Steel Company. One of the very first Siemens steel furnaces was installed by this firm.

The works have always been operated on non-union basis. Negroes, recruited in the South, were brought here to work in this mill. Before this time it was a rare thing to see a colored man in Old Bayardstown and it was virtually impossible for one to get work in the mills unless it might be to drive horses. The Black Diamond Steel Works used mules and generally had negro drivers, for Mr. Park thought a white man never understood a mule.

George, John and Peter Rieseck had an iron safe factory and machine shop on 16th Street. Satler, McCoy and Company had a machine shop on 16th Street. Mr. McCoy was the inventor of the toothless saw, iron and steel being cut by friction caused by the rapid revolutions of the saw.

James Lappen, for many years a city councilman, was a prominent manufacturer of boilers and smoke stacks and founded the enterprise now known as the James Lappen Manufacturing Company. R. Munroe and Sons at 23rd and Smallman Streets were also well known boiler manufacturers and still remain in the business. Two additional iron and steel enterprises which have survived until our day were James McNeal and Brothers and the well known foundry and machine works located on Smallman Street between 23rd and 24th Streets, founded by William Fisher, but now known as Phillips and McFaren.

In the industry of glass making William McCully and Company had a large factory at Liberty Avenue and 16th Street employing many men and boys making bottles of
many shapes and several colors. William Hamilton owned a glass factory on Smallman Street near 24th Street and J. T. A. Hamilton had a plant on Railroad Street and 26th Street, later removed to Butler, Pennsylvania where the firm is now engaged in manufacturing plate glass. Daniel Agnew conducted a small glass manufacturing enterprise on Penn Avenue and 29th Street. The O’Hara glass works, a large plant, was located on Railroad Street near 26th Street. One of the first pressed glass factories in the United States, it made table ware of many kinds including fancy goods with ornaments and initials, names, or figures ground on them.

With breweries Old Bayardstown was well supplied. Adam Baeurlein ran one on Liberty Avenue opposite the Union Depot and as in the case of old breweries with a bar-room attached. After Mr. Baeurlein’s death his son’s Christian and Adam moved to Millvale Borough, where they erected the Star Brewery, which is still in existence. John Gangwisch had a brewery on the South Side of Liberty Avenue between 15th and 16th Streets on a site now occupied by railroad tracks. Later he built a brewery at Liberty and Main Streets now known as Straubs Brewery and in these Volstead days used for making ice cream. Mr. Gangwisch lost control of this brewery, organized a company and built another in Lawrenceville which ceased business years ago. The Phoenix Brewery still stands at the corner of Smallman and 24th Streets. A large concern it for many years brewed only ale, but in later years it manufactured only beer as the use of ale as a drink was discontinued.

The financing of such major enterprises as those mentioned above was a serious matter. During industrial depressions there were often hard times in this busy district. Such a depression occurred about 1856. In that day there were neither bank examiners nor state control. Many banks issued paper money, often with the plan to circulate the bank notes as far away from home as possible in order that they might never find their way back for redemption, or might perchance be lost or worn out. Such bank notes were usually printed on one side only and adorned with pictures of horses, a beautiful woman or a farm scene. As these notes were often at a discount of from five to fifteen
percent, many would not handle them in exchange. Merchants as a result were afraid to sell their goods for bank notes, unless they received exhorbitant prices.

The lack of satisfactory currency brought on the use of what were known as trading orders, the mills paying wages with orders on the store-keepers. A customer in such times asking the price of goods immediately met the inquiry, "Cash or orders?" If the latter, the price was usually raised.

Once a month a bank detector was issued and hardly any bank bills were taken before consulting the latest edition of the bank detector and even then the customer might be obliged to wait until a messenger went to the nearest bank, the Pittsburgh Trust Company, later absorbed by the Second National Bank. This old bank was on Wood Street where the First National Bank is now located.

The paper money of the decades before the Civil War was widely known as wild-cat money. About the year 1857 Spanish silver money began to circulate in large quantities, but though considered as having better silver than United States money, the latter was generally preferred. With the beginning of the Civil War, however, gold and silver money of every type and denomination began to disappear. The federal government therefore issued what was known as shin-plasters, in sheets, in denominations of three, five, ten, twenty-five and fifty cents. Many merchants issued copper and nickle tokens redeemable only by themselves.

There was a bank in Old Bayardstown known as the National Trust Company of which Robert Dickson, a coal dealer, was president and Robert Greer the cashier. It was a city depository and a popular institution. Great excitement was caused when the bank became insolvent and was closed. Judge James Veech was appointed receiver. He deposited the funds of the bank with James Brady, a private banker, who had been located for many years on Fourth Avenue. Brady in turn failed, having very small assets, making it a double failure and causing in turn a considerable number of business failures. The death of seventeen persons in the district was attributed to grief and trouble caused by these failures. Incidentally the City of Pittsburgh was one of the largest losers.
The Enterprise Fire Insurance Company had its offices in the same building with the National Trust Company. Gottlieb Siedle, a brewer, was president and John J. Albietz was secretary. Most of its stockholders were also stockholders in the Trust company. On account of the bank failure the insurance company was obliged to close its business.

The minor enterprises of Old Bayardstown were varied in character and legion in number. The Adams market, also known as the little market, extending from Penn Avenue to Liberty Avenue between 13th and 14th Street was in its day a very lively place. Its market days came on Tuesdays and Fridays and as early as four o'clock in the morning on these days the market and surrounding streets would be jammed with people, all trying to get the best and cheapest of butter, buttermilk, eggs, and produce of all kinds brought in by the farmers of the region. Many humorous incidents occurred in the sharp bargaining between the farmers and their patrons.

Livery stables and in fact stables of every kind were very numerous. Moreland and Mitchell had a large stable where the Ralston School now stands. Later the stable was moved to Liberty Avenue opposite the Union Depot. The firm was later on dissolved but the enterprise was later moved to the East End, where Moreland's son, Thomas B. Moreland at present conducts the undertaking business though using automobiles now instead of the carriages of former times. Mr. Mitchell, however, remained at the old stand on Liberty Avenue until his death. James Dain had a stable on the south side of Penn Avenue between 11th and 12th Streets. Robert Sproul became associated with him and they introduced busses, which met trains at the railroad depots and called for passengers at the hotels. The stables of this firm were later moved to Liberty Avenue opposite the Union Depot. It is now known as the Excelsior Express Company. The Yellow Cab Company is an outgrowth of this company. Frank Ardary for many years on Pike Street near 15th Street had a large stable of two hundred heavy draught horses that did most of the heavy hauling of coal and iron. Alexander Black on Liberty Avenue near 29th Street was also a large operator in teaming. This business is now changed to the Alexander Black Coal
Railroad sidings and switches have seriously invaded the once important business of draughting and automobile trucks have almost completely taken the place of the noble horse. The old Adams Express Company still has a large stable on Liberty Avenue next to the little market. This company, for many years the only one of its kind in the city, was later consolidated into what is now known as the American Railway Express Company.

In the lumber business John Herron, John Paisley, and James B. Hill were large dealers. Their lumber which came from northern Pennsylvania was floating down the Allegheny River in rafts. The raftsmen, many of whom were Indians from the Complanter tribe, were called Holy Anns. They were truly a hardy and rugged class of woodsmen and watermen. The famous Bucktail Regiment of U. S. Volunteers in the Civil War, so-called because each man wore a bucktail on the top or side of his cap, was largely composed of these men, and good riflemen all they were. In addition to the men mentioned above Alexander McClure for many years operated a saw mill and lumber business on the Allegheny River near the foot of 28th Street.

A part of the lumber marketed in Pittsburgh was used in the manufacture of wagons. George Siebert had a wagon and vehicle factory on the south side of Liberty Avenue on a site now occupied by the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks. James G. Weir for many years had a wagon factory on Liberty Avenue next to the little market. Wagons were also built by a Mr. Kenna.

Two additional factory enterprises in Old Bayardstown were tobacco factories and a soap factory. James and John Taylor conducted a tobacco factory and cigar store. John Grazier and Mr. Maguire were engaged in the manufacture of chewing tobacco, an enterprise which was discontinued soon after the Civil War. Mr. Johnston had a soap manufacturing plant on Liberty Avenue.

Merchantile establishments and shops have always been numerous in this region of Pittsburgh. A few of the many merchants might be mentioned. In the rope and twine business for many years were Henry Gerwig and his son Nicholas. In the grocery business were Gerwig, Zahringer, Zeuger, McGregor Brothers, Leonard Blanchard, Malacria
Burns, Patrick and Michael Kane, and Henry Rahe, a prominent character who organized a cooperative grocery company about 1866, which followed by a large number of others in all parts of the city, failed one and all and ruined financially a number of men who had endorsed notes for them. In the dry-goods and notions business were Joseph Lang, Roth Brothers, Colonel McKelvey, Mrs. M. Schwartz, Mrs. Weisser and a Mr. Mitchell. In the tobacco store business, in addition to the Taylors already mentioned, must be added Joseph Zimmerman now over 80 years of age, whose old cigar store in the corner of the Old Rush House hotel at the corner of Liberty Avenue and 11th Street contains among a number of old relics a picture of the old bridge which crossed the canal on the site now covered by railroad tracks. Prominent liquor dealers were Joseph Schmidt and his successors Wm. J. (Billy) Friday whose place of business was in earlier years at the corner of Penn and 11th Street but in later years on Smithfield Street; and also Jacob Keller and his father, who had a liquor store on Liberty Avenue opposite the priests’ house of St. Philomena’s Church. Friday was both influential in business and a considerable factor in the Republican Party. Saloons were run by Fatty Reinhardt and Daniel Frey.

In the drug business Mr. J. Christ Lange had a large trade from outside for a cough remedy known as Brown’s Mixture, as well as for a remedy for the tobacco habit, called “Notoback.” Mr. Radcliffe, whose son is now a noted Presbyterian clergyman in Washington, D. C., had a drug store for many years at the corner of Penn Avenue and 13th Street still conducted on the same spot by Theodore H. D. Hieber, who succeeded him many years ago.

Of other stores in Old Bayardstown might be mentioned the jewelry store of Mr. J. Weisser; the toy store of Mr. Lauer; the wall paper store of Mr. Foerster; the picture, frames and glass store of Jacob Young; the leather store of Mr. Gunst; the bird store of Dengel; the hat store of Andrew Liebler; the feed store of Henry Schnelbach, the haberdashery of Reiman; Arnfel’d’s clothing store; Martin Brehler’s, Grace Malone’s and Mrs. McClelland’s millinery shops and the hide and tallow store of Emil and Fred Winter.
In this busy commercial life of the community the Siebert family played a prominent role. Their history is so typical and the facts so familiar to me the temptation to go into detail is irresistible. In the original family there were seven brothers and three sisters. The oldest was Barthel Siebert, who was engaged in the milk business. The second was Wilm Siebert, who was an expert shoemaker and conducted a shoe store in front of which he had a large wooden boot about one story high on a platform mounted on wheels. It was great fun for the boys on Hallowe’en and other occasions to kidnap the big boot and pull it around the streets. Wilm Siebert later had a shoe store on Diamond Street and later still was in business in Millvale. His old home in Millvale now known as Mount Alvernia is occupied by the Franciscan Sisters. The third in the family was George Siebert already referred to as a wagon manufacturer. The fourth was Christian Siebert, a very energetic and enterprising man, who left a farm in Shaler Township to engage in the shoe business near the market. In this early day before shoe factories were known and when boots and shoes were often made with the soles put on with wooden pegs, he employed about fifty men making boots and shoes for men, women and children. Christian Siebert built at No. 1338 Penn Avenue, where it still stands, the first four story house on the street, an enterprise considered very foolish by his neighbors. Selling his shoe business to Peter Hueltz and John Gemmer, he erected two three-story warehouses at 1118-20 Penn Avenue. In one he conducted a leather store, the upper floors being used for leather finishing shops. An interest in this business he gave to two of his clerks, Fred P. Berg and Louis Kellerman. In the other building he started a feed and grain store with a Mr. Peter Keil. Somewhat later, leaving these men to run his Pittsburgh business, he moved to Butler, Pennsylvania where he located on a farm which he managed very successfully. But he was not satisfied, and coming back to Pittsburgh he engaged in the real estate business of laying out sub-divisions, four of which were in the Lawrenceville district. Both in Lawrenceville and in Millvale Borough his building operations were quite extensive.
In 1867 Christian Siebert came into possession of the charter for the construction of the Ewalt or 43rd Street Bridge. He organized a company, sold the necessary stock and after two years completed the bridge though during its construction it was twice wrecked by floods. The stock sold on the installment plan was generally looked upon as a poor investment, yet after the second year the company, besides cleaning up its bonded debt, began to pay dividends. This old bridge will soon be a thing of the past as it is now being replaced by the new Washington Crossing Bridge. It is the last one of its kind in this part of the country. Christian Siebert was one of the incorporators of the National Trust Company and also of the German Fire Insurance Company, now known as the Globe Insurance Company. He helped to organize the Enterprise Insurance Company and was a director of the old German National Bank, until the time of his death. The Granite Building at Wood Street and Sixth Avenue is still its property. He also helped to organize and served until his death as a director of both the Allemannia Fire Insurance Company and the Germannia Savings Bank, the latter now known as the Citizens' Savings Bank. As a City Councilman from the old 18th Ward he sat beside his son, P. W. Siebert, who for fourteen years represented the old 18th Ward.

The fifth in the Siebert family was William, who with his younger brother Paul ran a grocery at the little market. William Siebert was also a politician. As noted earlier his store was the political headquarters of the immediate neighborhood. In the City Council he represented the 5th Ward, afterwards known as the 9th ward, but now as the 2nd ward. During his term of office a German banker named William Siebert from Frankfort on the Main had purchased railway bonds on which the interest and payment had been defaulted. The City Council, claiming there was fraud in the issuing of the bonds, refused to levy a tax for their payment. The sheriff was brought into the council room and the doors locked, but enough councilmen were absent to prevent a quorum. In connection with the matter Mr. Siebert with several other councilmen were locked up in the county jail for contempt of court. This groceryman was the first in Pittsburgh to refuse to sell
whiskey. It is well known that at that time all grocers sold whiskey, and that in fact nearly every mercantile establishment kept whiskey in stock. Customers when purchasing goods, usually asked for a drink. This new venture friends foretold would cause the loss of business. They met the reply that if he could not make a living without selling whiskey, he would quit business. Lo behold, when it became known that he and his brother had taken this stand, their business improved rapidly and they soon had the best class of people for customers. Quitting the grocery business at a later date, William Siebert took over the old and well known livery stables of Roddy Patterson on Diamond Street nearly opposite the present site of the Frick Annex. With Joseph Mitchell, Mayor's clerk under Mayor Robert Lyon and father of Honorable H. Walton Mitchell, he entered into a partnership which lasted until the business was finally discontinued.

Paul Siebert, the sixth of the family, has already been mentioned as partner with his brother in the grocery business. Active for many years in this line, on his retirement he built at 1231 Penn Avenue, the second four-story brick building on that street. A councilman from the old 10th Ward, he was, after his term of office, frequently appointed by the courts a viewer and juryman. John Siebert, the seventh and youngest brother, was long associated in business with his brothers William and Paul. He served his country in the Civil War for more than three years as a member of Ewing's Battery of the Second West Virginia Regiment in which he had enlisted when the Pennsylvania quotas were filled. This company, known as the Plummer Guards, agreed to help fill the quota of West Virginia. On his return home he started in the grocery business which he conducted for many years, acquiring a considerable amount of property. Quite deaf from his service in the army, but a well known figure of the times, he was killed at the Pennsylvania Railroad crossing on Penn Avenue in Wilkinsburg.

Of the Siebert sisters, one, Elizabeth, left Pittsburgh and settled in Philadelphia; another, Susan, lived in Sharpsburg; and the third, Sara, married Adam Braun, the grandfather of County Detective Robert Braun.
Old Bayardstown, of course, had its due proportion of artisans of all kinds—bakers, barbers, butchers, painters, plumbers, shoemakers, tanners, and undertakers. Of these, three of the occupations call for special comment. Butchers in those days all had their own slaughter houses and killed their own live stock. Leading butchers were Hugh Richardson, Mr. Van Buren, Conrad Ziegler, Mr. Hines, and John Raithel. John Wagner, a German blacksmith, who had a modest shop on Penn Avenue nearly opposite Stevenson Alley, supplied butchers with cleavers, saws, knives, etc. He invented a sausage stuffer and patented a meat cutter, with four or five blades the shape of rockers on a child's cradle, to cut sausage meat. The latter device was a great improvement on chopping sausage meat with cleavers and brought him trade from all parts of the United States and Canada. With this device a child could do the work more easily than it was formerly done by an able bodied man. In turn this device was supplanted by the meat grinder perfected by Bernard Gloekler who succeeded Mr. Wagner in business and built up on Penn Avenue near 17th Street the large establishment known as Bernard Gloekler Company. Barbers, in their regular trade, had a scale of prices ranging from five to ten cents for a shave and from twelve and a half to fifteen cents for a hair cut. In addition they also pulled teeth and usually had on display glass jars full of teeth. They also did cupping and leeching. Every barber shop had on hand a jar of leeches and there many a black eye was leached. Prominent barbers were Peter Winter, Mr. Hass, Adam Stein, Mr. Kaufman, and B. Weiss, the last a fine musician and the leader of the celebrated Great Western Band which for years was attached to the Duquesne Grays. Shoemakers of the period were highly skilled workmen making not only shoes but boots which came almost to the knees. Children's shoes and women's gaiters were constructed mainly of morocco skins and elastic black hair cloth. The most prominent men in this line were David Kammerer, Christian Siebert, Peter Hueltz, and John Gemmer, and after their death, Peter Ludebuehl, whose sons are now in business in the East End, and Henry Stoebener, whose son is also in business in the East End. Among the practical
shoemakers of the day might be mentioned Jacob Seib, George Thumm, Lorenz Selzer, Mr. Boyd, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hunter, and Hugh Leonard.

In other artisan lines, Frederick Kirsch was a prominent tinner; Adam Streib, a prominent baker and German Methodist, whose wife, a great politician, once broke up a Democratic meeting by heckling the speaker, Mr. Heldman; William Rowbottom, George Kettenberg and Daddy Weeks, prominent plumbers; Nicholas Heyl, John Heldman, and Mr. Haller, prominent painters; and Anthony Meyer, an undertaker.

Something must also be said of the professions. Among the lawyers of the community must be mentioned John Mitchell, son of the dry goods merchant, who at the time of his death was the oldest attorney in Allegheny County, and whose son likewise was in the profession; Scott Ferguson, once clerk in an iron mill; Major Robert Parkinson; Mr. Mackrell; Morton Hunter, at one time district attorney; James O'Donnel, J. Erastus McKelvey, Robert Clark; William McCleary, at one time Postmaster of Pittsburgh and afterwards a county official; and William C. Moreland, the silver tongued orator (familiarly known as "Our Billy") who was for a long time City Solicitor. As Justices of Peace, or Squires as they were then known, mention should be made of Cornelius C. O'Donnel, who was elected five times; James Taylor who held office several terms; Squire Albietz; Squire Parkinson; Squire Jack Jones; Squire Moreland; and Squire Calvin Barclay. Prominent doctors were Dr. Cornman, Dr. James Duncan and his nephew Dr. James Duncan; Dr. Ahl; Dr. Asdale, and Dr. Green. The only dentist I knew in the district was Mr. Manchester. As noted above, barbers commonly pulled teeth.

Other residents of Old Bayardstown whom I wish to mention are not so easily classified. A well known character was Chauncey Bostwick, a one armed man, for years a constable and additional years water assessor, who had a patent for a ditch digger, which was never completed, as he always needed an additional dollar to finish one of the wheels. Matthew Edwards was a member of the Pennsylvania legislature and afterwards city water assessor.
Members of the old and well known families were Captain Felix Negley; Mr. McKelvey, a large owner of real estate; Mr. Dalzell, the tax collector; Mr. McGowan, at one time City Controller; Mr. Kay, a mill superintendent; Richard Thompson, a street commissioner, father of Dick Thompson, for many years in charge of the City Treasurer's office; Messrs. Stewart, father and son, well known bankers; Colonel Yost, superintendent of the Pennsylvania Railroad shops; Mr. McCoy and Mr. Satler, machinists; the Hanlons; the Herrons; John Lorash of the Owl Club; Arch Buchannon; Major Wallace, who recruited a company of Irishmen in the Civil War; Captain Samuel Kilgore; Captain Sloan; William Adams, sign painter; William Johnston of the City Water Works; John Boyd, factory foreman and city councilman; J. H. Armstrong, real estate dealer; Mr. Felix, manufacturer of coffee extract; the Weir family, James G., the wagon manufacturer, a shrewd politician, once defeated but twice elected as county commissioner, George, his son, who succeeded him in business, Gamble, a brother of James G., who worked in the wagon shop, and was later chosen chief of police of the city, but died of slow poison administered by an enemy whose guilt was never discovered; George Mercer, long employed by the Weirs, who became connected with the city fire department, and later with the police department and for many years served as superintendent of the court house and county buildings.

Old Bayardstown had many well known hotels and hotel proprietors. Among them should be mentioned the old Rush House, owned by Marker Rush; St. James Hotel, opposite the Union Depot, owned by James Lanahan; the Lion Hotel at Penn and 11th Street, owned by Daniel Herrig, known as “Daniel in the Lion’s Den”; the Fowler House, opposite the Lion Hotel; the Exchange Hotel, on the old site of Schmidt and Friday’s liquor store; the Lamb Hotel at Penn and 16th Street; the Bayardstown House at Penn and 14th Street, run by Martin Brehler, a well known man; and the Spotted Horse on Penn Avenue near 21st Street. Henry Ommert and Patrick Mohan were also hotel men. Most of the old hotels had swinging signs painted with pictures of animals.
There were three volunteer fire companies in the district, the Fairmount Company, the Niagara Company and the Independence Company. The first, whose captain for many years was John Walls, was located on Pike Street, between 12th and 13th Streets. The second was located on Penn Avenue near 14th Street. Its captain was Joseph Schmidt, the popular liquor dealer, a fine specimen of a man with a full black beard. The third was the farthest out, being located on Penn Avenue and 23rd Street, and with Nelson Woods for a long time its captain. The last two companies are still housed in their original location. Balls and entertainments were frequently given to raise money for the gaudy uniforms and equipment of these volunteer fire companies. Hand pump engines were used for a long time and nearly every able bodied man was a member of one of the fire companies. The Niagara Company had the first steam fire engine in Pittsburgh, built by Knapp and Wade, now known as McIntosh, Hemphill and Company, under the direction of Mr. Kay, Joseph French and others, a fine engine in its day but hopelessly out of date now.

One of the most disastrous fires of the district was that of the building of the Chautauqua Ice Company, the predecessors of the Consolidated Ice Company. Mr. William Scott, who came to Pittsburgh from Philadelphia just after the Civil War, engaged himself in the delivery of ice which was harvested from ponds, lakes and rivers, and later became a pioneer in the manufacture of ice, the first man to introduce ice picks, was at the head of the company. In the fire, which took place on the evening of February 9, 1898, exploding ammonia tanks completely wrecked the large and substantial building located at the corner of 13th and Pike Streets, killing seventeen persons outright and inflicting fatal injuries upon several others. Among the casualties were the two sons of Mr. Scott who, with William C. Siebert, whose escape was almost miraculous, were engaged in removing wagons from the burning building.

Labor strikes were a common thing in Bayardstown. They were in different lines of activity and for all sorts of causes. The very first strikes were among the cotton
mill workers, many of whom lived in the district, though most of them worked in mills in Allegheny. Though many of them earned only a shilling or twenty-five cents a day, when they came from work, on strike, they were jostled, pushed from the sidewalks and greeted with slurs.

Cotton bumpers in a pen
Never get out till 9 or 10
When they get out
They get buttermilk and sour kraut
This was the song that greeted them.

The Sons of Vulcan, a well known labor organization in their time, were mostly iron puddlers who were numerous in that day. At one time they held out seventeen months on strike. Their strikes had something to do with the replacement of iron by steel. The glass workers’ union at one time was very powerful and had a very large sum of money at their disposal. They engaged in strikes until their funds were exhausted and glassware and window glass came to be made largely by machinery.

Living conditions in Old Bayardstown lacked some of the conveniences of present day homes. Bath rooms with hot and cold water were unknown. Bake ovens were usually in the back yard. Nearly every family had a kraut cutter and laid by in the fall of the year its winter supply of cabbage, potatoes, apples, etc., including a quarter of beef and a dressed hog. Oranges and bananas were luxuries in those days and little used.

Yet life was not without its interests and pleasures. Games were probably as numerous then as now. It was a very unlucky and unhappy small boy who did not possess a one-bladed barlow knife to whittle wood and play mumbly peg. Shinney was a universal game, but it shared sport with roly-poly-sock ball, wall-ball, hand-ball, hunting the hare, leap frog, duck and davy, walking on stilts, pussy wants a corner, Copenhagen tag, “King William was King James’ son”, “London Bridge is falling down” and other games of a period which now exists only in memory or imagination.