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May 29, 2001 5:46 PM

In a message dated 05/29/2001 8:38:12 PM Eastern Daylight Time,
Chukrock2@cs.com writes:

<< Interested in Captain WHITLOCK info. Thanks.

Chuck

>>

EARLY POMEROY HISTORY BASED UPON OHIO VALLEY'S COAL MINING INDUSTRY

A view shown in an engraving, made in 1846, shows the village of Pomeroy from the coalmines at Coalport, then a recognized community nearly two miles down river from the present county seat of Meigs County. The drawing was made by Henry Howe during this first tour of Ohio more than a century ago, and also appeared in his Howe's History, revised and re-published four decades later, in 1886.

In 1846, Pomeroy, Coalport, Sheffield and Middleport were separate communities, with a total population of about 1600. In 1870, Pomeroy alone had a population of more than 5000 and was still growing rapidly. The first coal bank was opened there in 1819 by David Bradshaw. About that time 1200 bushels of coal were moved from Pomeroy to Louisville, where it sold for 25 cents a bushel. This was the first fuel exported from the mining field in the Pomeroy Bend. But as early as 1805 an effort was made to export coal from Coalport. In 1841 Pomeroy was made the county seat.

In his 1846 history Henry Howe said that at Coalport, where he made his drawing showing Pomeroy in the distance and a rocky eminence above the spot where he made his picture, were "horizontal shafts which run into the hill at an elevation of more than 100 feet above the Ohio River. " The coal is carried out in cars on railways, and successfully emptied from the cars on one grade to that below and so on until the cars in turn empty into boats on the river. The mining is conducted in a systematic manner and most of those employed are native of Vales, familiar with mining from youth."

It was in 1820, according to Howe's informants in Meigs County more than an hundred years ago, that John Knight rented coal land in the Bend from General Putnam at \$20 a year and opened mines. In 1825 Samuel Grant entered on 80 acres of coal lands and Josiah Dill 160 acres of Congress Land, which lies in the upper end of Pomeroy. Dill laid out town lots but they were not bought up until about 1833 when development of Pomeroy started. In 1827 Samuel Pomeroy loaded 1,000 bushels of coal on a flat boat, destined for Boston via New Orleans, but the boat sank before it left Coalport, which was below the Pomeroy corporation line at the time. There most of the mining of the Bend was done and a town laid out, even to an incline on which loaded coal cars, descending pulled up empty cars. Immediately below Coalport at the time was Middleport and adjoining Middleport was Sheffield. Henry Howe predicted in

1846 that all four villages would one day be a continuous town along the river.

About 1791, Captain Hamilton Kerr, a famous Indian fighter, in his excursions into what is now Meigs County discovered an enormous sycamore tree at the mouth of Kerrs Run which was later used as a home for a pioneer family. Captain Whitlock of Coalport told Howe the hollow of this tree was 18 feet in diameter and that as late as 1821, he once ate his dinner from the top of a sugar stump in a log house near where the present court house stands in Pomeroy. This was the only table in the cabin.

Howe stated that on the Virginia side of the Ohio River opposite the Pomeroy Bend general area were the hamlets of West Columbia, New Castle, Clifton, Mason City, Valley City, Harford City and New Haven. On the Ohio side at the time, 1886, were Middleport, Pomeroy, Minersville and Syracuse. The Coalport of 1846 was Middleport 40 years later. The coal mines entered one hill and often extended through it, across valley and entered and passed through as many as two more hills, for a distance of two miles. At Minersville in 1886 two mines were in operation, one from a shaft 85 feet deep. In Middleport the population he said has always lived in front of the cliffs, while as early as 1846 homes up river were found in the ravines in the hills, known then as Sugar Run, Kerrs Run, Naylor's Run, Monkey Run, Dutchtown and Welstown. In 1886 there were 18 salt furnaces on both sides of the river at the Bend, with a daily production of 36,000 barrels. In the communities of Syracuse and Minersville many of the residents were Welsh people, especially in the former.

Connie
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