

## THE HISTORY OF DICKSON CITY

Prior to the close of the Revolutionary War, no white man lived within what is now known as Dickson City Borough. In 1786, Timothy Stevens, a Revolutionary War Veteran, moved his family from West Chester, New York, into the meadow that then marked the present location of the Johnson shaft on Main Street. For eleven years Timothy Stevens and his family were the only inhabitants. In 1797, Captain John Vaughan, with the aid of his sons began clearing in the vicinity of the present Lafayette School. Later in the year, arrived Elisha S. Potter, from White Hall, New York. The following year (1798) came Luke and Michael Decker, who built their cabin where now stands the Parochial Residence of St. Thomas Church. Later they were joined by William McDaniel's. In 1814, Mr. Stevens built a saw mill on the banks of the creek where the Lucille Fashions now stands. Mr. Steven's mill was Dickson City's first industry. Here the timber cut from the surrounding wilderness was prepared for market, it being rafted down the Lackawanna River and then to Scranton, known at that time as Slocum Hollow.

Peter A. Snyder then cleared a farm near City Line and built his home on the hillside, to the rear of the old Richmond Company store, where he and his family remained as inhabitants. During the half century, these sturdy pioneers lived in comparative solitude, wringing from the soil that they cleared by dint of hard labor a mere existence. Corn, rye and potatoes were the main crops. Bear meat, venison and fish comprised the luxuries of their day, while they had neither school nor church.

Later Messers. Pugh, Baker and Jones, leased the coal lands at Dickson and subsequently sold their lease to William H. Richmond and Charles P. Wurts. This change of property gave birth to Dickson as a village and to the Elk Hill Coal and Iron Company, of which Richmond was President until the breaker was burned in 1882. The Post Office department added "City" to the name of the village to distinguish it from other towns in the State by the same name.

In 1859, Jerry Chittenden opened a drift in the hillside west of the present Storr's Colliery. Later he started a shaft where the O. & W. Railroad crosses the D. & H. Railroad, building a breaker at the same time where later stood the Frisbie Silk Company now destroyed. To house his employees he built the first of the old company houses along what is today Bowman Street, between the D.&H. Railroad and Boulevard Avenue, known to the early settlers as the Dickson Flats. In 1860, Richmond and Murk succeeded Chittendon, purchasing the mining rights from Bennet and Johnson, who lived in Binghamton, New York. They opened another new drift and erected a breaker to the rear of the Lloyd House. Later in 1863, Mr. Richmond, organized the Elk Hill Coal and Iron Company, and continued to operate the breaker and mine. The breaker was destroyed by fire in 1883. A smaller breaker was erected near the Carter Place in Providence, which was abandoned in 1889 and a new Breaker erected on the site of the original one. Mr. Richmond also built the houses for his workers on the hillside which later became the site of Storr's Colliery. This section was known as the "Shanty Hill". The population of the village at that time was 329.

About a half mile below Olyphant is Priceburg, which at one time formed the farms of Luke and Michael Decker. It was the newest village in the valley and one of the most progressive. Messrs. Throop, Pancoast and Price each purchased part of the Decker Farm, and to the upper section owned by Price, came German immigrants who founded the village of Priceville, in honor of Eli Price. This section of the town developed rapidly after 1880, when John Jermyn sank the shaft which is now known as the Johnson shaft. Here the population had grown from 329 to 841.

In April 1875, Dickson City was incorporated as a Borough, including at the time all of the present Borough of Throop. It received its name from the late Thomas Dickson. The first election was held in October 1875. W.H. Loftus was elected Burgess; Henry W. Smith, President of Council; Frank Day, Chairman of the School Board; and Patrick Riley was the first Chief of Police. A post office in the Jermyn Company Store served those people living in the upper portion of the Borough. When the Richmond store was abolished, the post office was moved to Boulevard Road, with Thomas Grier as Postmaster.

In June 1892, the Dickson-Blakely Traction Street Railway Company, which was to connect Scranton, Dickson City, Blakely and Archbald, was chartered. The company was organized to build a six mile line beginning on the public road known at the time as the Carbondale-Providence Turnpike and Plank Road, being the division line between Blakely and Archbald Boroughs.

On April 5, 1890, William H. Morgan was appointed first Tax Collector by the County. Until this time Dickson City Borough was without an ordinance. Our Borough was in total darkness until arrangements were made to have the Olyphant Borough Electric Light Plant supply us with street lights. Later in the year the Priceburg Electric Company was organized and supplied thirty- four lights. When the Borough was incorporated it had three two room school houses. By 1939 it had seven school houses. Today it is consolidated with Throop and Olyphant to form the Mid Valley School District. Two of the schools are in Dickson City.

In addition to the public schools, St Mary's Visitation Roman- Catholic school housed many pupils, and still does. The sisters of Bernadine Order and lay instructors comprised the faculty.

The Primitive Methodist Church, whose congregation is the oldest established in the town, was the first organized, In 1883 the first church was built on the corner of Jackson and Carmalt Sts. This church was later moved to the corner of Jackson and Lincoln Sts. and rebuilt in 1906. The first Pastor was Rev. Holder.

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Visitation Church was established two years later in 1885. The first Pastor was Rev. Gromlowicz.

St. Thomas' Roman Catholic Church is the third oldest in the Borough, it being organized three years later as a parish in 1888, with the Rev. Conway as Pastor.

St. Adalbert's Church on Mary St. belongs to the congregation of the Polish National Church organized in 1897. The original building was destroyed by fire and rebuilt. The first Pastor was Rev. Grochowski.

The Welsh Presbyterian Church located on the West Lackawanna Avenue was built in 1914. This church was formerly the Calvinistic Methodist Church of Olyphant.

**It's first Pastor was the Rev. B.Evans. This church is presently located in Olyphant Borough.**

**St. Stephen's Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Church and parsonage also located on West Lackawanna Avenue was built in the years of 1924-25. It was first served by Rev. Andrew Olsawski.**

**The St. Mary's Russian Orthodox Church located in the 500 block of Main St. was organized and built in 1934, with the Rev. Nicholas Cuglevich as Pastor.**

**The Assembly of God Church on Main St. was founded in 1936, with Rev. Stanley Pugh as Pastor; who prior to entering the ministry was a blacksmith in Dickson City. The present structure was erected in 1954. The Pastor of the present church is Rev. Albert Pundt.**

**The Bradley Memorial United Methodist Church is located in the city line section on 106 Lincoln St. In 1912 a property was purchased at the corner of N. Main Ave. and Boundry St. Mr. Richard Bradley gave the land in memory of his deceased daughter. At the time the church was changed to Bradley Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1913 a basement building was established and services were held here until the new church building was opened for worship Aug. 16, 1959.**

**Much of the work in the new building was done by the people of the congregation. The present Pastor is Rev. William G. Buffton.**

**The Jewish population had a two-story frame synagogue, located in the 800 Block of Main St. In the basement they maintained their school.**

**The town was at various times served by the D.L. and W., the O. and W. and the D. and H. Railroads. In 1870, the population of our Borough was 329; in 1880 it was 341. At one time it was well over 13,000.**

**In 1878, there were 583 taxpayers; in 1900, there were 905; and in 1939 there were over 6,500.**

**In 1880, the total assessed valuation was \$ 233,000.00. In 1900 it was \$ 534,743.00. In 1892, the total taxes collected amounted to \$ 3,713.34. Within the borders of the Borough there was in the past located: the Olyphant Colliery and the Miles Slope of the Hudson Coal Company, the Johnson Colliery of the Scranton Coal Company, The Storr's Colliery and the Slope of the Glenn Alden Coal Company.**

**The Bliss Silk Throwing Company was organized in 1907 by Sidney Bliss. Now Lucille Fashions stands at the site.**

**The Frisbie Silk Throwing Company located on Dewey St., was organized in 1903 and rebuilt in 1909 and then destroyed.**

**In 1909, The Betsy Ross Silk Throwing Company, rear of Wilson Lumber Company, off Main St, was organized. In April 1939, the silk mill was changed into the Rayon Mill. At present C&S Wood Products is preparing to occupy the building.**

**The Lorenson-Matthews Manufacturing Company, steel fabricators, was organized in August 1923, by Mr. Lorenson.**

**In 1920 Joseph Spitz organized the Mid-Valley Foundry, located on Frieda St.**

**The Early Foundry Company, Inc., was organized in 1906, and is located on Cherry St, along the D. & H. Railroad tracks, and was incorporated in 1914 by John Early, James and Thomas Shannon.**

## **HISTORY OF EAGLE HOSE COMPANY NO. 1**

**On June 21, 1890, an article in the Olyphant Gazette reporting a disastrous fire on Dunmore St., Throop, Pa., motivated the paper to suggest that a fire company be organized, possibly in Dickson City and jointly operated by the two boroughs. Up to this time the fire company from Dunmore, Pa., furnished fire protection for the area from Dunmore to Mahon's Hotel which was located on the present site of the Penn Can Motor Company. With the growth of the area it was becoming increasingly difficult for this company to give adequate protection.**

**A group of interested men contacted the Dickson City Council to see if they would finance a part of such company, or a separate borough company. The council agreed to do all in their power to help such a group. About a month later on July 26, 1890, the council appointed a committee to go to Powder Mills located in Jessup, Pa., to talk to Superintendent Dakin about the cost of building a hose cart. This same committee was also to contact the officials of D & H and Pancoast Coal Companies and ask for aid in organizing and maintaining the fire company to furnish protection for lower Throop and Dickson City. Following two more months of discussion and planning, a group of men met on October 3, 1890 in the Rodger's Citizens Hall (later the Callahan Building and presently the Tower Building) and organized the fire company. The name selected was Eagle Hose Company No. 1 and the following men were elected: President Byron Fallon; Vice President Alex Rutledge; Treasurer, W. C. Griffin; Secretary, Thomas Plamer; Foreman or Chief, Charles Griffin.**

**The writer of this news article commented that "with such a set of officers the Eagle Hose Company was sure to succeed."**

**At a business meeting held on October 21, 1890 the officers called upon the women of the area to encourage their husbands and sons who might be old enough to cooperate and join with them. It also stated that they would, at least for the present, meet in Rodger's Citizens Hall.**

**On August 27, 1892, the company was incorporated with the following officers: Richard Barron, President; Thomas Mc Arthur, Vice-President; Watson C. Griffin, Treasurer; John G. Miller, Secretary; Richard Barron, Charles Pickering, George Ries, Trustees; and the following as members: Martin Deichmiller, William R. Wilson, Thomas Pickering, Thomas C. Barron, William Eley, George W. Snyder, Herman W. Schmidt, Charles D. Eley, George Wood, William W. Sayers, Henry Whittall, Christopher Leitner, William B. Williams, Patrick J. O'Connor, William Smith, Fred Smith, Frederick Zimmerman and recorded in the Court of Common Pleas, Lackawanna County, September 27, 1892.**

**The present membership stands at 58 members and all clergy in town are honorary members. In 1972 Eagle Hose Co. celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Present Officers are as follows: President, Clem Zagorski; Vice President, David Tylenda; Secretary, Thomas Keegan; Treasurer, John Mellow; Financial Secretary, Frank Mazur, Jr.**

## **AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION**

**In 1958, one year prior to the purchase of the first ambulance, Revs. Dominiak and Korpusik of St. Mary's Church invited James Cooper, a member of Eagle Hose Co. to formulate plans for getting an ambulance for the community of Dickson City, to be manned and maintained by members of the Eagle Hose Co. with community ambulance funds.**

**Due to the illness and sudden death of Rev. Dominiak these plans were tabled until one year later when the "Go Ahead" signal was on for the purchase of a new ambulance. James Cooper invited Rev. Korpusik to attend a meeting of Eagle Hose Company to explain the need for the ambulance in the community and to present the plans that were formulated. The members of Eagle Hose Company unanimously accepted the plans.**

**President Thomas Bentham appointed Rev. Korpusik, general chairman, and James Cooper, Ambulance Fund Drive chairman. Rev. Korpusik drafted an appeal letter which was sent to all borough pastors, civic and service organizations.**

**The first meeting of the workers to solicit memberships for the ambulance funds was held in the Eagle Hose Company rooms with James Cooper presiding. Rev. Korpusik outlined the plan for the special house to house drive and the need for a Community ambulance.**

**Eagle Hose Company members and it's auxiliary, civic and service organizations, representatives from societies and organizations of all churches throughout the borough, and civic-minded citizens attended this meeting held in April 1959.**

**According to the plan the goal was set at \$ 15,000.00 to be solicited in three weeks. Frank Mazur sent to ambulance manufacturing companies for prices on ambulances made according to community specifications. After careful consideration the ambulance was purchased from the Wolfington Superior Ambulance Company of Philadelphia, Pa. Mr. Fitzgerald was the Wolfington representative. Approximately \$ 15,000.00 was paid for the first ambulance which was to be delivered by the end of May.**

**First-aid classes were started at once with James Cooper as First-aid Red Cross instructor for the membership of Eagle Hose Co. Standard and advanced courses were completed and the membership was ready to man the new ambulances when it arrived.**

**Ambulance aids all attended a Hospitalization Course for ambulance attendants at the Mid- Valley Hospital under the direction of Dr. Roy Simpson, Peckville, Pa. and Mr. Gerald Blaum of the Penna. Dept. of Health. All aids received ambulance attendant's cards.**

**The ambulance is manned on a 24 hour basis by members of the Eagle Hose Co. No. 1 with headquarters in the Borough Building.**

### **LADIE'S AUXILIARY**

**On February 25, 1928, a number of ladies gathered together in the rooms of the Eagle Hose Company No. 1, in the Odd Fellows at the request of the members of that organization for the purpose of organizing a Ladies Auxiliary to the company. A committee composed of David Hall, Michael Lyons, and Gordon Sponsler, representing Eagle Hose Company, and Mrs. Victor Burschel from Dunmore Volunteer Hose Company Auxiliary, stated the purpose of such an auxiliary and asked the women present to be part of such an organization.**

**The lady's present were Etta Moses, Rose Kelly, Jane Oakey, Mattie Huntley, Molly Shaffer, Thelma O. Evans (Hughes), Lena Schmidt, Kitty Hall, Charlotte Griffiths, Charlotte Malone, and Mae Shaffer. They elected Etta Moses, president; Rose Kelly, secretary. Thus the Ladies Auxiliary to Eagle Hose Company No. 1 was formed. They started with eleven members in February and by April their ranks has swelled to thirty-six. They worked along with the firemen to help provide trucks, equipment and furnishings for the meeting rooms when they moved to their present location, the Borough Building, in 1929.**

**In 1930 they participated in the flag raising ceremony at the new Junior High School. Before disbanding in 1932 they met in the homes of several of the members. Upon their re-organization in March 1935, Mrs. Jane Oakey, the only continuous member of the original eleven, became president at that time and continued for ten years. Gertrude Oakey (D) was secretary and Stella Mazurowski, treasurer. They continued for ten years. Presently the officers are as follows: President, Frances Slocum; Vice President, Beverly Filipski; Financial Secretary, Marilyn Mack; Recording Secretary, Andrea Slocum; Treasurer, Louise Jackson. Honorary Members are; Pearl Palovitz, Pearl Patchofski. Forty year members are: Jane Oakey, Stella Mazurowski, Kitty Hall and Nellie Bentham Beam.**

### **THE ORIGINAL CHARTER OF THE BOROUGH IS SET FORTH VERBATIM; INCORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF DICKSON CITY.**

**To the Honorable the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the County of Luzerne.**

**We the undersigned inhabitants of the village of Dickson, in the township of Blakely, county of Luzerne and state of Pa., and citizens of the United States are desirous of acquiring and enjoying the powers and immunities of a corporation laws of the Commonwealth of Pa.**

### **ARTICLE FIRST**

**The corporate name, style and titles of this Borough shall be: The Borough of Dickson City.**

## ARTICLE SECOND

The boundaries of said borough shall be as follows: Commencing at a point in the center of the bridge crossing the Lackawanna River at or near the southeast corner of the Borough of Blakely, thence down said river to a point which will strike the line between the two tracts of land in the warrantee names of Levi Pearce, Hannah Bell, Robert Walmond, Lewis Farmer to a point in the eastern boundary of the township of Roaring Brook, thence southwesterly along said boundary line to the southeast corner of the township of Blakely. Thence, north-westerly along the boundary line between the township of Blakely and the borough of Dunmore and the city of Scranton to the boundary line of the township of Abington thence northerly along the line between the township of Blakely to the line of the township of Scott, thence northeasterly along the line between the township of Scott and the township of Blakely to a point in the tract of land in the warrantee name of Benjamin McLean and the proposed southern line of the extension of the borough of Blakely, thence in a direct line along said boundary of the proposed extension of the borough of Blakely to the places beginning in the center of the bridge crossing the Lackawanna River a plot or draft of which said borough is hereto attached.

## ARTICLE THIRD

The place of holding the general and municipal election in said borough shall be at the school house on the Carbondale Turnpike Road between villages of Priceville and "Dickson City" such elections to be held in conformity with the second and the third sections of the eighth article of the constitution of the state of Pennsylvania.

Benjamin Throop  
L.E. Judge  
J.D.Secor  
Samuel D. Miller  
Wright L. Savage  
James A. Savage  
David Thomas  
Thomas Grier  
Daniel Gamb  
Walter O'Mallis  
John Wm. Shaw  
James Reid  
Samuel Smith  
H.W. Loftus  
Peter Meehan  
Miles Boyd  
Hugh Tackney  
William D. Burke  
George Ely  
T. P. Pentecost

P.J. O'Connor  
George Weed  
Barney McGuire  
Thomas Watton  
John McGuire  
S.H.Tompkins  
Donick Gannon  
Henry LeBrume  
A.M.Feathers  
Bernard Farrell  
Barney Hartt  
Henry Biglin  
Thomas G. Meehan  
Barney Biglan  
David Smith  
Pat Mullen  
H.J. White  
Adrien Seigler  
Andrew Hetzell  
John E. Williams

**Martin Crippler  
John Snyder  
Avert Snyder  
Henry A. Zimmerman  
William Wagner  
John H. Zimmerman  
August Zimmerman  
John Shafer  
W.H. Smith  
James Day  
Frank Day  
James Riley  
E.J. Stuart  
James C. Higgins  
Benjamin Rees  
Michael Betzath  
Stephen Jackson  
Thomas Cowley  
John Sykes  
John Judge  
Myron Higgins  
James Rogers  
Peter Munley  
Charles Sweeney  
Martin Crippler  
Frank Olendike  
John Sheridan  
Charles Reilly  
Michael Judge  
Patrick Donnelly**

**John Heffernan  
John Smith  
Joseph S.Rantnew  
Charles Eley  
Edward Snyder  
Henry Bery  
Charles Myers  
Joseph Gerneruder  
John Miller  
James Cannon  
Wilhelm Lichteubin  
W. P. Snyder  
L.S. Lake  
Randolph Crippler  
Charles Cunningham  
Thomas McCaully  
Martin Gilligan  
Terrance McDermott  
David E. Hoyd  
Thomas R. Russell  
Henry Stark  
William Weed  
James Jones  
Michael McNulty  
Herman Higgins  
Charles Riley  
Gilliet Weed  
Joseph Rizer  
Charles Gatton  
Samuel Robbins**

**Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the Court of Quarter Sessions of the peace of the county of Luzerne for a borough charter for the village of Dickson in the township of Blakely in said county. Application will be made on the third Monday of April A.D. 1875, it being the 19<sup>th</sup> day of said month.**

**D.R. Randall**

**Atty. for Petitioners**

**February 27<sup>th</sup>, 1875**

**March 3,'75**

**Luzerne County, ss.**

**H.B. Beardslee, being duly sworn, doth, depose and say that he published notice of applications of the citizens of the village of Dickson in the township of Blakely for a Borough Charter in a newspaper known as the Luzerne Union published in the city of Wilkes Barre in said county for a period of thirty (30) days and upwards prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 1875 a copy of which said notice is hereby attached.**

**H.B. Beardslee**

**Sworn and subscribed before me this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1875 A.D.**

**H. A. Fuller-Prot.**

**The Grand Jury respectfully report that they find the condition of the Act of Assembly complied with and they believe that it is expedient to grant the petitioners.**

**Charles Law  
Foreman**

**IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION TO INCORPORATE THE TOWN OF  
DICKSON CITY INTO A BOROUGH**

**And now September 13<sup>th</sup> A. D., 1875 on motion by George B. Kulp, Esq. the court confirms the judgment of the Grand Jury and decree that the said town of Dickson City be incorporated into a borough in conformity with the prayer of the petitioners that the corporate style and title thereof shall be “ The Borough of Dickson City” that the boundaries thereof shall be as follows: viz., commencing at the point in the center of the bridge crossing the Lackawanna River at or near the south- east corner of the borough of Blakely, thence down said river to a point which will strike the line between the two tracts of land in the warrantee name of Levi Pearce and William Pearce, thence south easterly along said line dividing said tracts of land being the south line of Levi Pearce, Hannan Bell, Robert Walemance and Louis Farmer to a point in the eastern boundary of the township of Roaring Brook, thence south-easterly along said boundary line to the southeast corner of the township of Blakely, thence north-westerly along the boundary line between the township of Blakely and the borough of Dunmore and the city of Scranton to the boundary line of the township of Abington, thence northerly along the line between the township of Abington and to the township of Blakely to the line of the township of Scott, thence northeasterly, along the line between the township of Scott and the township of Blakely to a point in the tract of land in the warrantee name of Benjamin McLean and the proposed southern line of the extension of the borough of Blakely, thence in a direct line said boundary of the proposed extension of the borough of Blakely to the place of beginning in the center of the bridge crossing the Lackawanna River; and that the annual borough election shall be held at the public school house in said borough on the Carbondale Turnpike Road between the villages pf Priceville and Dickson City on the third Tuesday of February in accordance with and subject to all the provisions of the laws regulating township elections and declare said borough a separate election and school district. The court further decrees and fix the first election in said borough for election of the officers provided for by law, at the said public school house in said borough on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October A.D. 1875 between the hours of 7A.M. and 7 P.M. of said day and designate Henry Loftus to give notice of said election and the manner thereof and the court further decrees that Martin Crippen be the Judge and Frank Day and Benjamin Reese be the inspectors of said election.**

