

## MANY SMALL TOWNS NAMED FOR PROMINENT FAMILIES

Today's "What's In a Name" story is the first of eight concerning the name origins of county towns and villages. Although many of the smaller settlements will be discussed in these next articles, the groups will be incomplete.

Original intents of research on this subject were to track down township and borough names. Material gathered in this primary search has been presented in the first 23 stories. However, in hunting up this material, one stumbles over name histories of the smaller county communities. Therefore, it was decided to present what was found on villages and town despite the fact that the material covers at best only a percentage of such county locations.

A glance at a cross-section of village names shows that the majority of them come from names of persons or families. Of the some community names trace, 15 are from this type of source. Other sources are similar to those of the townships and boroughs. Indian and English names, and original industries are also frequent reasons for village names. Among those named for people and families, one finds several interesting circumstances.

Take the case of Broomall, for instance. This Marple Township community was named for Congressman John M. Broomall, but he knew nothing about it at the time.

The story is that when an application for a post office along the West Chester Pike in Marple was submitted, Congressman Broomall signed and presented the application to postal officials. The department approved the application but noticed that no name was specified.

After trying to locate the congressman and failing, they named the new postoffice after him - Broomall. Although this was only a temporary name, it was never changed and remains today. Congressman Broomall was the grandfather of the late Judge John M. Broomall, 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Four villages named for persons and families are Glen Riddle, Elwyn, Boothwyn and Ogden.

Glen Riddle, in Middletown Township, was named for Samuel Riddle, a leader in textile manufacturing there and throughout the county.

Elwyn, postoffice and community, also in Middletown, was named for Dr. A.L. Elwyn, a pioneer in the movement that led to the establishment of the Pennsylvania Training School for Feeble-minded Children, now known as Elwyn Training School. The school was founded in 1853. Previously, the railroad station at Elwyn was known as Greenwood.

Boothwyn and Ogden were both named for families who owned farms and homes in the areas these villages now comprise. Both in Upper Chichester Township, Boothwyn was named for the Booth family and Ogden for the Ogden family.

In Monday's article, the origin of Brookhaven borough's name was listed as a mystery. Only several flimsy stories had been upturned in the search for the name's source. One local historical authority wrote the following to "What's In a Name " concerning Brookhaven's name beginnings.

"Regarding Brookhaven at a period when it was necessary for folks to create their own amusement and good times, there was a Lyceum at Sneath's Corner and because too many city slickers were strolling out Middletown Road and referring to the settlement as "Sneak's Corner" the Lyceum sponsored a contest for the most euphonious name for the cross-roads. Brookhaven was chosen.

"The Sneath's had formerly owned the store at the Southeasterly corner and also the property of the Edwards family. The Nellings lived over the creek at Red bridge in the southerly and westerly house on the Waterville Road near where the Johnsons, Beattys and Bickleys had their mill. The descendants of these Beattys are still very active in the affairs of Delaware County, and there was a marriage between the Beattys and Nellings and this couple went west about the time George Cobourn did. George Cobourn is an uncle of George R. Cobourn and now resides in Oregon."

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