

UPLAND HAS OLDEST NAMES; ALDAN CAME FROM SIBERIA

Starting today and continuing through the next ten stories, this series will concern itself with the names of Delaware county boroughs. Media has already been discussed as the county seat in the fourth article of the series. However, all of the other 26 borough name histories will follow.

One finds borough names considerably harder to investigate than the townships. Probably the main reason for this is the lack of recent history books. Most of the boroughs have been incorporated within the last sixty years and accounts of them are not included in the Delaware County histories published in the nineteenth century.

Some hint to all the borough names has been found although it is in many cases very brief. But others have interesting and detailed stories.

It is hard to classify name origins in groups. But of the 26 boroughs one finds four named for old homestead, three with names growing out of railroad development, three named for old mills, two with English derivation, three named for other towns, several named by real estate developers, several for famous people, one supposed Indian name, two derived from a novel, one religious and the others miscellaneous.

Upland was one of the first boroughs to be formed and has the oldest name derived from a local source. It was, of course, given the original name of the city of Chester, which was lost when Penn changed the name.

Many persons who mourn Penn's changing the name to Chester are cheered by the preservation of the name Upland in the borough. It bears the oldest city name in Pennsylvania.

Upland was settled in colonial times but was part of Chester township until May 24, 1869. The Crozer family established mills in Upland and were the greatest supporters of the community. The Crozer family is credited with giving the town its name. Silk and textile products were, and still are, principal manufactured articles in Upland.

If readers are acquainted with previous articles in this series there is little need to discuss the origin of Darby borough's name which was derived from the town of Derby in Derbyshire, England.

Aldan township has a unique name. The name is said to have been taken from a town in Siberia and given to the borough at the time of its incorporation in 1893.

The borough was originally part of Upper Darby township. Prominent land owners in the vicinity of Aldan near the end of the last century were members of the Levis family. Among them were Seth T. Levis, J.H. Levis and S.C. Levis.

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