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Who Were the First Settlers of Throop?

By Joe Rudzinski

Merriam-Webster defines Serendipity as “finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for”, today it is commonly used to refer to finding something unexpected or valuable. The story that follows is prompted by some serendipitous discoveries that I found about Throop while doing genealogy research on my family.

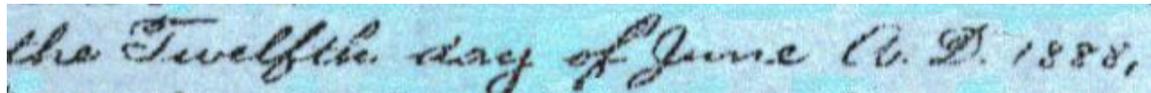
When you Google “Throop, Pennsylvania”, the following is part of the Wiki definition you will receive: “*Throop is a borough in Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, adjoining Scranton. Formerly, coal mining and silk manufacturing provided employment for the people of Throop, who numbered 2,204 in 1900 and 5,133 in 1910*”. This is where I was born and lived my first eighteen years, where I was married, and while I have been gone 60 years, the place I still affectionately call my hometown.

The genesis for this story began early in my family research when I found a copy of the deed to my grandfather’s home among family documents. The house is located at 312 Charles Street and was purchased by my grandfather in 1904. Two portions of the deed aroused my curiosity, the first:

A photograph of a handwritten document, likely a deed, showing a portion of text in cursive script. The text reads: "Block Number B. as shown on 'Shepherd's Map of Throop'".

Block Number B. as shown on "Shepherd's Map of Throop"

Was the reference to “Shepards Map of Throop”, I was surprised and intrigued, I had never heard of this map and it appeared this could be the map or Plat used to develop the company housing of the Pancoast Coal Company. The next portion was the deed filing information,

A photograph of a handwritten document snippet on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in a cursive script and reads: "the Twelfth day of June (A. D.) 1888,". The paper shows signs of wear and discoloration.

including date the deed was filed. This was before Throop was incorporated as a borough. Now my curiosity war really aroused, however, this was in the early 1990’s before the Internet and we were living in Virginia at the time, so the only opportunities for follow-up research was limited to family visits to Throop.

Several years later, after Throop celebrated its Centennial in 1994, I acquired a copy of the centennial commemorative newspaper. The paper was filled with historical information and this rekindled my curiosity. I had now been interested in the history of Throop for many years and the paper refreshed memories of things we learned in elementary and high school and growing up in Throop. However, it also pointed out many things that I had never known about Throop.

The commemorative paper contained a lot of information about Doctor Benjamin Throop for whom Throop is named and about the Pancoast Mine disaster. What surprised me was that there was not much information about the very early settlement of the area that became Throop. There was just a sketchy reference to the fact that the Anderson farm, located near the current Underwood and Marshwood roads, was the first settlement or

Where was Throop’s First Settlements?

By William “Bud” Wallace

Many people wonder where the first settlers of Throop lived. The information I have, both definite and legendary, I acquired from research and “old times” I knew when I was young. Those folks would be well over 100 years old today, were they still alive.

It’s said the first residence in town was the Anderson farm, located a short distance from the junction of Underwood and Marshwood roads. The farm extended up from the Underwood road to the old “Rizz” swimming hole, and from Marshwood Road to the Birds Eye gorge. This was a working farm up to World War I and was destroyed by fire in the late 1920’s.

Throop Centennial Commemorative article retyped to improve readability.

residence; and that coal was discovered on the farm. No dates or other specific information was given.

The Pancoast Mine is recognized as the catalyst that spurred the growth and establishment of the village of Throop that had primarily been a collection of farms in Providence and then Blakely Townships. The commemorative newspaper did focus on the mine disaster of 1911, but without any mention of when the mine began operation, the number of miners employed, when the population surge associated with the operation began or when the railroad spurs were built to connect to the mine. I do not want to disparage the contributors of the commemorative newspaper, I think they did a great job with the information available. This was done before the Internet and information was difficult and laborious to research.

With all this new information, I thought it would be interesting to trace the history of the area that became Throop back as far as possible. I was particularly interested in finding out if there were others besides James Anderson who settled the area.

Once I started this search it did not take long to determine that I needed a strategy. The Internet was just coming into its own and this would allow broad search capabilities. I decided to focus my searching on people, history and then property and deeds. The people and history research turned out to be the easiest, however, property and deeds proved difficult. None of the deeds were available online and were maintained at the county seats of Lackawanna and Luzerne in Scranton and Wilkes Barre. I lived outside the area and only visited the area a few times each year, so I focused my searching to the Internet for any mention of Throop in the early history of Luzerne and Lackawanna counties. During this process I found that I had to keep two things in mind:

- Lackawanna County was the last county formed in Pennsylvania in 1878 when it was portioned from Luzerne County.
- The land that became Throop was originally part of the townships of Providence, then Blakley and finally Priceburg (Dickson City).

One of my first finds and one of interest was the piece below, extracted from Horace Hollister's 1885 "History of the Lackawanna Valley".

This portion that I have selected is made up of the recollections of Elder John Miller of Abington Township as told to Hollister in 1856. Elder Miller is relating his recollections of the Lackawanna River valley proceeding North along the West side of the river to Carbondale and then South on the East side back to Scranton. Only the description of the trek back to the South is quoted below.

“Having now reached the extreme point of the valley, on the West side of the Lackawanna, as far as settled in 1804, a glance of the eastern border, less sought after for a dwelling-place or heritage at this time, will be briefly given. There are yet a few remaining who can bear testimony to the rugged, narrow path along the stream, overhung with interlocking trees, which led its way from Ragged Island (Carbondale) to Capoose (Scranton), with only here and there a break in the woodland for the occasional occupant.

Upon the farm known as the Dolph farm, in Olyphant, lived Moses Dolph, father of Alexander and grandfather to the present owner, Edward Dolph.

Immediately below was, James Ferris, father of Samuel, William, and John, and daughter Sarah. James brought his family to Blakely township when it was a part of Providence, being the first settler on the east side of the Lackawanna river, and building a cabin in 1798 where James J. Lynch's store now stands (approx. corner of Delaware and Lackawanna Streets).

From the lands of Ferris, it was nothing but woods, broken only within a single mile by the blackened fallow of **John Secor**, whose cabin, built from logs of great strength and size, served to dispel all fears inspired by wolves ever slumbering about the clearing after nightfall. John Secor, was a native of France, and emigrated to the United States some time prior to 1804. He settled first in New York state, but subsequently migrated to the Lackawanna Valley, where he became a large landowner in Blakely township. Between Secor's and Dunmore, two miles away, two rights had been improved respectively by Charles Dolph and Levi Depuy.”

Further in this section of the document it was indicated that the Drinker Corners was the point from where the two miles from Secor's cabin was measured.

Using the description of the locations of Lynch's store in Olyphant and Drinker Corners Dunmore, a Google map was created and annotated to show

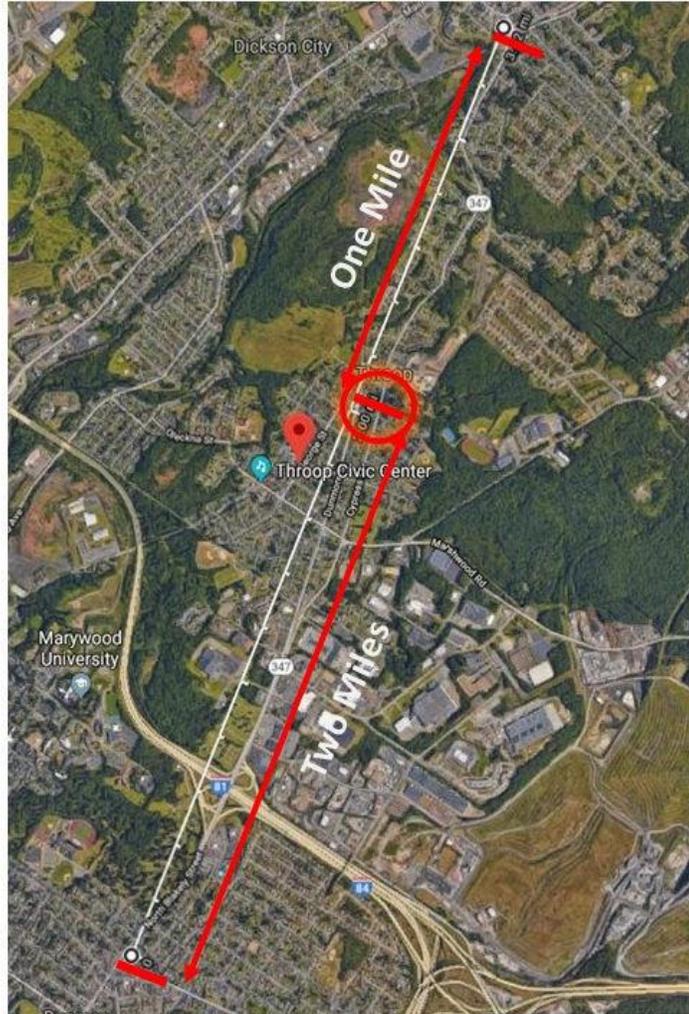
the distances as mentioned in the Hollister article. These are approximations, but I believe they are accurate. The area circled in red is where I estimate John Secor built his cabin. This would be in the area where Cypress, George and Dunmore streets merge. Of course, this is merely an educated guess but as you read on you will see there is good basis for this conclusion.

To confirm that there was a Secor family living in the area, I searched the Internet for Family Trees and I discovered one created by descendants of John Secor. In addition, I found forums/discussion groups where Secor descendants discussed their family history. These groups included several posts by descendants of John Secor. Using this information, I was able to establish that John Secor had been married twice with children from both marriages. His first marriage was dated as before 1804 and his second to Lydia as 1824. His death was dated as before 1850. His wives were:

Mary (aka Polly) Fowler Secor
Lydia Stevens Secor

Children from the marriages include: Gideon G., Allen, Francis, John W., Isaac, Theron and Betsy.

Another discovery was the following article from the Luzerne County Federalist dated 26 Feb 1808. It also establishes that John Secor lived in the area:



Caution — Whereas my wife, Polly, had eloped from my bed and board, without any just provocation. I therefore forewarn all persons from harboring or trusting her on my account, as I will not pay one cent of her contracting, from this date. John SECOR, Providence, Feb. 22nd”

This type of advertisement must have been a common practice to announce “runaway wives” at the time because I saw several similar announcements in the same paper. Given this was considered “wilderness area” it is understandable some women could not withstand the hardships. The date cited is interesting because I have found a deed between John Secor and his wife Mary (Polly) to a Thomas Depew dated 1817.

What makes the item even more ironic is that an Indenture was made and recorded in Luzerne County in 1840 by John Secor to his sons, Isaac and John. In this indenture, he specified “in consideration of natural love and affection as well as in consideration that they the said Isaac and John support and maintain their mother Polly otherwise called Polly Secor during her natural life so that she be well and sufficiently supplied with food and clothing and other necessities for her comfort....”. He was married to Lydia at the time but still felt obliged to remember his first wife.

The article that follows concerns Allen Secor, the oldest son of John and it notes he was born in 1804, about two miles from Dunmore.

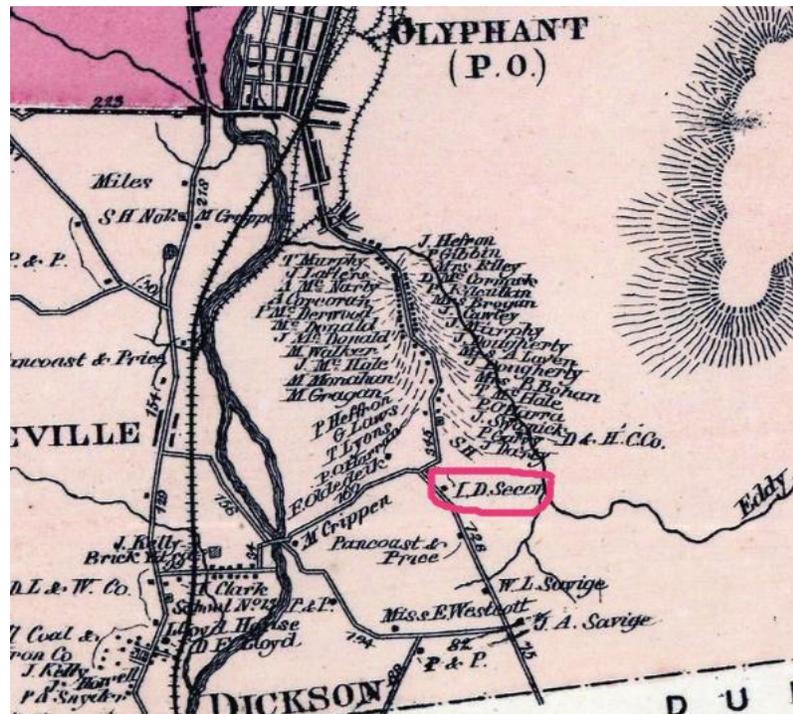
The oldest native resident of the Lackawanna valley is Allen Secor, son of John Secor, who was born in Blakeley, about two miles from Dunmore, in March, 1804, and now lives in Dunmore. He has spent his whole life in this valley. He helped to erect the first log house in Carbon-dale, and he ran the last raft that descended the Lackawanna.

*History of Luzerne, Lackawanna, and Wyoming Counties, Pa
published in 1880*

This is similar to the previous references to the Secor residence being of two miles from Dunmore. Allen lived in Dunmore until his death in 1882.

The portion of an 1873 Atlas map shows an I.D. Secor (circled in red) in the area that would be in the area where George, Dunmore and Cypress streets merge. Isaac D. was a son of John Secor. Also indicted on the map are E. Wescott (Elizabeth), J. A. and W.L. Savage and Martin Crippen.

So, now in addition to James Anderson, I can place someone else living or owning property in the area we know as Throop as early as 1804. The earliest evidence I have located that places James Anderson is when he is mentioned in a



Atlas of Luzerne County Pennsylvania by D.G. Beers, published by A. Pomeroy & Co., Philadelphia, 1873

survey done by Benjamin Wright, commissioned by the Wurtz (Wurts) brothers who were exploring the region for coal deposits and went on to open one of the first collieries in the area at Carbondale and buy large tracts of land in the area. The survey was dated 1823 and is quoted as follows:

“Seven localities were designated where coal had been discovered, five of them being around the log cabin in Carbondale, one below the falls, near Wagners Gap (Archbald) and the remaining one on the farm of James Anderson, in Providence township (Throop) 12 miles below Carbondale.”

James Anderson was married, and his wife was Mary, I have been able to find a record of two children, Allen and Maria. He can be placed in the area as late as 1858 as indicated in an article of the “Transactions of the American Institute of the City of New York Vol 17 1859, pages 164 and 165” where he submitted a letter in which he described himself as a man of great age and experience and went on to comment on “Deep Plowing and

Weak Straw”. It was noted that he resided in Providence, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

U.S. census data was helpful placing individuals in the area but prior to 1900, specific information such as actual address was not collected. For example, the 1830 and 40 censuses only collected the name of the head of household. The data below provides confirmation that John Secor and James Anderson lived in the area described variously as Providence Township or Blakely Township. Another individual who has come up as possible early residents of Throop is Martin Crippen. There are references to indicate Martin Crippen’s property was in what is lower Throop. Additional research will be required to confirm where he resided.

Name	Census Year
John Secor	1820, 1830, 1840
James Anderson	1830, 1840, 1850
Martin Crippen	1850, 1860, 1870, 1880

After gathering the above information, I hit a brick wall. While the evidence was strong to show that there were several other early settlers in the area that became Throop; I needed to solidify the confirmation and property records, showing when these settlers acquired the land appeared the best way to do that.

Availability of Luzerne and Lackawanna county property records was necessary to accomplish this. Lackawanna County was first to digitize most of its public records, including property records, and made them available on line. Luzerne County would follow several years later.

With the Lackawanna County property records available online, I was able follow my grandfather’s deed back to the previous owner, John H. Law and found that John Law purchased the property from the estates of Eli K. Price and Joseph Pancoast in 1888. This prompted me to look at other surrounding properties in Throop and I found they all traced back to the Price and Pancoast estates and the deeds were virtually identical with only the plot or tract description differing.

While searching through the deed database I found a particularly significant deed/transfer of ownership that was the basis for the Price/ Pancoast Mine and a good part of Throop as we know it today. This land transaction totals approximately 334 acres and came to be described in

property records as the “Price/Pancoast tract” and was made up of four pieces that were purchased by Eli K. Price and Joseph Sanderson in 1853/1854 (Deed Book 5 Page 257). The properties are described below.

Note: Perches in the descriptions below is a unit of measurement equal to 16.5 feet.

First: One tract on the Lackawanna (river) and Providence township line containing 53 acres seventy perches being the first dissolved premises deed from William Stevens and wife to said first party in fee dated the first day of October 1854 recorded in Luzerne County in Deed Book 60 page 128.

Second: One tract containing 120 acres adjoining the above eastward and bounding on the Lackawanna River which Charles W Potter and wife by deed dated the 25th June 1853 recorded in Luzerne County in Deed Book 23 page 24 conveyed to said party in fee.

Third: Once tract adjoining above and adjoining Martin Crippen and James Anderson which Lydia Secor by deed dated 25 October 1853 conveyed to said first party in fee recorded in Deed Book 57 page 298 containing 53 acres and three quarters acre

Fourth: another tract adjoining the Providence Township line, the Anderson tract and tract of the Delaware and Hudson Coal Company which John Jay Phillips by deed dated 24 March 1856 recorded in Deed Book 70 page 155 conveyed unto said party in fee containing 108 acres and 102 perches

This looked like a major break-through. James Anderson and Lydia Secor (wife of John Secor) were parties in these transactions, however, the deeds referenced back to Luzerne County property records and it was not until 2017 that Family Search.org (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) copied, digitized and made available online property/deed records of Luzerne County. This was a major break-through for genealogist and history researchers and for me.

During these searches I also found “Shepards map of Throop”, that was referenced in my grandfather’s deed. The record copy of the map is of very poor quality and I have cleaned it up without making any changes. Only a portion of the map is shown below because of the size and condition. The document legend describes the map as “Price Pancoast and Throop map of



Portion of Shepards map of Throop from Lackawanna County recorder of deeds map Book 1 Page 26

Throop, date 1895, it divides the Price/Pancoast and Throop piece of property into a grid of Blocks with alphabetic designators. Typical verbiage in most Throop deeds reads “Lot number one (1) in Block B ... as referenced in Shepards map of Throop”.

The Luzerne County property transactions date back to the late 1700’s so it is necessary to understand how Colonial Pennsylvania approached settling the wilderness areas or allowing the acquisition of State-owned land by the public. The system was called the Warrant process. The following from the FamilySearch.org Wiki page provides a good description of the process:

“The proprietors and the Commonwealth in most cases provided individuals first, or original, title to land in Pennsylvania through a five-step process:

APPLICATION: Under William Penn, oral requests to purchase a specific number of acres at a particular location were made. Under his heirs, applications were written requests and often gave the reason for the request. Later applications may provide researchers with important historical details, such as when the property was first settled.

WARRANT: This is a written order, based on the application, to survey the requested tract of land.
SURVEY: A surveyor physically measured and marked the land on its premises.

RETURN OF SURVEY: A statement certifying that the survey is complete was added to the application. It included a diagram of the land and a written description of the property.

PATENT: A written first title to the property conveying ownership to the individual submitting the application.

Subsequent transactions involving the property were conducted usually, but not always, on a county basis.”

These steps included fees and required a lot of documentation and in many cases a lot of time. The result of this process is how most of the wilderness areas of the Commonwealth were settled and villages and towns in the state were formed. Throop was made up of the eight Warrants.

The warrants were issued to the following individuals:

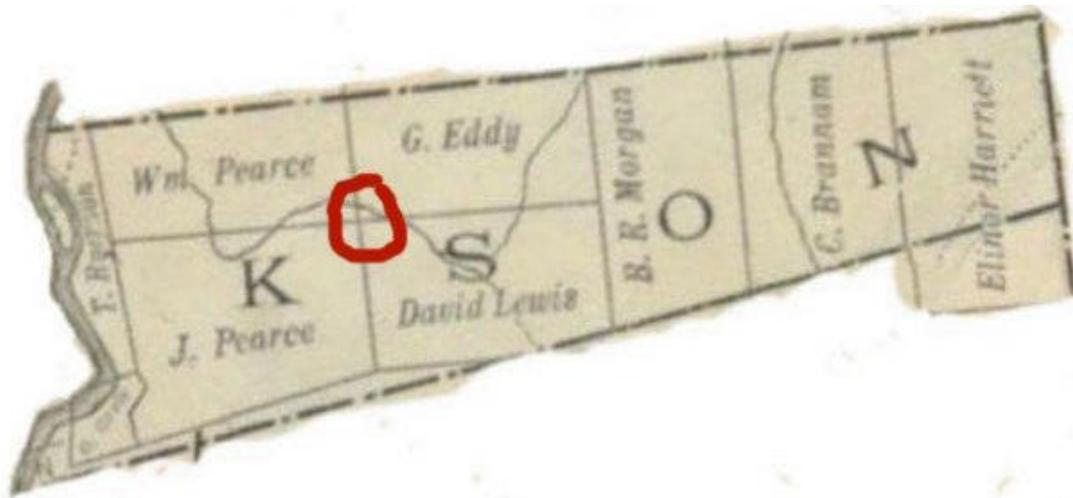
	Warrant	Survey	Patent	Acres
Benjamin R. Morgan	5/2/1794	10/13/1794	1/10/1794	403
David Lewis	5/2/1794	10/13/1794	1/10/1794	400
George Eddy	5/2/1794	10/13/1794	1/10/1794	400
John Pearce	10/16/1792	10/11/1794	8/29/1796	419
William Pearce	10/16/1792	10/11/1794	8/31/1796	363
Christiana Branham	2/3/1794	5/12/1794	11/9/1796	439
Eleanor Harriet	2/3/1794	5/12/1794	11/10/1796	439
Thomas Ryerson	2/27/1775	11/17/1775	2/10/1790	287

These warrants total 3,150 acres and they make up what is now Throop. My goal now was to tie a warrant directly to John Secor and James Anderson.

I found that that number of deeds, transfers and assignment of rights was staggering. Land speculation was rampant and within 20 years of the recording of the original warrants/patents, none of the original warrant owners still owned the land. Many warrants were seized by Luzerne County for delinquent taxes or debts and then auctioned to the highest bidder. In several instances, the person who won the auction defaulted and the property was seized and auctioned yet again. It would have been interesting to see newspapers or other media of the time to see how this whole process was advertised. The property records clearly show a relatively small number of individuals were involved in the transactions. These include prominent merchants, bankers, doctors and lawyers in Philadelphia and New York. It appears that back then as in current times the lawyers were the people who benefited most from all these transactions.

Samuel W. Fisher a Philadelphia merchant and David Hosack of New York were among the individuals who purchased a significant number of delinquent warrants. What follows are portions extracted and transcribed from the handwritten deed between Fisher/Hosack and John Secor, filed in Luzerne County on 10 June 1814, in Deed Book 15 page 305.

The deed describes the boundaries of the property in great detail; the portion below is relevant, especially the reference to the head of the line between John Pierce and William Pierce. A warrant map is marked in red to show this portion.



“Beginning at a Hemlock standing North forty-six degrees and thirty minutes, West one hundred & sixty perches from an old White Pine at the head of the line between John Pierce and William Pierce, thence from the said Hemlock South thirty-five degrees thirty minutes, West seventy-two perches to a stake thence”

The deed then closes as follows:

“Being part of two contiguous tracts of land taken up in the names of John Pierce and William Pierce which the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by patent bearing date August 29th 1796 enrolled in the rolls office in Patent Book No 28 page 373 and by patent bearing date August 31, 1796 enrolled in the Rolls Office in Patent Book No 28 Page 370 granted to Joseph Thomas and which by virtue of sundry mesne conveyances became vested in the said Samuel W. Fisher at and before the ensealing of these presents.”

This deed links John Secor to the warrants of John and William Pierce. The surveyor boundary descriptions are difficult to understand, however, there is an App that allows you to interpret the descriptions known as “Metes & Bounds” and plot them on a map; however, without an absolute fixed starting point, it is only possible to approximate the placement of the property. This information does correlate with previous descriptions of where John Secor’s cabin was located. The descriptions of the James Anderson plots and other properties also match up well when plotted but it will take an iterative trial and error process to place all the properties precisely in each warrant area.

The supporting data for my conclusion regarding John Secor although indirect, i.e., no official documents such as birth, marriage or death certificates is very strong. I have also found that Martin Crippen, Elisha and Charles Potter and James Savage can also be considered among the early land owners and possible settlers, although a bit later than Anderson and Secor.

During my research, I have collected more than fifty deeds all connected to the warrants that eventually became Throop. By the time the Pancoast Mine began operating in 1880-1, there were a few owners of small tracts (less than 10 acres) but most of the land that formed Throop was consolidated and owned by Pancoast Coal (Eli K. Price & Joseph Pancoast), Delaware Lackawanna and Western Rail Road, Delaware and Hudson Canal or Coal company and Pennsylvania Coal Company. Any land that was sold by these companies included provisions that the mineral rights, specifically coal, remained the property of the said companies.

Just as I was wrapping up this story I came across an article from the Scranton Tribune of 14 June 1899. The focus of the article was legal action started in 1895 by the Winton Coal Company against the Pancoast Coal Company for royalties on coal mined at the Pancoast Mine. The suit had been in the courts for five years with verdicts overturned in favor of both the plaintiff and defendant, the case cited below is the latest iteration. Only a portion of the article is shown.

CASE DELVES IN ANCIENT HISTORY

SUIT FOR COAL ROYALTIES WITH INTERESTING FEATURES

Title to the Property in Dispute is Traced Back in the days of the Revolution, When Some of the Best Coal Lands in These Parts Sold for Three Shillings an Acre—It Is the Oft-Tried case of the Winton Coal Company Against the Pancoast Coal Company.

The much tried coal case of the Winton Coal Company against the Pancoast Coal Company was again put on trial yesterday in common pleas court, before Judge George R. Purdy, of Honsdale, specially presiding. It is a suit for royalties amounting to \$10,000, but on its outcome fully double this figure depends.

It was instituted February 28, 1892, and referred to arbitrators who, in November of the same year, found for the plaintiff. This was appealed from and in December 1894. It was tried before Judge Harold McClure of Lewisburg. He directed a verdict for the defendant on the ground that an action of account should have been brought.

The Supreme court reversed this finding and sent the case back for re-trial. It came before Judge Edwards in January 1896 and again the defendants were victorious. A new trial; was asked for on the ground of error on the part of the trial judge and it was allowed. The case again went on the triallist and now, after dragging along for three additional years, comes up for its fourth trial.

The history of the case dates back to the revolutionary days. A man whose identity was not preserved built a log house in what is now known as Throop borough and staked out a farm. He remained only a short time, when he quit his cabin and farm and as far as the present sketch is concerned, disappeared.

THE SECOND OWNER

In 1812 William Knapp squatted on the tract and built for himself a cabin at Anderson's corners, the traces of which are still visible. In 1828 he left the place never to return and two years later the place was purchased by Benjamin A. Bidlack, a Wilkes Barre attorney.

Three years later Bidlack sold the surface, which is co-extensive with the present Village of Throop, to Henry Heermans, conveying with it a half interest in the coal.

Heerman's sold his interest to James Anderson, receiving one half of the coal. Anderson sold his title to his son, Allen Anderson and son-in-law James Savage. The Savage share descended to the Pancoast Coal Company. Allen Anderson sold his share to W.W. Winton and A.H. Winton and they disposed of their right and

Note: the on-line article was not in the best condition therefore I have retyped it without change to improve readability.

My first reaction to the article was, Wow! Some of my conclusions in this story might be in question; however, after several reads and some research it is my opinion that much of the article is the result of poor research.

The first point I take issue with is: “A man whose identity was not preserved built a log cabin”. Based on the information in this article I believe this person was in fact John Secor. John Secor did not simply stake out a claim, he was one of the first individuals who purchased and lived on the land in what is now Throop. He purchased 188 acres from Samuel W. Fisher as previously noted 10 June 1814 as recorded in Luzerne county Deed Book 15 page 305 for Three Hundred Seventy-six dollars and forty-six cents (\$376.46).

The second point: William Knapp, the 1812 squatter, was in fact a resident of Blakely and a party in many land transactions in the area. He was also part of a consortium who speculated in land (William Knapp, Lyman Smith and John G. Finch). I have not found any evidence that points to his “squatting” in the area that is now Throop. I did come across some curious transactions involving William Knapp concerning the same 160-acre piece of property that is the subject of the suit:

William Knapp to Warren Buttolph 18 Oct 1825 160 Acres \$1,800
Warren Buttolph to William Knapp 8 Jan 1827 160 Acres \$1,800
Warren Buttolph to William Knapp 10 Feb 1827 160 Acres \$1,000

Benjamin Bidlack purchased this property at auction or sheriff’s sale, 12 April 1830, and it was recorded in Luzerne County 5 August 1831. The auction purchase price was \$570.00.

Benjamin Bidlack in turn sold the property to Henry Heermans on the same day he purchased it. The price paid by Heermans was \$1,000.00 and it was specified in the deed that Benjamin Bidlack would retain “one undivided half part of the stone coal” on the premises. As indicated in the article, on 9 November 1831, Henry Heermans sold this property to James Anderson for \$1,000.00, carrying forward the Benjamin Bidlack claim to retain “one undivided half part of the stone coal”.

The verdict rendered in this suit was in favor of the defendant, the Pancoast Coal Company; however, it was subject to appeal again.

It has been an interesting journey into the early history of Throop and during my research I got a glimpse of how Throop changed from a few scattered farms into a thriving mining town. In addition, I have discovered enough information about Throop and the Pancoast Coal Company to be worthy of a follow-up article. An example is the Anderson farm. Traditional lore places the farm near the junction of Marshwood and Underwood roads, the indications I have noted in deeds and property records put it a bit further to the west bordering on Dunmore Street and perhaps extending to the Pancoast Mine area. There may be enough surveyor's data in the deeds I have collected to establish a benchmark reference point that can be used to accurately plot and map the exact location of the Anderson farm. This could also accurately place all of the land transactions into each warrant area.

Joe Rudzinski was born and raised in Throop where he attended St. Anthony's Elementary School and Throop High School graduating in 1957. He then joined the U.S. Navy where he served in the Naval Security Group in Hawaii and Taipei. He subsequently returned to Throop to marry his high school sweetheart, Barbara Kashmer. In 1962, the couple moved to Arlington, VA and for the next 12 years, Joe's work with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) took him on several assignments overseas. Resettling in Sterling, VA, in 1973, he continued working at CIA headquarters. After retiring from the CIA in 1989, Joe worked with General Electric, Lockheed and Quest Communications as a Senior Systems Engineer before retiring in 2000. Joe is an avid genealogist and has researched their families for more than 30 years.