

"Our Living Past"

VILLAGE OF LAURYS STATION — 1830

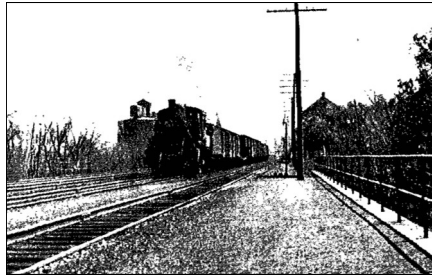
The village of **Laurys Station** was originally named "Slate Dam" after the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company built a large dam on a bed of slate in the Lehigh River in 1830.

In 1832, David Laury erected the Laury Hotel in the village, which became a popular resort during the summer months for boarders who arrived there by Lehigh Valley trains. Laury would later become the settlement's postmaster (1853) and held the office up to the time of his death. In 1865 he was elected Justice of the Peace for North Whitehall, and in 1867 was appointed Revenue Collector for Lehigh and Northampton Counties. He was elected Associate Judge of Lehigh County in 1868, and served with credit.



Judge David Laury

At the time of construction of the **Lehigh Valley Railroad**, a railway station was opened at **Laurys Station**. Judge Laury was appointed the railroad agent and general manager for the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company. The company also had a supply house, a repair shop, and an ice depot in the immediate vicinity. The Laurys Station Post Office was located in one of the stores from July 17, 1856



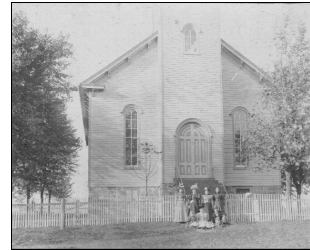
to 1965. Then it was transferred to the corner of Church and Main Streets, and on August 30, 1974, it was moved into the present Laurys Station Post Office Building on Rising Sun Road.

An island which was a cape of silt along the west bank of the Slate Dam in the Lehigh River, opposite the village of **Laurys Station**, became the property of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company in 1890. The Island had been used as a picnic and recreation spot for guests of nearby Hotel Laury. The Railroad Company enlarged the spot, and erected refreshment stands and amusement rides. Excursions were run to the Island. A devastating flood in 1902 damaged the land and by 1905, the Island was completely abandoned. Laurys Island, once a popular picnic and amusement resort, became a memory.

In 1839, David Laury established a grist mill on the banks of the Lehigh River at **Laurys Station**. It was operated by Mr. Laury and other millers until about 1890 when the Mauser Milling Company was organized. It was remodeled, enlarged, and changed into a full "roller process" mill, and became one of the first of three such mills in Pennsylvania. It was capable of producing about 300 barrels of flour daily. The Mauser Mill was completely destroyed by fire in the early 1930's.

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (1873)

Before 1872, religious services were conducted both in German and in English in the schoolhouse which later became Laurys Grange Hall. Most of the worshippers belonged to the Lutheran and Reformed congregations of the Neffs Union Church and Egypt Church. The membership became so strong and the wish to have a more



convenient place to worship developed to such an extent, that it was resolved to form a separate church. Several men of the area offered two acres of land from their farms upon which to erect the new church. St. John's Union Church was completed in 1873.



Coming in September

Community Days will be held at Laurys Station Fire Company on September 17th, 2011. This year the celebration will be all about the history of David Laury and Laurys Station.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

More information available next issue of *"what's going on"*.

Next issue of *"what's going on"*, we will take a look at **Ironton** history.