

# Blair County, Resources and Her Possibilities

Altoona Times Will Publish, From Day to Day,  
Articles Bearing On Mineral, Industrial and Agri-  
cultural Wealth—Watch, Read and Suggest

Another famous and historic spot in Blair county and which has disappeared with the onward trend of progress was what was known as the Three Mile dam. This dam extended from Flowing Spring to Williamsburg and was built as a feeder for the old Pennsylvania canal many years ago but was retained for many years as an ice dam by the Pennsylvania Ice company.

The ice company built enormous ice houses at Point View and annually stored thousands of tons of ice which was shipped to this city and other points during the summer. When the making of artificial ice took the place of the natural product, the ice houses were allowed to go and the Three Mile dam was drained and is now but a memory.

While this dam was in existence, it was one of the best fishing and pleasure resorts in this part of the state. The dam was well stocked with many species of fresh water fish and it was the haunt of fishermen from all sections of the state, many coming from as far west as Pittsburgh and east from Philadelphia. Black Bass, carp, eels, suckers and other species were abundant and were caught in large quantities.

Such a large body of water being located in such a picturesque valley should never have been destroyed. Navigable for boats of most any size, even to small side wheel steamers, the Three Mile dam should still be the leading resort of the county.

At Point View, which lies about midway between Flowing Spring and Williamsburg, many people from the city erected cottages and spent their summers there, going back and forth to their work on the train while others left their families there for the summer. It was an ideal spot and a more healthy location could not be found anywhere. But, with the passing of the dam, the attractiveness of the place has disappeared and there is little of the one time beauty left.

Near where the big ice houses once stood, J. L. Hartman has erected tipples where he loads gannister rock from the incline planes which bring the rock from the tops of the mountains. A bridge spans the river at this place and gannister is being hauled across from the opposite side of the river and loaded on the cars.

The canal passed down the valley, running parallel with the river and many parts of the old canal bed and the tow-path are still in existence although parts of it have been used up in building the state road which leads through the valley.

One of the most interesting spots to be found in Pennsylvania is at Flowing Spring. Here is an intermittent spring, the only one of the kind in this section of the country. When the Williamsburg railroad was built, unfortunately, the

spring was on the right of way and the tracks now cross the famous spring, destroying it to a large extent, although the railroad company built a stone arch across the spot where the water bubbles out and gave it a certain amount of protection but its location under the railroad tracks does not add much to its usefulness neither does it make the spring available for domestic use.

Located on the level ground at the base of Lock mountain, this spring flows a steady stream of pure, sparkling water for the course of three quarters of an hour and then the flow ceases and for a period of about the same length of time, there is not a drop forthcoming. This phenomenon is accounted for in the same way as the conveying of any liquor over a projection by means of a siphon.

Geologists tell us that there is a large body of water, or an underground lake somewhere under Lock mountain. That the outlet of the lake is like a bent pipe which forms a siphon and that this only allows the water to flow until a level is reached and then it drops until it reaches the top of the bent outlet again.

Just below the spring there is a large tract of land which has been known as the island. On one side was the Three Mile dam while on the other side was the stream flowing from the intermittent spring. Here was a favorite camping and picnic ground but, with the passing of the dam, the camping ground and favorite picnic resort gradually fell into disuse and has grown into a wilderness and is no longer the favorite haunt of pleasure seekers.

Easily reached either by rail or automobile, there is not a better location anywhere to be found for a recreation spot. With an abundance of good water for drinking and cooking and with a river full of fish and suitable for bathing in the summer, Flowing Spring could easily be one of the leading summer resorts of the county.

Spanning the river at Flowing Spring is one of the old historic wooden bridges. The state road to Williamsburg does not cross this bridge, however, and it is not used much for traffic anymore, except to reach the incline and is densely covered with timber. In the early days, the timber was cut and made into charcoal and hauled to the furnaces of the county.

Some day, the real advantages of these places will be recognized by people seeking good, healthful locations for homes. Then the best places of the county will take on new life and become what they ought to have been long ago, the homes of many people.

Blair county is unequalled in such places. There are many others and tomorrow we will tell something of other interesting spots that have helped make Blair county famous.