

shipments of coal by the Union canal and other avenues as follows:

The Shamokin railroad was opened in 1839.

The Dauphin and Susquehanna in 1854.

The Treverton railroad in 1855.

At this early day of the coal trade, this portion of the country was wild and seemed far removed in the woods. Lykens Valley is the broad expanse, three to five miles in width, of fertile red shale soil between the Mahantango mountain on the north and Berry's mountain on the south, with the Susquehanna river as its boundary line on the west. Its eastern portion is a distance of twelve miles from the river, and is subdivided into two smaller valleys, the main or northern one extending some ten miles east to the valley of the Mahanoy creek. The south portion is named after its early settler, Williams, who built a grist mill near Williamstown, also named after him.

Andrew Lycans, the Pioneer of the Wiconisco Valley.

In 1723 Andrew Lycans (not Lycan) settled on the Swatara creek, where he took up two hundred and fifty acres of land adjoining lands of Robert Young and Lazarus Stewart, and which was surveyed to him on the 4th of April, 1737. About 1740 he seems to have sold out, and removed with a number of others to the west side of the Susquehanna, where he settled and made some improvements on a tract of land between Shearman's creek and the Juniata, in then Cumberland county. This not being included in the then last Indian purchase, the Shawanese, who had a few scattered villages on the Juniata, complained of the encroachments of these settlers and demanded their removal. To pacify the Indians, the Provincial authorities sent, in 1748, the sheriff of Lancaster county, with three magistrates, accompanied by Conrad Weiser, to warn the people to leave at once. But, notwithstanding all this, the settlers remained, determined not to be driven away at least by threats.

On the 22d of May, 1740, after more decisive measures had been decided upon by the Provincial government, a number of high dignitaries who had been appointed by the lieutenant governor, held a conference at the house of George Croghan in Pennsboro' township, Cumberland county. Subsequently, accompanied by the under-sheriff of that county, they went to the place where

Lycans and others lived, and after taking the settlers into custody burned their cabins to the number of five or six.*

They were subsequently released by order of the governor of the Province, when Andrew Lycans removed with his family to the east side of the Susquehanna beyond the Kittatinny mountains, and by permission of the authorities, settled on a tract of about two hundred acres, situated on the northerly side of Whiconescong creek." Here he made "considerable improvements," which we learn from a document in our possession.

Until the spring of 1756 these pioneers on the Wiconisco were not disturbed in their homes, but following the defeat of Braddock, everywhere along the frontier the savages began their work of devastation and death. Their implacable cruelty was stimulated by the promise of reward for scalps on the part of the French, beside the further one of being put into possession of their lands. On the morning of the 7th of March, 1756, Andrew Lycans and John Rewalt went out early to fodder their cattle, when two guns were fired at them. Neither being harmed, they ran into the house, and prepared themselves for defense in case of an attack. The Indians then got under cover of a hog house near the dwelling house, when John Lycans, a son of Andrew, John Rewalt and Ludwig Shott, a neighbor, crept out of the house in order to get a shot at them, but were fired upon by the savages, and all wounded, the latter (Shott) in the abdomen. At this moment Andrew Lycans saw one of the Indians over the hog house, and also two white men running out of the same, and get a little distance therefrom. Upon this, Lycans and his party attempted to escape, but were pursued by the Indians to the number of sixteen or upwards. John Lycans and Rewalt, being badly wounded and not able

* NOTE.—We have before us the account of Andrew Work, sheriff of Lancaster, for removal of trespassers at Juniata," which is as follows:

"Dr. Province of Pennsylvania to Andrew Work, Sheriff of the County of Lancaster and Cumberland.
 "To ten days attendance on the Secretary Magistrates of Cumberland, by his Hon'r, the Governor's command to remove sundry persons settled to the northward of the Kichitania mountains:
 "To paid the Messenger sent from Lancaster at my own expenses, 8:7:0
 "To the Under-Sheriff's Attendance on the like service, eight days,
 "To his Expenses in taking down Andrew Lycans to Prison to Lancaster other Expenses on the Journey, 2:10:0
 "Augt., 1750. AND. WORK, Sher.