The region embraced within the present limits of Lehigh County was first visited by white men about 1701. So far as known these earliest visitors left no written record of their observations, a situation that prevails likewise with the still earlier inhabitants, the Delaware Indians.

The earliest contributions to our knowledge of the area were made by explorers and travelers, some of whom have left records of careful and exact observations. An example of exaggeration or fantastic description is the work of Gottlieb Mittelberger, who made a journey to Pennsylvania in the years 1750-1754, and returning to Germany related many a "tall story" of his experiences and the objects he had seen.

The map-makers, geographers, geologists, and historians also began their work soon after the first settlements were made and have continued to add to our knowledge down to the present at an almost steadily increasing rate. For the past 100 years there is scarcely a year without some worthwhile contribution.

Naturally the titles contained in the bibliography and cartography are of unequal value. In many the information is indefinite, fragmentary and, in certain cases, incorrect. Certain articles are, in large part, merely repetitions of previous ones. All that have come to the attention of the writer have been listed, regardless of their merits or demerits, with the idea in mind that time and effort may be saved thereby for future investigators.

In this 200-year record the writings of a few men stand out so prominently as to deserve specific mention. For the first century these are James Scull, Nicholas Scull, W. Scull, Lewis Evans, William Maclure, frequently called the "Father of North American Geology," and Parker Cleaveland.

The second century opened the era of systematic investigations by trained scientists. In 1836 the First Geological Survey of Pennsylvania was established with the brilliant geologist, Henry D. Rogers, as Director. In his Second Annual Report published in 1838 he laid the foundation for all later geological and geographical work in the region. In his succeeding Third, Fourth and Fifth annual reports and in the comprehensive Final Report (1858) he supplied a mass of data that still possesses much value and must be consulted by all present-day workers. More detailed studies have been made since that time and many explanations have been modified, yet little change has been made in the basal concepts of Rogers and his co-workers as expressed in their writings between 1836 and 1858.