somewhat colder and wetter between 1850 and 1870, but data on
snowfall are lacking. Certainly it is true that heavy snow storms
before the advent of hard roads, automobiles, and State highway
supervision resulted in much more inconvenience than now. Sleighs
formerly used for weeks at a time in this region have now practically
disappeared.

The farmers look with favor on falls of snow that cover the ground
and form a protection to winter wheat and other grains. On the other
hand, some of the most disastrous floods have resulted from sudden
melting of deep accumulations of snow by unseasonably warm periods
or by heavy rains.

Snowfall varies greatly in amount and time of occurrence. The
greatest fall occurs in December, January, and February, although
occasional heavy falls occur during November and March. In most
sections of eastern Pennsylvania the heaviest snow on record fell March 10-12, 1888, when a depth between twenty and thirty inches
was measured in some places. This is commonly known as the "Great
Blizzard." It affected a large portion of the Atlantic seaboard. Snow
occasionally covers the ground for a short time even during April and
October, and snow flurries occur during May and September. A very
late snow in the spring is commonly termed the "onion snow."

The average annual snowfall at Allentown for 15 years given in
the following table is evidently too low, as it includes some years of
abnormally light snows. A fairer average would be near 30 inches.
Philadelphia over a period of 58 years has an average of 24.3 inches.
The average seasonal snowfall for Reading, also with a long record,
is 29.5 inches. As it is a common occurrence in winter that a storm
passing through eastern Pennsylvania yields rain in Philadelphia and
snow in the Lehigh Valley, the snowfall for this region over a longer
term of years should be considerably higher than Philadelphia and
probably slightly higher than Reading.

Snowfall (unmelted) at Allentown, in inches

|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|
| 1923 | 12.0 | 12.2 | *    | *    | 0    | trace| 2.5
| 1924 | *    | 12.2 | *    | *    | 12.0 | trace| 6.2
| 1925 | 43.2 | 25.0 | trace| 6.4  | 0    | 1.7  | 0.7
| 1926 | 3.9  | 20.1 | 0    | 0    | trace| trace| 6.6
| 1927 | 5.1  | 10.0 | 11.0 | trace| trace| trace| 6.0
| 1928 | 12.9 | 4.6  | 11.0 | trace| trace| trace| 8.5
| 1929 | 2.2  | 8.2  | 3.2  | trace| trace| trace| 8.5
| 1930 | 9.8  | 3.0  | 0    | 0.5  | trace| trace| 3.5
| 1931 | 1.5  | 3.6  | trace| 2.4  | 0    | 1.5  | 9.0
| 1932 | trace| 1.3  | 2.2  | trace| trace| trace| 9.1
| 1933 | 1.4  | 9.6  | 2.9  | trace| trace| trace| 9.0
| 1934 | trace| 17.6 | 7.8  | trace| trace| trace| 2.2
| 1935 | 30.8 | 9.4  | 2.0  | trace| trace| trace| 8.2
| 1936 | 15.4 | 38.5 | 10.7 | trace| trace| trace| 29.2
| 1937 | 4.1  | 3.8  | 4.1  | 1.3  | 13.0 | 0.8  | 23.4
| 1938 | 11.0 | 0.2  | 5.5  | trace| trace| trace| 29.6
| 1940**| 4.9  | 11.7 | 2.1  | 3    | 2.3  | 2.5  | 29.0

Average ................................................................. 24.0

* Record lacking.
** 2.2 inches in October.
*** 0.5 inch in October.