It is sometimes difficult to trace the present name to its original Indian designation. A good illustration of this is the name "Lehigh" which comes from "Lechauwekink." Very early the name was shortened by the early German settlers to "Lecha" but even that does not sound much like "Lehigh," the modern name which was adopted by the English.

Some other Indian names are Catasauqua, Hokendauqua, Saucon, Tatamy, and Kittatinny. All of these and a few others seem to have been given by the Delaware Indians.

2. Family names of early residents.—The names of families or some particular individuals constitute the greatest number of place names of Northampton County. Usually the family name has been selected although in some cases, such as Petersville and Jacoby (Cobus) Creek, the given name has been chosen. The taverns of an early day were almost always known by the names of the proprietors and as these localities developed into settlements the names were extended to include the entire community. When the taverns changed owners the name of the settlement also changed in many cases so that some difficulty is experienced in identifying some of these old place names now in disuse. Creeks and hills likewise have at times borne different names because of the arrival of new families in the particular regions. Creeks were commonly named for a family that operated a mill on the stream.

Some settlements have had their names changed when the U. S. Government established a post office and would not permit duplication of a name used elsewhere within the State. In some cases ideal names persisted for some time but eventually the new name chosen for the post office was extended to the village.

As examples of this general class or group of place names, the following are cited: Hellertown, Danielsville, Redington, Hunters Creek, and Roseto.

3. Names of distinguished persons.—Several place names of the county perpetuate the name of persons of prominence, some of whom never had any connection with this section. The following are examples: Wilson Township, Pennsville and Siegfried.

4. Names of Biblical origin.—As many of the early residents were extremely religious, it is only natural that names such as Bethlehem, Nazareth and Mount Bethel should be applied to some of the settlements.

5. Names of places from whence the early settlers came.—In this class we have as examples many names applied by the German settlers,