Gold, Silver, Lead, Zinc

From time to time there have been reports of valuable deposits of rare mineral, particularly gold and silver, in the rocks of the region, mainly in the gneiss hills south of the Lehigh River and in Kittatinny (Blue) Mountain. Some of these have been inspired in the not uncommon expressed belief that "them hills were not put there for nothing."

M. S. Henry in his unpublished History of Northampton County mentions one specific illustration.

Near the base of the mountain at this place (Smith's Gap), a number of Gentlemen some years ago, hearing the "mountain man" at work in the bowels of the Earth, probably also discerning the blue flames issuing from his work shop, these and other unnatural indications induced them to spend considerable sums in mining for the supposed silver ores that were said to be here. But as the "spell" could by no means whatever be taken off, these mines lay unexplored until this day.

Early residents in the vicinity of Little Gap reported the "moan of the mountain" which they likewise interpreted to mean the existence of silver ore.

A geologist will not deny the possibility of traces of silver ore being found in the sandstones and conglomerates of Kittatinny (Blue) Mountain, inasmuch as pockets of lead ore (galena) have been found elsewhere in the State in rocks of this age and also the common association of silver minerals with galena. However, one can say that there is extremely small probability that any occurrence of commercial importance will ever be discovered in this section.

A similar statement may be made concerning gold ore. Pyrite and quartz, such as yield gold in economic quantity in rocks approximately the same age in the southern Appalachians, are not uncommon minerals in the gneisses of Northampton County. Some of these may possibly contain traces of gold, as has been reported, but probably in amounts too small to possess any value. Chance (1882) says that some of the pyrite cubes in the Shawangunk conglomerates at the Delaware Water Gap are auriferous.

The Friedensville zinc ore deposits of the Saucon Valley are within less than a mile of the Northampton County line. Some persons have expected that these ore bodies may extend into this county, although up to the present time there is no indication that they do.

Cement

The most valuable mineral deposit of Northampton County, with the exception of the soils, is the cement rock of the Jacksonburg formation. It extends across the entire county from Belvidere to Northampton, with detached areas near Portland and Brodhead. Large