Meanwhile D. O. Saylor, who operated a natural cement plant at Coplay, began experiments for the production of portland cement and in 1872 began its manufacture just across the Lehigh River in Lehigh County, using stone from the same Jacksonburg strata. For some unexplained reason, for several years the idea was held that the stone east of the Lehigh could be used for natural cement but was unsuited for portland cement. It was not until a few years later that the first portland cement plant in Northampton County was built.

Since that time there has been a gradual extension of the cement industry in Northampton County until in 1938 few desirable sites remain unoccupied. For many years the total production increased

Natural cement continued to be manufactured from the Jacksonburg limestone in the vicinity of the present borough of Northampton. M. S. Henry reports the conditions there in 1860.

On the eastern side of the river, directly opposite the village (Whitfield, now Cementon), are the extensive Hydraulic Cement Works of E. Eckert & Co. These works have been in successful operation for a number of years, and the cement (which is mined in the neighborhood) is said to be equal in every respect to the celebrated Rosendale cement.

Until 1872 the manufacture of natural cement at this place was continued on a small scale. That year the original plant was leased by General J. Selfridge and more kilns were constructed and the production increased to 200 barrels per day. The company became the Old Lehigh Cement Co. A new quarry was opened on the Hokendauqua Creek about a mile east of the plant. Market conditions were so poor that for the next five years the plant was idle most of the time.

Another natural-cement plant, called the Allen Cement Co., was built nearby on Hokendauqua Creek in 1872 and opened a quarry close to the mill. Prime described it in 1878.

The works consist of two small draw kilns and two run of stone, having a capacity of about seventy-five barrels daily. The mill is driven by steam power.

The product of their manufacture is a light yellow cement, and is known in the market as the “Allen” or the “Keystone.”

Owing to the low price of cement along the coast and stagnation in business these works have done very little during the last three years.

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27 M. S. Henry, History of the Lehigh Valley, p. 362, 1860