brick kilns were formerly operated. It is known that there were plants in the north part of the present city of Bethlehem, along the Nazareth road between Altona and Nazada, at Howertown, Weaversville, Nazareth (South Main St.), Hellertown, Glendon, Easton (College Hill), and north of Chestnut Hill. All these are now abandoned. There may have been others. Within recent years clay and brick operations have been carried on in South Easton, half a mile north of Georgetown and on the Lehigh-Northampton County line west of Bingen.

Although nearly all the clay dug in Northampton County has been used in the manufacture of brick, some of it was used at an early day for tile and pottery. In 1742 Lewis Huebner, a potter by trade, came to Bethlehem to erect a tile stove which he had made. He soon settled in Bethlehem and built a plant along Monocacy Creek a short distance north of the town. It is said that he obtained his clay from nearby pits, the exact location not known. Here he made tile stoves of various kinds. Some were almost entirely tile, others part tile and part cast iron. Some were about five feet in height. M. S. Henry gives the following description of the industry:

Pottery, for many years carried on by Lewis Huebner, was a very lucrative trade in Bethlehem, and in 1782 that business was rated at £130. It is said that the demand could not be supplied, more particularly in years when apples were plentiful. Applebutter boiling by the farmers was universal, and earthen ovens to preserve it were in great demand. Mr. Huebner also made the tiles used for stoves, as well as the common tiles for the covering of houses, barns, and stables. For barns they were in use many years, and some of them may be seen to this day. When tile could not be had, farms and stables were thatched. Pipe heads were also made by Mr. Huebner in large quantities. 35

Besides the uses mentioned, a small amount of clay has been used in the manufacture of portland cement by those companies that work stone containing too little alumina and silica. The plants of the Nazareth Cement Co. and Penn-Dixie No. 4 (formerly the Dexter) have occasionally had to add a small amount of the residual or glacial clay near the mills for this purpose.

Some of the clay formed in association with the limonitic iron ores of the county has attracted attention but, to the writer’s knowledge, has been used only from the mud-dam deposits, if we except other, which is a ferruginous clay described under Mineral Pigments. In some cases the clay is white and might be suitable for various purposes. However, the occurrence in pockets of variable size surrounded by red, yellow and almost black varieties renders it impracticable to mine or dig it. In adjoining regions some of these white clay deposits have been worked on a small scale. It is doubtful whether any of these in Northampton County are of economic value.