hem within a few years after the coming of the first settlers. The virgin forests of the region contained many hemlocks, the bark of which was used in hides for many years. Bark was shipped in after all the local hemlocks had been cut. Old maps show the location of many tanneries throughout the Valley. Some of the tanners acquired considerable skill. One man is said to have developed a process that enabled him to take the hide from a calf in the morning and have a pair of boots by evening.

The Moravians manufactured some of their own drugs, and their first drug store was in the Bell House, and moved to its present location on Main Street, Bethlehem, in 1752. Dr. Adolph Meyer started a small garden of medicinal plants in 1742 or 1743, and his successor, Dr. John Frederick Otto, increased the size of the garden to several acres, and became a noted authority on medicinal plants and the drugs made from them. The garden first planted by Meyer and extended by Otto was the first purely medicinal garden in the United States. The drug store started by Otto in 1752 is still operated at its original location, and is generally credited as the earliest drug store in America that is still in existence.

The following account of the industries of this district, as they existed near the close of the 18th century, is taken from the notes of Dr. John Schöpf, who visited Bethlehem in either 1783 or 1784:

We visited the interesting factories and mills belonging to the Society, and among these was a well arranged oil mill and grist mill. . . . There is besides a profitable tannery, with the requisite bark mill and an extensive dyeing establishment. . . . Near the river is an ingeniously arranged brewery. . . . The water used in the brewery is pumped from the Lehigh. The boiler is at such an elevation that the boiling water flows downward over the malt, and is thence pumped by hand into the vat that contains the hops, from here the infusion is drawn off in pipes leading to the cooling vat, and finally led by others into casks in the cellar immediately below, these arrangements under one or two men sufficed for all of the necessary work. The malt is dried in the air. The beer is of superior quality.

The making of candles and the manufacture of soap began on so small a scale that their beginnings are lost in obscurity. The manufacture of soap has continued in the region, although on a relatively small scale, down to the present time, and the manufacture of candles was a substantial industry in Bethlehem and other towns of the Valley down to the period when they were largely superseded by kerosene and later by gas and electricity. Wax candles for the Christmas season are still made in Bethlehem.

Vinegar was made in the Valley, and camphene (a burning fluid consisting of oil of turpentine and later of a mixture of turpentine and alcohol) was made in Easton by Semple & Bros. at an early date.