

## Bell Acres History...

### Early History

This account of the newly created Sewickley Township (Bell Acres Borough) appeared in L. H. Everts' 1876 **History of Allegheny County**.

#### SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

was erected from a part of Ohio Township, and was confirmed by court January 28, 1854. Since then it has been divided, and Leet formed from a portion of it which bordered on the river. Sewickley is now entirely separated from the river, and its present territory was not settled until late.

The first settler was Frederick Merriman. He located in the northeast part of the township, in 1808 or 1809.

After Merriman's settlement a number of men came to the township at about the same time. Among them were Samuel Gunsallius, Adam and Arthur Scott, John Clark, John Gillen, William Riley, John Crees, and David and James Wilkin.

To give a detailed sketch of each of them would be uninteresting, even if we possessed the necessary facts. It will therefore be sufficient to state that Gunsallius came about 1809 and Crees in 1812, and the others between these dates.

The first school-house was on Little Sewickley Creek, and was built in 1814.

The oldest mill belongs to Nathan Mitchell. It is on the Little Sewickley, and is a saw-mill and grist-mill, and commenced operations in 1835.

The first Justice of the Peace was John Mitchell.

There is no post-office in Sewickley Township. It is very sparsely settled, and a large tract of it has never been settled at all. There are four school-houses now in the township. There are not over eighty voters within its bounds. Coal is found near the surface, but has not been mined extensively.

The first settlers in the township were most of them from Western Pennsylvania, and of German descent.

Much of the country along the Little Sewickley is still in its original condition. The surface is very rough and heavily wooded, and the scenery is wild and beautiful.