

Clifton Heights 1889 Business Directory

Clifton Heights is quite an important and growing place in Upper Darby Township, in the eastern part of the county. This was originally settled by members of the Society of Friends and in 1687 the most of this tract was conveyed to John Roads. The village property has grown to its present proportions within the last few years. Being only about seven miles from Philadelphia, with which it is connected by the Philadelphia and West Chester Railroad, and occupying an elevated healthful position; many persons doing business in the latter city have made this their place of residence. There are good schools and several churches, while the present population will exceed 1,000. A number of good business houses well equipped enjoy a large trade, and the place generally gives promise of place of residence. We mention at some length the more important business concerns at this place.

Union Mills and Rockbourne Mill – Estate of Thomas Kent

The Union and Rockbourne Mills are among the most extensive in the country and were established in 1843 by the late Thomas Kent. Here are manufactured woolen goods of all kinds, as suiting's, dress stuffs, light weight woolens, flannels, etc., specialty being made in army and navy and other government goods. The premises occupied cover in all about 80 acres embracing beside the mills some farm land and a number of tenement houses. Each of the mills is a five-story structure, the Union Mill, including the dye house, is 400 x 40 feet while the Rockbourne is 236 x 56 feet in dimensions. Both are equipped with the very best machinery known to the trade, having been entirely remodeled within the past eight years. The motor power of the former is supplied by a 125 horse-power steam engine and 75 horse water power, while the latter uses a 100 horse power steam engine. From 300 to 325 operatives are regularly employed. On account of the absolute purity and general excellency of the raw- used the products of the mills running to their full capacity all the year and the goods find their way to all parts of the Republic. Since the decease of the founder nearly two years ago the business has been under the management of his sons. The elder son, Henry T. is the financial manager and has been connected with these mills for a period of 17 years. The younger Samuel L. is superintendent of the mills and has been connected with the business for 12 years past.

J. M. Geckeler – Old Reliable Clifton Bakery and Ice Cream Parlor, Baltimore and Penn Ave.

This establishment is one of the best and most popular in its line in this section and dates its inception from 1874. The bakery consumes about 35 barrels of flour per week, which is made up into all kinds of bread, cakes, biscuits, rusk, pies, etc. The largest salesroom is stocked with a complete line of the products of the bakery which find a ready sale owing to their absolute purity. Here will also be found a fine line of French and American confections, fruits, nuts, etc. This gentleman manufactures and disposes of about 1,000 quarts of ice cream per week at both wholesale and retail. The ice cream parlor is elegantly furnished and has a seating capacity for about 50 persons. The "old reliable" wagons go through the surrounding country every morning supplying the public with fresh bread and rolls. A specialty is made in supplying weddings and social gatherings at reasonable rates and in icing and ornamenting cakes to order. The premises occupied are thoroughly equipped and appointed throughout, four bread, two cake bakers, two ice cream makers and three drivers being employed while during busy times extra help is employed. J. M. Geckeler is a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, and was born in 1849. He has been in American, however, since early life. He is also the proprietor of the beautiful Fairview Grove building sites. This gentleman is a thorough business man and public-spirited citizen.

Samuel G. Levis & Sons – Manufacturers of Cotton and Woolen Goods. Glenwood Mills, Clifton Heights

These mills were originally established as paper mills but have been operated as woolen mills for many years past. The premises occupied cover about ten acres of ground and embrace besides the two mills tenement houses for the employees. The dimensions of each mill are 115 x 45 feet, three stories high and thoroughly fitted out with all the best and latest devised machinery and appliances. The goods here manufactured comprise cottonades, jeans, and cotton worsteds, the specialty being in the first names line. The products are marketed chiefly in the South, although a large quantity is shipped to the West, sales being affected through Philadelphia and New York commission houses. About 300 operatives and two teams are employed, steam power to the extent of 150 horse is utilized in each mill, while the Glenwood also use water power to the extent of 40 horse.

The average output of the two mills is about \$250,000 per year. The senior member of the firm is nearly 80 years old and now lives in the house in which he was born. His enterprise and public spiritedness have conducted largely to the growth and prosperity of this community. The junior partner, Albert Levis, is also a native and life-long resident of this vicinity and like his father he is enterprising and public spirited, fully alive to the needs and requirements of his business and takes an active interest in all that concerns the well-fare of the community. Three generations have been born and brought up in the house now occupied by father and son. The superintendency of the mills have devolved upon Albert Smith for the past six years. He is a man of practical experience in this branch of industry, having worked in the mills since ten years of age.

Geo. A Griffith – Banker and Confectioner

This bakery date its inception from 1880, the present proprietor coming into possession in 1884 when he succeeded Patrick Gallagher. The products of the bakery comprise all kinds of bread, fancy cakes, pies and pastry, a full supply of which is carried in the stock of the store in the manufacture of these various products the flour and other material consumed is of absolute purity and the very best quality. Some idea of their popularity may be gained from a statement of the fact that about five barrels of flour are daily consumed. The proprietor's wagon goes through the country daily delivering to families and dealers. There are four such routes, one extended to Media and Wallingford, another taking in West Philadelphia, Hestonville and Haddington; a third – Darby Creek, Kelleyville and Garretford, and still another including Sharon Hill, Collingdale and Ridley Park.

This gentleman also manufactures a large quantity of ice cream, 300 quarts per week being regularly disposed of and he stored 150 tons of ice the past winter for summer use. The ice cream parlor is elegantly equipped with marble top tables and has a seating capacity of 40 persons. The stock of the store also includes a fine assortment of French and American confections. A prominent feature of the business is in supplying weddings and social gatherings and another is icing and ornamenting cakes to order. The premises occupied are of ample dimensions and well appointed, four skilled hands being regularly employed besides the drivers. The proprietor is a native of Delaware County and a life-long resident. He has at, different times, filled the responsible position of judge of election and has always been prominent in the affairs of the borough. He has at the suburban settlement of Heyville a general grocery and employs in that enterprise three assistants and keeps seven horses for the use of the two enterprises. He is a man of sound business views and very popular in social circles.

Max Rosenfeldt – Clifton Bargain Store

This is one of the most imposing business houses within the corporate limits of the borough of Clifton Heights. It is of recent establishment and it is the intention of the proprietor to make it a "bargain store" in the full sense of the word, keeping the best of the goods and selling them at such prices as shall defy competition. The stock includes staple and fancy dry goods, towels, and toweling,

men's and women's furnishing goods, notions, jewelry, sewing machines, furniture, etc., also a line of fancy cakes. These goods are purchased from reliable houses in New York and Philadelphia and are guaranteed to be exactly as represented. The business is both wholesale and retail and small local dealers will find they can get as good or better terms here than in the city. The salesroom is well appointed, having all the accoutrements usually belonging to a first-class mercantile establishment. The proprietor is a native of Hungary but has been a resident of this country for about 11 years, and as a business man he is sound and practical and has placed his concern on a most judicious basis. He is assisted by members of his family and keeps a team for delivery.

Samuel Wilde – Groceries and Meats, Springfield Ave. and Sycamore St.

This gentleman whose name appears on the head of this article is a native of Springfield, in this county. He has been established in business at the present quarters since 1888, when he succeeded James Groff. He carries an excellent stock of staple and fancy family groceries, bread, cakes, canned and bottled goods, evaporated fruits, fresh and cured meats, flour, feed and grocers' sundries generally, including table delicacies and culinary requisites. A very good trade is had with the citizens of the borough and surrounding country. Butter and eggs are taken in exchange for groceries and the highest market prices are allowed on such produce. Goods are purchased of reliable city houses and sold at city retail prices. The salesroom is of ample size and kept neat and clean. A Ridgway refrigerator holding 500 lbs. of ice is used for meats, etc.

William J. Sloan- Clifton Express

Clifton station being located some distance from the business center of the borough, it is of course very natural that some public-spirited citizen should run an express for the accommodation of the traveling public. There are several so engaged at the present time the principal one however being "Sloan's Express" which carries passengers between the station and all parts of the borough. Travelers desiring to reach from here to points not possessing railroad facilities, may be accommodated at reasonable rates, as all his rates are uniformly low. His three teams, two of them being driven by his sons, who like the proprietor himself, are courteous and obliging, always, ready to accommodate patrons to the extent of their abilities. His carriages are comfortable and easy riding. A native of Philadelphia this gentleman has resided in this county for a number of years he conducted this express route for a number of years, and has a large patronage, clear proof of his popularity among those traveling in this section. He has a slate at the station and another at the cigar store in Sloan's Hall, a handsome room owned by him and which he rents for entertainments, etc.

Joseph E. Bowers – Dry Goods, Groceries, Etc.

This is one of the oldest mercantile stands in this section of the state and has been under the efficient management of the present proprietor about 15 years. The stock carried consists of dry goods, boots, shoes, hardware, tin wood and willow ware, fresh beef, mutton, veal, pork, flour, feed, etc. A fine line of choice groceries is also included. In this department will be found the best and most popular brands of canned, and bottled goods, table delicacies, culinary requisites and grocers sundries generally. The place has a good trade coming mainly from the borough and surrounding country. The salesroom is 40 x 20 feet in dimensions, with a wing of 24 x 20 feet, and is well arranged. A refrigerator, built especially for the proprietor us, is utilized for preserving meats and other perishable goods. This gentleman is a native of Clifton Heights and was born in 1846. He has lived here most of his life. He was for eight years borough postmaster and nine years a school director here, filling both positions in a satisfactory manner and is much esteemed in this community.

Robert Etris – Decorative Paper Hanger, Residence Baltimore Ave. and Sycamore St.

When we consider the rapidity with which this section is building up and the class of people populating it, we may well realize the demands made upon a thoroughly first-class decorative paper hanger such as the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this article. He has been carrying on this line of trade here for about six years and practices all branches of the paper hanging art both plain

and fancy. He is kept constantly busy and does work for person living as far as eight miles from Clifton Heights. The execution of his work is extremely neat and much of it is secured through recommendations of previous patrons. The interior of nearly all the houses in the borough as well as many outside its' corporate limits bear testimony to his artistic skill. He is a native of Philadelphia and was formerly extensively engaged in the same line in that city at 18th and Market St.

Daley & Lindsay – Wholesale and Retail Meat and Provisions Store, Baltimore Ave.

This popular market house dated its inception back about two years and occupies a thoroughly-equipped salesroom 24 x 24 feet in dimensions which is kept clean at all times. Here may be found beef, veal, mutton, lamb and pork, in steaks, chops, cutlets, roasts, stewing pieces, etc. In their respective seasons poultry, game, sausages, puddings, and fresh fruits, berries and vegetables. This place is also a popular resort for the purchase of salt and cured meats, canned goods, pickles, catsup and other bottled delicacies. The leading specialty is in city dressed beef, procured at the abattoir, which is celebrated for its fine quality, four head of cattle, eight sheep, and two calves being disposed of weekly. A refrigerator holding 1600 lbs. of ice is used for preserving meats, butter, etc. during the warm weather. The individual members of this enterprising co-partnership are C. Daley and C. Lindsay, both natives of this place. The first named gentleman was employed in a wholesale grocery in Philadelphia, prior to establishing this enterprise, while his associate was in the employ of Bond & Jones, the feed merchants. Both understand their business thoroughly and are much thought of here.

G. R. Vernon – PH. G., M.D., Pharmacy

This popular Pharmacy was established in 1970 and has been in successful operation since. The stock embraces everything usually belonging to a first-class apothecary store, as drugs and chemicals, fresh and pure, patent and proprietary medicines, toilet goods, perfumery, medicated soaps, fancy articles, etc. Physicians' prescriptions are promptly and carefully compounded at all hours of day or night. The salesroom is 16 x 20 feet in dimensions a laboratory of ample size occupies the rear of the store. This gentleman is a graduate of the medical department of the University of Penna. and of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. He has also a very desirable medical practice and is assisted in the store by his wife who is a proficient chemist and registered pharmacist. Both are much esteemed in social circles. Dr. Vernon is a native of Nether Providence. He is regarded as a surgeon of some ability and is a member of the borough board of school directors. He has much love and devotion to his ancestors who claim priority to Wm. Penn, is of same faith, but like the writer of declaration of independence, in politics is devoted to his principles.

Jesse Haley – Meats, Provisions, Etc.

This place was opened about 10 years ago, and the stock carried embraces a full and complete line of fresh beef, mutton, pork, veal, and lamb, also a fine line of salt and smoked meats. The grocery department is stocked with everything in the line, including canned and bottled goods, evaporated fruits, potted meats, country produce, culinary requisites and grocer's sundries generally, a large trade being transacted. The room occupied is 58 x 30 feet in dimensions and a large Ridgway refrigerator is used for the preservation of meats. The business is managed by the family and thus patrons are assured prompt, courteous and intelligent attention. One team is kept in the business, deliveries are made twice a day, and orders are solicited twice a week. The proprietor is a native of this county and was born in 1845 at Tuscarora. He holds several offices in various societies and organizations.

T. Whelan – Plumber, Gas and Steam Fitter, Etc.

T. & M. Whelan established this business in 1871, but the latter gentleman retired about eight years ago, since which time the present proprietor has managed it himself. He employs efficient workmen and is prepared to do all kinds of plumbing and gas fitting with all the safest and most reliable appliances. A prominent feature is also made of steam fitting after the best methods. Especial attention is given to roofing, spouting, and tin work of every description; another leading specialty is in country plumbing, as pumps, hydraulic rams, and raising water by any and all means; his trade extends

over a radius of 12 miles or more. At his store he carries a full line of stoves, heaters, ranges and tin ware. Contracts are taken for the heating of private residences and public buildings and estimates given on application. A native of Philadelphia this gentleman learned his trade in that city and for 15 years past he has prominently identified with Clifton Heights Building Association.

Chas. L. Bartleson – Drug Store

Established fourteen years ago, this business passed into the hands of the present proprietor about four years ago, when he succeeded H. M. Brennan. He is a registered pharmacist and practical chemist. His stock embraces a complete line of fresh drugs and chemicals, toilet articles, fancy goods, paints, oils, varnishes, putty, glass, etc. Physicians' prescriptions are carefully compounded at all hours of day or night. The salesroom is 20 x 45 feet in dimensions, and is neatly and conveniently arranged, containing three fancy show cases, and other appurtenances. The gentleman is a native of this place and a life-long resident and employs an efficient assistant. The store is eligibly located. The Clifton Heights post office is located therein, also the telephone station.

E. Bonsall – Confectionery, Stationery, Etc.

This business was established about a year ago. The salesroom is well-adapted and the stock comprises all kinds of confectionery, as chocolates, caramels, taffy, etc. In the stationery line will be found paper, blank books, and school supplies of every description, also albums, and stationery in elegant plush and satin covered boxes. At Christmas time a specialty is made in children's books and other holiday goods. He also deals in boots and shoes. The business is managed entirely by the family and by their courteous manners have made their store a popular one.

J. L. Force – House Furnishings Goods, Etc., Baltimore Ave., Below Springfield Ave.

This store has been open about three years, among other goods here offered may be mentioned, lamps and lamp goods, tin ware, hollowware, earthenware, glass and stoneware, also woodenware, a fine assortment of fancy goods, a leading specialty being made in the "Electric Parlor Oil", which burns brilliantly and is non-explosive and non-flammable in bulk. This oil may be burned all night in a lamp without throwing off any noxious gases or smoking the chimney and is now used by all the leading families of this section, the proprietor having the sole agency for Delaware County. From one to three teams are kept on the road delivering oil to patrons an average of from 12 to 15 barrels a week being disposed of. J. L. Force is a native and life-long resident of Clifton Heights and one of her best citizens, and intelligent man and competent merchant.

Daniel Kane – Saddles, Harness, Etc.

This business dates its inception from 1880 and occupies a room 14 x 15 feet in dimensions. A superior stock is carried embracing ready-made harness, single and double sets, collars, bridles, saddles, fly straps and nets, also an assortment of blankets, robes, horse clothing, stable supplies, etc. The proprietor is also agent for Holt's Hoof Ointment, Healing Lotion and Liniment, remedies of recognized merit. A large trade is had from all over the surrounding country, and an extensive business done in custom and repair work, a specialty being made of the manufacture of fine harness of all kinds. Mr. Kane was born in Philadelphia in 1863.

Wm. Mc Cormick & Sons – Oyster Bay and Real Estate

This popular ladies' and gentlemen's Oyster Bay has been open to the public about three years. Oysters are here served in all styles, and clams during the summer season, while the clam soups and chowders of this place are well spoken of. This enterprising firm also deals extensively in real estate and now have for rent and sale houses and lots in some of the most desirable locations in Clifton Heights as well as some of the finest farms and other property in the neighborhood. The senior member of the firm is a native of Upper Darby but has resided in this place for 47 years. He is 72 years of age and one of the active-citizen of the borough having been a justice of the peace for 27 years and has in all probability sold the ground on which more than half the town stands. The junior partner, William H.

McCormick, is 26 years of age, a life-long resident of this place and an enterprising business man. Politically, supports the present administration.

W. B. Carpenter – Clifton Heights and Philadelphia Express; Residence, Sycamore St.

This enterprise was established six years ago and everything in the line of packages, baggage and furniture is carried by this gentleman. He makes daily return trips between Clifton Heights and Philadelphia stopping at Burmont, Lansdowne, Fernwood, Angora and Abbotsford. He leaves 631 Market Street at 2 p.m. and 1431 Market Street at 2:30 p.m. Goods are delivered to any part of the city either direct or by transfer. He runs one double team and sometimes is obliged to run an extra team. Call slates will be found at Bartleson's drug store, Clifton Heights; Brennan's pharmacy, Lansdowne, and Fernwood post office, and orders may also be left at his residence, Sycamore Street, Clifton Heights. Every effort is made to accommodate patrons. A native of Connecticut he has resided here for about 22 years and was formerly employed at Levis & Son's woolen mills.

James Halpenny – Tonsorial Artist

One of the finest tonsorial rooms here is that recently opened by the above-named gentlemen in Sloan's Hall. It is 16 x 20 feet in size and the proprietor is a first-class tonsorial artist, born in 1871, and learned this art under his father who carried on this line of business in Clifton Heights for over 20 years. After completing his apprenticeship he worked in Philadelphia, New York, Newark, Trenton and Wilmington. He employs two competent assistants, has two chairs costing \$30 each, and expects to put in another chair very soon, and will have a large mirror and a stationary wash stand, etc. He here practices all branches of the art, giving especial attention to dressing ladies' hair and cutting children's hair. He is also prepared to make all kinds of hair goods, such as curls, switches, puffs, hangs, watch chains, etc., and will guarantee satisfaction.

Irvin Kelly – Newspapers, Books, Stationery, Etc., Baltimore Ave.

This gentleman began the business here in 1888. His business has grown so large that he has accordingly secured a lot in the most desirable part of the borough, and will soon erect thereon a handsome dwelling and store. The building will front 40 feet on Baltimore Ave., with a depth of 123 feet, 20 feet of the front being occupied by his parlor and remainder by the store, which will be 14 feet in depth. He keeps a full line of the daily and weekly papers, periodicals, magazines, stationery, school and blank books, miscellaneous and standard works; in fact, all kinds of reading matter. Any book or paper not in stock will be promptly procured when so ordered. He also has extensive news routes extending three miles distant from Clifton Heights and employs four assistants in the business. It is his intention to keep sporting goods when fixed in his new quarters. For the benefit of his lady customers he allows no smoking and does not deal in tobacco. About three months ago he became proprietor of the Clifton Laundry, receives all kinds of work and forwards it to a reliable steam laundry in town. Satisfaction being guaranteed, and work done at city prices. It is his intention as soon as the trade will warrant to erect a laundry establishment here. He is a native of Philadelphia, and was for 20 years with Central News Co.

Patrick Quinn – Shoes & Dry Goods, Baltimore Ave.

This is the leading establishment and was opened six years ago. The stock consists of the latest novelties in boots, shoes, gaiters, slippers, rubbers, etc., for men, women, children and infants, and all sizes, styles, and varieties are kept on hand. Here also will be found a desirable assortment of dry goods, from foreign and American looms and a full selection of notions, ribbons, laces, threads, needles, etc. The salesroom occupied is 15 x 40 feet in dimensions and nicely fitted up. The proprietor of this flourishing store was born in Ireland and came to this country in 1864 and until establishing this enterprise he was employed as a cotton spinner. He is respected and esteemed by the community and is energetic and sagacious.

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION