lished by the Lutheran and German Reformed elements, has been of the latter denomination.[1]

The settlers on the south bank of the Lehigh had become so numerous by 1742 that they considered themselves entitled to a separate township organization, and accordingly a number of them, who described themselves as living "on and near Saucon," petitioned the court to confirm a survey which they had had made in April. Their prayer was granted at the March term following (1743), Saucon township then being established. The signers of the application were Christian Newcomb, Philip Kissenger, George Sobus, Henry Rinkard, John Yoder, John Reeser, Christian Smith, Henry Bowman, Samuel Newcomb, Benedict Koman, Felty Staymets, Henry Rinkard, Jr., George Troom, Adam Wanner, Owen Owen, Thomas Owen, John Williams, John Tool, John Thomas, Joseph Samuel, Isaac Samuel, William Murry (Mori and Mory, according to other early records), Michael Narer, John Apple, Jacob Gonner, Henry Keerer, George Bockman, George Marksteler, and Henry Rumfold.[2]

Saucon was divided into Upper and Lower Saucon in 1743. On the erection of Northampton County in 1752 they both became a portion of its territory, and on the erection of Lehigh Upper Saucon was assigned to it.

The settlement of the Moravians at Bethlehem, in 1740, did much toward bringing farmers into the Saucon region. They doubtless felt a certain sense of security in locating themselves so near an organized colony which they judged by its policy would always retain the regard of the Indians.

At what is now South Bethlehem, on the spot where the Union depot stands, was built in 1745 that place of entertainment which became celebrated as the Crown Inn. This was the first tavern on the river really deserving the name, and became a popular stopping-place for travelers, as well as a favored and familiar resort for the pioneer farmers in the surrounding country. It was managed by the Moravians.

The development of Hanover township from its wild condition to a well-settled and prosperous region was no doubt largely influenced by the Moravian colony. It had received a few pioneers in 1735 or soon after, and its population increased faster after the planting of Bethlehem. Still several thousand acres of land in Hanover remained unsold up to and after the time of the Revolution. A large portion of the township was considered poor soil during the last century, which in this, under scientific processes of farming, is equal to any in the county. To be called a "Dry-lander" implied reproach. There were other causes, however, than the supposed poverty of soil for the comparatively slow settlement of Hanover. This township, containing the only territory of the county lying east of the Lehigh, was originally a portion of the extensive Allen township, which included the Scotch-Irish settlement. Hanover was separately organized in 1798, and when Lehigh County was erected it was divided into two townships, each of which, as they were separated by the county line, was allowed to retain the original name. The greater part of the original township of Hanover was included in the tract called the "Dry-lands" or Manor of Fermon, originally laid out for the proprietaries, and when they were divested of their estates after the close of the Revolutionary war it was not included, being their private property. But the settlers were dissatisfied and contested their rights in numerous suits, the basis being denial that the Penns could retain title. These dragged on without settlement until as late as 1796, when all were discontinued, the settlers and the Penns each bearing an equal part of the costs, and the former receiving their lands on payment of £65 10*s*. for every one hundred acres.

The territory of the two Macungies was settled contemporaneously with that of the Milfords and of Saucon, that is, beginning in or soon after 1730, and its pioneers were of the same class—Germans, for the most part newly arrived and making their way northward through what are now Bucks and Montgomery Counties to obtain cheap homes in an uninhabited or sparsely settled country. When petition was made for the establishment of the township in 1742, there were living in the region which it was proposed to include, Peter Trexler, Henry Sheath, Jeremiah Trexler, John Ecle, Frederick Rowey, Peter Walbert, Jr., Philip Simes, Joseph Albright, Jacob Wagner, Melchoir Smith, George Stininger, Jacob Mier, George Hayn (or Haines), Adam Cook, Caspar Mier, Kayde Crim (or Grim), John Clymer, and Adam Prous. These were the signers of the petition, and doubtless they were only a very small proportion of the male inhabitants.

That the people of Macungie were enterprising is shown from the fact that they took steps to secure what was the first road in the county as early as 1735. They petitioned for a road to lead "from Goshenhoppen to Jeremiah Trexler's tavern," and return being made in 1736 the road was duly laid out. Goshenhoppen was in what is now Montgomery County, and the Trexler tavern, which was in Macungie, was in all probability the nucleus about which Trexlertown was built. In 1745 another road was opened from the German settlements in Macungie in a northeasterly direction to the Lehigh, near Bethlehem. It was a mere bridle-path during the first fifteen or twenty years, or until the needs of the people demanded its being enlarged and improved to serve as a wagon-road.

There seems to have been little if any difference between the time Saucon and its northern neighbor,

[1] See chapter upon the townships for a detailed history of this pioneer educational institution.

[2] The names appear as here spelled, in the record, but the orthography is incorrect in many instances. For the corrected spelling see Saucon township.