tween the Delaware and the Lower Lehigh), the celebrated Minisink flats, and in fact all of the valuable land south of the Blue Ridge. The quantity of land embraced in the purchase was about five hundred thousand acres. James Steel, writing to Letitia Aubrey in 1737, said that it required about four days to walk from the upper end of the day and a half's journey, and that "after they crossed the great ridge of mountains they saw very little good or even tolerable land fit for settlement."

This walk gave great dissatisfaction to the Indians, and was the principal cause of the council held at Easton in 1756, where it was elaborately discussed. The Indians complained that the walkers walked too fast, that they should have stopped to shoot game and to smoke; in short, should have walked as the Indians usually did when engaged in the hunt. They also found fault with the manner in which the line was run from the stopping-place to the river, claiming that it should have been drawn to the nearest point. The proprietaries were accused of trickery and dishonesty, and whether justly or unjustly, the "walking purchase" drew upon them and their associates the bitter hatred of the Delawares. It was the smoldering fire of the feeling thus engendered which by the influence of men or events was fanned into an intense heat a generation later, and created great havoc in the region now comprised in Lehigh, Northampton, and Carbon Counties.

Advent of the White Man as a Settler.—Lehigh County was originally a portion of the great county of Bucks, established, with Philadelphia and Chester, in 1682, and its earliest settlements were formed for the most part by the people who pushed northward from below the present boundaries of Bucks and Montgomery Counties.

White men found their way into the Lehigh region during the seventeenth century, but they came as traders rather than settlers, and do not deserve the honor of especial consideration by the historian, and indeed could not receive it, as they left no mark upon the country and only a meagre record of their adventures. In fact their action, confined principally to more or less questionable transactions with the Indians, demands no chronicling.

As early as 1701 the Lehigh region was brought unpleasantly into the notice of the proprietaries by the presence of that class of white men to whom we have referred, and they also had reason to believe that Seneca Indians from the region which is now the State of New York had made a southern scout with a view to harassing the more peaceful Delawares and the few white settlers in the lower part of Bucks County.

Just at what time the first waves of that population which was eventually to fill Lehigh County and much of the territory beyond the Blue Ridge broke over the southern boundary cannot at this period be stated. It is fair, however, to infer from various facts that it was as early as 1715. The "Irish settlement," just across the eastern border in Northampton County, is known to have been established in 1728, and a number of individual pioneers, according to reliable traditions and even well-attested records, had come into what is now Lehigh County by 1730. The lands in the Lehigh valley were not formally thrown open to settlement until 1734. It is fair to suppose that legal impediment being removed, the people newly arrived in this country from Germany and seeking homes thronged in quite rapidly considering the many disadvantages to be overcome and the not very assuring attitude of the Indians.

Upper Milford (comprising what is now included in both Upper and Lower Milford) appears to have been the most thickly-settled portion of the territory during the first few years, for its people were the first to call for a separate township organization. Prior to 1737 they had been under the jurisdiction of the great township of Milford, of which the division in Bucks County yet known by the name was a part, but in January of that year twenty-three of the inhabitants, whom we may take it for granted were among the most intelligent and enterprising, petitioned the county court for a distinct township. The names of those early settlers of the southern part of the county were Peter Walker, Ulrich Kirsten, A. Matthias Ochs, Johannes Meyer, Joseph Henckel, Daniel Rausch, Heinrich Willim, Heinrich Ris, William Bit, Cristian Bigli, Jacob Wetel, Johannes Betlzart, Duwalt Machling, Johannes Hast, Melchoir Stuher, Michael Kohner, Felix Benner, Jacob Derry, Michael Zimmerman, —— Longhurst, Mirwin Weihnacht, Johannes Baugeoner, and Hannes Ord. The township was surveyed and laid out by John Chapman on March 13, 1738. At about the same time the township was formed, or a little later, old documents show that there were living there a number of other families, among them being those bearing the names of Dubbs, Eberhard, Hoover, Mumbauer, Roeder, Spinner, Stahl, and Weandt. Still later there came into the same territory the Dickenshieds, Hetricks, McNoldies, Millers, Schelleys, Keipers, Snyders, Rudolphs, Dretzes, Heinbachs, Derrs, and many more. With very few exceptions these pioneers were Germans, principally from the Palatinate.[1]

True in America to the religion for which they had been persecuted in Europe, one of the first acts of the Milford pioneers was to establish a church. It is probable that this was done prior to 1736, but the earliest record of baptism occurs under date of April 24th in that year. A patent was secured Sept. 27, 1738, for the tract of land which had been selected and built upon, and from that date the organization known as the "Swamp Church," originally estab-

[1] A chapter upon the Germans, expressly prepared for this work by Rev. A. R. Horne, gives much interesting information, not only concerning the immigration of these persecuted people, but their character, customs, etc.