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This article follows in close chronological sequence a previous article published in the PICKET POST and deals largely with one of the vital and essential munitions plants in the Valley Forge area during the American Revolution.

At the beginning of the Revolutionary War the region that later became the Township of Schuylkill and Phoenixville, in Chester County, Pennsylvania, was sparsely settled with some four hundred and fifty inhabitants. Among the heads of families living in this part of Chester County at that time, the later recorded by Hon. Samuel W. Pennypacker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, was one Peter DeHaven, one of the author's DeHaven ancestors on his mother's side. From Chester County in this region three creeks flow into the Schuylkill: Valley Creek, Pickering Creek and French Creek.

Valley Creek is close to Washington's Headquarters, at Valley Forge. Just below Pickering Creek "Moore Hall" is located. And just beyond Pickering Creek, on the same side of the Schuylkill, is French Creek, on which the "Continental Powder Mill" was conducted by Peter DeHaven and his son, Hugh. It supplied powder to Washington and the Continental Army during the Revolution, starting with the Battle of the Brandywine.

On the 30th of June, 1775, a "Committee of Safety" was named by the Assembly of Pennsylvania to provide defense for the Province and it held sessions almost daily in the

City of Philadelphia. After Congress had ordered four Battalions of Continental troops to be raised in Pennsylvania, great apprehension was felt in regard to securing a proper supply of saltpeter for the manufacture of a sufficient quantity of gun-powder for the successful defense of the Province and the City of Philadelphia. With the procurement of saltpeter the next step was to make provision to have it manufactured into powder. There were few powder mills in the Province before then.

On February 16th, 1776, the Continental Congress approved a plan for the erection of a powder mill and authorized the Committee of Safety to carry out the project. The Committee met, resolved to proceed immediately with the work, and appointed Clement Biddle to take charge. With Joseph Cowperswait, he purchased a tract in Pikeland Township, Chester County, on French Creek, about four miles from Phoenixville and eight miles west of Valley Forge. About ten days later fifteen hundred pounds Sterling was voted to pay for this and the cost of erecting a mill thereon, which afterwards was known as the "Continental Powder Mill," conducted by Peter DeHaven and his son, Hugh.

On June 3d, 1776, John Ladd Howell reported to the Committee of Safety regarding the Powder Mill, as follows:

"The dimentions of the Powder Mill in French Creek, was 102 ft. by 31 ft. 8 in. Two water wheels in the center of the House or Building,

18 ft. diameter, 4 ft. head and 9 ft. fall, each wheel to work three shafts 32½ ft. length, six Mortar Trees 28 ft. length; 12 Mortars, each Tree 22 ft. length, 12 inches breadth, 17 inches depts; Two Stampers, each Mortar 12 ft. length, 4 inches square.

"The Grinding Mill, 37½ by 37½ ft., built of Stone, not yet covered in. Water Wheel 10½ ft. Diameter, to work seventy-two Stampers for the preparing of Sulphur, 12 Sieves for Grinding Powder and one Bolting Cloth.

"One Saltpeter House for refining, ready to set twelve Kettles, each Kettle capable of refining 150 wt. Four Drying House, 27 by 21 ft. each.

"One end of the Powder Mill being finished, can make Thirty Hundred Powder per week, or perhaps two Tons; will be ready about the 25th inst., the very extraordinary Freshet on the 26th of May having filled the Race, carried away the Dam (as it has most of them in this part of the Country) besides other Damage in the Loss of Boards, scantling, &c., has put them back at least Two Weeks."

Soon afterward the manufacture and repair of firearms for the army was begun. Writing to the Committee of Safety, January 3d, 1777, Peter DeHaven reported that nineteen men were now working on guns and he hoped soon to have a large number of guns repaired and made serviceable and also to turn out new ones. Colonel William Dewees, a militia officer who was associated with the Pottses in operating the iron works at Valley Forge, was at this time supervising the erection of barracks at the powder works for workmen and troops.

More workers were needed in the gun factory, February 18th, 1777, Peter DeHaven inserted the following advertisement in the "Evening Post," Philadelphia:

"Wanted immediately a number of hands who understand any

branches of the gunsmith's business. Stockers in particular will meet with good encouragement by applying to Peter DeHaven, at the public manufactory at French Creek, or James Carter, in Third Street, near Arch Street, Philadelphia."

Explosions were frequent in the powder mills. Such an explosion wrecked the French Creek mill on March 10th, 1777. At first it was suspected the disaster was due to disloyalty on the part of the workers, but an inquiry of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania exonerated the men and led to the conclusion that the cause was accidental.

Peter DeHaven reported to the Council of Safety with regard to the "unhappy blowing up of the powder mill, as follows:

French Creek, March 10, 1777  
To Col. John Bull, or the  
Honorable Council of Safety,  
Philadelphia.

(Per favor Captain Bodly).  
Sir:-

I am sorry to inform you of the unhappy Explosion of Blowing up the Continental Powder Mill this morning about 10 o'clock, Which We are very suspicious has been Done by Mr. Peck or his Men, as they have used Several odd Expressions, and they had gone Some Distance from it at the Time it Happened and Run to the next neighbor's house and Did not Come back till We Sent out a Guard for them.

Mr. Peck seemed to Say at first, that all his Men Were Killed, Secondly, he Said that he had Seen the Men Going to the Grinding House; that Some other Reasons Gave me Some Reason to think (they) have Some Knowledge of it. The first Day of this instant, Col. Peter Grubb Was at the Powder Mill, Somewhat in Drink; he Damned the Powder Mill and told Col. DeWese "Let us Blow it to h---", Which I thought Was a very odd Expression When Col. Dewese told me; and Several others heard him use that Expression; he and Mr. Peck

gunsmith of the Revolution and in charge of the manufacture of arms and ammunition for the American Army, held a special contract with the Provincial Government of Pennsylvania, to manufacture arms and ammunition at the "Continental Powder Mill" on French Creek in Chester County and at Third and Cherry Streets, Philadelphia; at Reading, Pa.; at Hummelstown, in Philadelphia County, and at other places during the Revolution.

Mention of payments to "Peter DeHaven & Co." by the Pennsylvania Council of Safety at Philadelphia on account of the Gun Factory is given in the "American Archives," Fifth Series, (Vol. III) published under authority of Congress; and in the "Journal of Assembly," (Vol. I), of the State of Pennsylvania. The former gives mention of orders drawn on the State Treasurer for two thousand pounds, from November 11th to 18th, 1776, and again for fifteen hundred pounds from January, 1776, to August, 1778. In the latter is given a statement of Public Finances for 1776-'79, in which sums aggregating twelve thousand, seven hundred and eighty-eight pounds were paid them by the State Treasurer from August 24, 1776, to July 6, 1778. Frequent mention is also to be found in the "Pennsylvania Archives" and the "Colonial Records," published by the State of Pennsylvania, of Peter DeHaven's dealings with the Provincial Council of Safety, the Pennsylvania Board of War, and the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania. The "Colonial Records" published many letters in full between Peter DeHaven and the Council and the Assembly of Pennsylvania in connection with other original documents, relating to supplies of arms, etc., in the office of the Secretary of State, Pennsylvania.

Peter DeHaven was ordered by the Council of Safety in May, 1776, "To make public the process of boring and grinding gun barrels, and

instruct such persons as they shall require to be taught that art." For communicating such instruction, he was given a premium of fifty pounds, Sterling."

French Creek, on whose banks the Continental Powder Mill stood, flows across northern Chester County from the Berks County line, a distance of fifteen miles, joining the Schuylkill at Phoenixville. The site of the powder mill is about four miles from the creek's mouth, in a pleasant rural district. Historians have not been able to determine why it was called French Creek. There were few if any Frenchmen among the first settlers hereabouts. Originally the name was Vincent River, for Sir Matthias Vincent, an early landowner along the course of the stream.

One reason for choosing this site probably was the fact that nearby was a much travelled highway, Nutt's road, connecting the iron works in northwestern Chester County with roads to Philadelphia. Nutt's road was a tribute to Samuel Nutt, a pioneer ironmaster on the upper part of French Creek.

The country round about the powder mill site was then and is now good farming land. Most of it had been taken up by German settlers, who had founded Lutheran and Reformed churches before the Revolution. These settlers were the victims of a bewildering land transaction by which most of them lost title to their lands.

Farther west along French Creek were rough and stony tracts, culminating in the boulder-strewn district at Falls of French Creek, where the stream, falling a hundred feet in a short distance, at times is lost among the rocks.

The township wherein the powder mill stood was called Pikeland. It is now divided into East and West Pikeland, the powder-mill site being in East Pikeland Township, north-east of the village of Kimberton.

The name of the township comes from Joseph Pike, a merchant of

Cork, Ireland, to whom William Penn patented the township, in 1705. Pike never came to America. On his death, in 1727, his wife, Elizabeth, succeeded to the ownership of the township. She died in 1733, whereupon her son, Richard Pike, became the owner. When he died, in 1752, his will bequeathed Pikeland to two relatives, Samuel Hoare and Nathaniel Newbury, merchants in London. Hoare bought out Newbury's interest and thus became sole owner of Pikeland. Hoare, in 1773, conveyed Pikeland to Andrew Allen of Pennsylvania, taking a mortgage on the land. Allen made sales to one hundred and fifteen persons, but as he failed to pay the interest on the mortgage, the sheriff sold the property, in 1789, Hoare being the buyer.

Now it transpired that all of the one hundred and fifteen purchasers from Allen had defective titles. Other Germans who had settled here prior to the conveyance to Allen, supposing they had bought their farms from persons authorized to sell, also discovered they could not establish a clear title. The result was that some of the settlers lost their land and others had to make new purchases from Hoare to prevent the loss of their homes.

No deed is on record in Chester County court house showing either the purchase or the sale of the powder mill tract by the United States government or the State of Pennsylvania. This may have been due to the complications concerning the Hoare transactions.

Henry Supiot bought the powder mill tract in 1920. It then comprised fifty three acres, with a dwelling and a clover and chopping mill, described as being situated on the public road from Kimberton to Phoenixville, in East Pikeland Township, Route 113. Since Mr. Supiot's death his widow has lived on the place and his son Henry tills the farm. Previous owners were Harman C. Friday, Joseph P. Rapp, Alexander

Kennedy, Samuel P. March, Elwood Yerkes, Joseph Yeager, Benjamin Hartman, John Vanderslice, George Emery, Frederick Foose, Peter Diehl, and Abraham Sheridan. Sheridan acquired title from Samuel Hoare in 1791. He was a Philadelphia innkeeper. He paid 562 pounds and 10 shillings, for one-hundred and eighty-seven acres, situated on both sides of French Creek. Sheridan evidently bought the land as an investment, for in 1794 he sold to Peter Diehl, also a Philadelphian, for 1100 pounds.

A powder mill was operated on this site after the Revolution. In the 1850's such a mill here was owned by Dr. S. Oberholtzer, of Phoenixville. Witmer's Chester County Atlas, published in 1873, indicates the site of the "Old powder magazine." The property was then owned by Edward Yerkes. The main building of the latter mill remained intact until the 1890's. Close by was a favorite picnic grounds called Pine Woods. Parts of the mill's foundation walls are still visible today.

Water for the mill, both for power and for other uses, was obtained not from French Creek but from a small stream called Powder Mill Run, flowing through the farm and joining French Creek.

The nearby settlement, Kimberton, was named for Emmor Kimber, a member of the Society of Friends, who in 1817 opened a boarding school for girls here. For many years it was a successful school. A post office began to function in 1820, Emmor Kimber being post-master until his death, in 1850. In recent years the big school building was converted into an apartment house, and a community called Valley Dell, comprising thirty dwellings, was established on the grounds. The great Valley Forge General Hospital, built for the United States Army in connection with the second World War, is a short distance east of Kimberton.

Writing on the subject, "Up the



Seemed very Great and he Lodged With Mr. Peck that night; We have Got the Men and Mr. Peck under Guard, till further orders from the Council.

So I remain,

Your Friend & Humble Servant.

Peter DeHaven

Colonel Peter Grubb, one of those suspected, was a Lancaster County ironmaster who was serving as a colonel of the militia. He, Peck, the chief powdermaker, and several others were placed under arrest and brought before the Council of Safety in March. At the hearing Peter DeHaven testified that when the explosion occurred he was at the dwelling house, three hundred yards from the mill. He first saw the roof of the mill rise and then he heard the explosion. It was quickly followed by a second blast. Fire followed the explosion. One man who was in the mill at the time was so badly burned that he died the following day. Some of the workers refused to aid in fighting the fire—probably fearing further explosions. But other men did not hesitate to attack the blaze. The attitude of some of the workmen was considered suspicious. Much testimony was taken on this phase of the matter. Colonel Grubb was quoted as having made rash assertions, but these were excused.

The investigators were not convinced that there had been a conspiracy to destroy the plant, and those under arrest were released.

The mill was immediately rebuilt and the manufacture of powder resumed. The gun factory continued to operate in conjunction with the "Provincial Gun Factory" at Third and Cherry Streets, Philadelphia, which also was under the supervision of Peter DeHaven.

September 10th, 1777, the day preceding the battle of the Brandywine, Peter DeHaven notified the Council of Safety that Dr. Samuel Kennedy had asked that a hundred stands of arms be sent to Yellow Springs, as a rising of Tories in that

neighborhood was feared. At Yellow Springs, now Chester Springs, a few miles South of the powder mill, the Americans were establishing their principal military hospital. Peter DeHaven notified Dr. Kennedy that he could not send arms or ammunition without an order from the Council.

The same day Peter DeHaven wrote to Vice-President Bryan, of the Council, as follows:

"We have got some information that there is a part of Mr. Howe's Army within four miles of Downing Town, and I believe they intend for our Magazine, and we are in very poor situation for defending it. I should be glad if you would send a proper guard for this place."

A company of troops was usually on duty to guard the powder works. In June, 1777, Captain James Pugh, commanding the company, advertised that one of his men had deserted.

Following the battle of the Brandywine, when both armies advanced into northern Chester County, in proximity to the powder mill, General Washington ordered the removal of military stores in that region to safer places in the interior of the state. In accordance with these orders David Rittenhouse, treasurer of Pennsylvania and a member of the War Board, had seventy four wagons sent to the French Creek plant, where they were loaded with arms, munitions and other supplies. They proceeded in two trains to Bethlehem, arriving there September 18th and 19th. The supplies were deposited in the outskirts of Bethlehem.

At this period the American army moved westward as far as Warwick Furnace, a dozen miles beyond the Continental Powder Mill on French Creek, leaving the powder mill exposed to the enemy. Peter DeHaven now removed the gun factory sixty five miles westward to Hummelstown, then in Lancaster County and now in Dauphin County.

After the Americans had established their winter quarters at Val-

ley Forge the manufacture of powder was resumed at French Creek. In December, 1777, Colonel Clement Biddle, Commissary General of the American Army, who, with his staff, resided a short distance from Continental Powder Mill, at "Moore Hall," reported to President Wharton, of the Pennsylvania Supreme Council, that "powder and saltpeter may be worked up there with great safety, and directly in the rear of the encampment of Washington and the American Army."

During the time of the Valley Forge winter camp Peter DeHaven remained in Hummelstown, supervising the work of the gun factory. He wrote from there, May 4th, 1778, to the Pennsylvania Supreme Executive Council complaining that his salary as superintendent of the gun factory was "not any ways equal to the expense he is obliged to be at."

Though Hummelstown was remote from the scene of warfare on the Atlantic seaboard, much alarm was occasioned thereabouts in July, 1778, by Indian depredations in the upper Susquehanna Valley, supposed to have been incited by the British. It was feared the inroads of the redskins might extend to Hummelstown, and Peter DeHaven gave serious consideration to the idea of moving the gun factory back to French Creek. However, this was not done.

The Continental Powder Mill at French Creek had been established by the United States government, but the gun factory was under control of Pennsylvania. Toward the end of 1778 the State Supreme Executive Council proposed to turn the gun factory over to the Continental Congress. Apparently this plan was not carried out. Therefore in December the Council decided to abandon the gun factory at Hummelstown, deeming it unnecessary.

Peter DeHaven, his son Hugh, who had been associated with the father in the management of the factory, and Benjamin Rittenhouse now

proposed to form a co-partnership, and on December 11th, 1778, they sent an offer to the Supreme Executive Council to take over the gun factory and operate it. Benjamin Rittenhouse, a younger brother of David Rittenhouse, possessed many of the traits of mechanical genius that marked his more noted brother. Early in the war the state authorities had placed him in charge of the gun-lock factory in Philadelphia.

But the co-partnership project did not attain reality. By January, 1779, Peter DeHaven was back in Philadelphia, and on the 30th, in a letter to the Supreme Executive Council, he wrote that he was now "entirely out of business by the breaking up of the gun factory." He therefore applied to Council for appointment to the position of Wagon-master General. All the Council did, however, was to authorize him to collect the outstanding debts due the gun factory.

On the basis of the Colonial records figured during the first two and a half years of the war, there was produced from saltpeter extracted locally some 115,000 pounds of powder.

The Provincial Congress of Massachusetts recommended a resolution for the restoration of one or more of the ruins of the powder mills in the Province, or the erection of others. But private enterprise for the undertaking was lacking, and nearly a year later Congress was moved to commission a capable man to go to Philadelphia, where the only powder mill known to be in actual operation was located.

Paul Revere (1736-1818) was selected for the task, and shortly thereafter the Committee on Powder Mills instructed him "to obtain an exact plan of the best constructed powder mill, the quantity of powder that may be made in one day in said mill, the expense of the powder mill, and whether a skilled powder-maker can be obtained."

Peter DeHaven, as the master

Road to Kimberton," September 17, 1910, in the "Phoenixville Messenger," of which he was editor, John O. K. Roberts described the site of the powder mill. To the right of the road, he noted, a short distance northward, near French Creek, the dry house of the powder mill still stood, on the mill property of Joseph P. Rapp, and Mr. Rapp pointed out to Mr. Roberts a spot in the field where the gun factory stood.

In its issue of November 27, 1940, the "West Chester Local News" reported that a pair of huge granite millstones once used in the French Creek powder mill had been bought by Guy H. Chillas, of Goshen Heights, from a farmer near Kimberton, and they had been brought to West Chester, where Fred Moore bought them from Chillas and placed them on the lawn of his home on Ashbridge Street, West Chester. These stones, continued the "Local News," were employed to grind charcoal in the powder mill.

In Westcott's Names of Persons who took the oath of allegiance to the State of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia A.D. 1777-'78, is found this entry:

"November 7, 1778, Peter DeHaven of Philadelphia, Gentleman, produces his certificate taken of me 26th of June, 1777."

The list contains over a hundred names; but this was the only one bearing this honorable affix. The original certificate, together with other papers, the writer is informed is in the possession of Peter DeHaven's heirs.

In April, 1779, by order of the Supreme Executive Council of Philadelphia, Peter DeHaven was appointed agent for forfeited estates in the County of Philadelphia, but he declined the office. The Council in May, 1779, appointed and commissioned Peter DeHaven as Health Officer for the Port of Philadelphia. He was also named as one of the Assessors of Philadelphia and Coun-

ty. The Council in November, 1780, appointed him a commissioner for the State to purchase hay for the use of the Continental Army in Winter Quarters, which service he rendered without pay.

Peter DeHaven was also appointed a member of a Committee, from the North District in Philadelphia in July, 1779, and endorsed at a town meeting, for the purpose of relieving the general distress, by raising money thru subscription to be solicited from house to house for the services of the United States, the money thus raised to be considered a loan payable in three years and receivable in payment of taxes.

Peter DeHaven lived to be nonagenarian. The stone at his grave in the grounds of Christ Church, Arch and Fifth Streets, Philadelphia, tells that he was in his ninety-sixth year when he died, November 11th, 1815. He was therefore born late in 1719 or in 1720. At the time of Peter's birth his parents lived in what is now Montgomery County but was then Philadelphia County. His father was Peter DeHaven, who, December 24th, 1711, was married to Sedonia Levering, member of a pioneer family of Roxborough, in Philadelphia County, now in the city of Philadelphia. There were ten children by this marriage and two more by a subsequent marriage. During most of their life the parents lived on a farm on Skippack road, below Center Square, Whitpain Township. Here, no doubt, the second Peter DeHaven spent his boyhood.

Peter DeHaven married Sarah Hughes, daughter of Hugh Hughes, of Philadelphia. A record of their marriage has not been found, but the fact is verified in the will of Hugh Huges, dated May 1st, 1756, and probated by his grandson, Hugh, the son of Peter DeHaven. The will appointed the testator's son-in-law, Peter DeHaven, as executor.

Mrs. Sarah DeHaven died at an early age. The stone at her grave,



besides that of her husband in the grounds of Christ Church, notes that her death occurred September 15th, 1760, she being thirty eight years old. The record of Christ Church mentions her burial on September 17th.

Peter DeHaven married again, January 18th, 1763. His bride was Elizabeth Knight, widow of John Knight, a baker of Philadelphia. The Rev. Jacob Duche, of Christ Church, solemnized the marriage.

Peter DeHaven became the owner of much real estate in Philadelphia. Deeds written in the earlier years of his stay in Philadelphia describe him as a merchant. Later the title given him was gentleman. After the Revolution he lived on Arch Street, below Sixth. His son Hugh lived around the corner of Sixth Street, near Arch, the two properties joining at the rear.

By grants from the State government, Peter DeHaven acquired great tracts of land in interior Pennsylvania. The Third Series of the Pennsylvania Archives record the following grants to him:

Northumberland County, 2040 acres; Northampton County, 580 acres; Luzerne County, 800 acres; Bedford County, 300 acres; and Franklin County, 120 acres.

In a paper which Miss Sara Cole DeHaven, a descendant of Peter DeHaven, read before the Chester County Daughters of the American Revolution, she said that Peter DeHaven remained remarkably vigorous up to his latest years, and when 94 years old he was still accustomed to go on horseback rides.

Christ Church, Philadelphia's oldest Episcopal Church, on Second Street, was the family's place of Worship. Here Peter DeHaven was elected a member of the vestry in 1773, 1775, 1776 and 1777, and again in 1779, serving this time until 1812. From 1804 until 1812 he was warden. His son Hugh also was a vestryman from 1810 until 1824.

As a vestryman of Christ Church

Peter DeHaven sat in a session of the vestry on July 4th, 1776, the day when Continental Congress ratified the Declaration of Independence. Upon receipt of this momentous news, the vestry adopted a resolution to the effect that now it would be proper to omit from the petitions in the church's litany the prayer for the King of Great Britain. A request was forwarded to the rector and his assistants to comply with this plan.

Notice of the death of Peter DeHaven appeared in Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, Philadelphia, in the issue of Monday, November 13th, 1815, in these words:

Died, yesterday morning, in his ninety-sixth year, MR. PETER DEHAVEN.

His friends and acquaintances are invited to attend his funeral this afternoon at three o'clock at the dwelling of his son, Mr. Hugh DeHaven, No. 45 North Sixth Street.

The will of Peter DeHaven, gentleman, of the City of Philadelphia, is entered in Philadelphia Will Book 6, page 217. It is dated December 27th, 1806, and was probated January 26th, 1816. The will made the following bequests:

To a great-granddaughter, Sarah Pawle DeHaven, daughter of a grandson, Peter DeHaven, 100 pounds at the age of 21.

To her brother, Atlee DeHaven, 200 pounds when he should arrive at the age of 21.

The son, Hugh DeHaven, was to have a three-story house on Arch Street, near Sixth, and a house on Sixth Street, near Arch, these being the two houses in which father and son dwelt, and also the use and income during his lifetime of all the father's real estate, which property on Hugh's death was to go to Hugh's daughters, Harriet, Amelia and Emma Maria. The son Hugh and a grandson, Peter DeHaven, were appointed executors.

Hugh DeHaven was the only surviving child of Peter DeHaven. He

died August 5th, 1825, at the age of 71. His grave, that of his wife, Sarah Holstein DeHaven, who died in 1822, and several of their children are in the grounds of Christ Church.

Hon. Samuel W. Pennypacker, LL.D., Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, on September 21, 1907, delivered an historic address to the members of the Pennsylvania Society, Sons of the American Revolution, the Burgess and Council, and Citizens, at the intersection of Nutt's Road and Bridge Street, Phoenixville, Chester County, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of the unveiling of the Memorial Stone, erected to mark the farthest inland point of invasion in Pennsylvania, by the British army, on September 21st, 1777, and in his address Governor Pennypacker made reference to the Continental Powder

Mill on French Creek, where Peter DeHaven, a prominent resident of Chester County, manufactured powder for use of the Continental Army under Washington. Again, Governor Pennypacker, in his *Annals of Phoenixville and Vicinity*" pages 94 to 99, inclusive), gives a full and complete description of the *Continental Powder Mill on French Creek*, conducted by Peter DeHaven and his son, Hugh, and refers to the testimony taken at the time of the explosion of the powder mill on March 10th, 1777, in full detail. And on page 85, Governor Pennypacker speaks of Peter DeHaven as one of the early inhabitants of the Phoenixville region. The DeHavens ranked among the Colonial leaders in public affairs during the American Revolution.