

choir, which has rendered acceptable service in conducting the singing, in which the congregation should join. The old-time singers had no assistance from organs but had to carry the tune without help. This method of singing developed independent singers, and some of the pioneers had melodious voices and their melody was not to be despised. The singing school teacher who taught young people to sing by note, developed many independent singers and some choirs, even in the country, were commended for the rich melody of their music. Doubtless the old-time singing was much slower than the present rapid time music, but it was much more devotional. Many of the grand old hymns are prayers and all their sacredness is turned into sacrilege in the mouths of careless and indifferent singers; hence every church is deeply interested in the character and make-up of its choir. The congregation of Honesdale church is expected to join in the singing of the regular hymns because it is a part of the worship. Formerly all the note books containing the tunes were in the hands of the choir. Now the pews are supplied with hymns and tunes and all have an opportunity of joining their voices in songs of praise to God.

Jacob S. Davis, a surveyor and man of considerable genius and prominence in Wayne county, built the first pipe organ in the county. L. S. Collins remembers that it stood in the rear end of Jason Torrey's house at Bethany, years ago. Orlando Weed built the first pipe organ for the Episcopal church in Alanson Blood's cabinet shop about 1846. According to James H. Sutton's recollections, Allen Plum was leader of the first band in Honesdale. The other members were James H. Sutton, who played the clarinet and trombone, Mr. Maule, an old Scotch watchmaker, A. J. Bowers, the first hardware merchant, Joseph Delezenne, Charles Wallace, J. A. Arnold and Ezra Genung. They met in Captain Field's hotel to practice and expended \$200 for an instructor, who came down from Binghamton, besides paying for their instruments. They made great preparations for a celebration that was to be held in