



John and Hannah Mattern Kessler

They were able only to keep the “big house” and 20 acres surrounding the house. This house, still standing today, is the background to the large family picture discussed later in this section.

After the failed poultry venture, Charles went to work in the coal mines across the valley to support his family. This was several miles east of their home, and mine work was sporadic. Often, there would be signs indicating that the mine was closed for the day. The main road used by Charles was Deep Creek Valley Road, which is shown in the map below. The map shows Barry Township in Schuylkill county in 1876. Deep Creek Valley Road is the main thoroughfare going East-West at about D on the map. The remaining Mattern land at that time is shown at C2,C3 just north of Deep Creek Valley Road. The church where Elias

Eager to feed his growing family, Charles worked the land given to him by the Mattern family diligently and with some success. Then, in the late 1920's, Charles was persuaded by some business associates that a poultry venture would add significant profits to his farm. For the first time in his life, Charles borrowed money to fund the venture. The poultry business did not succeed, and Charles had to sell 180 acres of his inherited land to satisfy the bankers.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H

