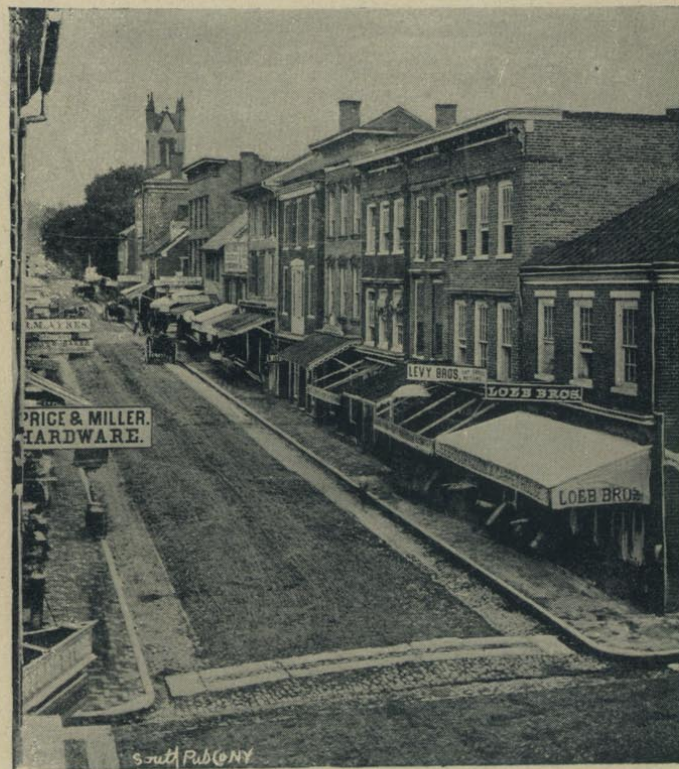


The town of Staunton was laid off in the year 1748, and was incorporated the following year. (Campbell's History of Virginia, page 438). Three years before, William Beverley had addressed a letter to the County Court of Augusta County, signifying his intention of conveying to and for the use of said county certain lands for the purpose of erecting thereon a Court House, prison, etc. This intention was subsequently carried out by the conveyance of twenty-five acres in Beverley's Manor, now within the corporation limits of Staunton, for the purposes named.

At that time, Augusta County, of which Staunton is the present county seat, extended indefinitely westward, and its County Court met at what is now Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. It would seem to be a remarkable coincidence in the industrial history of the United States that Pittsburg, the foremost iron manufacturing city of America, was once the county seat of a county whose present capital gives promise of an almost equally notable career as an iron centre of that new South, of which Pennsylvania's distinguished political economist, William D. Kelley, says: "It is the coming Eldorado of American adventure."

Augusta county lies in the great valley which extends from Canada to Alabama, and which is noted for its limestone lands, iron beds, clear streams, healthful climate, picturesque scenery, the number of its towns and its substantial population. The valley is known in Pennsylvania as the Lehigh, Cumberland, etc., where it abounds in natural resources and acquired wealth. In northern and central Virginia



PARTIAL VIEW MAIN STREET, STAUNTON, VA., 1880.