

HEINLEIN GENEALOGY

BELL FARM

ECONOMIC HISTORY

Agriculture had been the basis of Moon Township's economy since the initial settlement. The family farm was the pioneer's principle means of sustenance in a desolate wilderness.

By 1920, however, only eighty-seven farms remained in the township. As their numbers decreased many small unproductive farms were purchased and consolidated. This resulted in the development of the large farm co-operative. The largest and most successful was the Bell Farm. Designed as a self-sufficient dairy farm community, it incorporated almost twelve hundred acres and was staffed by approximately thirty-five permanent resident employees.¹²¹ The John McCormick and James Scott Dairy Farm located on the old Benjamin McCormick land grant on Beaver Grade Road operated on a slightly lesser scale. The farm not only retailed milk on site but also had an established delivery route that provided all kinds of farm produce in season to customers over a wide rural area.¹²²

During the early 1920's, electric service became available in Moon Township. This new power source gradually replaced fossil fuels as the means of powering equipment and providing light in both the home and industrial plant. It became a revolutionary force in a dynamically growing economy.

The early twentieth century economy was stimulated by new innovations and technology that in turn stimulated new businesses. James Donnan realizing that a new era was unfolding closed his blacksmith shop and in 1923, built a new garage in the village of Carnot (Sharon) on Beaver Grade Road. It became the first motorcar garage in Moon Township.



Part of the airport's history is the fact that Pittsburgh is home to the 911th Airlift Wing, which originated as a defense base on the Bell Farm several years before Greater Pittsburgh International Airport broke ground. The official designation of the 911th Airlift Wing did not take effect until 1963.