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HISTORY OF ENERGY PRODUCTION IN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY OF OIL AND GAS IN PENNSYLVANIA

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ABSTRACT: Although petroleum and associated materials, such as natural gas, have been used by the human species literally for thousands of years, it was not until Edwin Drake and his team sank the first drilled well on the banks of Oil Creek, near Titusville, that the industry began to mature. Even though within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania petroleum had been long used by the native peoples as well as European settlers, it was little more than a sideline or a nuisance prior to Drake's success. In this brief overview of the beginning of the modern petroleum industry, the major players and contributions will be discussed, as well as some of the unintended consequences that developed later.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Dr. Brice is a Professor Emeritus of Geology & Planetary Science at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (Pennsylvania) where he joined the faculty in 1971. He was the founding President of the Petroleum History Institute (2003-2005) and has been the editor of the PHI journal *Oil-Industry History*, now in its 13th volume. His biography of Edwin Drake, *Myth, Legend, Reality; Edwin Laurentine Drake and the Early Oil Industry*, which was published in December of 2009 (Oil Region Alliance), has received two awards: *The John A. Mather Award* (2010) from the Friends of Drake Well, Titusville, Pennsylvania, and the first annual *Yellow Dog Award* (2011) for excellence in oil history from the Parkersburg Oil & Gas Museum, Parkersburg, West Virginia. Dr. Brice earned his B.S. in Physics and Mathematics from the University of Florida, Diploma of Education from the University of Tasmania (Australia), and his M.S.T. (Earth Science) and Ph.D. (Geochemistry) from Cornell University.