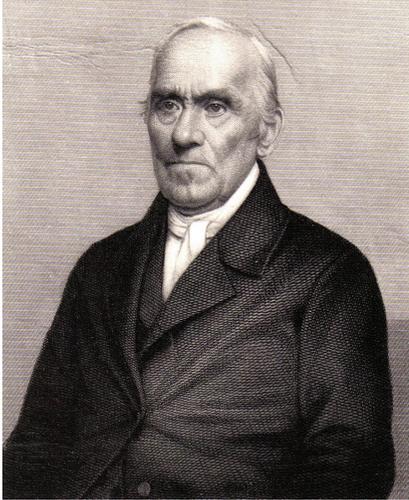


### Henry Boehm at Soudersburg



The son of Rev. Martin Boehm, a founder of the Church of the United Brethren, Rev. Henry Boehm (1775-1875) became a minister with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was a traveling companion to Bishop Asbury. Henry was given his first position of spiritual authority at Soudersburg. In his *Reminiscences*, Henry says that soon after his conversion (or renewal) experience in 1798 at his father's chapel, he was appointed to take charge of the

class meeting in Soudersburg, not far from where he was then living with his brother Jacob. He tried to beg off, but says "there was no excuse." He even rode back to his father's house the day before "to have a good excuse for not meeting the class." But it turned out that Martin Boehm was away preaching, and so the responsibility devolved upon Henry to take charge of family devotions that evening. As Henry recalled, "the power of God came down, and my beloved mother and a relative were so overwhelmed they fell to the floor and the room was filled with glory." He took that as a sign that he should go back to Soudersburg. The next morning, he says, "I rode nine miles and met the class. We had a refreshing season... I took the manifestation of power the evening before as an indication that I should obey the preachers in taking charge of the class. I continued to meet that class for over two years, till I became an itinerant minister. To the class-meeting I am greatly indebted. There I was 'strengthened,' 'established,' 'settled.'" <sup>7</sup> Henry later returned to preach in the Soudersburg church as Presiding Elder of the Schuylkill District, 1813-1815, and again in the 1820s as preacher in charge of the circuit that included Soudersburg.

<sup>7</sup>Henry Boehm, *Reminiscences, Historical and Biographical of Sixty-Four Years in the Ministry*, edited by J. B. Wakeley (New York: Carlton and Porter), 1866, 33-34.