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# *The Allegheny City Society* **REPORTER DISPATCH**

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The Journal of Old Allegheny History and Lore

Winter, 2005

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## **ACS Mourns the Passing of its President, John Lyon**

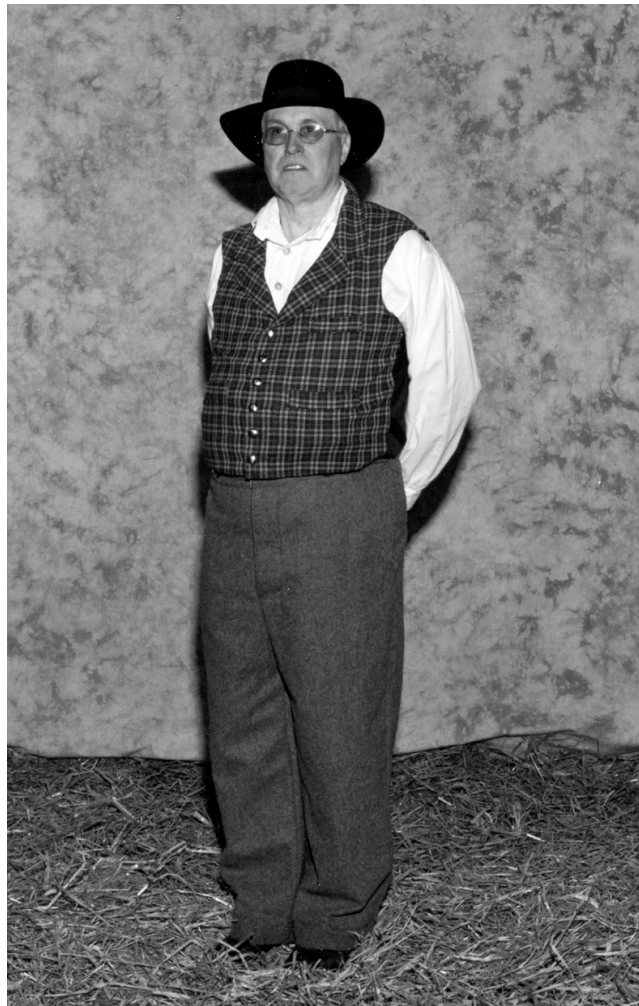
John Lyon, President of the Allegheny City Society passed away on October 17, 2005 after a brief illness.

He served his community, both the Central Northside Neighborhood Council and the Allegheny City Society. His voice was heard, not just at meetings, but also in the chorus at Calvary Church, and the music he played was heard, not just at “watering holes”, but also at events for children.

John was born in Statesville, NC and moved to Dormont (just outside of Pittsburgh) as a youngster. He graduated from Dormont High School in 1957. After serving in the US Navy, he returned to Pittsburgh to attend Robert Morris College (now Robert Morris University) where he obtained a BS degree.

He bought a house for \$100 in the Mexican War Streets in the “Great American House Sale” in 1975. He was employed by the City of Pittsburgh and retired in 2004 from the Department of General Services where he served as an Inventory Control Specialist.

John was one of the organizers of the Pittsburgh Civil War Soldiers’ Fair that was held in the Commons of Allegheny City for six years.



In 1985 he started publishing the *North Side Chronicle*. He served as editor and publisher for 20 years. Shortly before his death, the North Side Leadership Conference honored him for his contributions to the North Side.

John Lyon was a worker, an editor and publisher, a disk jockey, and an historian. But, most of all, he was a demonstrator. Not in the sense of “protesting”, but rather in the sense of “showing”—showing us that the City of Pittsburgh, in general, and the former City of Allegheny, in particular, are not examples of metropolises where people are but anonymous pawns, but are rather collections of villages, where people know their neighbors, communicate with them, celebrate their happy times, and help them through their sad times.

And when John fell ill, it was his neighbors and his friends, members of his village, who were there; ready to assist him and his family, as he had assisted others for many years.

It is the responsibility of this newsletter to correct an error in his obituary in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. It gave his age as 66 years. It’s clear to all of us, that John treated each day as if it consisted not of 24 hours, but at least of 36 hours. That would, by our calculations, make him 88 years old. And he lived those 88 years well.

## Mayors of Allegheny City

Submitted by Steve Pietzak

<b>June, 1840</b>	Gen. William Robinson	
<b>1841</b>	Thomas Semple	
<b>1842, 1843</b>	William Barclay Foster	Father of Stephen Collins Foster.
<b>1844, 1845</b>	Hezekiah Nixon	
<b>1846</b>	Robert Simpson Cassatt	Father of the artist, Mary Cassatt.
<b>1847-1849</b>	Henry Campbell	
<b>1849</b>	Jonathan Rush	
<b>1850-52</b>	Hugh S. Fleming	
<b>1853-1854</b>	Robert W. Park	
<b>1854-1856</b>	William B. Adams	
<b>1857-1858</b>	Herman Jeremiah DeHaven	
<b>1858</b>	Jacob Stuckrath	
<b>1859, 1860</b>	John Morrison	
<b>1861, 1862</b>	Simon Drum	Greeted Abraham Lincoln on his only visit to Pittsburgh on February 14, 1861.
<b>1863-1865</b>	Alexander C. Alexander	
<b>1865-1867</b>	John Morrison	
<b>1868, 1869</b>	Simon Drum	
<b>1870-1873</b>	Alexander Purviance Callow	Only mayor to die in office.
	David Neely (Neillie)	Elected by councils for 30 days upon the death of Mayor Callow.
<b>1875</b>	Hugh S. Fleming	Completed Callow's unexpired term.
<b>1876-1878</b>	Offilsby Phillips	
<b>1879-1881</b>	Thomas Megraw	
<b>1882-1884</b>	Lewis Peterson, Jr.	
<b>1885-1887</b>	James G. Wyman	
<b>1888-1889</b>	Richard Turner Pearson	
<b>1890-1892</b>	James G. Wyman	Sentenced to jail while in office - only mayor to be impeached
<b>1892</b>	Nicholas Voegtley	Served as mayor during the impeachment trial and during Wyman's three month imprisonment/
<b>1892-1896</b>	William M. Kennedy	
<b>1896-1898</b>	Charles Geyer	
<b>1899-1906</b>	James G. Wyman	
<b>1901-1903</b>	John R. Murphy	Acting mayor with the title of City Recorder appointed by the Governor.
<b>1906-December 6, 1907</b>	Charles Frederick Kirschler	The last two years of his term, he served as Deputy Mayor of Greater Pittsburgh.

## **Penn Dot Continues Planning for Cassatt Garden**

The Allegheny City Society has been informed that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has sent out "Requests for Bid" to three local firms for the initial phases of the Mary Cassatt garden that is being installed at the corner of Ridge and Allegheny Avenues.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **CCAC Lecture**

The Community College of Allegheny County and the Allegheny City Society will sponsor a lecture "Allegheny City's Women of Letters" to run on five Wednesday evenings from March 8<sup>th</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 7 to 8 PM on the CCAC's Ridge Avenue Campus.

The presentations will cover the Preble sisters, Mary Cassatt, Margaret Deland, Martha Graham, and Mary Roberts Reinhart.

Please call Diane Gnipp at 412-237-4683 at CCAC for further information about classroom location.

#### **WPGS Presentation**

The Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society will present "Resources in the Catholic Archives, diocese of Pittsburgh" by Suzanne M. Johnson on Saturday, January 14, 2006 at 10 AM at the Carnegie Lecture Hall, Oakland.

Suzanne has been a volunteer researcher at the archives for more than eight years. She will provide answers to the following questions, as well as many others:

- What kind of records are at the Archives?
- Does the Archives hold records for cemeteries, schools, religious orders?
- What are sacramental records?
- What are restricted records? How can you order records?
- How can you frame your request to get the information you want?

Following the lecture, the audience will be encouraged to ask questions of their own.



This lecture is free and open to the public and reservations are not required. For more information visit [www.wpgs.org](http://www.wpgs.org) or call 412-687-5811. (Parking fee at Carnegie Library is \$5.00.)

#### **University of Pittsburgh Collection**

Since 1999 the University of Pittsburgh Library System has hosted the Historic Pittsburgh Website (<http://digital.library.pitt.edu/pittsburgh/>) -- a digital collection that provides the opportunity to explore and research the history of Pittsburgh and the surrounding Western Pennsylvania area on the Internet.

The research community can explore numerous facets of Pittsburgh and regional history through digital collections of historic texts, maps, and census schedules as well as detailed chronologies of local history and descriptions of archival collections located throughout the city.

One of the most popular components of the Historic Pittsburgh Web site is the G.M.Hopkins Real Estate Plat Map Collection that is located at:

<http://digital.library.pitt.edu/maps/index.html>. This site currently contains 20 volumes (over 900 individual maps) representing Pittsburgh and the surrounding vicinity from the 1870s to the 1930s. Reprints of these maps are now available for sale.

If you have questions about the Historic Pittsburgh Website or purchasing a map reprint, please feel free to contact Anna Maria Mihalega, Digital Production Librarian, Digital Research Library, University of Pittsburgh (412) 244-7527.



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