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H I S T O R Y
C H R O N O L O G I C A L
of

OLD ALLEGHENY CITY

PENNA

compiled for

:
THE
ALLEGHENY CITY
SOCIETY

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This is no attempt to include all the
known facts, but rather enough to
interest one who works or lives
in Allegheny, or has done so,
or whose ancestors did. A
few items were inserted
to add historical
perspective

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ALLEGHENY
is a Delaware Indian word meaning
FAIR WATER

- 1740 - the first recorded inhabitant was Andrew Lang, who, with two others cultivated plots of ground at the base of Monument Hill somewhere near the site of the Clark Candy Co.
- this Monument Hill was then known as Hog-back Hill on account of its shape, but in 1827 it became known as Seminary Hill because the first building which housed the Western Theological Seminary was built thereon.
 - in 1870 a Civil War Monument was erected on the hill and it thus acquired the name of Monument Hill, and still has it, although the Monument was removed in 1929 and re-erected in West Park near the Penn Central tracks and the Y. M. C. A. at North Avenue and Monterey Street.
 - from this same hill kids used to watch the Pittsburgh Pirates and later the defunct Federal League ball games being played on the low-lands along the river called Exposition Park. (see 1787, 1880, and 1883.)
- 1743 - this Lang settlement was wiped out by the Indians, who although normally peaceful, resented anyone being near the vantage point on Smokey Island (see 1787) from which they could look over the growing community of Fort Duquesne (see 1758).
- 1753 - George Washington fell in the river near where the 40th Street Bridge now stands. It is, however, called the Washington Crossing Bridge since he eventually got across. His guide was Christopher Gist who has a street near Mercy Hospital named after him

- 1754 - French erected Fort Duquesne at the Forks of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers.
- 1755 - English General Braddock defeated by the French and Indians at Braddock's Field.
- 1758 - English General Forbes advanced towards Fort Duquesne. French burned Fort Duquesne and abandoned the area. General Forbes occupied the Forks and built Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh).
- 1760 - a James Boggs settled approximately at the same place as Lang had, staying until about 1763. Apparently there is no connection between this Boggs and the Boggs of Boggs and Buhl.
- Pittsburgh's population was 151.
- 1768 - Wm. Penn made a blanket settlement with the Indians at Fort Stanwix (Rome, N.Y.) for most of Southwest Pennsylvania.
- this treaty included the Allegheny site and the land was offered to settlers at 20¢ an acre. \$20.00 would have bought the land which now comprises the park system surrounding Allegheny Center.
 - the State of Virginia claimed this same and more territory by Royal Charter and disputed Penn's claim.
- 1776 - the War of The Revolution suspended the dispute temporarily.
- 1783 - the Continental Congress arbitrated a settlement which provided for running the celebrated Mason-Dixon Line to the present Southwest corner of Pennsylvania and thence North to Lake Erie.
- 3,000 acres of this area were RESERVED to fulfill land warrants which had been given to Continental soldiers in lieu of wages.

1783 - this was called the RESERVE TRACT from which cont. Reserve Township derives.

- it started at Girty's Run (Millvale) and the Allegheny River, down the North banks of the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers to Woods Run, near the present Riverside Penitentiary, inland to about Perrysville Avenue and East St, and back to the starting point.

1785 - the first non-Indian child born in the area later known as Allegheny City was William Robinson, Jr., who became the first Mayor in 1840.

- his father operated the Ferry from Allegheny to Pittsburgh close by where the present 6th Street Bridge now stands.

1786 - the first newspaper west of the Alleghenies was published in Pittsburgh - the Gazette, still surviving as the Post-Gazette.

1787 - the State of Pennsylvania needed money to pay its Continental War Debts and authorized a town site to be surveyed in this Reserve Tract.

- the intention was to use this site for a County Seat for a proposed Allegheny County which was to be split from Westmoreland County.

- the site was then in Pitt Township of Westmoreland County.

- nowadays we think of Old Allegheny as being almost flat and level except for Monument Hill. However, at the time the survey was made in 1787, it was riddled with runs, swamps, gullies and ponds.

- two islands also lay between Monument Hill and Pittsburgh.

1787 - these two islands, later called Nelson's and Kilbuck, have since been incorporated into the Allegheny City mainland, Southwest and Southeast of where Horne's Warehouse stood on Shore (South) Avenue.

- THE NEW STADIUM IS BEING BUILT THERE.

- the name for Shore Avenue was derived from the fact that it occupied the land for the road then along the mainland shore.

- Exposition Park was located further East at the corner of School (Scotland) Street and Shore Avenue.

- the man who made the survey took such a dim view of the site that he reported it as being suitable "for residents of the moon".

- the area of the old town is the present Allegheny Center, the part that was surrounded by the former Union, Stockton, Sherman, and Montgomery Avenues.

- the parks were then known as the "Commons" and were designed for common grazing for the town inhabitant's cattle and horses.

- the Allegheny Center perpetuates the word "Commons" by incorporating that word in some of its new street names.

1788 - lots were sold at Public Auction. Each lot "IN" the town site included a larger parcel of land "OUT" side the commons. The "OUT" lots remained farms for many years. For instance, a great deal of land west of Sherman Avenue and North of North Avenue was not urbanized until after the Mexican War. The street names in this area point this out - Buena Vista, Resaca, Taylor, Palo Alto.

- 1791 - strenuous objection on the part of the older and more populous Pittsburgh caused the abandonment of the County Seat idea. After all, it was not then suitable for building sites and there was no bridge at that time. Moreover there was not sufficient foresight to vision its future possibilities. That often happens.
- 1795 - only four families were reported living on the tract.
- 1796 - Mad Anthony Wayne camped here during part of his campaign to oust the Indians. He was successful and ended all further skirmishing.
- Franklin Road was laid out from Pittsburgh to Lake Erie by way of Franklin, Pa. It traversed the present Federal Street, the Extension, parts of Ferrysville Avenue, and parts of Old Hiway 19. It was primarily a drover's road - used to drive cattle into town. A short section of it just beyond Ferrysville Avenue and East Street still bears that name - graded accordingly.
 - tavern activity along this road was the first sign of commerce in Allegheny. A glass factory, a rope walk, and a plow-works were next. The glass factory was built opposite the head of Brunot's Island. A ripple in the stream at this point is still called: "Glass House Riffle".
- 1800 - population estimated 275 - mostly farmers.
- 1803 - first brick house built. It was for the Robinsons (see 1785). It stood about where the Martin Bldg. is today.
- 1810 - population about 450.
- 1811 - river transportation started by steam boats.
- 1818 - first successful business enterprise - the Irwin Rope Walk, opposite West Commons, between Ridge and Western Avenues. In a long narrow building, ropes were made by walking the cords the length of the bldg., and stranding them. The alley back of Brighton Rd. at this point is called Rope Alley.
- 1819 - the original Pittsburgh Academy was organized in Pittsburgh in 1787, but in 1819 it was chartered as Western University of Penna., and 40 acres of the Commons were donated to the University. The Supreme Court invalidated the grant. The University then stayed in Pittsburgh until 1892 when it was moved to North Ave. and Buena Vista Street.
- in 1890 the building was built and occupied by the University (WUP) which now houses the Protestant Orphanage on Perrysville Ave. between Langley and University Avenues, near the head of Buena Vista Street.
 - adjacent to and behind this building was where Prof. Langley had his Observatory and Laboratory. Here he made his aero and wind tunnel experiments with heavier than air planes. (see 1896)
 - around the corner on Perrysville Avenue Dr. John A. Brashear built his Astro-physical Instrument Factory in 1875.
 - all these buildings are still standing except the Old Observatory, although in 1909 Western University became Pitt and moved to Oakland in Pittsburgh.
 - the hill on which these buildings stand is called Observatory Hill because the original Allegheny Observatory, organized in 1859, was built there.

- 1819 - it became part of the Western University in cont. 1899.
- the name is also found on the Observatory Hill Christian Church on Wilson Avenue just a few blocks away.
- 1820 - population about 600.
- the first bridge was built at a cost of \$75,000.00.
 - it joined Franklin Road (Federal St) with St. Clair Street where the beautiful Sixth Street now stands.
- 1824 - the first newspaper published in Allegheny was the Allegheny Democrat.
- 1825 - construction started on the First Western Theological Seminary (Presbyterian) on what is now known as Monument Hill (see 1740)
- it burned down and was rebuilt shortly after.
 - General LaFayette was entertained at the home of Frances Preble Barlow, then located at the corner of Stockton and West Diamond Streets. The site is now under the Mall in Allegheny Center.
- 1827 - the First Western Penitentiary (House of Correction) was built about where the Aviary stands opposite Allegheny High School. It was an Octogen shaped building and was torn down when the present River-side Penitentiary was finished in 1886.
- 1828 - population about 1,000.
- about one third of the Reserve Tract was incorporated as the Borough of Allegheny.
 - John Irwin, the rope man, (see 1818) was the first Burgess.
- 1828 - the Borough started at the bank of the Allegheny River at East Lane (Madison Ave.) and continued North to about East Street, then West about where Hasley, Henderson, and Carrington are today, ending at Pasture Lane later called Irwin Ave., and now Brighton Rd.
- South the line followed Pasture Lane to Water Lane (Western Ave.), West on Water Lane to Ferry Lane (Beaver Ave.) and South to the River. Near the bottom of Ferry Lane was the landing for the West End Ferry.
 - St. Clares Convent and Young Ladies Seminary (Academy) was built this year on what the Nuns called Mt. Alvernia but was later called Nunnery Hill. The school and a dwelling which occupied the site later are gone. A Housing Project called Allegheny Dwellings is there now and the Hill is known as Fine View, which it has. (see 1888).
- 1829 - first fire engine bought - a hand pumper.
- first boat arrived by way of the new Portage Canal.
 - North and South Canal Streets were the Tow Paths for the Canal between them. West Canal Street was the Tow Path for West side of the unloading basin, roughly about where the present Westinghouse Warehouse is located at 209 West General Robinson St.
 - during the week ending April 20, 1838 this basin unloaded 3,750,000 tons of freight.
 - the first locomotive (the Salem) for the O & P R R was brought over this Portage Canal by barge from the East in 1850.
 - later the Fort Wayne Freight & Passenger stations used the canal site at Federal St.

Jennie (Jane) Cubbage Kearns
born 1836

- 1830 - population 2801 freemen and 8 slaves.
- various societies met at a building called the "Temperance Ark", located at the corner of Ark & Whiston Ways, at the back of old 110 East Ohio St., formerly the Cornish Curtain Co.
 - one such society meeting there was called the "Reformed Drunkards of Baltimore".
 - this ARK later housed what might have been the first High School in the Third Ward. The record reads: "for advanced boys under Prof. Eaton".
- 1832 - the Orphan Society of Pittsburgh & Allegheny was organized by the Presbyterians on Montgomery Avenue, moved to Galveston & Ridge in 1866 and to Observatory Hill in 1908.
- 1834 - the first Hay Scale and Weight House was built at Federal Street & Ohio on the site of the "Original Town Square", later known as Buhl Park.
- laws passed providing for the first public schools. They were rented rooms until 1844.
- 1837 - Freiheits Freund started publication here, moving from Chambersburg, Pa.
- 1838 - second bridge built from Chestnut St. in Allegheny to Mechanics (16th) in Pittsburgh.
- 1840 - third bridge built from Anderson St. in Allegheny to Hand (9th) St. in Pittsburgh.
- population 10,000, ten times that of 1820.
 - incorporated as a city (3rd class) - Wm. Robinson, Jr., first Mayor.
 - Charlotte Carr (Bengough) was born in Allegheny and raised there.
- 1840 - while still 15, she got a job as type-setter cont. for the old Gazette and was successively proof-reader, compositor, and telegraph editor. She was the first professional newspaper woman in the Pittsburgh district, and antedated both Nellie Bly and Gertie Gordon.
- 1842 - Stephen Foster lived on Union Avdnue, just above Stockton. Here at the age of 18 he wrote his first published song - "Open Thy Lattice, Love". His father was Mayor of Allegheny at the time.
- 1843 - telegraphy became commercially possible.
- 1844 - first building definitely erected as a public school - at Reedsdale & Scotland Sts. in the old first Ward. This First Ward was colloquially known just as "The Ward". To this day when the lieutenant is assigning policemen to this point he simply says: "Down The Ward".
- 1845 - first slate roof in Allegheny County was put on the Penn Cotton Mill then on River Ave. between Federal and Sandusky Streets.
- Allegheny National Bank later known as Allegheny Trust Co. grew out of the Allegheny Savings Fund Co. started this year.
 - John A. Roebling built the world's first suspension bridge. It carried the Canal Aqueduct (and barges) across the river to Pittsburgh from near present Madison Avenue and River Avenue.
- 1846 - Conrad Eberhardt started the Brewery on Vinal Street, which ended up as the Eberhardt & Ober, affectionately known from the E & O initials as the "Early & Often Brewery".

- 1847 - Voegtly Church built. It is still standing on East Ohio Street, opposite the Sarah Heinz Community House.
- first Allegheny City Water Works built on River Avenue, East of the old Ellsworth Fire Engine House. The building has been torn down and the site is known as "The Water Works Parking Lot".
 - curious fact: the land was not then in the City of Allegheny, but in a separate Borough called Duquesne, (see 1868). There was no connection but the name with the later Borough of Duquesne, up the Monongahela River.
- 1848 - Andrew Carnegie arrived in Allegheny at the age of 13. He first lived on Kilbuck (Hypolite St.,) and later on Reedsdale (Rebecca)St., in an area at the base of Monument Hill colloquially called "Barefoot Square". His first job was as a bobbin boy in a cotton mill at \$1.50 a week.
- 1849 - Butler and Perrysville Plank Roads both built. They were private toll roads. Some toll houses remained for a long time. The one at Perrysville and Ivory Roads was a tavern for years until it was torn down in 1964 to make way for a gas station.
- Charles Avery, wealthy Allegheny Philanthropist and abolitionist, became a lay minister. In this year he founded and gave the funds to build and maintain the Allegheny Institute and Mission Church on his property at Avery & Nash Sts. His purpose was to educate and train Negro youth. In 1858 the Charter was amended to designate the "Institute" as AVERY COLLEGE. A Hiway Marker at Nash & E. Ohio Sts. so identifies it. The present structure was built in 1858, and it is scheduled for demolition to make way for a Hiway.
- 1850 - population 21,000.
- the steam locomotive THE SALEM (see 1829) was the first locomotive to travel west of Pittsburgh. It came over the Alleghenies by barge on the Portage Canal for use by the O & F R R then under construction. It was unloaded in the Allegheny basin.
 - first public library started by Col. Anderson.
- 1851 - service started on the first steam railroad above. Service was from Allegheny to New Brighton, later extended West. Service to and from Pittsburgh was by Omnibus.
- there were five stations within the City: terminal at Federal St., Superior, Woods Run, Verner, and Jacks Run. No doubt some trains also stopped at the old shops and round house near (Columbus) California Ave.
 - the first Allegheny County Fair was held in Allegheny. In addition to the usual home and farm products, such as fruits, fancy work, vegetables, cakes, and farm implements, a number of odd items were exhibited, to wit: patent leather, beaver hats, knives, batting, parlour stoves, omnibuses, metal coffins, pigeons, screw mail axles, congealed water, burr smut machine, oil cups, smoothing irons, nub borers, seed drillers, penmanship, and extract of coffee. Truly a versatile people and most of these items were made in Allegheny.
- 1852 - a prefabricated railroad station was built in Allegheny for the above railroad and the separate parts hauled by them to Enon Valley where the station was erected.
- 1853 - street lighting started - gas, of course.

- 1856 - first major effort at street grading and paving - \$200,000.00 spent.
- 1857 - railroad service extended to Pittsburgh.
- 1859 - Allegheny Observatory Association organized and the first Observatory built in 1860 back of where the Protestant Orphanage stands between Langley & University on Perrysville.
 - first street car line started, called the Pittsburgh, Allegheny, and Manchester, which latter was a separate municipality at the time. A map of 1872 shows a score of bldgs. there which included: Locomotive Works, Car Barns (later called Car Houses and then Bus Garages - recently torn down) St. Andrews Church, Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church, LOOF Hall, Lutheran Church, Baptist Church, Public School, and St. Joseph's old Church. Most of these were torn down in 1962-63-64 to make way for the Chateau West Development and a new Hiway.
 - the old street cars had no heating and the floors were strewn with straw to help keep the feet warm. Crews frequently wrapped their feet in old burlap sacks like most outside workers were still doing in 1900. The sack effect was popular long ago.
 - the cars were drawn by horses whose tails were docked for swank and efficiency and were currently known as "Bob-tails", in the same strain as kids later on referred to the electric street cars as "rail-grinders".
 - police put into uniforms.
 - population 28,000
 - big year - the Civil War started shortly after.
- 1861 - Abraham Lincoln stopped off here on his way to the inauguration, and made a brief speech.
 - Home For The Friendless started, later known as Pressley House, so named for the first Presbyterian pastor in Allegheny. The building we all knew was built in 1885.
- 1863 - the first steam operated fire engine bought.
 - the old Market House built. It didn't look its age when torn down in 1965.
 - diagonally opposite was the Old City Hall and Jail, which was torn down in 1937 to provide space for the Buhl Planetarium.
 - First National Bank of Allegheny started under National Charter No. 198.
- 1864 - house numbering started but not by blocks.
 - Sanitary Fair held, June 2nd to 18th, and netted \$363,000.00 for the subsistence and hospitalization of Union Soldiers and their dependents. Things were donated and sold which could be "eaten, worn, sold, or were curious to look at". The buildings were erected partly on Federal Street and partly on the ground where the Buhl Planetarium now stands. They were: Floral Hall, Ladies Bazaar, Refectory (snackery, we guess) Exhibition Hall, Monitor Hall, and Mechanics Hall.
- 1867 - Manchester and part of Troy Hill annexed.
 - National Ben Franklin Fire Ins. Co. started.
 - first electric fire alarm system started.
- 1868 - free mail delivery started.

- 1868 - the "Commons" converted into the present
cont. park system after ousting a lot of squatters.
It was not until 1876 that real landscaping
began. Do any of those trees exist today?
- Borough of Duquesne (see 1847), balance of
Troy Hill, Woodville (East St. area), and
Spring Garden annexed.
- 1869 - President Grant dedicated the Humbolt Monu-
ment in West Commons, opposite Resaca Pl.
- last spike - a golden one - driven in the
first Continental Railway.
 - H.J.Heinz, Boggs & Buhl, Workingsman's Bank,
and Cecelia Maennerchor all started.
 - electric time started at Allegheny Observ-
atory. Regular systematic signals were
distributed to railroads and cities. Accur-
acy was maintained by star observations, and
pendulums were activated and synchronized
by telegraphed impulses.
- 1870 - population 53,000.
- Woods Run annexed.
 - full time paid firemaen commissioned.
Volunteers disbanded.
 - the Old German National Bank Building built
on East Ohio Street, opposite East Street.
It was of Iron Front construction.
- 1871 - one of the first two passenger elevators in
the Pittsburgh district was installed in the
six-story Semple Bldg., at the corner of
West Erie and Federal Sts. This building
was later the Kenyon Dept. store and when
the store burned down, the Kenyon Theatre
was erected on the site.
- 1872 - Sisters of The Good Shepherd built their
Building and started in business on Troy
Hill.
- 1872 - a map this date locates the "Morgan House"
at Taylor Ave. and Brighton Road. Its ex-
act building date is not presently known.
It was a drover's Tavern (see 1796). At the
side of the Tavern between Taylor & Eloise
the alley is still called Drovers Way. The
present name is "Old Allegheny Tavern".
- 1874 - two big calamities in one year. A disaster-
fire around Federal & Hemlock Sts. was
started by a fire cracker, and a flash flood
(called a cloud burst then) in Butcher's
Run. 70 lives lost.
- the first organ donated by Andrew Carnegie
(then age 39) was given to the Church of
The New Jerusalem (Swedenborgian), which he
attended as a boy, and was at one time the
Librarian. The organ is still in use and
is located in the church of this denomination
at Sandusky & Parkhurst Streets.
- 1875 - Dr. Brashear's Astrophysical Instrument
Factory built on Perrysville Avenue opposite
the head of Buena Vista St. He lived next
door for years.
- Ahlers Lumber Co. started.
- 1876 - the Chubby Fishing Club of Allegheny held
an outing in McKees Rocks.
- Covered Union Bridge built at the Point.
- 1877 - first Exposition opened. First telephone
in Allegheny demonstrated there.
- 1879 - Mendel Hall built on East Ohio Street.
- 1880 - population 78,000.

- 1881 - first incline chartered. It was to operate between Jacksonia & Perrysville Ave. Although there is no record that the incline was ever built, Buena Vista Street from Jacksonia to Perrysville indicates that it might have been graded for that purpose.
- 1882 - electric arc lights were displayed at the Exposition.
- 1880 to 1883 - an epidemic of fires was climaxed by the burning of the Allegheny Tradesman's Industrial Institute (the Exposition) located at Shore Ave. & Cherry St. The lofty, rambling frame structure made an excellent target for the sparks from a fireworks display that followed a parade of G.A.R. veterans who were celebrating at the Exposition in October 1883.
- the gay tinselled booths, many filled with combustible materials, the thousands of yards of cotton bunting that hung from the wooden rafters of Machinery and Floral Halls, the polished wood floors - all these united to transform the Exposition into a raging inferno which soon menaced the entire First Ward.
 - before the fire was controlled there was a loss of \$275,000.00 - which was quite a sum in those days.
 - the Exposition was later rebuilt in Pittsburgh in 1885-6 on Duquesne Way on the River Bank at the Point. It was again rebuilt at the Point after another fire there. The site is now part of Point Park.
 - the Shore Avenue site was later purchased by the Pittsburgh Pirates Base Ball Club and still called Expo. Park.. The first World's Series was played there in 1903, and after the Pirates moved to Forbes Field in 1905, it was the home of the Federal League Club.
- 1885 - first police wagon purchased - horses, yes.
- first commercial telephone installed by Boggs & Buhl.
- 1886 - Riverside Penitentiary erected in Woods Run.
- first commercial use of electric arc light in Allegheny in a store on East Diamond St.
 - Statue of Liberty unveiled in New York.
- 1887 - Teutonia Maennerchor built the present bldg.
- 1888 - stones from the old Penitentiary were used to build the retaining walls on Perrysville Ave. (see 1827).
- the first electric street railway was the Observatory Hill Passenger Railway - up Federal Street and Perrysville Ave. to Wilson Ave. It had an underground feeder.
 - electric technique was not sufficiently advanced for the heavy grade and the system was abandoned but later perfected as a trolley system in 1891.
 - Holmes Hall For Working Boys was built at 719 Brighton Road, not far from where John Irwin had the Rope Walk. It is now a Funeral Parlor.
 - the first incline to operate was the Troy Hill starting just west of 1802 East Ohio St. (Lambros Hotel) and ending opposite the Old Engine House No. 11 at Lowrie and Ley Sts. There is no evidence so far that it was ever on Ravine (Rialto) St., which was built for a hog drive for quick transfer of hogs from Herr's Island to the slaughter houses on Spring Garden Rd. An old map spells the Island as "Hares Island".

1888 - the second incline to operate was built
cont. this same year on Nunnery Hill (now Fine
View). It was a curved one, and ante-
dated the curved incline on the South Side.

- it started in a building still standing on
the N.E. corner of Federal & Henderson Sts.
The wall on the North side of Henderson
supported the tramways. At a point
approximately opposite where lower Sandusky
St. dead ends on the South side of Hender-
son, the incline curved North and ended
diagonally opposite the old 12th Ward
School No. 2 at Catoma and Meadville Sts.

- this part of Nunnery Hill was known as
Ben Villa in 1852.

1889 - Eiffel Tower opened to public in Paris.

- the Little Sisters of the Poor built their
building on Washington (Pressley St.) next
door to the Pressley House. They had
started in business in 1872 on Eighth St.
in Pittsburgh.

- the third incline (the Ridgewood) was built
opposite Nevada St. on Taggart St., to
Ridgewood St., crossing Irwin Ave. on a
wooden trestle. The trestle burned down
that same year and in 1890 the machinery
was transferred to Breed's (McCreery's)
Hill overlooking No. Charles St., on a
small plateau now known as Clifton Park
where Chatauqua St. dead ends on Irwin
Ave. Ext. The owners built rows of houses
at this point to provide customers for the
Incline. It is reported to have operated
until 1905 when the car got away and
smashed into a house on No. Charles St.

- the inmates of Western Penitentiary baked
over 1,000 loaves of bread for the victims
of the Johnstown Flood.

1890 - Western University moved to Observatory
Hill (see 1819).

- Andrew Carnegie provided the funds for the
Carnegie Free Library of Allegheny, fin-
ished this year and dedicated by President
Harrison. It took two and a half years
to build. Electric arc lights were used
on 90 foot poles by the contractor during
its construction. The back annex on
North Diamond Street was added in 1914.

- it was the third of the many libraries
given by Mr. Carnegie, and this one com-
memorated the help given him as a boy by
Col. Anderson who lent him books (see 1850).

- the first library was given by Mr. Carnegie
to his birthplace, Dunfermline, Scotland.
This town was once the capitol of Scotland.

- the second one was a technical one, given
to the employees of the Edgar Thompson
Steel Works in Braddock. It was later
expanded to a Free Public Library.

- all the above antedated the Pittsburgh
Central Library.

- the Allegheny Library had its own separate
existence and endowment until 1959 when it
was absorbed into the Central Library System.

- the first successful electric street rail-
way was the Federal St. & Pleasant Valley
Line (N. Charles St.) - on the level -
no hills.

- Bureau of Electricity had already been es-
tablished.

- population 105,000.

- license for a one horse wagon was \$6.00 -
the driver was free.

1891 - electric arc street lights were being experimented with. First ones were on 60 to 90 foot poles.

-April 6th of this year Allegheny became a City Second Class.

1880/1893 - the theory has been suggested that in this period the burst of scientific and industrial knowledge, the growth of streamlined processes, the ready interchange of parts, and the integration of Blast Furnace/Bessemer/Open Hearth/Rolling Mills seeded a prosperity flowering in many better class buildings and houses.

- although many of these finer stores and houses of this period have been torn down, some still remain which exhibit a particular style of architecture.

- their features are: - high ceilings; - bay windows; - windows with thick, decorated, frequently arched stone lintels drooping down the sides; - bevelled, leaded, stained glass or etched ornamentation in front doors, transom, and landing windows; - carved stone courses interlined with bricks; - three dimensional brick patterns; - highly ornamented and carved stone work; - wall plaques; - mansard roofs; - fret work and carved or ornamented columns on porches; - separate entrances and quarters for servants; - the whole works topped with spires, cupolas, and turrets.

- of course, every house or building did not have each and every item on this list but there are quite a few still standing which show enough of these features.

- some bear their building date - one such at 840 California Avenue, at 1319 Liverpool Street, at 516 East Ohio Street, and the old McKnight Hardware Building at 522 Federal Street - all do.

1890/1893 - three blocks on Cedar Avenue between Ohio and North Avenues show many interesting examples of this period - each one seemingly trying to out-do those hard-by.

- many may remember the house at 819 Sandusky Street, or the old Reliance Realty Building on lower Chestnut St. with its ox-head plaque (denoting a slaughter house), and how these and the others above mentioned contrasted with those of the 1840/50 period such as the two houses occupied for years by the Parting Of The Ways Home and by the Salvation Army at 206 and 216 Stockton Avenue at Union.

- a house of the 1840/50 style is still standing at the corner of Monterey and West North Avenue, opposite the Y.M.C.A.

- the panic (hard times, as they called it) of 1893 appears to have wiped out almost all tendency to use, what seems to us now, as fusty, solid gingerbread effects, but to those who used them then, they were full of stylish prestige and status.

- bustles, full skirts, and leg-o-mutton sleeves started to go out of style at this time - too expensive in both material and workmanship.

- the heights of monuments in the cemeteries also started to be designed lower, except for those already arranged for by wills.

1893 - the Palace was the first air conditioned theatre in Allegheny on lower Federal St. near the present Sixth Street Bridge. The builder Sam Little, connected a flue to an adjacent ice-house and blew the cool air into the theatre by a fan driven by one of newly perfected Westinghouse motors.

- the theatre burned down in 1894 and was not rebuilt.

- 1893 - the Allegheny River was frozen over solid.
cont.
- 1894 - the building was built which is presently occupied by the Irwin Avenue sub-station of the Duquesne Light Co., at 828 Brocket Way, 1/2 block West of the Old Allegheny Tavern. It is of unusual construction in Allegheny in that the front is buttressed by walls thicker at grade level than at the top. They taper gracefully upwards to the coping course.
- 1895 - Hotel Kenyon built. Torn down 1966.
- Allegheny Country Club was organized. It occupied most of the area now bounded by Benton, California, Wyndaurst, Cambronne, and Brighton Road, although there were a few houses on the tract. The Club House is still standing at 3810 California Avenue, corner of Benton. The Club moved in 1902 to Watson Road, Sewickley.
 - old Fifth Ward Manual Training ("Trade") School built, corner of Mannattan & Page Streets. It was the first "Trade" school in the Pittsburgh District, and possibly in the State.
- 1896 - first air flight by Prof. Langley's pilotless heavier-than-air plane from southern slope of Observatory Hill (see 1819). One of his models was flown by Glenn Curtis in 1914 after a modern engine was installed.
- 1897 - Allegheny Post Office built at a cost of \$275,000.00 including site. The walls were panelled in birds eye maple and the dome was covered with solid gold leaf. It has been abandoned as a post office, and is being considered by the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation for a museum. Two of the statues from the demolished Pittsburgh Post Office have found a resting place nearby.
- 1898 - Battleship Maine was sunk in Havana Harbor. A flag officer, Lt. F. W. Jenkins from Allegheny was one of those killed. Four items were removed from the wreck when it was raised in 1911. One item was sent to West Point Academy, one item was sent to Annapolis Academy, and the other two - a torpedo tube and a muzzle plate are now at rest in a decorous plot in West Park, slightly South West of the Bird Aviary, and near the Lake presently being built in West Park. Kids love to play there, sliding in and out of the torpedo tube.
- 1899 - Pittsburgh-Xenia Seminary built on North Ave. at Buena Vista Street. It was demolished in 1966 and the Seminary facilities combined with those on Highland Avenue North.
- 1900 - population 129,000.
- 1901 - funeral train bearing the body of assassinated President McKinley passed through Allegheny, passing thousands of coins which had been placed on the tracks, then at grade level. No fatalities.
- Latimer School dedicated in the old Third Ward, and later became an experimental Junior High School, the first in the Pittsburgh District, and possibly the first such in the United States.
- 1903 - first World's Series (see 1740 and 1883).
- 1904 - York Hotel built. Torn down in 1966.
- 1907 - end of the wrangling that started back in 1846. Pittsburgh, the larger city, annexed itself to Allegheny by outvoting the smaller city, and retained its own name. The last Mayor was Charles F. Kirschler, whose grandson is President of the Provident Trust Co.

The beautifully landscaped plot opposite the Old Market House, the Allegheny Library, and the Buhl Planetarium was last known as Buhl Park. It was originally Haymarket Square, but afterwards it had a very ornate fountain and was called "Ober Park" after the donor of the fountain, the Ober part of Eberhardt & Ober. In this Buhl Park was a small marker reading: "To Mark The Site Of Ye Old Town Hall of Allegheny Town". This area is planned for remodeling into a reflecting pool for the new

ALLEGHENY CENTER.

! CURTAIN !
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We are grateful to the following organizations and services whose records and staff helped to make possible whatever accuracy this history has, and to make its compilation an enduring pleasure:

Allegheny Centennial Committee,
Carnegie Institute of Pittsburgh,
Carnegie Library of Allegheny,
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh,
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Pennsylvania,
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Pittsburgh Board of Education,
Pittsburgh History and Landmarks
Foundation, and
Western Pennsylvania Research and
Historical Society.

1958

The Allegheny City Society was chartered in 1945. Its purpose: to perpetuate the history and social Allegheny City life; to promote friendship among the members; to hold meetings for fellowship; to receive and transmit information and reports relative to any interest for Allegheny City; to support efforts to preserve the "Commons", Monuments, and Landmarks; and to help in every way possible to revive the beauty and grandeur which was once known as Allegheny City.

⋮

Membership is freely proffered and anyone interested will be accepted

.....

Address all correspondence to:
Allegheny City Society,
3510 Gerber Ave.,
✓ Pittsburgh, Pa.,
152 12.

EPITAPH

TO
OLD
ALLEGHENY CITY

⋮
In this town were men, and women, and children,
not all known to fame, or
not all rich in worldly goods,
but rich in ideas, talent, imagination, and love,
that they shared with their neighbors,
and with all the world.
Here, they once lived, they played,
they worked, they worshipped.

⋮
Here, O Reader, stand you:
-THE WORLD WAITS FOR WHAT YOU, TOO, CAN GIVE *

⋮
⋮
⋮

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Adrian J. Briggs in 1956 and revised 1968
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3514, Gerber Ave.
- Nied -

July 13, 1996

To say I'm embarrassed
yes I am. All info I
put aside to re-read.

Under other papers
I found "this" -

Our grandmother was
born on Cedar Cove -
last house - lot adjoining
on which B. White store
was built. She was
Jennie Cabbage. Married
Dr. William D. Kearns
Born 1836. died
1912.

Sorry cannot attend
meeting - very hand-
capped.

but appreciate informatn
from you. Hope to
phone for additional
information.

Enclosed is my little
booklet I received at my
last meeting at the
YMCA Cafeteria - long
ago - forget the date -
1971 or 72 - ?

Sincerely
Jane C. Kirker