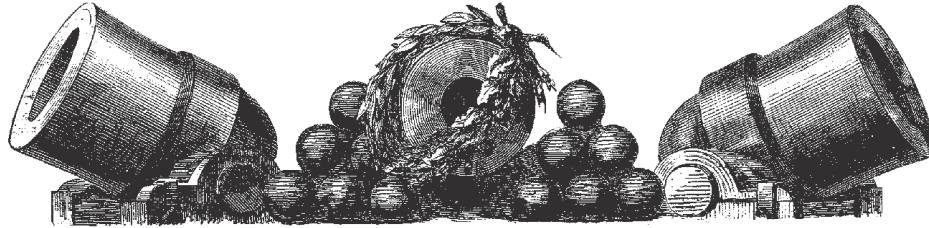


REPORTER DISPATCH



CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the onset of the American Civil War, which is usually dated to the morning of April 12, 1861, with the Confederate bombardment of Union forces at Fort Sumter.

The *Reporter Dispatch*, as the newsletter of the Allegheny City Society, will be featuring articles on the War in general and its effects locally, especially in Allegheny City. There are a few articles in this edition that discuss early events and provide a context for both the April anniversary and for our Lincoln tour in February.

The Society is dedicated to preserving the history of Allegheny and the North Side. We hope to deepen members' and readers' understanding of that history as it relates to the War—not only through *Reporter Dispatch* articles, but through tours and events as well.

The Sesquicentennial provides us with the opportunity to reflect on this pivotal event in our national and local history. We encourage you to take advantage of that opportunity and make use of the resources that are made available to do so.



Last Hope For Peace

The Washington Peace Convention opened in February 1861 in hopes of avoiding war

The Allegheny and Pittsburgh daily newspapers that February of 1861 were full of articles relating to what was occurring at the Washington Peace Convention meetings. Could civil war and disunion of the United States be averted?

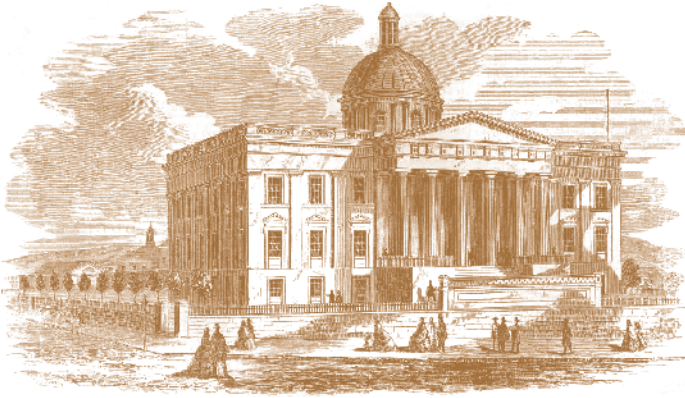
The Washington Peace convention commenced at the Willard Hotel on February 4, 1861. The delegates from the state of Virginia had proposed the meeting as a means by which opposing factions could meet and work out a compromise on the thorny and volatile question of slavery. One hundred thirty-one members attended, fourteen northern states and seven southern states, the lower south did not even send representatives. The issue of slavery had been a problem since the founding of the United States. Most of the delegates had strong opinions and beliefs about the subject and did not plan on changing their minds. Many times the members became

belligerent and defensive. The feelings of compromise and trust were not present that winter in the capital city.

After days of debate, lectures and name calling the convention drafted an impractical document that none of the members were pleased with. All the peace amendments related to the topic of slavery, where it could be and who should control the spread. It was submitted to Congress who promptly rejected it.

Abraham Lincoln had stated while travelling to Washington for his inauguration that the peace convention had no hope of success. Closing February 27, the Washington Peace Convention was a failure—it produced no workable political compromise. It had been the final effort taken on a national scale that could have saved the country from four years of bloody and deadly civil war.

(Source for article: *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War*, Patricia L. Faust, Editor)



The Allegheny County Courthouse as Lincoln would have seen it

Lincoln's Inaugural Trip

National Park Service to commemorate the trip from Springfield to Washington

The National Park Service is sponsoring programming that will commemorate the 150 anniversary of President-elect Abraham Lincoln's trip from Springfield, Illinois to Washington, DC, on February 11–23, 2011, by revisiting sixteen cities and towns at which Lincoln made remarks. Those cities include Springfield, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; Cincinnati, Ohio; Columbus, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Cleveland, Ohio; Westfield, New York; Buffalo, New York; Albany, New York; Peekskill, New York; New York, New York; Trenton, New Jersey; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Baltimore, Maryland; and, Washington, DC.

The programming will feature acclaimed Lincoln actor Fritz Klein, who will present what Lincoln said in each community as he tried to reassure a nation on the verge of Civil War. The program will include National Park Service Park Rangers who will supplement Lincoln's remarks with the story of Lincoln's election, the turbulence that followed, and Lincoln's steadfast commitment to the principles of Independence and the Constitution, despite threats to the nation and himself. The programs will also touch on how events of 150 years ago resonated through later generations up to and including today. The National Park Service is presenting these series of events in cooperation with many local cosponsors in each community. Venues will vary by community, ranging from the places where Lincoln had actually spoken 150 years prior, to a variety of National Parks, local museums, and schools.

The Pittsburgh Stop will be sponsored by the Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table on February 14. Arrangements have been made to hold the event at the Solder's and Sailor's Memorial at 7 PM. Admission is free and open to the public. For further information contact Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, 412 621-4253 EXT 201.

Guns for the Union

Early incident in Allegheny and Pittsburgh

By 1860 the Allegheny Arsenal in Lawrenceville had established for itself an enviable record as one of the principal arsenals in America. Attention turned to the Allegheny Arsenal in December when area residents learned of the plans to ship cannon from the Arsenal to Southern ports. Major John Symington the commander of the Arsenal received an order from President James Buchanan's Secretary of War John B. Floyd to ship a 100, 20-pound guns to New Orleans, eventually destined to be shipped to ports in Texas. Excitement ran throughout the streets of Pittsburgh as soon as the people learned of this. The Pittsburgh Dispatch wrote "Shall Pennsylvania be disarmed with impunity and Charleston be allowed to seize Federal arms with which to overthrow the Union?"

As soon as the people of Pittsburgh became convinced that they were being robbed of their guns by a band of traitors, the streets were filled with discontented crowds and soapbox orators. General William Robinson, former mayor of Allegheny presided over a meeting of leaders of the Pittsburgh and Allegheny community and sent letters to Washington to have the guns stopped from being sent South. Meanwhile several of the guns had been hauled to the wharf and some of them loaded on the transport, the Silver Wave. On one occasion the guns and the soldiers escorting them were held up on the streets and were not allowed to continue for some hours, but happily there was no violence.

When President Buchanan received various letters from the city leaders he stopped Secretary of War Floyd orders to ship the guns south. Floyd's orders were telegraphically countermanded on January 3, 1861. The residents of Pittsburgh and Allegheny celebrated their victory with salutes fired from cannon from one of the surrounding hills. It took several days for all the cannon to be returned to the arsenal.

Revised from a longer article by Jim Wudarczyk (www.lhs15201)

JOCKEY HAT AND HEATHER

A new and "spicy" ballad by W. H. Brookway (of Wilson and Morris Minstrels) with beautiful vignettes
Price 30 cents for sale by JOHN MELLOR 81 Wood St.

BRONCHIAL CIGARETTES

One of the latest and best remedies for *Bronchitis and Asthma* For sale
JOSEPH FLEMING corner of Diamond and Market St.

HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS

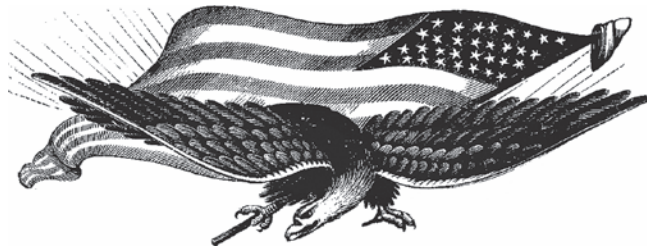
Relieves the system of all morbid matter and imparts regularity to the secretions ½ pt bottle \$1.00 a bottle Beny. Page Jr. & Co. Pittsburgh, Pa.

OIL SITES FOR SALE

Stock in good companies located in Venango county Pa. near Oil City. 3 good sites opposite Phillips and Frew celebrated wells, 2 sites in French Creek near McCormichs well
J. K. MORRANGE NO. 67 FOURTH AVE.

1861 Pittsburgh Evening Chronicle advertisements

**150
YEARS**



**150
YEARS**

NOTICE!

PRESIDENT-ELECT LINCOLN'S ARRIVAL IN ALLEGHENY CITY.



Abraham Lincoln

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's visit to Allegheny and Pittsburgh, the ALLEGHENY CITY SOCIETY has planned a program to follow the route of Lincoln from his arrival in Allegheny on February 14th at the station on Federal Street to his departure from the same station on the following day. This was the only time President Lincoln visited Allegheny and Pittsburgh. Both cities had been very supportive of his election in November of 1860.

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2011

THE FESTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE A BUS TOUR OF THE SITES LINCOLN VISITED AS WELL AS SEVERAL LINCOLN MEMORIAL LOCATIONS IN THE AREA. ONE TOUR WILL BEGIN AT 10 O'CLOCK FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AND THE PROGRAM AT CALVARY METHODIST CHURCH. A SECOND TOUR WILL MEET FOR LUNCH AND PROGRAM AT 12 NOON PRIOR TO THE AFTERNOON TOUR (FROM 2 TO 4 O'CLOCK).

**COST OF THE EVENT IS \$40
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL AMELIA
AT 412-766-5670**

*Lincoln scholar, Gary Augustine will speak
on the important political relationship
between Lincoln and Allegheny County.*



Mike Coleman Will Be Missed

Allegheny City Society loses a devoted leader

by John Canning

The Allegheny City Society lost one of its most devoted leaders this past October. Mike Coleman, who had served on the Board of Directors of the Society for well over a decade, died on October 23, 2010. At the time Mike was serving as the ACS treasurer. Prior to taking on these responsibilities Mike had served as the Society's president for several years.

Always ready to promote the history of Allegheny City and the North Side, Mike and his wife Eleanor played a significant part in all of the Society's programs. They both took a leading role in preparing the Society's newsletter. In 2007, Mike presided over the program that commemorated the 100th anniversary of Pittsburgh's annexation of Allegheny City.

For several years Mike Coleman represented the Society on the Board of Directors of the Northside Leadership Conference. This past June the Conference honored Mike with the its Lifetime Achievement Award. Mike Coleman made many contributions to his neighborhood, Allegheny West, to the entire North Side community, and to the Allegheny City Society. He will be greatly missed.



Mike & Eleanor Coleman at the 2010 Allegheny City Society Annual Meeting

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Allegheny City Society
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