

# WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

Vol. 9; No. 3

JULY, 1926

Price 75 Cents

## OLD HOUSES AND ESTATES IN PITTSBURGH\*

By ANNIE CLARK MILLER

The modern house is largely the common denominator of an architect and an interior decorator.

Early habitations, whether of logs or stone, were of the same pattern as the builder and these houses when found today are visible reminders of the men of their period—and the hardy, diligent, sober minded lives they led.

There are alas! too few remaining in Pittsburgh. We have been destructive and wasteful. We neglect our family records and destroy our venerable habitations but strangers tell us that the ancient foundations still stand, for we continue to be the same church-going, Sabbath-keeping, hard-working folk. That the old names endure, we know:—Irwin's rope rigged Perry's fleet; Shoenberger's iron was of the highest quality; and Bakewell's glass is still treasured by collectors.

Pittsburgh's most ancient house was builded in 1764, and the destruction of this house has been sought since the day of the Red Man. No savage or civilized enemy ever regarded that citadel with more jealous eye than our own enterprising Pennsylvania Company and it is a pleasure for a woman to record that it was Pittsburgh's "house-keepers," not Pittsburgh's "city builders" that averted destruction.

No description of this ancient house is needed for an Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, but it must be noted as we pass that the Old Block House, refuge and fortification, has also served as dwelling-house. For a period there dwelt that first townsman, Isaac Craig, who was concerned in every initial venture in this locality—and there was born his distinguished son, Neville Craig. Also we would record that within the walls of Fort Pitt was born Elizabeth Mackey (daughter of the Commandant at the time) who became the wife of another city father—Stephen Bayard.

Your speaker is not a member of long standing of this organization, and she asks your patience if old and worn paths are tresspassed tonight.

\* Paper read before the Historical Society, January 26, 1926.

In the short time permitted, she will speak briefly of several vanished landmarks as well as of a few still standing.

The so-called palatial residence of Dr. Bedford, the surgeon of Fort Pitt, stood on property that now forms the square bounded by Tenth Street, Liberty Avenue, Barkers Alley and Penn Avenue . He is said to have lived like an English nobleman with a retinue of servants and a string of horses and hunting dogs. (1)

There was the great Island Mansion of Felix Brunot who came to America with his foster-brother, Lafayette and remained to practice medicine. A description of this spot is found in an old journal published in 1810, a copy of which is owned by Hilary B. Brunot, Esq. The journal is written by F. Cuming, (2) who "made a tour of the western county and a voyage down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers." Mr. Cuming was entertained at Dr. Brunot's house and was invited "to commemorate the anniversary of a new era in the annals of history, the Independence of the United States of America."

"Brunot's island contains nearly three hundred acres, a most luxuriant soil, about half of which has been cleared by Dr. Brunot, a native of France, who adds hospitality and sociality to the abundance which he derives from his well cultivated farm.

"He has judiciously left the timber standing on the end of the island nearest Pittsburgh, through which and a beautiful locust grove of about twelve acres, an avenue from his upper landing is led with taste and judgment, about half a mile to his house, which is a good two-story cottage with large barns and other appropriate offices near it, and an excellent garden and nursery."

"He has fenced the farm in such a way, as to have a delightful promenade all round it, between the fences and the margin of the river, which he has purposely left fringed with the native wood about sixty yards wide."

Many French gentlemen came to America in those days of adventure, and they all found their way to the hospitable island in the Ohio. A little girl told of the arrival of Lafayette: "They ran to greet each other, embraced

and wept for joy." (3)

It was soon after this visit that the island house, which had become too great a tax upon Dr. Brunot's purse, and Mrs. Brunot's strength, was sold and the family moved into the Liberty Avenue house, where was the doctor's office.

This house must have resembled a hospital and an apothecary shop, for healing was a passion with this physician. He collected at home and abroad every plant, leaf and root that contained any balm for pain, and his rooms had "innumerable odours and fragrances." He made his own medicines, and treated his patients under his own roof. He rarely asked or took a fee and the lame, the halt and the blind believed him to be the healer of all human maladies. (4)

So far as is known, the doctor's only assistant was Mrs. Brunot, and no one who required attention left the Brunot house without treatment, medicines and Mrs. Brunot's sympathy and gentle care. French women have the reputation of loving beautiful clothes and the knowledge of how to wear them. Mrs. Brunot was no exception, for mention is made on many an old page of the "fascinating bonnet worn by Mrs. Brunot." She is described as small, French in manner, and broken in speech.

There were three sons: Sanson Brunot, who became a clergyman and founded the Episcopal parishes in Blairsville and Greensburg, and Christ Church in Allegheny; Hilary Brunot, a graduate of West Point, who spent four years at the Arsenal in Lawrenceville, as Lieutenant Brunot but later resigned his commission, went into a manufacturing business, and chose for the site of his house an open square, where the Pennsylvania Station now stands; and Felix Revielle Brunot, who married Mary Hogg, the daughter of George Hogg of Washington Street, Allegheny. Mr. Hogg's wedding gift to his daughter was a house on Stockton Avenue at the corner of Union Avenue. (4) Robert Dalzell's house adjoined the Brunot's. The old numbers "50" and "52" are now "214" and "216". These houses are playing an important part today in the social service of the city. Large gilt letters surmount the number "214": "The Brunot Boarding Home, Young Womans

Christian Association"; and with good cheer, number "216" pro claims: "The Parting of the Ways Home." Truly these dwelling houses are Homes in the finest sense of the word.

General John Neville's house was at at Water and Ferry Street. It was a large, plain, wooden house with a central chimney and many small paned windows. But the house, long remembered as the home of the good neighbor, was the Neville Island Mansion.

General Neville was a brave soldier and a patriotic citizen, but what endeared him to many was his gift of generosity. In seasons of more than ordinary scarcity, he opened his fields to those who were suffering for want of food.

The great Island Mansion was the scene of much social life and was only destroyed by fire in 1891. It was built shortly after the Whiskey Insurrection in 1794 and stood near the spot where the present County bridge connects with the Island.

The house was of logs, the walls at least eighteen inches thick. There was a wide Colonial porch on the east side and a beautiful lawn sloped from the porch, shaded by immense locust trees and brilliant with posy plots.

There was a center hall about fifty feet long, where were read family prayers on Sunday morning. An enormous fireplace in the hall was surmounted by an elaborate mantlepice with plaster decorations of angels, cherubs, wreaths and festoons. According to tradition, there was kept in this great hall, a barrel of "Old Monogehela" which was dispensed in generous tin cups. (5)

The establishment had its negro quarters, overseer's house, orchards and gardens. General Neville, of English descent, was a Virginian and a youthful friend of George Washington.

Mrs. Neville was Winifred Oldham, also of Virginia. Their children were Pressley Neville and Amelia, who became the wife of Isaac Craig.

General James O'Hara's name seems to be on almost every old deed in this locality. (6) He served as ensign in the British Army, the Coldstream Guards. He was edu-

cated in France and came to America about 1772. He married pretty Polly Carson, a social favorite in Philadelphia and brought her over the mountains in a wagon. Their first house was of logs and was situated near the Allegheny River above Fort Pitt, in what was called Officers' Orchard.

All the comforts possible and some luxuries were to be found in that log house. This spoiled beauty is said to have been the first person to have carpets brought over the mountains. Her neighbors called them coverlets and wondered that she spread them on the floor.

The General was the leading business man of the town and one of the most public-spirited. He was interested in every public enterprise and amassed enormous tracts of land, which were inherited by his daughters, Mrs. William Croghan and Mrs. Harmar Denny. These today constitute two important domains, the Schenley Estate and the Denny Estate.

General O'Hara's second home was on Water Street, then the fashionable residence street. Their hospitality was famous, and their house was open for the rich and the poor alike. A factory to make glass was one of his ventures. It was located at the base of Coal Hill on the south side of the Monongahela on account of the convenient fuel supply. He and Isaac Craig were partners in 1797 in this untried industry and among his papers was found a note which read, "Today we made the first bottle at a cost of \$30,000.00." (7)

In an ancient journal written in 1787 by Mrs. Mary Dewees, traveling by boat down the Ohio, is found this description of the O'Hara summer home: "We dropped down the Ohio River and at the distance of about a mile we had a full view of Captain O'Hara's summer house, which stands on the bank of the Allegheny River about a hundred yards from the bottom of their garden. It is the finest situation I ever saw. They live in the upper end, or rather out of the town. Their house is in the midst of an orchard of sixty acres, the only one at the place, from the front of which they have a full view of the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers." (8)

James O'Hara's summer place was patented "Springfield" in 1818.

There are three properties today on which old houses still stand that were part of this O'Hara estate. They are "Deer Creek", originally the summer house of the Dennys; "Kilbuck", the old McKnight place on Western Avenue, Allegheny; "Picnic House", the Schenley Mansion on the Stanton Heights golf course and until very recently there was a fourth, "Guyasuta", the Darlington residence, near Sharpsburg.

The property known as "Deer Creek" was purchased in 1800. The western end of the estate fronted on the Allegheny River. Parallel to the river was the old canal in the bed of which, the West Penn Company laid the tracks of their railroad. Between the river and the canal was a grove of oak and nut trees. Over the hill stood a log church in its ancient burying ground, near a great formation of rocks and there was the famous meeting-house spring. (9)

"Deer Creek", a lovely stream, wound through the thickly wooded hunting grounds. There were magnificent, native evergreen and maple trees and many English trees planted by Mr. Denny, including English thorn, catalpa, tulip, elm and sycamore.

At the gate, the entrance from the Kittanning Road, was the Lodge house, from which stretched the long avenue of old trees leading up to the "Big House", well-named, for storm-stayed parties numbering as many as forty, were housed under this roof for the night.

The original house was of logs, and the additions were built around the pioneer cabin. It was ell-shaped and had porches with many pillars on the second story, as well as on the ground floor.

The gardens were brilliant with every variety of blooming shrub and plant. The beauty of many clustered groups of hydrangeas, syringas and rose-trees is preserved in the color sketches of Mrs. Henry R. Scully, done during happy summer holidays at "Deer Creek."

Mrs. Denny, who was Elizabeth Febiger O'Hara, daughter of General O'Hara, gave the ground for a modern brick church, now called the Harmerville United Presbyterian Church. Her granddaughter, Miss Anna Malazina Spring, made possible a beautiful charity in 1911, when she gave nine acres of land to the Federation of Girl's Schools Society

for a Convalescent Home for Women at Harmerville.

The house at "Deer Creek" is still Miss Spring's Pittsburgh residence, although it is rarely occupied.

Mrs. Denny's daughter and namesake, Elizabeth, married Robert McKnight and the parents' gift to the bride was the house at 1912 Western Avenue, called "Kilbuck." (10) There was a tradition that the Indian chieftain, "Kilbuck" was buried under a great stone slab near the lilac walk in the old garden.

The house was built about 1823 by the Reverend John H. Hopkins, one time rector of Trinity Church, afterwards Bishop of Vermont. After being admitted to the ministry he established a private school in his house. He built a new brick front and transformed the large south room with its vaulted ceiling into a chapel. The school was called the Episcopal Institute. (11) The only student's names I have been able to find are Thomas Shoenberger Blair, Sanson Brunot and Felix Revelle Brunot.

About 1840 the property came into the hands of Robert F. Kennedy, the McKnights being the next owners. Mr. and Mrs. McKnight entertained in a lavish manner and many noted people were their guests. Ulysses S. Grant is a well remembered visitor.

The largest dinner parties of the social season were given here, for no other hostess had such numbers of china plates.

Ministers and missionaries were constant visitors and some of them prolonged this pleasure for weeks at a time. Many charities and civic organizations had their beginnings under this roof and the passing of father and mother did not discontinue these interests for Miss Kate McKnight, their daughter, inherited the desire to minister and to serve.

In this hospitable house frequently met a woman's organization called "The Monday Class", which convened at the house of the different members. This was the nucleus of the Twentieth Century Club, organized in 1894, whose modern clubhouse stands at the corner of Bigelow and Parkman Boulevard. Monday has continued to be the popular lecture day for almost fifty years.

The orchards and vegetable gardens occupied the ground of two modern city blocks. The McKnight fruit

and berries were the finest specimens to be seen and were awarded prizes year after year at all the county fairs. The lawns were the scene of spirited contests at croquet, tennis and archery.

Socially important events each season were the flowering of the lilacs, the pink thorns and the wisteria in the McKnight gardens.

The old house is now an apartment house and what was left of the gardens is covered by an enormous toy factory.

The district now called the Schenley Farms was part of General O'Hara's holdings. This part of the property was called "Spring Hill." The adjoining property now known as Schenley Park was "Mt. Airy."

General O'Hara's daughter Mary married William Croghan. When Mrs. Croghan died leaving an infant daughter, Mary Elizabeth, Mr. Croghan built the big country house "Picnic" on Stanton Heights. When his daughter Mary was seventeen years old she was sent to The Miss McLeod's School on Staten Island. An officer of the English army, Captain Edward Wendham Harrington Schenley (a veteran of Waterloo), fifty years old and a widower for the second time, came to America to visit Miss McLeod. He fell in love with the little American girl, Mary Croghan, and, in spite of the difference in ages and the objections of the father, they were married in 1842. Upon the death of her father, Captain and Mrs. Schenley came to Pittsburgh for a short time and then went to England to live.

To the present generation, the house has been known only as the Schenley Mansion. The family portraits and some furniture remained in the great empty house for many years with only a caretaker in charge. Most of the things have been removed, Mrs. Schenley's portrait to the Carnegie Institute, but the old house stands on the Stanton Heights golf course, a dignified monument of a very prosperous day.

In General O'Hara's day there was an avenue of thorn and lilac trees all the way from the gate, with its high brick pillars, on Stanton Avenue, to the doorway.

Three of General O'Hara's sons died during his lifetime. The fourth, Richard O'Hara married Mary Fitz-

simmons and lived on the estate known as "Guyasuta", on the northern bank of the Allegheny River near the present town of Sharpsburg. (12)

Their daughter, Mary Carson O'Hara, married William McCullough Darlington and inherited this estate. The house was a rambling, gray brick house with comfortable porches set in a garden of riotous bloom.

Mrs. Darlington spent much of her girlhood with her grandmother, Mrs. O'Hara. She was a pupil at Miss Olver's Edgeworth Seminary when it was in the Braddock Field house. Later she attended Miss McLeod's boarding school for girls on Staten Island, New York. She was interested in local history, was the author of several pamphlets and compiled the list of names of officers of the Colonial and Revolutionary armies, who died in Pittsburgh and were buried in the historic graveyard of Trinity and First Presbyterian Churches. These names have been engraved on the Memorial Tablet placed by the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on the church wall in Oliver Avenue.

Mr. Darlington studied law with Richard Biddle and was a scholar and writer. His library, which contained several thousand volumes, many of them rare books, was bequeathed by the surviving daughter, Miss Mary O'Hara Darlington, to the University of Pittsburgh, to be used in the establishment of the general library building to be erected, and in which will be placed the "William and Mary Darlington Memorial Library."

Mr. Darlington's portrait by Lambdin, and other paintings which hung in the old homestead and a valuable silver service inherited from General O'Hara are now the property of the Carnegie Institute.

The first of the Ormsbys to come to America, was John Ormsby. (13) He was the youngest son of an Irish gentleman of "an ancient and honorable family", was educated at the University of Dublin and came to this country, as he states in his memoirs, in 1752. (14)

He had been a commissioned officer in the British army and while residing in Philadelphia, was eager to be one of the expedition under General Forbes against Fort Duquesne. Owing to his ill health, two commissions offered

him had to be declined, but he was later made "Commissary of Provisions", and with General Forbes, entered Fort Duquesne on that memorable morning of November in 1758. After the arrival of General Stanwix he became Paymaster of Disbursements for the erection of Fort Pitt with the commission of Major.

In 1770, he brought his wife and family of three children from Bedford, where he had established one of his several trading stores, and built a home near the Monongahela River in Pittsburgh. Very interesting reading is his journal of those primitive days, telling of the hardships of the pioneers, the suffering for want of medical care and homely comforts, and the cruelty and dishonesty of the Indians.

Mrs. Barbara Anna (Winebiddle) Negley, (mother-in-law of the late Judge Mellon, one of his contemporaries) thus described him: "A fine-looking man of aristocratic and military bearing, a gentleman of the old school, noted for his immaculate breast and sleeve ruffles, the brightness of his shoe and knee buckles, and especially for his dress sword at his side."

His house was on Water Street, near the corner of Chancery Lane, next door to Samuel Semple's noted tavern. It was in the first instance built of logs and known to every one; for he was the owner of the first ferry across the Monongahela to his large estate on the South Side of the river, where he afterwards built a mansion. The town house was subsequently built of brick, and not a great while ago was converted into a warehouse.

He is said to have accumulated, chiefly by grant from the government for service rendered, between two and three thousand acres, which he named Homestead Farms. His land, a small part of which was purchased directly from the Indians, fronted for miles along the south side of the Monongahela River, opposite the present business part of the city and subsequently was known as the Boroughs of South Pittsburgh, Birmingham and East Birmingham and part of Lower St. Clair Township. It extended from what is now the Smithfield Street bridge, westerly and up including the Borough of Ormsby.

The surveys name the original patents, Barry Hali, Bergen Op Zoom, Ormsby Villa and Mount Oliver. Many

Streets on the South Side still bear the family names: Jane, Sarah, Mary, Sidney, Josephine, Phillips, Page and Wharton; and Mount Oliver is called for his only son Oliver.

Both John Ormsby and his wife Jane McAllister Ormsby and his son Oliver and his wife, Sarah Mahan Ormsby, are buried in Old Trinity Churchyard. Mr. Ormsby died at the town house of his son, Oliver Ormsby, on Water Street in 1805.

Oliver Ormsby's house on Water Street, inherited from his father, was not a great distance from the present Monongahela House. Here Mr. Ormsby resided for many years; and here he entertained frequent guests, many visiting from Cincinnati and Louisville; and from it, his daughters journeyed forth from time to time by stage and carriage and on horseback to attend boarding school in Philadelphia. Their house is shown and marked "John Ormsby" on the old Hauman plan of 1795.

Mrs. Ormsby was reputed a beauty. A portrait (in miniature) of her was shown in a recent collection at the Metropolitan Museum in New York. This was an exhibit of miniature likenesses in black and white from copper plate, done by the Post-Revolutionary artist, St. Memin. (15)

Miss Mary Burgwin (her great grand daughter) has a copy of this miniature which pictures a sweet and girlish face. Masses of hair are swathed about the head in turban effect, fastened with jeweled clasps, and permitting softening ringlets to escape.

The Oliver Ormsby family was large; there were ten children. That part of Homestead Farms, lying between what is now Twenty-first Street and Twenty-fourth Street and extending up over the hill, after the death of Oliver Ormsby in 1832, comprised a family colony that was unique.

There were five plots and the entrance from one to the other was by the old fashioned stile.

The first homestead, an old colonial house, came as a devise from Mr. Ormsby to his daughter Josephine, who married Commandant Edward Madison Yard, U. S. N. The Yard house is remembered by the large pillars at the entrance. It was subsequently occupied by Mrs. Yard's sister, Mrs. Clifton Wharton, and was probably the most

picturesque of all the houses. It stood on a slight elevation overlooking the Monongahela River and Twenty-first Street and has only recently been demolished.

Over the first stile lived Sidney, the third daughter, who married John Harding Page. Theirs was a low, rambling house and was known as "The Dingle." It had a large veranda across the front and along one side, and was surrounded by beautiful trees and heavy shrubbery.

Beyond the pages, lived for many years Sarah Mahon Ormsby, the second daughter. She was married in 1827 to Major Asher Phillips, U. S. A. Their place was known as "The Orchard." It might well have been called "The Rose Garden" for the profusion of red and pink roses.

It was quite a distance from Mrs. Phillips' entrance gate to the door, and guests recall that as their carriages approached the gate a number of expectant small boys always materialized (apparently from empty space) to open the gate and be rewarded by the pennies thrown to them.

The third stile led to Mary Ormsby's inheritance, with its spacious grounds, noted peach orchards and manor house not far from what is now Twenty-fourth Street. She also married into the army and into the Phillips family,—her husband being Lieutenant Elias Phillips, U. S. A., a younger brother of Major Asher Phillips, and a graduate of West Point. Their house was "The White House".

The youngest daughter, Oliveretta, was married to Lt. Col. Clifton Wharton, U. S. A., also a graduate of West Point and widely known. Mrs. Wharton later occupied the Yard house with her two sons, Clifton Wharton Jr. and Oliver F. Wharton, and her daughter, Josephine Burgwin Wharton, afterward married to the late Pressley Neville Chaplin.

Mary and Oliveretta Ormsby were both beautiful as young women and were the subject of many a toast at the army posts where they were accustomed to visit their older sister Sarah.

Not far distant was the country seat of the only brother, Dr. Oliver H. Ormsby, located towards the hillside on what are now known as South Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth, and Twenty-seventh Streets. "Ormsby

Manor" included forest and meadow land and even a gentlemen's small racing track. The old house, well known for many beautiful entertainments, still stands, but now closely shut in by tenement houses, idle, tenantless and by the world forgotten.

These places were the scene of a simple, old-time, hospitality, extensive and charming. With the exception of Mrs. Page, the hostesses were all the widows of army and navy officers.

Their homes were reached from the city by carriage over the old Smithfield Street bridge.

Among the children of Mrs. Asher Phillips were the late Ormsby Phillips, at one time Mayor of Allegheny; and Mary Phillips, wife of Hill Burgwin, whose country place was known to a latter generation as "Hasell-Hill", Hazelwood. (16)

A landmark that should have been preserved by the citizens of Pittsburgh for its historic association and distinctive beauty was the homestead of the Hon. William Wilkins. For ninety years this estate was known as Homewood and had the reputation of being the most fashionable and aristocratic country seat in Western Pennsylvania. (17)

Judge Wilkins was a graduate of Princeton College and a law student under James Ross, Esq. He became Judge of the United States District Court, General of Militia, United States Senator, Minister to Russia and Secretary of War.

His first residence was on Water Street, a very plain, big house, next to the old woolen mill which stood on the site of the present Monongahela House. Here he entertained President James Monroe in 1817 and General Lafayette in 1825. Later he moved to Soho, then a beautiful suburb.

In 1832 he purchased 650 acres of land which included parts of sections known today as Homewood, Smithfield and Homewood cemeteries, Gunn's Hill, Swissvale, Edgewood and Wilksburg. Virgin timber covered much of his estate and a clearing had to be made where the great house was built.

It is said Judge Wilkins sketched his own designs and —

plans for his house while in England. He was his own architect and contractor, just as Thomas Jefferson designed and built his own Monticello in Virginia. Homewood became a record of intelligence, culture and refinement of a great Pittsburgher, who in his day was in touch with the achievements of the old world.

The architecture was distinctive among the early American houses; the style was that of the Greek period of English renaissance, as rare as it was beautiful.

The entrance drive was an approach through a magnificent avenue of maple trees, about the situation of Murtland Avenue, with a circular sweep around the rear of the house where was the carriage entrance.

The buildings were grouped like a great southern plantation, the forest forming a screen from the house. There were stables, coachhouses, servants quarters, springhouses, wood and ice houses, bake ovens, all of similar architecture to the smallest detail. Ruins of one of the outbuildings and the gate keeper's lodge house survived until recent years and showed the same pillared porticoes and careful detail as the mansion itself.

The central section of the house towered two lofty stories with great Greek Doric columns reaching to the roof from the portico, which was guarded by two granite lions.

The long, French windows of the drawing room opened to this portico. At either end of the central building were wings or offices with Doric pilasters between the French windows.

When the house was being dismantled in 1922, local architects and students of architecture secured permission to preserve doorways, arches, cornices and ledges as models and examples of fine architecture. The exterior columns, with their cornices and entablature and some interior wood finish, were preserved by the Director of the Department of Fine Arts of the Carnegie Institute, who plans to give them a place as an exhibit for architectural study.

At one end of the great drawing room was a most elaborate carved mantelpiece and at the other end was a marble console table on which stood a marvelous bronze clock, some thirty inches tall, which had belonged to Marie

Antoinette. The clock now belongs to a granddaughter, Miss Sandar, of Philadelphia. The Homewood silver and china were gathered in many foreign shops.

Tall pier-glasses towered between the windows and a crystal chandelier threw its reflection in the mirrors and on the polished floors. This chandelier now hangs in "Homewood," the residence of William Wilkins of Wytheville, Virginia. Beautiful books lent their charm and lustrous silken draperies added grace to the rooms where distinguished men and women were guests.

William Wilkins was a political power in his state. Mrs. Wilkins was Mathilda Dallas, daughter of George Dallas, Vice President of the United States, and their house was naturally the place of entertainment for all notables traveling to the West. Among such guests were General Jackson, General Zachary Taylor, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun and Thomas H. Benton.

Upon his return from his diplomatic residence in Russia, Mr. Wilkins brought with him many fine pieces of bronze, porcelain and silver. He had a gift for each relative and friend and an anecdote was a part of each presentation.

A Dresden china tea set is the cherished possession of a granddaughter, Miss Matilda Dallas Hutchison, of Evanston, Ill. Miss Hutchison was much interested to see in the Russian Exhibit of the Chicago Exposition in 1894, duplicates of two figures in Russian iron, which had been favorites of her grandfather's. One was a figure of Napoleon and the other of Falstaff.

The tract of land known today as Frick's Woods (the gift of the late Henry C. Frick to the city for a public park) was part of the Wilkins Estate, and later became the summer home of Mrs. James A. Hutchison, a granddaughter of William Wilkins.

It was always called "Gunn's Hill" by the Wilkins family. Just over the hill, looking toward Wilkinsburg, was an old cabin built of logs, some twenty feet square, that was preserved by the family because it was said to have been the scene of the last Indian massacre in this locality, when the old settler Gunn and his entire family were killed by the Indians.

When this property is formally dedicated as a park, some effort should be made to restore the old traditional name, "Gunn's Hill".

And now let us replace the hump at Grant Street—only we must add to the height remembered by any of us. The old records vary in their descriptions of this abrupt and steep hill "tipped by green and fragrant meadow and wooded land much used as a pleasure park." Its height is variously estimated to be from fifty to a hundred feet.

Mr. Cuming's travel journal tells of the Ross homestead on Grant's Hill: "The most prominent object is the house of Mr. James Ross, which he purchased from Monsieur Marie, a Frenchman, who has taken great pains to cultivate a good garden which Mr. Ross does not neglect and in which, on top of an ancient Indian tumulus or barrow, is a handsome octangular summerhouse of lattice work, painted white, which forms a conspicuous and pleasing object." (18)

The place is described by Judge Mellon as "an impudent frame building, which stood in an orchard on a lot of six or seven acres. Fifth Avenue and Diamond Street have since been located across the upper end of these grounds and the Court House and jail are built on part of it." (19) The Ross Estate is said to have been enclosed by a picket fence.

Before he studied law, Mr. Ross was a teacher of Latin and Greek in the Canonsburg Academy (afterwards Jefferson College.) He is said to have been the first enrolled member of the Pittsburgh Bar, was an eminent lawyer and statesman and became United States Senator. He married Ann Woods of Bedford County.

From Grant's Hill, Senator Ross moved to Stockton Avenue, Allegheny, a few doors from Union Avenue. This site is occupied by St. Cyprian Roman Catholic Church.

His country place, "The Meadows", is still known as the "Ross Farm". The house is now a popular road house and the city filtration plant, abutting on the same road, covers a large acreage. The picturesque stream "Squaw Run", which winds through all that rustic valley with its modern development, The Field Club, Shadyside Academy,

The Fox Chapel Golf Club, and the Aviation Field, lent its wild beauty to the Ross Estate. Rustic bridges crossed the stream in various places, leading to flower gardens, kitchen garden and rolling meadows.

A visit to both the town house and "The Meadows" is described in the quaint old diary of Lucy Ann Higbee of Richmond Hill, New Jersey. A printing of the diary has been made by Fanny Southard Hay Hall. (20) Miss Lucy Ann dined at the Grant's Hill house and the following morning drove with Mr. Ross in his carriage to "The Meadows":

"The ride is a most beautiful one. On both sides of the river are handsome improvements. The banks are elevated and beautifully covered with grass and forest trees. At length we arrived at the splendid mansion. The house is completely furnished by handsome carpets, mirrors, lamps, chairs, etc. Toward sunset, James Ross took us into the park to see three pet deer. Here also he intends to encage some peacocks. Walked over the meadows and through the garden, all in very fine order. His domain includes six or eight tenants and about twelve hundred scores, laying on both sides of the Allegheny River. Before tea this evening, crossed the stile to Mrs. Collins; one of the most cultivated residences on the river. Took us over her grounds and into the green house. Picked for me a large bouquet of flowers, among which were some taken from "Wood Lawn" by Mrs. Gen. Butler. Shewed us a bee palace in which the whole plan of making honey is shown by means of glass doors. It is a most sweet spot. After tea, James Ross entertained us with a set of porcelain plates arranged on an astral lamp, representing moonlight landscapes, snow scenes, etc. The rain of this morning has again interfered with our plans for strolling over the meadows and visiting the farmer's dwelling, spring-house, canal bank, etc."

The house is a large red brick house with offices on either side. The lofty rooms are remembered for their fine old mantelpieces. The old mansion, surrounded by gay supper parties and brilliant with summer night illuminations, stands as a reminder of stately manners in the present day of indifference to tradition or inheritance.

Mrs. Harvey Childs has several of the Ross family portraits and a number of beautiful mahogany chairs. Among others, are two graceful armchairs from the Grant's Hill house.

Mrs. William M. Sloan of Princeton, New Jersey, inherited the Ross family silver. It is said to be one of the most complete collections of Colonial silver in this country.

In the lobby of the old Bedford Springs Hotel there hangs on the wall an ancient document—the petition of two hundred and seventy-four representative citizens of Western Pennsylvania, praying that a branch of the Bank of Pennsylvania be established in Pittsburgh, for the convenience of business men of the Allegheny mountains.

This important event was consummated in 1804 and the parent organization in Philadelphia sent John Thaw, trained under its immediate supervision, to be the Chief Clerk in the office of Discount and Deposit there. (21)

The new banking house was on the north side of Second Street (now Second Avenue) between Chancery Lane and Ferry Street, and Mr. Thaw rented a dwelling house near the bank until he could find a permanent and suitable residence. The first house rented for \$8.00 per month; he writes: "I intend removing in a few weeks to another I have rented at \$150.00 per annum, not having been able to procure a decent one for less." (22)

Four years later he sent to his father Benjamin Thaw his two certificates of Philadelphia Bank stock to be sold for what they would bring, that he might pay for the new brick house he had bought at Sheriff's sale. This house, for which he paid \$1,305.00, was on Wood Street, next to the northeast corner of Third Street (now Third Avenue). "Wood Street is the handsomest in the place, it is now paved from the river up to Third Street and the next square, on which my house stands, will be done next year." (23)

After living in the house several years and making changes for the comfort and convenience of the family, in 1818 Mr. Thaw wrote a detailed description of his house preparatory to securing a Perpetual Insurance policy.

This paper, preserved by his grandson, Benjamin

Thaw, covers four closely written pages and is executed in a precise and beautiful hand not cultivated in this day of stenographers.

The house was three stories high with two rooms and an entry on each floor and the staircase reached to the garret above the third story. "The entry has a front door with an arched sash transom, finished with pilasters, also an arched entry piece pilastered." The mantels are described with pilasters and the piazzas, front and back; there were dormer windows in the roof front and back. There was a stable opening to an alley in the rear of the house, the washhouse with its brick floor under which was a circular cistern eight feet deep and eight feet wide.

This property passed to John Thaw's son, William, who also acquired the property adjoining at corner of Third Street (now Avenue), and this increasingly valuable property was inherited by William Thaw's heirs. Today the land is the southerly half of the lot covered by the handsome new building of the Young Men's Christian Association. A bronze tablet on the wall between the Wood Street entrance and the corner, records: "On this site William Thaw was born October 12, 1818."

John Thaw removed from this house before the fire of 1845 to a house he had bought on Smithfield Street next to the northeast corner of First Street and resided there until his death in 1866.

The "Bakewell Colony on Grant Street" is a frequent expression used in old newspapers.

The first issue of the City Directory in 1815, records the residence of Benjamin Bakewell on the south side of Fourth Street between Cherry Alley and Grant Street; the Directory of 1841 gives James Palmer Bakewell, Second Street near Grant; in 1844 Thomas Bakewell's dwelling house was on Grant Street on the present site of the Frick Building; and the Directory of 1847 gives William Bakewell's address, Grant Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets.

It is a matter of pictorial record that Pittsburgh's first smoke stack was the Bakewell's flint glass factory on the Monongahela river bank at the foot of Grant Street.

(23)—and it is interesting to note that today the Bakewell Office Building preserves the old name as a landmark on Grant Street.

The head of the Bakewell family in America was Benjamin Bakewell of Fourth Street near Grant Street, who came to Pittsburgh in 1808. (24) He was an English importer in New York until the embargo of 1807 brought about his financial ruin.

He determined to go far enough afield that imported goods were impossible to obtain, and try his skill in founding a plant and establish a new market. That his project was a success is proven by the fact that the famous glass plant continued in uninterrupted operation for nearly three-quarters of a century, and was one of the show places of Pittsburgh.

The specimen pieces owned today by art collectors, and those loaned by Lafayette's granddaughter to the French Commission for exhibit at the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893, are tributes to the success of his ambition to create a fabric of brilliant, colorless crystal that would rival that made by the craftsmen in Europe.

His great-granddaughters, Miss, Mary E. Bakewell Mrs. T. H. B. McKnight, Mrs. Charles Wharton and Mrs. George Irwin Holdship, cherish several pieces of the beautiful old Bakewell glass which is becoming increasingly rare and valuable.

Benjamin Bakewell was a man of great force of character, interested in all civic and benevolent enterprises of his day. He was a natural leader, and there soon followed him to the west other members of the family connection, the Pages, the Atterburys, the Campbells, and the Pears.

One of the traditions of the great fire of 1845 was that the flames leaped over the house where Benjamin Bakewell had lived and died, burning on either side, and left the house standing. It remained intact for many years. When it was spoken of as a miracle men replied: "It is no wonder, the poor man's friend lived there."

The Grant Street house (number 403) belonging to his eldest son, Thomas, was one of several houses, of the same design—three story brick houses with dormer windows. They are spoken of as dark and forbidding town

houses. Mrs. John Palmer Bakewell lived next door to Thomas, her brother-in-law, and her granddaughter tells of visits to the old house in her early childhood, where she saw the tabulation of the growth of the children formally recorded on the old dining room door.

As business encroached upon Grant's Hill the family moved to Allegheny, buying on what was at that time Ridge Street, on the Common.

Even the early Pittsburgher found the noise and soot of the growing industrial town unpleasant and unhealthy. Those, with means, began to build summer homes, and the natural site was that bordering on the rivers.

One of the earliest suburban developments was to the northeast of the town, along the Allegheny River.

Peter Shoenberger built his residence about 1824 at a convenient distance from his Juniata Iron Works, located on the river bank at the present location of Fifteenth Street. (26)

Mr. Shoenberger came from Germany and first lived not far from Altoona on the Juniata River. There are two stations on the Pennsylvania Railroad in that vicinity that are reminiscent of his time—Shoenberger Station and Petersburg.

It was almost believed that Mr. Shoenberger had discovered the secret of the divining rod, he was so clever in locating iron ore, and he became the owner of iron plants in the many localities in which he found the ore. Shoenberger iron had a great reputation.

His house is a very large two story brick building with an ell-shaped wing. The main building is back a little from the street with a dooryard which is protected from the street by a brick wall, surmounted by an iron fence. The paneled door is broad, with side lights and a fan light above.

In recent years the mill owners used the house for a hospital for their employees and the worn doorstep is a mute witness to the service this house has given.

The house fronting on Penn Avenue and the mill, enlarged to cover all the ground between the avenue and the river, today stand empty and desolate with great padlocks

on the gates and doors. The entire property was recently acquired by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for a modern terminal warehouse.

In this same neighborhood were the houses of Mrs. Cust Blair and Pollard McCormick.

Peter Shoenberger's son, John H. Shoenberger, built and occupied as a summer residence the house on Butler Street near Forty-seventh Street, now in the confines of the Allegheny Cemetery, and the residence of William Falconer, the superintendent.

The house has an unusual circular entrance porch, with Corinthian columns. At the side and back of the house are porches of iron grill work, and in the days of the Shoenbergers there were great tubs of pink oleander and a wealth of crepe myrtle. There was a grape house and in the conservatories were grown peaches and nectarines.

On one side of the entrance hall was the big drawing room and the small drawing room, on the other Mr. Shoenberger's study and the dining room.

The breakfast room was in the basement and the hall leading to this room had a very quaint Chinese wall covering that is well remembered by guests of the home. The drawing room is always spoken of as a room that gave the impression of freshness and coolness because of the quantity of pure white marble. There was the marble mantel-piece, the marble figure of Nydia, the blind flower girl, and the marble busts of Mr. and Mrs. Shoenberger which now adorn St. Margaret's Hospital.

John H. Shoenberger's town house has been known since 1883 as the Pittsburgh Club. It is situated at what is now 425 Penn Avenue and has changed little in appearance since it was the Shoenberger Mansion. The double bowed front and dignified entrance are the same. The picture gallery is now the ball room where the daughters of the exclusive members make their debuts year after year. The spacious parlors and drawing room have been the scene of many gigantic deals and the members list numbers Cabinet members, Senators and presidents of world celebrated corporations.

In the days of the Shoenbergers, gorgeous blue china

barrels stood in the vestibule. The great parlor was never fully furnished for it was kept for dancing. On the other side of the hall were the drawing room and dining room. Heavy damask curtains draped the windows surmounted by massive gilt cornices.

Every morning fresh flowers were cut in the green houses of their country place in Bayardstown and brought to the town house. The perfume of flowers was as familiar a part of the every day life as the customary furniture of the house.

Mrs. Shoenberger, who was Margaret Cust of Kittanning, and who was driven about in a "magnificent carriage with a colored coachman in livery", was identified with many charitable organizations. She was president of the Board of Directors of the Protestant Episcopal Church Home. One of the many Shoenberger gifts was the endowment fund for Trinity Church. St. Margaret's Memorial Hospital is a monument built by Mr. Shoenberger in memory of his wife, whose name it bears.

Of this summer colony was one of the sons of Colonel Stephen Bayard, Colonel George A. Bayard, (26) who married Ann Boder of Avondale County, Maryland.

The Bayard farm was partly covered with forest trees, oak, hickory, walnut, cherry, basswood and plane trees. There were lovely ravines and caverns and rolling fields, a picturesque setting for his house of cut stone with gables, very large and very handsome. The entrance door opened into an unusual hall of octagon shape.

The farm and homestead of Colonel Bayard embracing one hundred acres was selected in 1844 as "the most desirable locality for a rural cemetery and large enough to embrace the wants of the whole population of the two cities." This was the first rural cemetery used by town people and the first interment, near the old house, which stood where the conservatories now are, was that of Margareta Bayard Briggs.

The first addition to the borough of Pittsburgh in 1816, included the Bayard and adjoining properties and was locally known for many years as Bayardstown.

George A. Bayard subsequently bought land along the Youghiogheny River above McKeesport and part of his

land is known today as Olympia Recreation Park. He built there a mansion on which he lavished his wealth. The workmanship was the best of the period. There were two formal entrances and two main staircases, exact duplicates, beside the service entrances and staircases.

Marble and marble cutters were brought from Italy to fashion the elaborate Carrara mantelpieces and design the ceiling decorations. Two of these exquisitely wrought mantelpieces adorn the parlors of the Woodland Road residence of Mrs. William S. Bissell.

David Bayard (second son of Colonel Stephen Bayard) established himself in East Liberty. His family of three children, none of whom married, lived in the old Bayard House on Shady Lane, as it was known for many years.

It was a gloomy, square, brick house with a long wing, having many small paned windows and rambling porches. Even the family portraits had a sad look as they gazed out of their tarnished gold frames into this childless, silent house.

The great neglected field at the corner of Walnut Street, in which the old house stood, is now being covered with the Gothic buildings of the Roman Catholic Church and School of the Sacred Heart.

The mansion of John Bissell, Sr., in Bayardstown, was known as Maplewood. (27) It was a large, carefully constructed, two story house, with the formal drawing room on one side of the wide and lofty hall, and on the other side, the living room and dining room. A wing ran out from either side of the square central building, one for the kitchen and pantries and the other for Mr. Bissell's library.

Semple and Bissell was the name of a widely known iron firm in the early thirties and the partners lived on adjoining properties.

William Semple's house, built about 1802, resembled the Bissells', except the wings of the house, which were curved, forming circular plots in the garden, ideal for planting.

The Semple gardens were noted, especially the rose gardens. The grounds, sloping gradually down to the river bank, contained rare and beautiful varieties of roses hith-

erto unknown in this country. They were brought from Rose Cottage of the estate of Mr. Semple's grandfather, Sir Francis Semple.

One of the earliest white settlers in the East Liberty valley was Alexander Negley, of Swiss ancestry, whose family settled in Bucks County, near Philadelphia, in 1739, when Alexander was five years of age. (28) Here he was educated, attained manhood and married Mary Ann Berkstressor, of the same county.

During his term of Revolutionary service he was attracted by the prospective advantages of Western Pennsylvania, and decided to bring his family to what was then the Western frontier.

He first bought land between Ligonier and New Florence. This tract is now part of the estate of his great-grandson, James Ross Mellon, and is known today as Rachelwood.

Their life on the mountain was evidently one of adventure and anxiety, for one son, John Negley, was born in old Fort Ligonier during a period of waiting for the defeat or departure of Indian besiegers.

In 1778 he brought his wife and five children to the neighborhood of Fort Pitt, and settled on a farm of about three hundred acres. A large part of that farm is now included in Highland Park. He built a log cabin and later a more substantial house, on a knoll that is now the basin of the Highland Reservoir.

It was customary, almost necessary, in those days to have a family burial ground. A simple column erected by Sarah Jane Negley (Mellon) in Highland Park, in an enclosure known as Negley Circle, marks the resting place of this rugged family:

"Sacred to the memory of those noble Christian pioneers, who moulded the character of this community in its struggling and formative period.

"This monument marks the center of a burial ground located on the former homestead of Alexander Negley, where are interred about fifty early settlers of the East Liberty valley."

Alexander Negley's son, Jacob, married Barbara Anna.

eldest daughter of John Conrad Winebiddle. Both Mr and Mrs. Negley inherited large estates, their combined holdings totaling approximately two thousand acres. The homestead and surrounding farms were known for half a century as Negleytown, and it is so inscribed in old documents. Their first house was of logs, and the second, built in 1808, at about the present intersection of Stanton and North Negley Avenues, was of brick which was manufactured on the premises.

This house, known for many years as the Negley mansion, had the reputation of being one of the finest residences west of the mountains. One of the features of the house was the loop-holes for rifle protection from unfriendly Indians.

A portable pulpit was part of the furnishings of the house, and services were frequently held here for members of the household and all those in the neighborhood.

Jacob Negley was an earnest promoter and director of the Pittsburgh and Greensburg Turnpike, and where it crossed his land he moved all his fences to permit the roadway to be a hundred feet wide. His neighbors could not be persuaded to so "waste the land", but Mr. Negley recognized the great future of such a highway.

The land surrounding his home farm was under a perfect cultivation, vast meadows, fruitful orchards, and acres of rich crops which he had planted. This home-farm was known as "Heth's Delight", having been purchased from Henry Heth of Henrico County, Virginia.

Mr. Negley was a civil engineer, and laid out Negley Avenue in a direct line from his house to the new Turnpike. He plotted a town at the junction of what is now Penn and Frankstown Avenues, and named it East Liberty. He constructed a raised cinder path extending from his mansion at Stanton Avenue to Penn Avenue, where he built a frame school house for the youth of the growing neighborhood. Religious services were held, as well as school services in this building, which is now the site of the East Liberty Presbyterian Church. In 1819 he and his wife donated the ground for a meeting house, school house and burial ground. Long after the building had outgrown its usefulness as a church, it was known as the East

Liberty or Moore's Academy, and was the germ of the educational movement which in 1870 established the Pennsylvania College for Women.

The original grant of land which included this site, issued by Colonel Bouquet in 1762 to Casper Taub (grandfather of Mrs. Negley), is one of the family treasures. The tract name is Rumbiddle:

"This is to certify that I have permitted Caspart Taub to clear a plantation at the Four Mile Spring on the old road going to Ligonier, in order to raise provisions for this garrison, and corn for the King's horses, and the conditions of the said grant are that the said Caspart Taub shall pay every year to the commanding officer at this post for the King's use one third of all the Produces of the said plantation, horses and cattle excepted, under penalty of forfeiting his improvement to the Crown. Given under my hand as above,"

H. Bouquet, Col.

The above words 'for the King's use' inserted by me.

H. Bouquet.

The village on the opposite side of the Allegheny River was known as Alleghenytown.

One of the first houses—built on what was called Second Bank—was that of the Reverend Dr. Joseph Stockton, one of our first educators, (29) He was a Jefferson College man of the class of 1799, a fine Latin and Greek scholar, spoke excellent French and published several original text books used in the early schools. As tribute to the work he found time to do aside from his chosen profession, his portraits hang in Thaw Hall of the University of Pittsburgh and in Eliot Hall of the Western Theological Seminary in Allegheny.

His house was a quaint frame building, painted yellow, and had green shutters. There were upper and lower porches and fragrant white climbing roses were trained against the walls at the doorway. During the fifty years, the Doctor and his family lived here, many blushing brides made their appearances in the sunny, peaceful, best parlor with its fine, old mahogany furniture and pier glasses.

In those days marriages were solemnized and cake and

wine, served from shining glass and silver, always followed the ceremony.

His church, built about 1815 near his house, was about twenty feet below Sherman Avenue, on what is now park property. It was the first Presbyterian church of Alleghenytown, a little one story building painted white and built in the midst of its own burial ground.

On Second Bank was the house of Benjamin Page, built in 1821. This house stood, in a fine state of preservation, until last summer when it was destroyed to make room for a public garage. This house, a substantial brick with a spacious porch and wide hospitable doorway, was said to be the oldest house in the city when it was dismantled.

Mr. Page's house and the Joseph Stockton house were between the Presbyterian Meeting House and the Thomas Barlow residence.

Near Dr. Stockton's church and not far from Hog Back Hill (called Monument Hill since the erection of the Soldiers Memorial Monument) was the residence of Thomas Barlow Esquire. (30)

Mr. Barlow was the nephew of Joel Barlow, the American diplomat, who resided in Paris during the earlier years of the French Revolution. When his uncle was appointed (in 1811) United States Minister to France, Thomas Barlow left Yale College to assume the duties of Secretary of Legation to his uncle.

Some years later Thomas married Anica Preble, daughter of Henry Preble, an English importing merchant, residing in Paris. The young married couple sailed from France to make their home in Pittsburgh. They reached America after a stormy and dangerous passage of three months.

The Prebles were old friends of General Lafayette in France and during his American visit in 1825, one of the invitations he showed pleasure in accepting was that of a luncheon party given by Mrs. Barlow in his honor.

In 1830 Mrs. Barlow's mother and sister, Harriet sailed for America to make their home also in Pittsburgh. Miss Preble was a distinguished writer and translator. Her journal kept on the journey to this strange, new country

and her impressions of the country on her arrival, make thoughtful reading. They were on the water twenty-two days and came by stage from Philadelphia.

They found the Barlows living in the country in a cottage on the banks of the Ohio, two miles below Pittsburgh. For two years the two families lived under the same roof, "Mignonette", and the cottage, "much adorned by the works of art which Mrs. Preble had brought from her house in Europe, presented an air of refinement and elegance not known in the western country."

In 1832 the Prebles secured a house nearby and opened a small private school for young girls. They called their place "Sans Souci." This was just opposite the Brunot house on Brunot Island. Mr. Hilary Brunot, esquire, has in his possession a most charming little sketch made by Miss Harriet Preble of the two cottages, "Mignonette" and "Sans Souci."

The Preble sisters, while living in France, had wonderful advantages in education. They were students in the celebrated school of Madame Campan. Among the young women in this exclusive institution were many who later occupied high places in court circles. Their schoolmates and companions were Hortense (daughter of Josephine Beauharnais, who afterwards married Napoleon), later the wife of Louis, King of Holland; Caroline, Napoleon's sister, who married the King of Naples; and daughters of the marshals and generals of France.

About 1838, following Mrs. Preble's death, Mr. and Mrs. Barlow and Miss Preble returned to the Allegheny house, where the school was continued. The directory of 1837 lists "Barlow, Female Seminary, Second Bank, Alleghenytown." A sketch of this house and the neighboring church, done by one of the sisters, was sent to France to show their friends where and how they lived. This picture now adorns the lid of a sewing box and is a treasured possession of a namesake, Anica Humbird Reed (Mrs. James Hay Reed, Jr.) The old Hogback Hill looks like a miniature volcanic mountain, the little, white, two-story house is surrounded by trees and shrubs and close by is the primitive Presbyterian Church, surmounted by a cross which must needs be added to carry conviction in France that it was a proper church.

The old Brewer homestead on Water Lane, (31) known for the past sixty-three years as the Black residence, 1131 Western Avenue and now converted into a modern apartment house, was built in 1830 by Captain Charles Brewer, an Englishman by birth, and the owner of a fine sailing vessel which made many crossings to England. He came to Pennsylvania from Massachusetts. It is said he chose the location because he wished to be near water, but out of hearing of the sea.

The Captain was a widower. His wife's family name, Cecil, was for years associated with "Cecil Way", now changed to "Stanwix Street." Two nieces made their home with him. They were Miss Mary Hern and Mrs. Frances Hern Burnside.

He had a colored body-servant and was most punctilious about his personal appearance. He was evidently a kindly gentleman and his house proclaims a love of beauty and desire for comfort.

His house was modeled after an old English plan. The same dignified entrance, with massive pillars reaching to the third story (which is a half story), each pillar a solid tree five and one half feet in circumference, greeted the guests coming from the Lane or from the river.

The entrance steps have a wrought iron hand railing; there is a knocker, and a bell pull of brass, and an enormous latch and lock fastened by a mighty key, matching that used at the Bastille. The doors are all beautifully paneled and instead of being of one piece of wood, are constructed of several thicknesses. The wood is in perfect condition; not a crack nor a creak marks the passing of a century. Every door frame has a hand-carved corner, an acorn with four oak leaves in deep relief. The arch in the entrance hall has its keystone carved in rose and scroll design.

The great drawing-room is the whole depth of the house. There are two fire places with the snowy white marble mantelpiece that are in every room of the house. The elaborate ceiling centerpiece and cornice of acanthus leaf and Grecian border are so beautiful in design that students of architecture have been sent to study and copy them.

Great was the admiration of these students for the circular stairway, its graceful sweep and its perfect construction; the rails unusual in form, slim and round at top, but oval at the foot. These inquisitive young fellows found one of the rails was cool to the touch and that solved the perfect rigidity of the ancient work. An iron construction rod enclosed in this particular rail was found to be imbedded firmly in the basement floor.

The original dining room and kitchen were below stairs, the slope of the ground at the rear, leaving this apparent basement above the ground. A greenhouse or conservatory, originally opened from the dining room. The stone walls are almost three feet thick and the ceilings are vaulted. When gas and water pipes were installed by Mr. Black, it was found to be impossible to drill through the stone walls. All the modern plumbing had to be put through the floors and the pipes exposed in the rooms.

The kitchen, during the occupation of the Blacks, was the most picturesque room in the house. The fire place, built of smooth, white brick, had its deep mantle shelf, with blue Delft plates and cups in a row. The great wooden rocking chair and side chairs, with their lovely painted designs, were at least a hundred years old.

Out of the kitchen opened the great cellars and sub-cellars, for fuel and storage and wine and laundry. One passage, which ran back under the garden to an underground ice storage room, had been permanently closed up and is said to be piled full of old fenders and firearms.

In the ceiling hangs the original bell that responded to Madame's summons from the faded, tasseled bell-pull still hanging in her bedroom.

Above stairs the rooms are on different levels, steps up, and steps down. The chimney corners have night cap cupboards and the thick partitions give space for medicine and other curious cupboard shelves.

In 1860 Mr. George Black bought the place and it became a storehouse of beautiful old furniture, paintings, curios, bronzes and rare editions of books.

Some changes were made by Mr. Black; a wing added to provide more bedrooms and modern plumbing as well

as gas and electricity installed. The first bath tub to be placed in the house has for years been an exhibit in the modern establishment of the Standard Sanitary Company.

The builder of this mansion was a benevolent and generous man. He made a special bequest in his will of \$10,000.00 which his executors should "hand over to the Western Pennsylvania Hospital for supplying with fuel the destitute and worthy poor of the city of Pittsburgh and vicinity." This trust was administered by the Hospital from 1860 to 1908 and during that period, the Hospital purchased and distributed to the destitute and worthy poor of Pittsburgh and vicinity, fuel to the amount of \$131,876.00. The hospital was the beneficiary of Captain Brewer's estate in the amount of \$64,574.00. These funds are now administered by a Trust Company. The poor are still warmed and the sick ministered to by virtue of this thoughtful generosity.

A portrait of Captain Brewer was presented to the Hospital by his relatives, which was placed in the main hall of the building to perpetuate the memory and "encourage others to like deeds of charity."

The story of this good deed was a shining example. One James Crawford, having heard of the Brewer Fuel Fund, created a similar bequest in his will in 1863 to be enjoyed by the poor of the first ward. With this fund, the hospital purchased and distributed fuel to the amount of \$20,674.00 and at the termination of the Trust in 1908, turned over to the new Trustee, principal and income amounting to \$25,817.00.

Other recipients of Captain Brewer's bounties were the Protestant Orphan Asylum, Episcopal Church Home and the Seaman's Aid Society. He was one of the original incorporators of the Allegheny Cemetery. Before his death, he had constructed a large burial vault near the Butler Street entrance to the cemetery. By direction of a singular clause in his will, after the burial of his niece, Mary C. Hern, the lock on the door of the vault should be hermetically sealed and the key thrown into the Allegheny River. The Executor of his will held this request in abeyance until the remaining niece, Mrs. Burnside was buried in 1882.

Mr. Lee Mason remembers, as a boy, being in the

Cemetery the day the vault was sealed and the key consigned to the river.

The Thomas Hanna homestead at 326 East North Avenue is another fine example of the house-builders art of a century ago. (32) The house was built about 1827 by Alexander Johnston (uncle of A. J. Cassatt, one time vice president of the Pennsylvania Railroad). This came into the possession of Thomas Hanna in 1833.

The panelled doors are set in walls more than a foot in thickness and each door frame has its hand carved corner of oak leaves. There is a graceful, old stairway with its balustrade and slender rails, as firm as the day it was built. Time has made little impress on this perfect construction.

Mrs. Hanna was Sarah Patterson, a beautiful, young, Irish woman, who was second cousin to Bess Patterson, wife of Jerome Bonaparte. Mr. and Mrs. Hanna's portraits by Lambdin have looked out from the walls of the long, formal parlor for eighty three years with almost no change in the setting of that room. On the mantlepiece is a marvelous, brass chiming clock—a Napoleon clock, with its glass dome covering. It has been there since the house was built, ninety-eight years and its voice was never stilled. It rings the hours as regularly as the sun mounts the heavens.

At each side of the fireplace, are the warming shelves and on the hearth stand the polished andirons and firearms.

The chandeliers are brass filagree, almost the first in the town, when lamps went out and gas came in. Above stairs are four poster beds, graceful mahogany tables and chests and wonderous samplers.

But the most charming thing in all the house is the piano that has made several pilgrimages to the Carnegie Museum for display purposes. Under the lid of the long, silent instrument is framed the bill of purchase, September 2nd, 1833. It was transported on muleback across the mountains. It is of rosewood and stands on two pillared supports with graceful, spreading claw feet. These pillars are connected by a piece of polished wood on which rests a gorgeous gilded eagle with outstread wings. This Ameri-

can symbol used to appear at the entrance door on holidays, when the flags were displayed.

In this house, with her grandfather's and grandmother's cherished belongings, lives a granddaughter, Miss Eleanor Sawyer. The old traditions are sacred with her. No modern Yale lock takes the place of the quaint brass lock with its huge brass key. No newspaper but the *Pittsburgh Gazette* has ever been left at that door—and when the modern Sunday Edition first made its appearance, a letter of remonstrance was written to the editor. In the beautiful old mahogany escritoire are found receipts signed by the early editor, Neville B. Craig. Another paper that has been part of the Hanna-Sawyer regime for ninety-five years is *The Saturday Evening Post* and a remarkable incident is that the subscription price of this magazine today remains the same as shown in the ancient documents in grandfather's desk.

Miss Alice Gray and her brother, also grandchildren of Thomas Hanna, have in their house in Colonial Place, several of the old mahogany chairs and tables. A quaint solid mahogany sideboard has its receipted purchase slip, dated 1831, proclaiming a value which today is ludicrous—\$30.00. Their Lambdin portraits are of the Gray branch of the family, William C. Gray and his wife.

“Woodlawn” is the name of the John T. Logan homestead in old Allegheny. (33) The house which once stood in a beautiful grove of oak trees that almost covered the four acres of ground between old Water Lane (Western Avenue) and the river bank, was built about 1835 by Samuel Church, whose grandson Samuel Harden Church is now the President of the Carnegie Institute.

About ten years later, Mr. Logan transformed the plain, two storied, square house into a baronial hall by additional wings, a third story and stately colonial pillared porches.

Through the great trees, the long entrance driveway made a circular sweep to the doorway, where gleams today as brightly as some eighty years ago, the brass door plate, J. T. Logan.

John T. Logan was a public-spirited citizen, Director

of the Monongahela Navigation Company, Treasurer of the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company, President of Board of Directors of the House of Refuge (later Pennsylvania Reform School of Morganza), and one of the Board of Trustees of the Western Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Logan was Mrs. Henrietta Bryan Kennedy, a granddaughter of Justice George Bryan of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the widow of Mr. Logan's cousin, William M. Kennedy. Their housekeeping was begun on old Penn Street, No. 108, remembered by many Pittsburgh women as The Misses Leech's School for Girls.

Woodlawn is still called "home" by all the Logan connection, for George Bryan Logan, the eldest son has cherished the memory of his father and mother. In the days of his parents, this house was the hospitable and luxurious resting place for travelers from East to West, relatives and friends, "besides members of various church assemblies and not a few ecclesiastical tramps."

This busy household was presided over by a woman whose unusual personality, was recognized not only by those dependent upon her care or bounty, but in a most unusual way by her husband. Appreciating that the happiness and prosperity of his life was as greatly due to her economy and good management as to his own industry, it was his custom at the close of each year to write her a letter containing an exact statement of his financial affairs and expressing his continued devotion to one who had proved such a helpmeet to him.

The house-keeping was home-making. There were high ceiled parlors with their intricate centerpieces and mouldings, furnished with pier glasses and mahogany furniture; but the part of the house best remembered by the Logan children is the nursery. This was the southeast chamber, where there was no limit to the boys who came to play and never a complaint of noise or the marvelous disappearance of Rambo apples. One of the few extravagences of the household was a new nursery carpet every blessed year.

The furnishment of the nursery cupboard seems to have been containers of such delicacies as hive-syrup, ipecac, paregoric, mustard, and croton oil. And one son still

remembers the taste of a particularly unpleasant soap used to wash bad words out of his mouth.

One of the pieces of valued furniture is a table under which, son Tom, the youngest, lay on his back beating a tattoo with his feet on the under side of the mahogany board while he memorized the Shorter Catechism. The freedom of action permitted or the harmonious rhythm of the tattoo produced the most unexpected result; Tom developed into a clergyman, becoming Dr. Thomas D. Logan, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Ill.

About 1830 there came to Pittsburgh Anson Bidwell, from East Hartford, Connecticut. (34) His business connections were the Hudson Bay Company. He married Martha Ann Waite and their only child was a daughter, Martha Ann.

When ready to build his house, Mr. Bidwell went to the Chautauqua forest to personally select the timber. The Indians cut the logs and floated them down the Allegheny River. The original property extended about from the old path called "Water Lane", (now Western Avenue) to Frazer Street, through to Fayette Street.

The house was built about 1834 and was patterned after one on the James River whose loveliness he carried in his memory. The house is two and a half stories, with solid walls built to endure, with a three story addition in the rear, the same wide porch, with pillars on first and second story. The entrance door is broad and low, with the fan light above and side lights.

The worn doorstep is a silent witness to the passing of the years and the hospitality of the owner. The hall, with a room on either side, was modernized some thirty years ago into a square entrance or reception hall, and the steep, old-fashioned stairway was sacrificed for a modern stairway easy to climb but commonplace when compared with its predecessor.

The dining room is in the long wing extending back into the garden. A door originally opened to a sunny porch and there are many small paned windows. The kitchen, with its pantries and chests and cupboards, retains the beautiful paneled doors and is a most attractive feature of the house.

Mr. Bidwell's great interest was in the cultivation of choice plants, fruits and flowers. He lived in his garden and the beauty of it was the joy of his gentle life. His rose garden and his delicious strawberries were noted. His magnolia has grown in these fifty odd years to be an enormous tree. It was one of the first, if not the first one, in this part of the country and the yearly blooming before the coming of the leaves was a never-failing source of delight. A portion of his lilac hedge still blooms every spring.

Some time after the death of his wife, Mr. Bidwell married again, his second wife being Esther Church, a New England woman of scholarly tastes. Among the distinguished guests entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Bidwell were Oliver Wendell Holmes and Julia Ward Howe. Sunday nights usually found a group of kindred spirits around the great stone hearth, where the logs blazed and the topics of the day were briskly discussed.

Pittsburgh's noted scientists, Langley, Keeler and Bra-shear were of this circle.

The daughter of the house, Martha, married Joseph Albee (son of George Albee, of Salem, Massachusetts), the founder of the Dollar Savings Bank of Pittsburgh, one of the most successful banking institutions in Western Pennsylvania. The Albee House, which had treasures of its own, (some of which eventually found their way to this Western Avenue house) was on Ferry Street, and stood until the property in that neighborhood was condemned for the building of the Wabash Railroad station.

Joseph and Martha Albee established themselves in Gray's Row, in Cedar Avenue and rare good neighborhood stories are told by the Albees, the McCormicks, the Holdships, the Pennocks, the Rapperts, the Suydams, and the Bryans, all of Gray's Row, of the hasty borrowing of cold roast or dessert when company came unexpectedly to the door of one of the young housekeepers.

The old Bidwell house, which was later inherited by Mrs. Joseph Albee, has grown to be a treasurehouse. Mrs. Chester Bidwell Albee, the bride of a succeeding generation, came from Hartford, Connecticut, a region rich in the carved oaken woodwork of the seventeenth century. She inherited rare specimens, pieces from her father, Dr.

Irving Whitfall Lyon, an authority on Colonial furniture

There are wondrous, carved, oaken chests of the seventeenth century and chests of drawers known to collectors as specimen pieces. Two rare pieces are highboys mounted on richly turned legs with drawers that are ornamented with period brasses of Dutch design in triple row.

There are chairs of almost every antique design; turned chairs with rush bottoms, slat or ladder backs, graceful Windors and old comfy upholstered sofas and winged chairs.

The dining room is resplendent with an old, oval table and eight Chippendale chairs.

Four poster and teester beds are above stairs, but in one room is a canopy bed known as a "field-top" and a block front dresser. In this quaint, century old chamber, with its silhouettes and samplers, with prisms and brasses reflecting candle light and the soft hooked rug on the floor, the hurried day fades. One feels the urge of the childish prayer on the unfaded sampler: "Now I lay me down to sleep."

These notes run on into a volume. Across the stile from James Ross's "Meadows", there was the picturesque place of the Widow Collins, "Whitehall." On the Fourth of July, there was a ceremony of the flag raising and everyone on the estate and the neighbors from far and near were called in to drink a glass of wine to "Freedom and the Union." There is the story of the Old Manchester of Margaret Deland: Water Street, before the great fire; of old Penn Street, the center of social life in the middle of the last century; of Lawrenceville when important events centered at the Arsenal, and of the Third Church Colony in rural Oakland.

It was difficult to determine what should be chosen for this paper tonight. Each house or estate has its own individual interest. But only a certain number of pages may be read in a given time.

I thank you for your interest and hope that you who know more old tales of Pittsburgh than I have ever heard, will give me the opportunity of hearing them and adding them to this record of old days. For like one of Goldsmith's

characters: "I love everything that is old, old friends, old times, old manners, old books, old wine."

## REFERENCES

- 1 *Old Penn Street*, Agnes M. Hayes Gormly. Pittsburgh, 1902; News Clippings, Carnegie Library, I, 50.
- 2 *Tour of the Western Country*, F. Cuming. Pittsburgh, 1810.
- 3 *Life of Felix R. Brunot*, Slattery. Pittsburgh, 1901.
- 4 *Ibid.*
- 5 *The Home Monthly Magazine*, Pittsburgh, Oct. 1900.
- 6 *History of Pittsburgh and Environs*, Fleming, IV; *History of Pittsburgh*, Killikelly.
- 7 *History of Pittsburgh and Environs*. Fleming IV.
- 8 *Mrs. Mary Dewees's Journal*, 1787. quoted in *Penna. Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 28, 1904, p. 190.
- 9 Information furnished by Mrs. Henry R. Scully; News Clippings, Carnegie Library, I.
- 10 Quotation from article by Anna Mynott Docking Post, 1898 in News Clippings, Carnegie Library, I.
- 11 *Past and Present*, 100th Anniversary Trinity Episcopal Church Pittsburgh, 1884.
- 12 *History of Pittsburgh and Environs*, Fleming; News Clippings, Carnegie Library, I.
- 13 *Ormsby Book*, edited by Oliver Ormsby Page.
- 14 Quoted in *Ormsby Book*.
- 15 *House and Garden Magazine*, Nov. 1924.
- 16 Information furnished by Mrs. Jane Ormsby Phillips Turner and Miss Mary Burgwin.
- 17 Information furnished by Miss Matilda Dallas Hutchison and Mrs. Henry Rees Scully; News Articles written by local architects in 1922, when Wilkins house was dismantled.
- 18 *Tour of the Western Country* by F. Cuming, 1810, p. 350.
- 19 *Thomas Mellon and His Times*. Autobiography, Johnston, 1885
- 20 *Diary of Lucy Ann Higbee*, 1837. Privately printed by Fanny Southward Hay Hall, 1924.
- 21 Letters of John Thaw to his father Benjamin Shaw of Philadelphia, in 1804.
- 22 Letters and papers of John Thaw preserved by Benjamin Thaw of Pittsburgh.
- 23 *History of First Baptist Church*, 1925.
- 24 Killikelly's *History of Pittsburgh*;  
Wilson's *History of Pittsburgh*.  
Information in regard to the Bakewell family from Rev. Thomas C. Pears and Mrs. T. H. B. McKnight;  
*The Bakewell Book*.
- 25 Information regarding the Shoenberger family: *Ann Royall's Book of Travels*, 1829, Washington;  
*Past and Present*, 100th Anniversary of Trinity Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh;  
*History of St. Margaret's Hospital*;  
*Old Penn Street*, Agnes M. Hays Gormly, Pittsburgh, 1902;  
Mrs. David McCormick; Mrs. Harvey Childs.
- 26 *Early History of Allegheny Cemetery*, Pittsburgh, 1910

- Information in regard to the Bayard Family: Miss Sarah Bissell.
- 27 Information in regard to the Bissell and Semple families from Miss Sarah Bissell.
- 28 Information in regard to the Negley family from Miss Georgina G. Negley;  
*Centennial Celebration East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 1919* compiled by Miss Georgina G. Negley.
- 29 Information in regard to the Stockton family: *Boucher's Century and a Half of Pittsburgh*; Stockton Family Scrap Book; and Mrs. Sumner B. Ely.
- 30 Information in regard to the Barlow family from:  
*Pittsburgh Bulletin* Oct. 13, 1894;  
*Memoirs of Harriet Preble*, Putnam, 1856;  
*The Home Monthly*, July 1899; *Old Penn Street*, Agnes M. Hays Gormly, Pittsburgh; and Mrs. James Humbird.
- 31 Information in regard to the Brewer family from Mrs. William H. Black;  
Records of Western Pennsylvania Hospital, 1865;  
Charles Brewer's will, 1860;  
Orphans Court Records, 1908.
- 32 Information in regard to the Hanna family from Miss Eleanor Sawyer.
- 33 *Memories* edited by George B. Logan. Privately printed, Pittsburgh.
- 34 Information in regard to Bidwell family from Mrs. Chester Bidwell Albree.