Printers brought prosperity to Pittsburgh. The townspeople were agog in 1786 when they heard that their community was to have the benefit of a newspaper — the first to be established west of the Alleghany Mountains.

The well-informed people of Pittsburgh and neighboring communities knew about all there was to know about young John Scull before he arrived in town to begin publishing The Pittsburgh Gazette, and they may have known a good deal about his estimable partner, Joseph Hall, but Joseph’s background has been one of time’s well-kept secrets.

Many of the townspeople knew that John Scull was soon to marry lovely seventeen year old Mary Irwin, a daughter of one of Pennsylvania’s influential citizens, Colonel John Irwin, who had a place of business in Pittsburgh and lived on a farm about twenty miles from Fort Pitt near Brush Creek.

Many of the old-timers mentioned that they had heard that John’s great-grandfather, America’s first Nicholas Scull, had reached Pennsylvania just three years after William Penn arrived in it, and that he and William had been close friends.

Aged Pittsburghers, such as Edward Ward and Devereux Smith, had known Nicholas Scull, John’s grandfather. They and quite a few others knew that Nicholas had been surveyor-general of the Province of Pennsylvania, and that he had been appointed to that office six years before the first settlement was made in Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Bothwell, member of this Society, does extensive research and writing on the history of the pioneers of Pittsburgh, her native city.—Ed.

1 A memo by John I. Scull (1888-1959) in the Scull papers at The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania states that she was christened Margaret. About the Scull papers—Edward Scull, M.D., Hartford, Connecticut, a nephew of John I. Scull (1888-1959) whose home was in Somerset, Pa., came into possession, due to Mr. Scull’s wishes, of much of the data that had been collected by Mr. Scull through the years, and he very kindly sent it, last year, to The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.

2 Brush Creek, Westmoreland County.

3 He was appointed Surveyor-General of the Province on June 14, 1748. Pennsylvania Archives (Second Series), IX, 646. This Nicholas Scull was identified in the Scull papers mentioned in f/n as Nicholas (II).
Parsons had resigned and Council⁴ "thought the properest person to
succeed him" was Nicholas Scull.⁵ He held that "office until
December, 1761." ⁶

Some of the townspeople knew of the friendship that had existed
between Nicholas and the renowned Benjamin Franklin, and that
Nicholas had been a member of Franklin's famed Junta club.

Much of the surveying work of Nicholas, John Scull's grand-
father, was performed when the most primitive and perilous living
conditions prevailed in Pennsylvania. He had to be a rugged person
to survive the hardships he endured. His record reveals him to have
been an astute, courageous, capable and personable man. Long before
his appointment as surveyor-general of Pennsylvania, he had been a
deputy surveyor of Philadelphia and Bucks Counties.⁷

Many persons knew that a map made by Nicholas Scull was very
helpful to the Province of Pennsylvania and its people. Dr. William
H. Egle wrote regarding it ⁸

In January, 1759, there was published, by act of Parliament, a map of the
Improved Part of the Province of Pennsylvania, drawn by Nicholas Scull,
the well known surveyor, and sometime Surveyor-General. It contains the
first authentic plot of Northampton county . . . . . . . .

Some Pittsburgers had heard, and correctly, that Nicholas Scull
had been sheriff of Philadelphia County during the mid-1740's.⁹
Nicholas was also sheriff, some years later, of Northampton County.¹⁰

Some of the natives had heard that Nicholas, away back in 1737,
had been with the men who had made what everyone then called
the "Indian Walk." Some of them had read his affirmation,¹¹ which
was made twenty years later, on January 25, 1757, before Council,

⁴ The Provincial Council.
⁵ Colonial Records, V, 274.
⁶ Joseph Jackson, Encyclopedia of Philadelphia (The National Historical Associa-
tion, Harrisburg, 1931), II, 1077.
⁷ Pennsylvania Archives (Second Series), IX, 645. "Deputy Surveyor of Phila-
delphia and Bucks—Nicholas Scull, Feb. 11, 17334."
⁸ Wm. H. Egle, M.D., An Illustrated History of the Commonwealth of Penn-
sylvania (DeWitt C. Goodrich & Co., Harrisburg, 1876), 985. An interesting
comment regarding Scull's map of 1759 was made by John F. Megin-
ness, The Historical Journal (1888), I, 18: "The country about the mouth
of Lycoming creek was, in 1753, the domain of French Margaret, a
Canadian, and niece of Madame Montour. Her village site is that now
occupied by Newberry proper in the Seventh Ward of Williamsport. It was
known as 'French Margaret's Town,' and is so noted on Scull's map of
1759."
⁹ He was sheriff of Philadelphia County, 1744-5-6. Pennsylvania Archives (Sec-
cond Series), IX, 715.
¹⁰ He was sheriff of Northampton County, October 3, 1753-55. Ibid., 810.
¹¹ Colonial Records, VI, 40.
regarding that walk. Scull asserted, in that affirmation, "that he was present when Jeames Yeates and Edward Marshall, together with some Indians, walked One Day and an half back in the Woods, pursuant to a Grant of Land made by the Delaware Indians to the Honourable, the late Proprietary, William Penn, dec'd . . . . that he believes the whole Distance walked not to be more than Fifty-Five Statute Miles . . . that Benjamin Eastburn, Surveyor General; Timothy Smith, Sheriff of the said County of Bucks, and he, this Affirmant, attended at the said Day and an half's Walk, from the beginning until the same was ended." He further affirmed that he did not remember that "Captain Harrison or any other of the Indians, made any Complaint, or showed the least Uneasiness, at anything that was done relating to the said Day and an half's walk," and that he would have remembered such utterances if he had heard them.

The name of Scull will ever be associated with Easton, Pennsylvania, for "Its site was selected, by order of the Proprietaries, by Nicholas Scull, Surveyor General." 12

When death summoned Nicholas Scull about the middle of March, 1773, 13 he left a record of which his descendants can be very proud, and among his descendants there were and are persons whose achievements have been acclaimed.

Nicholas must have wielded great influence in his own family for "his sons, James, Peter, William, Edward and Jasper were surveyors." 14 It could be said of all of them "like father like son," but particularly of William "who published a map of the Province [Penna.] in 1770." 15 A huge map, which graces the wall at the approach to the library of The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, is identified by its inscription as being "A MAP OF PENNSYLVANIA EXHIBITING NOT ONLY THE IMPROVED PARTS OF THE PROVINCE, BUT ALSO ITS EXTENSIVE FRONTIERS LAID DOWN FROM ACTUAL SUR-

12 Egle, op. cit., 985.
13 A researcher of known ability and reliability had informed John I. Scull (1888-1959), in a letter dated May 1, 1950, that "Nicholas Scull died 5th of 6th mo. 1776" and gave a substantiating authority. However, in answer to a letter, dated Feb. 7, 1941, written by that same Mr. Scull to the Register of Wills, Reading, Pa., a deputy to that official wrote: "Nicholas Scull died intestate March 12, 1773, letters of Adm. were granted to Rachel Scull, widow, late of the Town of Reading, Pa." The deputy was O. D. Link. Mr. Scull's above-mentioned letter, with the deputy's answer penned on it, is in the Scull papers mentioned in fn 1.
14 Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography, Edited by James Grant Wilson and John Fiske (New York, 1888).
15 Ibid.
Jasper Scull, also a son of Nicholas, was born in Philadelphia and was married twice. His first wife bore three children to him, and there were six children born of his marriage to his second wife — Mary Eyers. The youngest child of the second marriage was John Scull, known far and wide as the man who founded *The Pittsburgh Gazette*. Jasper had moved from Philadelphia to Northampton County, and then to Berks County sometime before John's birth at Reading, Pennsylvania, on July 23, 1765. John's half-sister Mary, the only child of Jasper's first marriage to survive childhood's years, was eighteen years old when John was born, and he was just four years old when she married Richard Lippincott.

Jasper, like his father, was a surveyor and a sheriff. He did not gain the fame that his father attained. His first appointment to public office was that of coroner of Northampton County, October 3, 1753-54. He was appointed sheriff of Berks County on October 4, 1766, and was re-appointed the next year. He was collector of Berks County, 1765-73. Jasper had still another occupation. He was a blacksmith in the years when blacksmiths did much more than make horseshoes and place them on horses' hooves. Jasper was a prosperous man, but not a wealthy one. John, his youngest son, was only ten years old when Jasper died.

One cannot mention, within the narrow confines of an article, all the achievements of all the Sculls, through generation after generation, so, perforce, much must be left untold that would be of interest.

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16 It was "Printed in London for Robt. Sayer & J. Bennet, Map & Printsellers, No. 53 Fleet Street—Published as the Act directs 10th June 1775." William J. Buck stated, in a paper he read in 1875 before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, "that the earliest authority we find for the existence of coal anywhere in the vicinity of the present town of Pottsville is William Scull's map of the Province of Pennsylvania, published in 1770. Coal is marked thereon at three places. . . . It is also indicated, on the same map, about ten miles distant, on the north side of the Mahony creek, near the present town of Gordon or Ashland. It is not now known who first made this discovery, but its location on said map at this early period in that vicinity is important, and goes to set aside considerable that has been published on this matter as erroneous." Egle, *op. cit.*, 1063.

17 *Pennsylvania Archives* (Second Series), IX, 810.
18 *Commissions Issued by the Province of Pennsylvania with Official Proclama-
20 *Pennsylvania Archives* (Second Series), IX, 803.
21 The information that Jasper Scull was a blacksmith was, according to the Scull papers mentioned in fn 1, imparted in a letter by the Northampton Historical & Genealogical Society to John I. Scull (1888-1959).
Twenty-one year old John Scull, when he came to Pittsburgh in 1786 had the happy knowledge that his people had done much for Pennsylvania. He had determined to invade newspaperdom, a field unexplored by others of his clan up until that time, but which some future Sculls also invaded successfully. John's devoted sister Abigail, just three years older than he, came with him to Pittsburgh in 1786 when he established the Gazette. She was a member of his household until he passed on in 1828, and then, until her own death three years later, she and his widow resided together in the home from which death had taken him.

It has been stated in print through the years that Hugh H. Brackenridge had induced John Scull to establish the Gazette in Pittsburgh. It appears much more likely that it was Colonel John Irwin, whose daughter Mary was John's fiancée, who was responsible for John's decision to establish The Pittsburgh Gazette in the Colonel's bailiwick. The Colonel had probably convinced him that great advantage would accrue to both of them, and others, of course, by building up Pittsburgh with the printed word. Colonel Irwin was already firmly entrenched in southwestern Pennsylvania and owned property in it. He had a place of business in Pittsburgh, had relatives in business in the town, and had lived in it for some years before John Scull's arrival in 1786.

Colonel Irwin, when John Scull came to Pittsburgh, had a country place in the vicinity of Brush Creek in a setting that was one of the loveliest to be had in any rural area.

The Colonel was born in Ireland in 1739. He was educated at the University of Dublin. When he was twenty-three years old he came to America and soon thereafter was given an appointment as a Commissary in the British Army. His fealty to Britain ended when there was the portent of war between it and America.

Several years before John Scull became a Pittsburgh resident, Colonel Irwin, while on a business trip to Philadelphia, wrote, on September 1, 1783, to his father "near Cantreal, Ireland." 23

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22 One of those relatives was William Irwin who died in Pittsburgh on October 4, 1806. A notice, pertaining to his estate, appeared in The Pittsburgh Gazette of Nov. 4, 1806. The notice was by Sarah Irwin, Administratrix, George Wallace, John Irwin, James Irwin and John Scull, Administrators.

23 The Colonel addressed his father as "Honoured Sir." A copy of the letter is in the Scull papers mentioned in f/n 1, and beneath the copy is the notation "The above in the handwriting of Col. John Irwin is labelled 'Copy of a letter to my Father.'" (The copy at The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania is a typed copy.)
... For upwards of ten years past (since I gave up the Indian trade) I have resided in and near to Fort Pitt. Sometimes in the Town, and other times in the country, as my various pursuits in life required a change. For near six years past I have been employed in the public service in the victualling of our army, under a very respectable appointment from Congress, and am now at this place settling my public accounts by which a very considerable ballance of Pay is due to me...  

Here is proof of the Colonel's prestige and, as stated, it was very likely he, and not Mr. Brackenridge, who had induced John Scull to establish the Gazette in Pittsburgh. He had probably fostered the romance between his daughter Mary and young Scull. He may have selected the location for the Gazette's place of business before the printing press purchased by John and his partner, Joseph Hall, reached Pittsburgh. The Colonel, as a former Indian trader, and as an Army man, knew how to get things done and he had probably guided the business footsteps of the two printers.

Colonel Irwin, when he was in Philadelphia in September, 1783, trying to collect from the government the amount due him, not only wrote to his father, as mentioned above, but on September 22nd, wrote to his brother James, who was planning to come to America, and forewarned him about some matters:

Instead of embarking for this country in the spring of the year as you have mentioned and landing in the heat of the summer which often proves fatal to fresh Europeans, I would rather recommend the fall season for that undertaking as you will then arrive about the beginning of winter and enjoy a season of health until your constitution becomes in some degree reconciled to the climate, living conditions, etc. ... You are to observe that you must embark for the port of Philadelphia and not to land until you arrive in the city where you are to apply to Mr. William Sample, Merchant in Water Street, and Messrs. Barned & Michael Gratz, Merchants in Market Street, with whom you will receive my farther instructions how you will proceed to conduct yourself on arrival. Be careful to embark in a vessel that is well accommodated and not overly crowded with Passengers by which life and health is often endangered. Among many comfortable necessities of sea-stores I recommend the plentiful use of good vinegar as a good preservative of health...  

24 Journals of the Continental Congress, XXIV, 500, Minutes of August 11, 1783, bear out John Irwin's statement to his father as to his mission in Philadelphia—"Resolved, That the prayer of the petition of John Irwin Esqr late deputy commissary [general] of issues for the western department 'that certificates may issue for the balance of pay due to himself and his assistants' cannot be granted until all their accounts with the public shall be finally settled..."

25 A memo by John I. Scull (1888-1959), in the Scull papers mentioned in f/n 1, states: "John Scull and Joseph Hall purchased the press they took to Pittsburgh from Andrew Brown who was publisher of The Federal Gazette at Philadelphia.—Letter from Douglas C. McMurtrie, Nat'l. Ed. American Imprints Inventory. 2/20/41."

26 A copy of John Irwin's letter of Sept. 22, 1783, to his brother, James Irwin, is in the Scull papers mentioned in f/n 1.
James was probably anxious to come to Pittsburgh to make his own estimate of it and to see some of his relatives. The Colonel had mentioned some of them in the letter that he had written earlier in the month to his father. He had written regarding them:

I have not seen either of my uncles, Samuel or Robert, since their last arrival in this country. Samuel landed in the Province of Georgia far South of this, where his wife died in a few days after their landing and what has been the fate of the rest of the family is more than I can even guess. Roberts situation of late has been truly miserable, he has parted with his wife — his son Jno. lives in my neighborhood and is doing very well . . . . My uncle Williams family all live at F. Pitt and are doing very well. The Girls are all married to advantage, but the boys yet remain single and live with their mother. My uncles, the Ramseys, John, Alex and Hugh, are all well and live within 20 miles of this City . . . .

The Colonel, earlier in the letter, had mentioned about James coming to Pittsburgh and then stated:

If your circumstances will admit, I would be glad you would send a few men servants with him. I stand in need of two or three myself, and if you are disposed to furnish him with anything in the way of an adventure, servants are the only Commodity which brings a handsome profit . . . .

The Colonel undoubtedly wrote to Ireland to his father in 1786 about the Gazette coming to Pittsburgh and about his girl Mary and John Scull of the Gazette becoming man and wife. John Scull began his married life in the same year that the Gazette came into being.

Mr. Brackenridge — to return to him — planted the thought, by written and spoken words, that the Gazette came into existence through his efforts, but if that had actually been the case he would not have written the following letter:

Monsieurs Scull & Hall
I have heard it said that you are about to publish a Gazette in the town of Pittsburgh; this will be of great use.

It would seem, from known facts, that all financial risks were taken initially by John Scull, Joseph Hall, and, possibly, by Colonel John Irwin.

It can be surmised and believed that Brackenridge, James O'Hara, and many others, made helpful suggestions to the young printers and that they gratefully adopted the ones of which they approved.

Scull was not dependent upon Brackenridge for money or influence. He welcomed Brackenridge's writings, and Brackenridge was

27 A copy of John Irwin's letter of Sept. 1, 1783, to his father in Ireland, is in the Scull papers mentioned in f/n 1.
very glad to have the *Gazette* publish them. Brackenridge probably derived more benefit from the publication of his articles in the *Gazette* than Scull derived from publishing them.

Brackenridge had definite political goals that he desired to reach and he attained them with the aid of the *Gazette*. Scull, on the other hand, during certain periods of ownership of the *Gazette*, was without a partner, and at such times he was too busy being editor, publisher, advertising man, copy-writer, proofreader, cashier, printer and collector to promote any personal ambition beyond making the *Gazette* a success. Scull probably swept the floor if no one else was at hand to do it. The *Gazette* catapulted Brackenridge to success.

About Joseph Hall, Scull's first partner, it may be that he was not a Philadelphia man as has been generally believed. This thought occurs for the reason that a petition of May 7, 1781, to the President and Council of Pennsylvania for the removal of Colonel Daniel Brodhead from command of the western department at Pittsburgh, had, among its numerous signers, four men who had the surname Hall. The given names of those men named Hall were Joseph, John, Robert and Robert Jr. The dark caverns of the distant past either yield up their secrets very slowly or keep them forever.

The two young printers must have been very happy and proud when they had the first issue of the *Gazette* ready for sale, but misgivings as to the paper's future must have tempered their elation. The roots of the *Gazette* became deeply imbedded in Pittsburgh's history and recorded much of its history for posterity. The *Gazette* was the hub of Pittsburgh's progress. It was the mainspring that set every desirable movement in motion and brought it to fruition. It lighted the torch of civic activity and accelerated men's minds and actions.

Scull's ownership and editorship of *The Pittsburgh Gazette* will not be dwelt upon extensively because the subject has been pretty well covered by various publications since its inception.

The *Gazette* enlightened many people on a variety of subjects. It printed acts of Congress, acts of the legislature, notices pertaining to estates and sheriff's sales, advertisements, tax lists, etc., etc. It brought a wealth of European news to its readers, and as many of

29 Document in Pa. Miscellany, MS Div. (of Ref. Dept.), Library of Congress. The first signature on the petition was "Edwd Ward." The second signature was "John Irwin," and the signature of another John Irwin appeared after the signature of "A. Fowler." A few of the many, many other persons who signed that petition were: Robt. McKinley, Hugh O'Hara, Jno. H. Redick, Geo. Wallace, James Watterson, John Ormsby and Wm. Amberson.
them had been born in Europe, they were glad to have news of it.

Some subscribers took the *Gazette* to Sabbath services, and when the services were ended, the people would crowd around to hear items read from it. They would discuss certain items, and one that may have occasioned a good deal of comment was by "Nestor" and it was published when the *Gazette* was one month old: "Every man in a republic is public property. His time and his talents — his youth — his manhood — his old age — nay, more — life, ALL belong to his country."

John Scull was saddened and seriously handicapped less than six months after the *Gazette* began publication when his partner, Joseph Hall, died. John, desiring another partner, probably wrote to Mr. Brackenridge, who was either in or en route to Philadelphia, to interest someone else in buying Joseph Hall's share of the *Gazette*, for, on December 16, 1786, Brackenridge wrote the following letter, which was published in the *Gazette* of January 6, 1787:

**FOR THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE**

I was sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Hall, one of the Printers of the Gazette, but I hope the loss will be repaired by the bearer of this, Mr. Boyd, who has purchased that share of types which was the property of Mr. Hall, and now sets out to settle in our town . . .

It can be assumed that John Boyd probably reached town shortly before Mr. Brackenridge's letter was printed in the *Gazette*. Less than two years later John Boyd ended his life on a lovely hill that looked across the Monongahela river to the south side hills.

John Boyd's background has been shrouded in mystery. Research has revealed that a man named John Boyd was married at Christ Church in Philadelphia on April 10, 1786, to Ann Pearson. Whether or not that was the John Boyd who was sent by Mr. Brackenridge to the *Gazette* in December of 1786, is not known, but Ann was the name of the wife of the *Gazette*'s John Boyd who committed suicide sometime between August third and August eighth, 1788. His suicide must have been triggered by something that took him by surprise, for he surely could not have been contemplating death when he advertised in the *Gazette*, just prior to his suicide, that he would start a circulating library in Pittsburgh. It is certain that his suicide created much

30 *Pennsylvania Archives* (Second Series), VIII, 26.
31 July 26th and August 2nd, 1788, issues of *The Pittsburgh Gazette*. The issue of August 2, 1788, had, as was customary beneath the name of the *Gazette* —"Pittsburgh—Printed and sold by John Scull and John Boyd at their printing office near the Ferry." The *Gazette* just one week later, in the issue of August 9, 1788, omitted from that usual notification of ownership the name of John Boyd.
comment. John Heckewelder wrote in his diary on September 22, 1788: "I had breakfast with Gen. Gibson, afterwards visited some friends and acquaintances . . . It grieved me to hear the news that one of the local printers named Boyd had recently hanged himself in desperation." Some months after John Boyd's suicide, the Gazette of April 18, 1789, announced: "Married, on Thursday evening last, Mr. William Wilson, merchant, to Mrs. Ann Boyd, both of this town." The bride of William Wilson was the widow of John Boyd who had hanged himself. Ann seems to have been unfortunate in her marriages, for about ten years after she married wealthy William Wilson she was again a widow. A writer of recent years asked in her book — "What caused young Boyd to walk out of the Water Street printing shop, climb the bluff that is now the site of Duquesne University, and there hang himself?" She then commented: "That has been a topic of speculation through the years." She conjectured, as some other people have done through the years, as to why John Boyd ended his life.

There is reason to believe that John Boyd may have been the son of John Boyd of Carlisle, a surveyor, who was well acquainted with southwestern Pennsylvania and owned considerable property in it, and that John was a brother of Mary Boyd who married John Ward, son of Edward Ward who had made the first settlement at Pittsburgh.

Some writers have expressed the opinion that it was strange that John Scull failed to comment in the Gazette upon John Boyd's suicide. John Scull avoided unpleasantness when possible, and he

33 Account Book 1, 26, Register of Wills Office, Allegheny County, Pa., "Account of William Wilson & Ann, his wife, late Ann Boyd, Executrix of the Estate of John Boyd, late of the City of Pittsburgh, deceased." This account was "Exhibited into the Register's Office the twelfth day of April, 1791." However, the appraisal of the estate bore the date of August 8, 1788, but it was not sworn to until Feb. 17, 1789, the date on which the bond in re John Boyd's estate was filed in said Register of Wills Office. The use of the word "Executrix" in the account mentioned above after the name of Ann Boyd was incorrect and misleading; this for the reason that John Boyd died intestate.
probably thought that the least said about the tragedy the better. The Sculls and Wards were friends and neighbors, and if John Boyd was actually a brother of Mrs. John Ward, John Scull would have avoided mentioning the subject out of deference to her and out of consideration for the widow. Incidentally, years later, John Scull's only daughter married William Ward, a son of John Ward and his wife, the former Mary Boyd.

John Scull, after John Boyd's suicide, was again put to the necessity of publishing the Gazette without a partner, and he seems to have made no effort to obtain one. Having lost two partners by death, he may have decided that it was unwise to try again.

Just three years after the Gazette came into existence, Scull asked his readers this pertinent question in the issue of July 25, 1789, which lacked four days of being an anniversary number: "Does it not raise the value of land, and of property of every kind, to have the advantage of a Gazette in the country?" He may have had in mind the part that the Gazette had played in bringing to the attention of the public the "reserve tract" land — the land out of which Alleghany Town, as it was called in its early years, had been created.36

The readers of the Gazette of July 7, 1798, were probably surprised to read:

A LOTTERY

For raising the sum of twelve thousand dollars to be applied in erecting Piers to defend the Banks of the Rivers Allegheny and Monongahela within the Borough of Pittsburgh . . . .

The readers were informed that the lottery had been "authorized by an act of the legislature of Pennsylvania." Some of the town's most important men were managers of the lottery. They were all identified by name, and some of them were George Stevenson, John Scull and Isaac Craig.

John Scull became irate at times at the failure of subscribers to the Gazette to make payments to him of amounts due. He put the subscribers on notice, in the issue of March 23, 1799, of his intention to take legal action to collect the amounts due him:

Finding that all requests I have made to those indebted to me to make payment, have not been regarded, but treated with contempt, and as it is

36 Of interest in connection with Allegheny land is the fact that Col. John Irwin had obtained a patent dated June 27, 1789, "for sundry lots in the town of Allegheny." His interest in one of those lots (No. 31) was conveyed by him to John Scull in December, 1800. D.B. 10, 311, Allegheny County records.
impossible for a Printer to live without eating, or print without paper; and as neither food nor paper can be procured without money, I am determined to put all the accounts of those who are indebted to me, into the hands of a Justice of the Peace for recovery . . . .

John's patience was exhausted!

Meanwhile, his marriage with Mary Irwin had been blessed with three children — Edward, born in 1788; John, born two years later, and Elizabeth, born two years after John's arrival. Mary's sister Jane had married Dr. Daniel Marchand, a physician of southwestern Pennsylvania. Some of the other Marchand men became physicians.37 Some members of the Irwin clan also became physicians in southwestern Pennsylvania.38

John Scull's activities in the printing field extended beyond the Gazette, as is well known. At Carnegie Library's Pennsylvania Room in the Oakland district of Pittsburgh, there is a very precious paperback entitled The Western Calendar Or, An Almanac for the Year of Our Lord, 180219 printed by John Scull. It has been said that this was the second Almanac he printed, but if there was an earlier one, there seems to be no trace of it now.

John Scull was a Christian gentleman, and despite the many demands upon his time, he managed to devote time to his church. He, with "Ebenezer Denny and James Ross," and certain others, "were some of the outstanding community leaders whose talents added greatly to the resources and prestige of the congregation"40 of the First Presbyterian Church.

After one hundred and seventy-six years some doubt still exists as to whether John Scull was or was not Pittsburgh's first postmaster. It is really immaterial whether he was the first or the second postmaster, for it was the Gazette that made postal service imperative in this area. Furthermore, the Post Office Department initially had

38 Ibid., Diller, 112, 114, 185-7-8.
39 The following appeared after the quoted title—"To Which Is Added Select Pieces in Prose and Verse—A Choice Collection of Anecdotes, &c. Together With a Number of Useful Tables and a correct List of the Roads." The Almanac contained also "Time of Holding Supreme and District Courts of the United States"; postage rates and other useful information. One of the anecdotes was: "An Irishman speaking of suicide said, the only way to stop it was by making it a capital offense, punishable with death."
to rely upon John Scull to attend to postal matters in Pittsburgh, and that fact cannot be denied.

John and Mary Scull, in 1816, had the heavy cross to bear of losing their first-born child, Edward Scull, who had died of yellow fever while serving as a surgeon with the Army in New Orleans. Edward was a friend of Gen. William Harrison and had seen service under his command at Tippecanoe and Vincennes. His parents' grief at his loss left their hearts only when breath left their bodies. Perhaps it was because of Edward's death that John Scull decided, in 1816, to turn the Gazette over to his remaining son, John Irwin Scull. Young John had been educated at Pittsburgh Academy in the subjects taught there, and he had studied law in the office of Senator James Ross, after which he was admitted to the Allegheny County Bar. There is nothing to indicate whether it had pleased or displeased him to abandon, in part, the practice of law and become publisher of the Gazette.

Young John Scull “After two years ... sold a one-half interest” in the Gazette “to Morgan Neville who had been a classmate at Pittsburgh Academy. In 1820, the partnership was dissolved and the paper was sold to Eichbaum & Johnston.”

Soon after John Irwin Scull, son of the founder of the Gazette, and Morgan Neville became joint owners and publishers of that paper, they commented in the issue of June 12, 1818, and perhaps they chuckled as they composed the item:

Our eastern papers have been so barren of incidents lately that without the aid of an occasional murder, robbery, and hail storm, we poor Editors must have been reduced to a serious dilemma. If something to satisfy the curiosity or gratify the taste of our readers is not presented in every number, we are abused for dullness, or laughed at for our stupidity.

They then begged their “gentle readers” to bear with them and not to ascribe their “uninterestingness” to “want of industry, but to the cursed pressure of the times, which not only has rendered money scarce, but has actually created a dearth of news.”

41 Among the Scull papers mentioned in f/n 1 is a photostat of the Commission issued by the President of the United States of America to Edward Scull as “Surgeon in the twenty-second regiment of infantry in the service of the United States to rank as such from the eighth day of April one thousand eight hundred and fourteen.” It was dated “this twentieth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen.” The signature is indecipherable in said copy, but the president then was James Madison.

42 The quoted portion is from a memo by John I. Scull (1888-1959) in the Scull papers mentioned in f/n 1.
Young John Scull, in 1817, just one year after he had succeeded his father as editor and publisher of the Gazette, married twenty-one year old Anna Bonnette Spencer. Twin sons were their first-born, but one of the twins, James Irwin Scull, died a day or so after his birth. His brother Edward survived. A memo in the Scull papers states that “the children of John Irwin Scull and Anna Spencer were five sons and one daughter. Two of the sons, John Irwin and James, died young. Those who survived their parents were Edward, Spencer Fitzroy, Anna Marie and George Ross.”

Pittsburgh’s first John Scull, the founder of the Gazette, had more time for other pursuits after he turned the Gazette over to his son. The 1819 Pittsburgh Directory listed him as “printer and city treasurer, N.E. corner of 6th street and Cherry alley.” He was a trustee of the Western University of Pennsylvania; he was Vice President of the Neptune Fire Company, and he was still President of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank, an office which he had held from the time the bank was chartered in 1814. Two of the bank’s twelve directors were William Eichbaum, Jr., and Jacob Negley. The bank was robbed on April 6, 1818, and as a result it closed its doors in 1819 pursuant to a resolution of its Board of Directors.

Pittsburghers were probably calling John Scull, founder of the

43 The memo is in the Scull papers mentioned in f/n 1. Records in the Register of Wills Office, Westmoreland County, show that the son, John Irwin Scull (and this was the son of the first John Irwin Scull) was still living in 1827 (1 OC 405, N. 1827). The name of the daughter of John Irwin Scull, the first, was shown on the court records as Anna Mary Scull (1 OC 405, N. 1827). Notes in the Scull papers mentioned in f/n 1 state that Edward (and he was the twin who survived) was the oldest son and was born on Feb. 5, 1818; that Spencer F. was born on Nov. 6, 1819, and that George Ross Scull was born on June 15, 1826. The Bulletin (Pittsburgh, March 28, 1896) has a picture of Capt. Spencer F. Scull above his obituary. The Bulletin stated in part that “He was born where Irwin Station is now located, seventy-seven years ago. When ten years of age, he went to live with his uncle, Wm. Scull, of Steubenville, O..... In 1851, he came to Pittsburg, where he built a fine steamer, the Wm. Baggley. He was a grandson of John Scull, the founder of the Gazette, now the Commercial Gazette,...... He is survived by his sister, Miss Anna Scull, of Steubenville, and a brother, Mr. Edward Scull of Bedford County, editor of the Somerset Herald.” He died at his home, Ben Venue Avenue, and the funeral services were held at the Church of Ascension, Ellsworth Avenue, Pgh. Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1927, published in 1928, gives the highlights of the career of Edward Scull (1818-1900).

44 The capital of The Merchants’ and Mechanics’ Bank of Pittsburgh was $450,000, according to the 1815 Pittsburgh Directory. The theft consisted of (Pgh. Gazette, June 5, 1818) “notes” of the bank “presumed to amount to $100,000 and about $1800 in silver.” An excellent, condensed account of the robbery is in Our Police and Firemen (Pittsburgh, 1889), Chapter V of the section devoted to “Our Police,” 61-2-3-4-5.

45 Pittsburgh Gazette of July 23, 1819.
Gazette, "old John Scull" by that time to distinguish him from his son, but he was only fifty-four years old. He must have felt a tugging at the strings of memory when young John sold, in 1820, his (young John's) remaining half-interest in the Gazette. This was the half-interest that young John had remaining after he had sold a half-interest in 1818 to Morgan Neville when he and Neville became joint owners and publishers of the Gazette, as stated earlier. The reason for young John's decision to part with his remaining half-interest in the Gazette was told in a memo which reads:46

John Scull Irwin, according to family tradition, yielded to the solicitation of his grandfather, Col. John Irwin, who was a disconsolate old man, saddened by the death of his beloved son James in 1813, and in 1818 by the death of his wife [the Colonel's wife] . . . Colonel Irwin deeded to John Irwin Scull the family mansion and the flourishing farm known as Brush Hill in consideration of "$1 and the great love I bear him."

Two years passed — the last two for Colonel John Irwin — and they must have been happy ones for him because of the presence of his beloved grandson, John Irwin Scull, and John's family. The Colonel, after eighty-three years on earth, journeyed to his eternal home on January 15, 1822. His last home on earth, "Brush Hill," which was very dear to his heart, is still standing, although somewhat altered in appearance — and it is no longer owned by a Scull or Irwin descendant.

The Colonel mentioned in his will his daughter Mary, the wife of John Scull, founder of the Gazette; John and Mary's children — John Irwin Scull and Elizabeth Scull Blaine; his daughter, Jane (Irwin) Marchand and her sons, John Irwin Marchand and James Marchand. The Colonel also mentioned his own brothers, James and David, as well as his sister — Jane (Irwin) Fullerton and Jane's son, John I. Fullerton; and "nephew John Irwin," son of the Colonel's brother James. He also made a bequest to Sarah McCoy, who had been betrothed to his "dear departed son," James Irwin, but he revoked that bequest by a codicil to his will. The Colonel named as executors, his brother James Irwin, his own "Grandson John Irwin Scull, John Scull of Pittsburgh, Dr. Daniel Marchand of Uniontown and William Fullerton of Westmoreland County or the survivors of them."47

46 A memo by John I. Scull (1888-1959) in the Scull papers mentioned in f/n 1.
47 W.B. 2, p. 62, Westmoreland County, Pa., records. The Colonel was residing at "Brush Hill" when he made the will on Sept. 10, 1818. His obituary, in addition to recounting certain of the activities of his life which have been mentioned in this article, stated: "Soon after the organization of our
Five years passed and “old John Scull,” founder of the Gazette, and his wife Mary were again plunged into an abyss of sorrow by the death of “young John” — John Irwin Scull — on January 31, 1827, at thirty-seven years of age. Once again a memo in the Scull papers gives an intimate glimpse of a family member in these words, and the subject was Anna, John’s widow:

Little Grandmother was apparently a person of indomitable character. She raised the children “and took up and completed the section of the turnpike from the present town of Irwin to Greensburg for whose construction her husband had contracted.” She was described as “a dainty little thing who paid much attention to dress and seldom appeared without wearing lace mittens.” After dinner she sometimes played “on her piano forte which was brought over the mountains on horseback, one of the first to reach Pittsburgh, and announce ‘Now, I’ll sing ye an Irish song.’” She had been taught voice at the Moravian Seminary in Bethlehem. She was the daughter of Robert Spencer and Sarah Ewalt, both originally of Bedford County.

It was also stated in the memo that she “lived at Brush Hill until 1868, when she moved to Pittsburgh. In 1882 she moved to Steubenville, O. . . . She died in 1890 at the great age of ninety-four,” and for some years after she left Pennsylvania, she would “spend the summer months with her son Edward in Somerset.”

The end of life’s road was in sight for John Scull, founder of the Gazette, when his son, John Irwin Scull, died in 1827. He must have given much thought to death then, for in November of that year he made his will.\(^{48}\) In it he expressed thanks to “Almighty God” for having enabled him “to provide means for the payment of” his “just debts and also leaving a surplus for the future support of” his “family.” He bequeathed everything he owned to his wife, but with the proviso that she pay fifty dollars a year to his sister Abigail “in quarter yearly payments.” John Scull was a methodical man, as

government he was placed in its councils and represented Westmoreland County several sessions in the Legislature of the state. In 1794, Governor Mifflin conferred upon him the office of Associate Judge in the Courts of this County—an office which he held until last year, when the infirmities of age induced him to resign it. Well acquainted with law, with men, with business, and possessing a vigorous mind, he made an intelligent and useful Assistant upon the Bench.” The black-bordered, yellowed-with-age obituary is minus the name of the newspaper in which it appeared, but it must have been a Westmoreland County newspaper that was published in Greensburg.

\(^{48}\) This memo was probably written by John I. Scull (1888-1959). It is in the Scull papers mentioned in f/n 1. The quotes within the quoted portion were evidently made by Mr. Scull to indicate that he had heard those things from some relative or relatives.

\(^{49}\) The last will and testament of John Scull, founder of The Pittsburgh Gazette, was dated Nov. 17, 1827. It was recorded in Westmoreland County in W.B. 2, p. 178.
"BRUSH HILL" AS IT WAS IN 1962
See footnote 60
indicated by that will, for to it he attached a schedule of his assets and liabilities. His action in so doing also proves that he was a thoughtful man and that he desired to spare his widow as much trouble as possible. Death came to him on February 9, 1828. He evidently journeyed to eternity as quietly as he had come to Pittsburgh in 1786. He did not receive wide acclaim, and there is no civic monument to his name, but if ever a man helped Pittsburgh to become great, he did! He did it with The Pittsburgh Gazette and his other services in its behalf.

His remains lie in Long Run Presbyterian Churchyard in Irwin, Pennsylvania, where the remains repose of many members of some of southwestern Pennsylvania's very oldest and best known families — quite a few of whom were related by marriage to the Sculls and the Irwins.50

John's beloved and devoted sister Abigail, who had come to Pittsburgh with him in 1786, left the earth just three years after his departure from it.

Colonel Irwin's daughter Mary, widow of John Scull, founder of the Gazette, lived fourteen years after her husband's death. Their daughter Elizabeth, and Elizabeth's family, must have been a great comfort to her during those years. Elizabeth, who had married Ephraim Blaine of Brownsville, Pennsylvania,51 and been parted from

50 Dr. Wm. F. Irwin, b. April 6, 1816; died Dec. 31, 1872.
Margaret Taylor Irwin, b. Sept. 17, 1822; died Dec. 14, 1893.
Volunteer Cavalry.
Caroline C. Irwin, d. Oct. 20, 1872, aged 17-7-4.
Hettie Larimer Irwin, died Dec. 27, 1872, aged 9-11-2.
Two of the various members of the Marchand family interred in that churchyard are:
Benjamin Rush Marchand, M.D., b. June 4, 1804; died Jan. 25, 1864.
Seven persons whose remains are interred there and who had the surname Ward were related to Edward Ward who made the first settlement at Pittsburgh in 1754. In an adjoining lot, five of their relatives named Boyd were interred when their life's day was done.
The mortal remains of a man named Joseph Hall who died on Dec. 10, 1824, aged 55-6-0 repose there.
Some of the Fullertons rest there.
The Sculls whose mortal remains repose there are:
John Scull, "Died Feb. 9, 1828, aged 62 years; Founder of Pittsburgh Gazette—now the Pittsburgh Post Gazette"—p. 180 of History of the Long Run Presbyterian Church by C. W. Maus, B.D.
Mary Scull, Died 9-9-1842, aged 75 years. Ibid.
Abby Scull, Died Jan. 12, 1851—aged 70 years. Ibid.
John Irwin Scull, Died Jan. 31, 1827—aged 37 years. Ibid.
Sarah I. Marchand Scull, wife of Edward—March 1, 1819—June 8, 1845. Ibid.

51 Diligent search failed to unearth the date of his birth or death. A memo in the Scull papers mentioned in f/n 1 states that he "was a first cousin of James G. Blaine."
him by death, was Mrs. William Ward when her mother died and had been Mrs. Ward for some years before her mother's death. Elizabeth had borne two sons to her first husband, Ephraim Blaine, and they were named Edward Scull Blaine and John Scull Blaine. William Ward, her second husband, was a son of John Ward and a grandson of Edward Ward who had made the first settlement at Pittsburgh in 1754.\(^{52}\) She and William had three daughters, Mary, Juliet and Catherine Ward. Their grandmother, Mary (Irwin) Scull, mentioned in her will\(^ {53}\) her grandsons, Edward S. Blaine and John S. Blaine, and her granddaughters, Mary and Juliet Ward. Since she failed to mention Catherine Ward, Catherine may have been deceased. Mrs. Scull appointed, as her executors, her "Son in law William Ward and his brother Boyd Ward."

Elizabeth's husband, William Ward, as nearly as can be ascertained, died in 1863.\(^ {54}\) Elizabeth died two years later at seventy-eight years of age.\(^ {55}\) Her daughter, Mary Scull Ward, died at sixty-five years of age in January, 1898.\(^ {56}\)

Some Irwin and Scull descendants still reside in Irwin. One is Mrs. Lydia Hurst Irwin Altman,\(^ {57}\) who lives in a house in Irwin

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53 The will of Mary (Irwin) Scull, widow of John Scull, founder of *The Pittsburg Gazette*, was dated June 18, 1841. It was proved on Dec. 15, 1842, and was recorded in Westmoreland County, Pa.
54 He probably died in Sept. 1863. His will, which was dated April 5, 1844, and was witnessed by John Ward and John S. Blaine, was placed of record on Sept. 9, 1863, in W.B. 90, p. 519, Allegheny Co., Pa., records. A footnote in the Scull papers, mentioned in f/n 1, stated: "William Ward's father as Ensign had at one time commanded Fort Pitt for the British.”
55 Elizabeth Ward, widow of William Ward (f/n 54), and only daughter of John Scull, founder of *The Pittsburgh Gazette*, died on March 26, 1865, aged seventy-three years. Her mortal remains lie in McKeesport-Versailles Cemetery, McKeesport, Pa.
56 Mary Scull Ward (1833-1898), daughter of William Ward and Elizabeth (Scull) Ward (1792-1865)—(f/n 54 and f/n 55), and gr. granddaughter of Edward Ward (who made the first settlement at Pittsburgh in 1754 and surrendered to the French in that year the stockade he and his thirty-two or thirty-three soldiers and about seven workmen were building there), was also granddaughter of John Scull, founder of *The Pittsburgh Gazette*, and his wife, Mary, a daughter of Col. John Irwin. Notes in the Scull papers mentioned in f/n 1 state that Mary Scull Ward was "an invalid all of her life," and that "She was devotedly cared for in an apartment in the Hotel Anderson in Pittsburgh, Pa., by her stepbrother John Scull Blaine." Mary died on Jan. 5, 1898, aged sixty-five years. Her remains rest in the same lot in McKeesport-Versailles Cemetery, McKeesport, Pa., in which her mother's body lies.
57 Mrs. Altman's great-grandfather was John Irwin (1811-1876). Thomas Hurst Irwin (1836-1912) was her paternal grandfather. He married (1) Emma Armel, and (2) Alvira Guffey.
at the corner of Main and Pennsylvania Avenues, which is usually pointed out by Irwin's few cab drivers as the "Irwin house — the Irwin that founded Irwin." Mrs. Altman says of the house that, as far as she knows, it was built in 1836; that it was known as a "coaching house" in its earliest years, and that she remembers her "grandfather Thomas Irwin saying that the drivers who remained overnight had to sleep on the floor." She said also that her "great grandfather John Irwin was born on a farm near Irwin on October 9, 1811," and that "in 1835 he laid out the first plan of lots in Irwin."

Also living in Irwin, and within sight of Colonel John Irwin's famous "Brush Hill" mansion, which has passed, as stated, from family ownership, are two of the children of George Ross Scull (1825-1892), and they are Miss Amy Scull and her sister Shirley (Mrs. John Blair Martin). The Scull sisters are pleasant, genteel women in their eighties, Miss Amy being eighty-five years old and Mrs. Martin being two years younger. In the living room of the very attractive home in which Mr. and Mrs. Martin and Miss Amy Scull reside, there is a framed likeness, on one of the walls, of their well-known great-grandfather, John Scull, founder of The Pittsburgh Gazette.

There are other Scull and Irwin descendants in Pittsburgh and elsewhere in southwestern Pennsylvania, as well as in other places in the United States, and there are probably some in foreign lands. One of the descendants in Somerset, Pennsylvania, is George Scull Cook, a director and president of the Somerset Trust Company.

A descendant who was a resident of Somerset until his death was John Irwin Scull (1888-1959) who was, with just cause, very proud of his ancestry. Through patient, arduous and persistent efforts over many years he had collected a great deal of data relating to the Sculls and Irwins and to other kinfolks. He knew pretty well, from hearsay and from documents and books, what the Sculls and Irwins had done from the time of their arrival in America until their departure from this world.

George Irwin (1868-1902), son of Thomas Hurst Irwin (1836-1912) and Alvira Guffey, was the father of Mrs. Altman. Her mother was Lida (Saam) Irwin.

Lydia Hurst Irwin, daughter of George Irwin (1868-1902) and Lida (Saam) Irwin, married Russell Stacy Altman. Mary Jane Altman, their daughter, was married in 1951 to Willis Wesley Ward, who says that he does not believe he is a descendant of Edward Ward (f/n 52). The Wards have a daughter Marsha. The son, George Irwin Altman, of the Russell Stacy Altmans, married Edith McCormick in 1939. They have two sons and a daughter, George Irwin Altman, Sandra Edith Altman and Edward Stacy Altman.
That same John Irwin Scull was well known to Princeton men and to many people in many places. He had been a newsman, a banker, and he had served the United States in various capacities overseas during World War I, but not in combat service. He was rejected for combat duty because of poor eyesight. He was a scholar and a gentleman. He was also a patron of the arts. The last three years of his life were lived within hospital walls. He died on January 13, 1959, in Somerset, and he will always be mourned by those who had the privilege of knowing him well.

Much of the data, and perhaps all of it, that he had obtained and that remained at his death, came into the hands, by his wishes, of his well-beloved nephew, Dr. Edward Scull, of Hartford, Connecticut, a specialist in rheumatology, who, last year, very generously sent the collection to The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania so that his relatives in Pittsburgh and elsewhere, and the public generally, could become acquainted, not only with the genealogy of the Scull and Irwin families, but with their heroic deeds and their achievements in various fields of endeavor.

When Dr. Scull was only two years old, death summoned his father, Edward Scull (1890-1926), who was — so those who knew him best said — a man “of loveable character,” a man “of strong religious convictions and never-failing courtesy,” a man who employed usefully and helpfully his thirty-six years on earth. *The Somerset Herald*\(^58\) of August 11, 1926, prefaced, with the following captions, its account of his sudden demise:

**DEATH CLOSES PROMISING CAREER**

*Edward Scull of First National Bank\*
*Expired Unexpectedly Friday Morning*
*Served Overseas with 110th Regiment Supply Co.*

His widow, Nina Wolshuk, had been Director of Music in the public schools of Somerset when they were married. No one can describe another person’s agony when death takes a loved one, but Mrs. Scull, who certainly felt her loss keenly, found solace in her son, her music, and in the cherished memories which her devoted husband had created for her.

Dr. Edward Scull, who was just two years old, as stated above, when his father died, graduated at Princeton, received his medical

\(^{58}\) *The Somerset Herald*, Somerset, Pa., was established in 1827. Its editor in 1926 was Robert S. Scull, and its manager was George R. Scull.
education at Jefferson Medical College, and served his internship at Jefferson Hospital, Philadelphia. He and Miss Mary Jane Taylor of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, were married in 1949, and their lovely home in Hartford, Connecticut, has been made happier by their four children.\textsuperscript{59}

The early Sculls and Irwins, pillars of Pennsylvania, live on though they are gone!  

\textsuperscript{59} The four children of Dr. and Mrs. Edward Scull are: Suzanne Taylor Scull, Edward Scull, Jr. (who is actually the tenth Edward Scull in the Scull line, Dr. Scull says), Elizabeth Long Scull and Timothy Taylor Scull. Incidentally, Allegheny County once again has a young John Scull, fourteen-year-old John Millen Scull. He and his older brother, George Ross Scull, Jr., live with their parents in Mount Lebanon, just outside of Pittsburgh. The father of the boys is George Ross Scull, son of the second George Ross Scull—the one who was a great-grandson of John Scull, founder of \textsl{The Pittsburgh Gazette}.  

\textsuperscript{60} A print of the historic old house, as it had been many long years ago, was very kindly loaned to the Society by Mrs. Emily Scull Waugaman of Irwin, a daughter of George Ross Scull II who died in 1938. Inasmuch as the house shown in that print differs in appearance from the present structure (one whole wing has been removed and various other changes have been made), it was deemed best to use a photograph of the house as it looked in 1962. A book, \textsl{The Lincoln Highway in Pennsylvania}, by Robert Bruce and published in 1920 in cooperation with The Automobile Club of Pittsburgh, stated that "On the right hand side of the Lincoln Highway [Greensburg to Pittsburgh] about a mile east of the center of Irwin, is a large substantial house, originally built in 1794, at least in part by Col. John Irwin. Though probably the oldest dwelling standing along this road west of the mountains it is well preserved . . ."