SURVEY OF
THE DARLINGTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY
RUTH SALISBURY

As Pittsburgh was growing from a frontier town into a busy industrial city, one of her citizens was making a contribution to her cultural growth. William McCullough Darlington, a Pittsburgh real estate lawyer and amateur historian whose life almost spanned the nineteenth century, collected both in America and abroad books, manuscripts, pamphlets, and newspapers which told the story of the discovery and growth of North America, especially that part of North America which was later to be known as the United States. As his collection grew in size, he began to concentrate more and more upon obtaining materials relating to the history of Western Pennsylvania. Mr. Darlington’s fine library was presented to the University of Pittsburgh in 1918 by his daughters, Edith Darlington Ammon and Mary O’Hara Darlington.

The library is particularly complete for the nineteenth century, the period during which Darlington assembled it. It also contains a wealth of voyage accounts and atlases with maps of the “New World” dating from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Beginning with the eighteenth century, travel accounts are augmented by histories and political pamphlets which, in their impassioned sentences frequently almost violent in tone, give a deeper perspective to the controversies of our colonial past, and the abuses which led to the American Revolution. Anger against England when she impressed our sailors in the first part of the nineteenth century erupted into violence in the War of 1812. These sentiments are reflected in contemporary pamphlets, as well as in an unusual newspaper entitled aptly, The War. Pro-slavery sympathizer and abolitionist both employed the pamphlet as well as the newspaper for vehicles in which to elucidate their point of view. Perusal of these contemporary viewpoints makes understandable the heated emotions of the Civil War, feelings which persist even to today.

The library has little material from the twentieth century because
the last member of the family, Mary O'Hara Darlington, daughter of the original collector and co-donor of the library to the University, died in 1925. As a rule libraries containing Americana do not have contemporary materials, with the possible exception of peripheral materials. For these reasons few contemporary books other than pertinent bibliographies and lists of manuscript resources will be found in the Darlington Collection. A detailed analysis of the collection in the three fields of local history, material about Pennsylvania, and general Americana, will give a better picture of its scope and usefulness.

Local Information

Resources for studying the history of Pittsburgh are many and varied. Individual biographies of men and women who have helped to develop the city from its beginnings when a few houses clustered around a frontier fort to an industrial city, the second largest in the state, range from the life of George Croghan, Indian trader and land agent in colonial times, to a study of Henry W. Oliver, the iron pioneer who contributed to Pittsburgh's industrial development in the late nineteenth century, just as General James O'Hara had laid the foundations for the city's future industrial reputation when he brought to Pittsburgh the glass industry, the brewery, shipbuilding, lumbering, and the tanning industry at the close of the eighteenth century. Biographies of individuals who were not Pittsburghers, but who were involved in the early history of the city, include those of George Washington, John Forbes, and the unfortunate Braddock.

In addition to biographies of prominent Pittsburgh men and women there are collective biographies which enclose within their covers information about local politicians, newspapermen, educators, doctors, lawyers, and many others who were important in the growth of the city. Some of these books are:

Nevin, A. M., *The Social Mirror*.
Smith, P. F., *Notable Men of Pittsburgh and Vicinity*.

Information about less prominent persons can be found in pamphlets and clippings in the information file.

Directories of Pittsburgh are valuable sources to locate individuals as residents of the city at a certain time, to identify businesses that may have disappeared without leaving records behind, and sometimes for lists of city government officials. The Darlington Collection contains
the first directory published in Pittsburgh, *The Pittsburgh Directory for 1815*. There are directories in the collection from 1815 through 1847, one for 1856/57, and one for 1878/79. Prominent families and their residence addresses in 1912 can be located in a directory, *Prominent Families for 1912* and similar information for 1899 and 1900 can be found in the *Pittsburgh Blue Book*.

Histories of Pittsburgh include those written by the standard authors: L. D. Baldwin, N. B. Craig, S. H. Killikelly, and Erasmus Wilson. Histories that cover a specific period only, such as the colonial era, Fort Pitt and the frontier at Pittsburgh, and the vivid accounts of the great fire of 1845, are also available. Descriptive accounts, like the booklet on Allegheny Cemetery, or the book about the building of the bridges, add to the information about Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh's history can be traced in certain aspects of her community life as well as by historical period. There are church histories for individual churches and for specific denominations. The collection contains histories of Pittsburgh's earliest elementary and secondary schools and her institutions of higher learning.

Industrial history is vitally important to a real understanding of Pittsburgh's development. There are general industrial histories which trace the beginnings and development of all of Pittsburgh's industries throughout the nineteenth century, such as Thurston's *Pittsburgh As It Is, The Iron City*, and the imaginative *Les Trois Rois*. There are histories of individual companies like that of the Scaife Company.

Information about the city, both descriptive and historical, can be found in periodicals published in Pittsburgh during the early nineteenth century, such as *The Olden Time* and *The Hesperus*. The latter magazine includes poetry and stories as well as descriptive information.

The collection contains a file of pictures, both of the city and of individuals important in Pittsburgh's development.

The information file in the Darlington Room has descriptive and historical pamphlets and clippings, programs from theatres now long dark, descriptive booklets about buildings, Pittsburgh streets and landmarks, some of which have long since disappeared.

Furthermore information is available in the scrapbook collection. Here can be found obituaries, historical accounts, and newspaper clippings about old Pittsburgh families, all nicely indexed by William M. Darlington, or his daughter. This last feature is unfortunately seldom found in a scrapbook collection. The 246 volumes of Flinn
scrapbooks give an insight into local and state politics, and later into national political issues. These scrapbooks were compiled for William Flinn, a Pittsburgh man who became a Pennsylvania Senator. Although the scrapbooks are not indexed, they are arranged chronologically, day by day, and cover the period from December 1898 through September 1919. Information about city problems, the transit situation troublesome even in that early day, for example, can be found in these scrapbooks in addition to contemporary political opinion and argument.

Maps and atlases of Pittsburgh are available for geographical study. These range from manuscript maps of Fort Pitt in colonial times, lot layouts at the close of the eighteenth century, to the changing topography during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Some of the nineteenth-century atlases even indicate ward changes.

Pittsburgh had a literary side, too, and her poets and novelists are represented in the Darlington Collection. Among the Pittsburgh incunabula (books printed here before 1850) is a volume of the first book printed west of the Allegheny Mountains, Modern Chivalry, printed by John Scull in 1793. Hugh Henry Brackenridge, the author of the novel, had brought John Scull to Pittsburgh seven years earlier to print Pittsburgh's first newspaper, the Gazette.

Newspapers, primary sources for the study of a city or a period, are well represented in the collection. Pittsburgh newspapers cover the period from 1793 through 1881 with just a few gaps. They include:

Allegheny Democrat, October 1824-February 14, 1826.
Commonwealth, 1805-October 1812; 1814-May 1815.
Dispatch, November 29-December 24, 1849; January 4, 1850; 1859-1865.
Gazette, 1793-1797; May 1818-May 1820; 1822-September 1825; 1842-1844.
Morning Chronicle, 1841-January 8, 1842.
Post, April 1858-October 1859; April 1860-October 1861; March 1871-October 1872; November 1875-April 1881.
Saturday Evening Visiter, July 19, 1834-January 1838; April-May 1838; August 1838-November 9, 1839.
The Statesman, 1823-1831.

Manuscripts are another primary source necessary to an understanding of the development of a locality. Manuscript resources for the study of Pittsburgh history include:

Allegheny County Tax List. All taxpayers of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County who return for taxation $500 or more in personal property. 1907. Typescript.
Henry M. Brackenridge Papers. 1816-1870, 196 items. Includes letters written and received by H. M. Brackenridge, political speeches, essays, and a letterbook containing letters received by Brackenridge from prominent persons during the period from 1816 through 1858 (123 letters).
Brackenridge-Addison Papers. 24 letters written by Hugh Henry Brackenridge to Alexander Addison in 1796 and 1798.
Benjamin Darlington Receipt Books. 2 volumes, February 5, 1821-November 4, 1852; and June 18, 1833-October 31, 1842.

Colonel Daniel Brodhead’s Orderbook. Head-Quarters, Fort Pitt, 1779-1781. Fort Pitt Manuscripts. 34 letters and documents relating to the defense and maintenance of Fort Pitt, from 1758-1783. Includes letters from General Edward Hand when he was in charge of the fort, and a bill to General Forbes for wagons and gears, November 6, 1758.

McKnight Diaries. Two volumes of diaries kept by Robert McKnight, 1842-1847. An account of occurrences in Pittsburgh during that period, including accounts of the elopement of Mary Croghan and of the visit of Charles Dickens to the city.

Martin Papers, 1889-1898, 574 items. Correspondence, business records, and minute books relating to the business dealings of McCullough and Martin Manufacturing Company. Also important for the record of William Martin’s activities when he was associated with the National Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers.

Monongahela River. Records of disastrous floods on the river compiled from the annual reports of the Monongahela Navigation Company from 1840 through 1897.

Northern Liberties Bridge Company. A ledger, containing the records of the company, minutes of board meetings, and the by-laws from 1836 through 1910.


Pittsburgh Blues. Memorandum of the march of the Pittsburgh Blues in a twelve-month tour of duty in the service of the United States from their encampment on Grant’s Hill, September 10, 1812, to their discharge in Pittsburgh, September 10, 1813.

Pittsburgh Business Ledgers. Account books for Smith, 1769-1772; Smith & Douglass, 1771-1777; and for Joseph Douglass in 1777.

Pittsburgh Manuscript Account, or Waste Book. Accounts of the Indian trading post carried on at Fort Pitt, under the direction of the Commissioners for Indian Affairs for the province of Pennsylvania, June 19, 1759-June 18, 1760. 183 pages. With the book are 26 letters and documents relating to the conduct of the business, 1760-1765.

Pittsburgh Minute Book, extension of the city limits, 1836-1840.

Schenley-Croghan Papers. 42 letters to William Croghan, written by his attorney, his daughter, and other interested persons, after the elopement of his daughter Mary with Captain Schenley.


Stockton Letterbook. Letters received by Colonel David Stockton and Reverend Joseph Stockton, during 1832.

Trinity Church Records, 1797-1867. A history of the parish, records of baptisms, marriages, funerals, and a list of the congregation in 1817. A transcription of the original records of Trinity Church, Pittsburgh.

The Virginia Regiment and Lieutenant Colonel Robert Stewart. Seven documents relating to General Braddock’s expedition of 1755.

*Information for the State*

Resources for studying the history of Pennsylvania include historical, biographical, and descriptive materials. There are many of the standard general histories, including Sherman Day’s *Historical Collections*, G. P. Donehoo’s *Pennsylvania* (in seven volumes), and W. H. Egle’s *Illustrated History of the Commonwealth*. Period histories describe Pennsylvania in colonial times, during the Revolution,
and in the Civil War. Specific incidents, the history of the Indian Walk, for example, are also detailed. The boundary problems with New York, Connecticut, Maryland, and Virginia are all recorded in detail. Histories are available for fifty-eight of Pennsylvania’s sixty-seven counties.

Biographies of important Pennsylvanians like Conrad Weiser and William Penn are available. In addition there are collective biographies such as J. W. Jordan’s Encyclopedia and the Century Cyclopaedia of History and Biography of Pennsylvania. Accounts of the various nationalities which made up the population of Pennsylvania, the Germans, Swedes, Irish, and Welsh, are useful in studying the development of the state. The collection is rich in descriptions of the original inhabitants, detailing their customs and way of life, and documenting their futile struggle to retain their lands and manner of living.

Travel accounts are a rich source of information about a state or a country. Some nineteenth-century travel accounts are so accurate in their description of the vegetation of a countryside that botanists today can plot stands of virgin timber in the early 1800’s from a study of these books. Mrs. Anne Royall’s account is a well-known example of the Pennsylvania travel books. Despite her educational limitations and violent expression of emotion, Mrs. Royall’s Pennsylvania is an observant and generally reliable account. The many other Pennsylvania travel records in the collection not only describe vegetation, rivers and river banks, climate, and topography, but also give an accurate picture of the towns, and townspeople, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century life and customs, the variant occupations of the people, and the few recreations they enjoyed in the sparse free moments from daily toil available to them in those times.

A physical picture of Pennsylvania is available from the many single maps and the atlases of the state. The collection contains single maps of the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth century and excellent reproductions in color of famous maps of the seventeenth century. Two of the more unusual of the atlases are:


There are separate atlases, also, for some of the counties.

Primary sources and official documents of the state are most important for the serious scholar. Those in the Darlington Collection include:
Legislative Journals and Official Reports:

Votes of the House of Representatives, 1767-1776.
Journals of the House of Representatives, 1776-1781, 1797-1799, 1800-1801.
Journal of the Senate, 1796.
Minutes of the General Assembly, 1776-1790.
Accounts of the County Treasurers (for individual counties), 1776-1790.
Reports of the Board of Canal Commissioners, 1828-1829.
Indian Treaties, 1742-1768 (including eleven of the thirteen treaties printed by Benjamin Franklin).

Laws:

Statutes at Large, 1700-1809.
Laws of the Province, 1728.
Pennsylvania Archives: Series 1-9, 1874-1935 and Colonial Records, v. 1-10, reproduce important diaries, journals, army registers, and state documents in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Historical periodicals are important in the study of Pennsylvania's past and development. Those in the collection include:

Pennsylvania Magazine, 1775-July 1776.
Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine. v. 1, 1918 to date.

Newspapers which provide contemporary materials for the study of Pennsylvania history include:

Lancaster:

Journal, 1796-1799, 1823-1825.

Philadelphia:

American Weekly Mercury, December 26, 1720-January 1, 1722; March 1-8, 1737.
Aurora General Advertiser, 1799; November 26, 1811; November 2, 1812-1813; 1815.
Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser, 1796-1799.
Democratic Press, 1813.
Dunlap's American Daily Advertiser, 1793.
Freeman's Journal, 1785.
Freeman's Journal and Columbian Chronicle, 1813.
Gazette, 1798-1802.
Gazette of the United States, November 3, 1790-April 27, 1791; August 7, 1801-September 7, 1802; January 4, 1803-February 17, 1804.
Independent Gazetteer, February-September 1785; 1789-March 4, 1795.
National Gazette, 1791-1793.
National Gazette and Literary Register, 1821-1824; 1826-1830.
Pennsylvania Evening Post, February-August 1777.
Pennsylvania Gazette, 1755-1759; 1761-1770; 1772-1775; 1783-1787.
Pennsylvania Journal, 1757-1759; 1768; 1783.
Pennsylvania Mercury, October 22, 1789-June 1790; October- November 1790.
Pennsylvania Packet, January-March 1776; 1785-1789.
Porcupine's Gazette, March-September 1797.
Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, May 1812-1814; 1818-1819; 1831-1832; 1834-June 1835.
Relf's Philadelphia Gazette, 1817.
United States Gazette, May 1809-September 1810.

Manuscripts for the study of Pennsylvania include:
Addison-Nisbet Papers, 1786-1803. 86 letters to Alexander Addison from Charles Nisbet and William Findley. Some of the correspondence relates to the ratification of the Constitution of the United States.
Douglas, Ephraim. Record book kept during the time that he was quartermaster of the Eighth Pennsylvania Regiment formed at Kittanning, Pennsylvania, September-December 1776.
d'Happart Papers, 1797-1815. 2,000 items. Business and personal papers of Joseph Leger d'Happart, important for the information they contain about Western Pennsylvania in the first decade and a half of the nineteenth century.
Leaf Papers, 1891-1940, 17 linear feet. Business correspondence, contracts, specifications relating to James P. Leaf's career as a civil engineer for Rochester and Beaver County, Pennsylvania. Contains material relevant to the planning of the Lake Erie and Ohio Ship Canal.
Dunning McNair Papers, 1786-1851. 480 items. Important for study of the sale and development of transportation west of the Allegheny Mountains.
Minutes of the Conference between the Philadelphia Quakers and the Six Nations in 1756.
Taylor McKee Papers, 1861-1896. Six linear feet. Papers of a legal firm in Franklin, Pennsylvania. Of special interest are correspondence and documents relating to the Allegheny Valley Railroad, to land sales, and to oil properties in Western Pennsylvania.
Tax receipts for thirteen townships in Western Pennsylvania, for 1773.

Information About America
The term “Americana” is usually restricted to materials written in or about North and South America from 1492 to the beginning of the nineteenth century. Because the Darlington Library was a scholar’s working library it does contain both Americana and information about nineteenth-century United States. There is some historical information about Central America, much more information about Canada, but the largest part of the collection deals with colonial North America and with the later growth and development of the United States.

By far the most important source for the study of colonial Canada is the seventy-three volume Jesuit Relations, edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites between 1896 and 1901. The Relations document the travels and explorations of the Jesuit missionaries in New France between 1610 and 1791.
Resources for studying colonial and United States history include comprehensive histories like Justin Winsor's eight-volume *Narrative and Critical History of America* as well as period histories for the colonial period, the French and Indian War, the Revolution, the Confederation, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Regimental histories are available for the major wars. *The Rebellion Record*, which includes documents and personal narratives in its eleven volumes, is an important source of information about the Civil War. Histories of the "civil war in America," published in England, give insight into contemporary viewpoint of the people on the other side in the American Revolution.

Contemporary description of North America, both in its physical aspects and in the manners and customs of its people as they were seen through the eyes of travelers, is found in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century travel accounts. The American Indian is described in books and pamphlets, and engravings made from artists' sketches show how he dressed and lived. Edward Curtis' twenty-volume *The North American Indian* is a source of abundant and accurate information. Its twenty portfolios contain pictures of chieftains, varying tribal dress, living quarters, and war attire. Schoolcraft's *Archives of Aboriginal Knowledge* is another important source for study of the American Indian. The countless Indian captivity narratives in the collection, some grossly exaggerated, describe the losing battle waged by the aborigines to retain their lands.

Physical description of North and South America can be found in the many fine single maps and atlases in the collection. Jefferys' *American Atlas*, although published in 1776, contains maps of the states, but "chiefly British colonies." Interesting today are maps of the "new world," found in world atlases of the sixteenth century. One of the early ones is "Americae sive novi orbis, nova descriptio," in the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* of Abraham Ortelius, published in Antwerp in 1573.

Original sources and documentary resources for the study of American history include published manuscripts of letters, diaries, journals, and orderly books. The *American State Papers*, thirty-eight volumes of legislative and executive documents of the United States Congress, document our history from the first Congress in April 1789 through the twenty-fifth Congress ending on March 1, 1838. The *Journals of Congress*, September 5, 1774-November 3, 1788, record the progress of the Continental Congress. The nine volumes
of the *American Archives* that were published by Peter Force remain a tantalizing section of what would have been, had sufficient funds been available to complete the series. These volumes contain public records, letters, debates, and documents of the North American Colonies and of the Constitution until the ratification, and elucidate the causes of the Revolution.

Newspapers provide primary sources to study American history from the colonial period through the Civil War. They include:

**Baltimore:**

*Daily Intelligencer*, 1794.  
*Federal Gazette and Baltimore Daily Advertiser*, 1796-1799; 1801-1804; 1806-1807; 1809-1810.  
*Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser*, 1789.

**Boston:**

*Columbian Centinel*, 1814; 1816.

**Charleston:**

*News and Courier*, October 1, 1895-January 20, 1896.

**Lexington:**

*Kentucky Gazette*, December 15, 1792-August 31, 1793.

**New York:**

*Gazette*, January 2, 1764-November 25, 1765.  
*Gazette and General Advertiser*, 1800.  
*Gazette, and the Weekly Mercury*, April 1769-December 1772.  
*Mercury*, 1753-1755.  
*Spirit of the Times*, 1837-1852.  
*World*, July 10, 1863-January 8, 1864.

**Washington, D. C.:**

*Daily National Intelligencer*, February 1836-1837; October 1840-August 1842; 1843-March 1867.  
*National Intelligencer*, September 14, 1803-June 1804; December 1, 1810-October 25, 1811; 1812; 1814; February 18, 1820-1825; 1827-1828; December 1829-September 1854.

**West Union, Ohio:**

*Political Censor*, July 1816-February 1823.  
*Village Register*, 1823-1829.

**Williamsburg:**

*The Virginia Gazette* (Dixon and Hunter), 1776.
Manuscripts for the study of America’s history include:

“An Attempt to Look Into the Future of the United States.” Diaries written on board the Steamship E. B. S., 1864-1865. Comments on the Civil War, slavery, the anti-slavery movement, and the assassination of President Lincoln.

Ohio Company Papers, 1738-1801. 104 items. Includes the papers of Thomas Cresap, John Trent, George Croghan, William and Valentine Crawford, and the journal of Christopher Gist, 1750-1751. These papers are important for a study of the history and trading activities of the Ohio Company of Virginia.


Sheldon Papers, 1853-1865. 320 items. Letters, financial statements, minutes, and essays written by members of the Harmonia located in the valley of the Kiantone Creek. The papers document the activities of a mid-nineteenth century Utopian group which combined socialism with spiritualism in its philosophy. Because there were many similar communal societies in the mid-nineteenth century these papers illuminate a phenomenon of that period.

Robert J. Walker Letterbook, 1833-1844. Some of the correspondence written by Walker when he was Secretary of the Treasury.

Wilkinson Papers, 1806-1808. 33 items. Letters and documents relating chiefly to the Burr conspiracy.

Conclusion

His library provided William McCullough Darlington with a wealth of primary sources for research in his chosen field of scholarly pursuit, American, state, and local history. Today this fine library continues to serve and inspire scholars throughout the United States. Truly, the Darlington Memorial Library is a lasting memorial and one of great worth.