

# NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

## PITTSBURGH

AN ADDRESS BY GREGG L. NEEL<sup>1</sup>

**G**EORGE WASHINGTON, the Father of his Country, is equally the Father of Pittsburgh, for he came hither in November, 1753, and established the location of the now imperial city by recommending it as the best place for a fort. Washington was then twenty-one years old. He had by that time written his precocious one hundred and ten maxims of civility and good behavior; he had made his only sea voyage, to Barbadoes; he had surveyed the estates of Lord Fairfax beyond the Blue Ridge, going for months into the forest without fear of savage Indians or wild beasts; and he was now a major of Virginia militia. In pursuance of the claim of Virginia that she owned that part of Pennsylvania in which Pittsburgh is situated, Washington came here as the agent of Governor Dinwiddie to warn off the French and to treat with the Indians. With an eye alert for the dangers of the wilderness, and with Christopher Gist beside him, the young Virginian pushed his cautious way to "The Point" of land where the confluence of the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers forms the Ohio. That, he declared, with clear military instinct, was the best site for a fort; and he rejected the promontory two miles below, which the Indians had recommended for that purpose.

Washington made six visits to the vicinity of Pittsburgh, all before his presidency, and on three of them, in 1753, 1758, and 1770, he entered the limits of the present city. At the time of dispatching the army to suppress the Whiskey Insurrection, while he was president, in 1794, he came toward Pittsburgh as far as Bedford, and then, after planning the march, returned to Philadelphia. His contact with the place was, therefore, frequent, and his information always very complete. There is a

<sup>1</sup> Delivered before a Homewood-Brushton historical and civic group at the Homewood branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in January, 1936. Mr. Neel is a vice president and former secretary of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. *Ed.*

tradition, none the less popular because it cannot be proved, that ascribes to Washington the credit of having suggested the name of Pittsburgh to General Forbes when the place was captured from the French. However this may be, we do know that Washington was certainly present when the English flag was hoisted and the city named Pittsburgh, on Saturday, November 25, 1758. And at that moment Pittsburgh became a chief bulwark of the British Empire in America.

France, by right of her discovery of the Mississippi, claimed all the lands drained by that river and its tributaries, a contention which would naturally plant her banner upon the summit of the Allegheny Mountains. England, on the other hand, claimed everything from ocean shore to ocean shore. This situation produced war, and Pittsburgh became the strategic key to the great Middle West. The French made early endeavors to win the allegiance of the Indians, and they felt encouraged to press their friendly overtures, because they usually came among the red men for trading or exploration, while the English invariably seized and occupied the Indians' lands. In 1732 the governor of Pennsylvania summoned two Indian chiefs from Pittsburgh to say why they had been going to see the French governor at Montreal; and they gave answer that he had sent for them only to express the hope that both English and French traders might meet at Pittsburgh and carry on trade amicably. The governor of Pennsylvania sought to induce the tribes to draw themselves farther east, where they might be made to feel the hand of authority, but Sassoonan, their chief, forbade them to stir. An Iroquois chief who joined his entreaties to those of the governor was soon afterward killed by some Shawnee braves, but they were forced to flee into Virginia to escape the vengeance of his tribe.

In 1749, Céloron de Blainville, a French officer, made an exploration of the country contiguous to Pittsburgh and formally enjoined the governor of Pennsylvania not to occupy the ground as France claimed its sovereignty. In the same year the Ohio Company received a British charter ceding to it an immense tract of land for sale and development, including the site of Pittsburgh. Here, indeed, were the seeds of conflict.

Washington's first visit to Pittsburgh occurred in November, 1753,

while he was on his way to the French fort at Le Bœuf. He was carrying a letter from Governor Dinwiddie to the French commander protesting against the plans of the French in undertaking to establish a line of forts to reach from Lake Erie to the mouth of the Ohio River. In writing of his first sight of the forks of the river, Washington says:

As I got down before the Canoe, I spent some time in viewing the Rivers, and the Land in the fork; which I think extremely well situated for a Fort, as it has the absolute Command of both Rivers. The land at the Point is 20 or 25 feet above the common Surface of the Water; and a considerable Bottom of flat, well-timbered land all around it, very convenient for Building: The Rivers are each a Quarter of a Mile, or more, across, and run very near at right Angles: *Alighany* bearing N.E. and *Monongahela* S.E. The former of these two is a very rapid and swift running Water, the other deep and still, without any perceptible Fall.

About two Miles from this, on the South East Side of the river, at the Place where the Ohio Company intended to erect a Fort, lives *Shingiss*, king of the *Delawares*: We called upon him, to invite him to Council at the *Loggs-Town*.

As I had taken a good deal of Notice Yesterday of the Situation at the *Forks*, my Curiosity led me to examine this more particularly, and I think it greatly inferior, either for Defence or Advantages; especially the latter: For a Fort at the *Forks* would be equally well situated on the *Ohio*, and have the entire Command of the *Monongahela*; which runs up to our Settlements and is extremely well designed for Water Carriage, as it is of a deep still Nature. Besides a Fort at the *Fork* might be built at much less Expense, than at the other Place.

As soon as Washington's advice as to the location of the fort was received Captain William Trent was dispatched to the Ohio with a small force of soldiers and workmen, pack horses, and materials, and he began in all haste to erect a stronghold. The French had already built forts on the northern lakes, and they now sent General Contrecoeur down the Allegheny with a force of one thousand French, Canadians, and Indians, with eighteen cannon, in a flotilla of sixty bateaux and three hundred canoes. Trent had started operations at the Forks on February 17, 1754, a date important because it marks the first permanent white settlement on the site of Pittsburgh. But his work was retarded alike by the small number of his men and the severity of the winter, and when Con-

trecoeur arrived in April, the young assistant who commanded in Trent's absence surrendered the unfinished works and was permitted to march away with his men. The French completed the fort and named it Duquesne, in honor of the governor-general of New France, and they held possession of it for four years.

Immediately on the loss of this fort, Virginia sent a force under Washington to retake it. Washington surprised a French detachment near the Great Meadows and killed their commander, Jumonville. When a larger expedition came against him, he put up a stockade near the site of Uniontown, naming it Fort Necessity, which he was compelled to yield on terms permitting him to march away with the honors of war.

The next year (1755) General Edward Braddock came over with two regiments of British soldiers, and after augmenting his force with colonial troops and a few Indians, he began his ill-fated march upon Fort Duquesne. Braddock's testy disposition, his consuming egotism, his contempt for the colonial soldiers, and his stubborn adherence to military maxims that were inapplicable to the warfare of the wilderness alienated the respect and confidence of the American contingent, robbed him of an easy victory, and cost him his life. Benjamin Franklin had warned him against the imminent risk of Indian ambushes, but Braddock had contemptuously replied: "These savages may indeed be a formidable enemy to your raw American militia, but upon the King's regular and disciplined troops, sir, it is impossible they should make any impression." Some of his English staff officers urged him to send the rangers in advance and to deploy his Indians as scouts, but he rejected their prudent suggestions with a sneer.

On July 9 his army, comprising twenty-two hundred soldiers and one hundred and fifty Indians, was marching down the south bank of the Monongahela. The variant color and fashion of the expedition—the red-coated regulars, the blue-coated Americans, the naval detachment, the rangers in deerskin shirts and leggins, the savages half-naked and befeathered, the glint of sword and gun in the hot daylight, the long wagon train, the lumbering cannon, the drove of bullocks, the royal ban-

ner and the colonial gonfalon—the pomp and puissance of it all composed a spectacle of martial splendor unseen in that country before. On the right was the tranquil river, and on the left the trackless wilderness whence the startled deer sprang into a deeper solitude. At noon the expedition crossed the river and pressed on toward Fort Duquesne, eight miles below, expectant of victory. What need to send out scouts when the king's troops are here? Let young George Washington and the rest urge it all they may; the thing is beneath the dignity of His Majesty's general.

Meanwhile, all was not tranquil at the French fort. Surrender was talked of, but Captain Beaujeu determined to lead a force out to meet the approaching army. Taking with him a total effective force of 36 officers and cadets, 72 regular soldiers, 146 Canadians, and about 600 Indian warriors, a command less than half the number of the enemy, he sallied out to meet Braddock. How insignificant were the armed forces with which the two empires were now challenging each other for the splendid prize of a new world! Beaujeu, gaily clad in a fringed hunting dress, intrepidly pressed on until he came in sight of the English invaders. As soon as the alert French commander felt the hot breath of his foe he waved his hat and his faithful followers disappeared behind rocks and trees as if the very earth had swallowed them.

The unsuspecting English came on. At their crossing they had come upon a level plain, elevated but a few feet above the surface of the river, extending nearly half a mile landwards, and then gradually ascending into thickly wooded hills, with Fort Duquesne beyond. The troops in front had crossed the plain and plunged into the road through the forest for a hundred feet when a heavy discharge of musketry and arrows was poured upon them, which wrought in them a consternation all the greater because they could see no foe anywhere. They shot at random, but not without effect, for when Beaujeu fell the Canadians began to flee and the Indians quailed in their coverts before the cannon fire of the English. But the French fighters were rallied back to their hidden recesses, and they now kept up an incessant and destructive fire.

In this distressing situation the English fell back onto the plain. Brad-

dock rode in among them, and he and his officers persistently endeavored to rally them, but without success. The colonial troops adopted the Indian method, and each man fought for himself behind a tree. This was forbidden by Braddock, who attempted to form his men in platoons and columns, making their slaughter inevitable. The French and Indians, concealed in the ravines and behind trees, kept up a cruel and deadly fire, until the British soldiers lost all presence of mind and began to shoot each other and their own officers, and hundreds were thus slain. The Virginia companies charged gallantly up a hill with a loss of but three men, but when they reached the summit the British soldiery, mistaking them for the enemy, fired upon them, killing fifty out of eighty men.

The colonial troops then resumed the Indian fashion of fighting behind trees, which provoked Braddock, who had had five horses killed under him in three hours, to storm at them and strike them with his sword. At this moment he was fatally wounded, and many of his men now fled from the hopeless action, not waiting to hear their general's fainting order to retreat. Washington had had two horses killed and received three bullets through his coat. Being the only mounted officer who was not disabled, he drew up the troops still on the field, directed their retreat, maintained himself at the rear with great coolness and courage, and brought away his wounded general.

Sixty-four British and American officers and nearly one thousand privates were killed or wounded in this battle, while the total French and Indian loss was not over sixty. A few prisoners captured by the Indians were brought to Pittsburgh and burned at the stake. Four days after the fight Braddock died, exclaiming to the last, "Who would have thought it!" Despondency seized the English settlers after Braddock's defeat, but two years afterward William Pitt became prime minister, and he thrilled the nation with his appeal to protect the colonies against France and the savages.

William Pitt, the great Earl of Chatham, the man for whom our city is named, was one of the most indomitable characters in the statesmanship of modern times. Born in November, 1708, he was educated at Eton and at Oxford, then traveled in France and Italy, and was elected

to Parliament when twenty-seven years old. His early addresses were not models either of force or logic, but the fluent speech and many personal attractions of the young orator instantly caught the attention of the people, who always listened to him with favor; and it was not long before his constant participation in public affairs developed the splendid talents which he possessed. Wayward and affected in little things, Pitt attacked the great problems of government with the bold confidence of a master spirit, impressing the clear genius of his leadership upon the yearning heart of England in every emergency of peace or war. Too great to be consistent, he never hesitated to change his tactics or his opinion when the occasion developed the utility of another course. Ordinary men have been more faithful to asserted principles, but no statesman more frequently departed from asserted principles to secure achievements which redounded to the honor of the nation. During the thirty years in which Pitt exercised the magic spell of his eloquence and power over the English Parliament, the stakes for which he contended against the world were no less than the dominion of North America and of India. In the pursuit of these policies as prime minister he fought Spain and subdued her armies. He subsidized the king of Prussia to his interest. He destroyed the navy of France and wrested from her the larger part of her possessions beyond the seas. Having always a clear conception of the remotest aim of national aspiration, he was content to leave the designing of operations in detail to the humbler servants of the government, reserving to himself the mighty concentration of his powers upon the general purpose for which the nation was striving. The king trusted him, the Commons obeyed him, the people adored him and called him the Great Commoner. He was wise, brave, sincere, tolerant, and humane. No man could more deserve the honor of having named for him a city which was destined to become rich and famous, keeping his memory in more enduring fame than does bronze or marble.

Pitt's letters inspired the Americans with new hope. He promised to send British troops and to supply their own militia with arms, ammunition, tents, and provisions at the king's charge. He sent twelve thousand soldiers from England, who were joined to a colonial force aggregat-

ing fifty thousand men, the most formidable army yet seen in the New World. The plan of campaign embraced three expeditions: the first against Louisburg on the island of Cape Breton, the second against Quebec, and the third against Fort Duquesne. General Forbes, born at Dunfermline, Scotland (whence have come others to Pittsburgh), commanded the latter expedition, comprising about seven thousand men. The militia from Virginia, North Carolina, and Maryland was led by Washington, whose independent spirit led the testy Scotchman, made irritable by a malady that was soon to cause his death, to declare that Washington's "Behaviour about the roads, was in no ways like a soldier." But we cannot believe that the young Virginian was moved by any motive but the public good. In September, 1758, Major James Grant, a Highlander, led an advance guard of eight hundred and fifty men to within a mile of the fort, to a height still called Grant's hill, on which the courthouse now stands. There, on the fourteenth, he rashly permitted himself to be surrounded and attacked by the French and Indians, and half of his force were killed or wounded and he himself was taken prisoner. Washington followed soon after and opened a road for the advance of the main body under Forbes. Fort Frontenac, on Lake Ontario, had just been taken by General Amherst, with the result that supplies for Fort Duquesne were cut off. When, therefore, De Ligneris, the French commandant at Fort Duquesne, learned of the advance of a superior force, having no hope of reinforcements, he blew up the fort, set fire to the adjacent buildings, and drew his garrison away.

On Saturday, November 25, 1758, amidst a fierce snowstorm, the English took possession of the place, and Colonel John Armstrong, in the presence of Forbes and Washington, hauled up the puissant banner of Great Britain while cannon boomed and the exulting victors cheered. On the next day General Forbes wrote to Governor Denny from "Fourt Duquesne, now Pittsbourg." On this same Sunday the Rev. Mr. Beatty, a Presbyterian chaplain, preached a sermon in thanksgiving for the superiority of British arms—the first Protestant service in Pittsburgh. The French had had a Roman Catholic chaplain, Father Baron, during



their occupancy. On the next day Forbes wrote to Pitt with a vision of prophecy as follows:

Pittsbourgh, 27<sup>th</sup> Novem<sup>r</sup>. 1758.

Sir,

I do myself the Honour of acquainting you that it has pleased God to crown His Majesty's Arms with Success over all His Enemies upon the Ohio, by my having obliged the Enemy to burn and abandon Fort Du Quesne, which they effectuated on the 25<sup>th</sup>., and of which I took possession next day the Enemy having made their Escape down the River towards the Mississippi in their Boats, being abandoned by their Indians, whom I had previously engaged to leave them, and who now seem all willing and ready to implore His Majesty's most Gracious Protection. So give me leave to congratulate you upon this great Event, of having totally expelled the French from this prodigious tract of Country, and of having reconciled the various tribes of Indians inhabiting it to His Majesty's Government. . . . I have used the freedom of giving your name to Fort Du Quesne, as I hope it was in some measure the being actuated by your spirits that now makes us Masters of the place. . . . These dreary deserts will soon be the richest and most fertile of any possesst by the British in N<sup>o</sup>. America. I have the honour to be with great regard and Esteem Sir,

Your most obed<sup>t</sup>. & most hum<sup>le</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>.

Jo: Forbes.

As a place of urgent shelter the English proceeded to build a new fort about two hundred yards from the site of Fort Duquesne, which is traditionally known as the first Fort Pitt and was probably so called by the garrison, although the letters written from there during the next few months refer to it as "the camp at Pittsburgh." This stronghold cut off French transportation to the Mississippi by way of the Ohio River, and the only remaining route, by way of the Great Lakes, was soon afterward closed by the fall of Fort Niagara. The fall of Quebec, with the deaths of the two opposing generals, Montcalm and Wolfe, and the capture of Montreal ended the claims of France to sovereignty in the New World.

The new fort being found too small, General Stanwix built a second Fort Pitt, much larger and stronger, designed for a garrison of one thousand men. The Indians viewed the newcomers with suspicion, but

Colonel Henry Bouquet assured them, with diplomatic tergiversation, that, "We have not come here to take possession of your country in a hostile manner, as the French did when they came among you, but to open a large and extensive trade with you and all other nations of Indians to the westward." A redoubt (the "Blockhouse"), built by Colonel Bouquet in 1764, still stands, in a very good state of preservation, being cared for by the Daughters of the American Revolution. The protection of the garrison naturally attracted a few traders, merchants, and pioneers to Pittsburgh, and a permanent population began to grow.

But the indigenous race continued to resent the extension of white encroachment. In 1763 they formed a secret confederacy under Pontiac, the renowned Ottawa chief, who planned a simultaneous attack on all the white frontier posts. This uprising was attended by atrocious cruelties at many of the points attacked, but we may take note here of the movement only as it affected Pittsburgh. At the grand council held by the tribes, a bundle of sticks had been given to every tribe, each bundle containing as many sticks as there were days intervening before the deadly assault should begin. One stick was to be drawn from the bundle every day until but one remained, which was to signal the outbreak for that day. This was the best calendar the barbarian mind could devise. At Pittsburgh, a Delaware squaw who was friendly to the whites had stealthily taken out three of the sticks, hoping thus to precipitate the attack on Fort Pitt three days in advance of the time appointed. The last stick was reached on June 22, 1763, and the Delawares and Shawnee began the assault on Fort Pitt in the afternoon. The people of Pittsburgh had taken shelter in the fort at the instance of Captain Samuel Ecuyer, the commandant, and they held out while waiting for reinforcements. Colonel Bouquet hurried forward a force of five hundred men, but he was intercepted at Bushy Run, where a bloody battle was fought. Bouquet had fifty men killed and sixty wounded, but he inflicted a much greater loss on his savage foes, gained the fort, and raised the siege. As soon as Bouquet could recruit his command, he moved down the Ohio, attacked the Indians, liberated some of their prisoners, and taught the red men to respect the power that controlled at Pittsburgh. In 1768 the Indians

ceded extensive lands, including Pittsburgh, to the Penns, and civilization was then free to spread westward. In 1774 a land office was opened in Pittsburgh by Governor Dunmore, and land warrants were granted on payment of two shillings and six pence purchase money, at the rate of ten pounds per one hundred acres.

Washington made his last visit to Pittsburgh in October, 1770, when, on his way to the Kanawha River, he stopped here for several days and lodged with Samuel Semple, the first innkeeper, whose hostelry stood at the corner of Water and Ferry Streets. This house was later known as the Virginian Hotel, and for many years it furnished entertainment to the early travelers. The building was erected in 1764 by Colonel George Morgan. At the time of Washington's visit the lower story of the house was divided into three rooms, two facing on Ferry Street, and the third, a large room, on Water Street, and in this latter room was placed, in the year of Washington's stop there, the first billiard table ever brought to Pittsburgh. According to Washington's journal, there were in Pittsburgh in 1770 twenty houses situated on Water Street, facing the Monongahela River. These were occupied by traders and their families. The population at that time is estimated at 126 men, women, and children, besides a garrison consisting of two companies of British troops. In October, 1772, Fort Pitt was ordered abandoned. The works about Pittsburgh, from first to last, had cost the British Crown some three hundred thousand dollars, but the salvage on the stone, brick, and iron of the existing redoubts amounted to only two hundred and fifty dollars. The blockhouse was repaired and occupied for a time by Dr. John Connelly, and during the Revolution it was constantly used by American troops.

With the French out of the country, and with William Pitt out of office and incapacitated by age, the colonies began to feel the oppression of a British policy that British statesmen and British historians today most bitterly condemn. America's opposition to tyranny found its natural expression in the battle of Lexington, on April 19, 1775. The fires of patriotism leaped through the continent and the little settlement at

Pittsburgh was quickly aflame with the national spirit. On May 16 a convention was held at Pittsburgh, which resolved that:

This committee have the highest sense of the spirited behavior of their brethren in New England, and do most cordially approve of their opposing the invaders of American rights and privileges to the utmost extreme, and that each member of this committee, respectively, will animate and encourage their neighborhood to follow the brave example.

No foreign soldiers were sent over the mountains to Pittsburgh, but a more merciless foe, who would attack and harass with remorseless cruelty, was drawn into the English service, despite the horrified protests of some of her wisest statesmen. American treaties with the Indians had no force against the allurements of foreign gold, and under this unholy alliance men were burned at the stake, women were carried away, and cabins were destroyed. With the aim of regaining the friendship of the Indians, Congress appointed commissioners who met the tribes at Pittsburgh; and Colonel George Morgan, Indian agent, wrote to John Hancock on November 8, 1776:

I have the happiness to inform you that the cloud which threatened to break over us is likely to disperse. The Six Nations, with the Muncies, Delawares, Shawanese and Mohicans who have been assembled here with their principal chiefs and warriors, to the number of six hundred and forty-four, have given the strongest assurance of their determination, to preserve inviolate the peace and neutrality with the United States.

But these amicable expectations were not realized, for the Indian depredations continued. General Edward Hand, who came to Pittsburgh as commandant the next year, launched two abortive attacks against the Indians in the Ohio country and their British backers, and in the summer of 1779 Colonel Daniel Brodhead raided and destroyed the Indian towns in the upper Allegheny Valley.

The depreciation of paper currency, or Continental money, had by this time brought the serious burden of high prices upon the people. The traders, who apparently demanded exorbitant rates for their goods, were denounced in public meetings at Pittsburgh as being "now commonly known by the disgraceful epithet of speculators, of more malignant na-

tures than the save Mingoes in the wilderness." This hardship grew in severity until the finances were put upon a more stable basis. In 1781, there was demoralization and mutiny at Fort Pitt, and General William Irvine was put in command. His firm hand soon restored the garrison to obedience. The close of the war with Great Britain in that year was celebrated by General Irvine by the issue of an order at the fort on November 6, 1781, requiring all, as a sailor would say, "to splice the main brace." He further directed the commissary to issue "a gill of whiskey extraordinary to the non-commissioned officers and privates, upon this joyful occasion."

The Penn family had purchased the Pittsburgh region from the Indians in 1768, and they would offer none of it for sale until 1783. Up to this time they had held the charter to Pennsylvania; but as they had maintained a steadfast allegiance to the mother country, the general assembly annulled their title, except to allow them to retain the ownership of various manors throughout the state, embracing half a million acres.

In 1780, the dispute between Virginia and Pennsylvania for the possession of Pittsburgh was settled by the award of a joint commission in favor of Pennsylvania. In order to relieve the people of Pittsburgh from going to Greensburg to the courthouse in their sacred right of suing and being sued, the general assembly erected Allegheny County out of parts of Westmoreland and Washington Counties on September 24, 1788. This county originally comprised, in addition to its present limits, all or large parts of what are now Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Crawford, Erie, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Warren Counties. The act required that the courthouse and jail should be located in Allegheny (just across the river from Pittsburgh), but as there was no protection against Indians there, an amendment established Pittsburgh as the county seat. The first court was held at Fort Pitt, and the next day a ducking stool was erected for the district, at "The Point" in the three rivers. A writer says that in 1786 Pittsburgh contained thirty-six log houses, one stone house, one frame house, and five small stores. Another records that the population was almost entirely "Scots and Irish, who live in paltry log-houses." A third says of these log houses: "now and then one had

assumed the appearance of neatness and comfort." The first newspaper, the *Pittsburgh Gazette*, was established on July 29, 1786. A mail route to Philadelphia by horseback was started in the same year. On February 28, 1787, the legislature granted a charter to the Pittsburgh Academy, a school that has grown steadily in usefulness and power, as the Western University of Pennsylvania, 1819-1908, and then as the appropriately named University of Pittsburgh.

In 1791 the Indians again became vindictive and dangerous, and General Arthur St. Clair, with a force of twenty-three hundred men, was sent down the river to punish them. Neglecting President Washington's imperative injunction to avoid a surprise, he led his command into an ambush and lost half of it in the most disastrous battle with the redskins since the time of Braddock. In the general alarm that ensued, Fort Pitt being in a state of decay, a new fort was built in Pittsburgh at Ninth and Tenth Streets and Penn Avenue—a stronghold that included bastions, blockhouses, barracks, etc., and was named Fort Fayette. General Anthony Wayne had been selected to command another expedition against the savages, and he arrived in Pittsburgh in June, 1792. After drilling his troops and making preparations for two years, in the course of which he erected several forts in the West, including Fort Defiance and Fort Wayne, he fought the Indians and crushed their strength and spirit. On his return a lasting peace was made with them, and there were no further raids about Pittsburgh.

The Whiskey Insurrection demands a brief reference. Whiskey seems to be a steady concomitant of civilization. In 1791, Congress laid a tax on the manufacture of whiskey, to assist in paying the war debt. The measure was very unpopular, and its operation was forcibly resisted, particularly in southwestern Pennsylvania. There were distilleries on nearly every stream emptying into the Monongahela. The time and circumstances made the tax odious. The Revolutionary War had just closed, the pioneers were in the midst of great Indian troubles, and money was scarce, of low value, and very hard to obtain. The people of the new country were unused to the exercise of stringent laws. Distillers who paid the tax were assaulted; some of them were tarred and feathered;

others were taken into the forest and tied to trees; their houses and barns were burned; their property was carried away or destroyed. Several thousand insurgents assembled at Braddock's Field and marched on Pittsburgh, where the citizens gave them food and submitted to a reign of terror. Then President Washington sent an army of fifteen thousand troops against them, and they melted away, as a mob will ever do when the strong arm of government smites it without fear or respect.

It was not long after the close of the Revolutionary War before Pittsburgh was recognized as the natural gateway of the Atlantic seaboard to the West and South, and the necessity for an improved system of transportation became imperative. The earliest method of transportation through the American wilderness required the eastern merchants to forward their goods in Conestoga wagons to Shippensburg and Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and Hagerstown, Maryland, and thence to Pittsburgh on pack horses, where they were exchanged for sugar, molasses, and similar commodities, which were carried down the rivers, through the gulf, and along the coast to Baltimore and Philadelphia. For passenger travel the stagecoach furnished the most luxurious method then known. As early as 1791 the people began to formulate the daring project of constructing a canal system from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, but it was several decades before this dream was realized, for the first boat entered Pittsburgh on November 10, 1829.

In 1784, the town was laid out and settlers, among whom were many Scotch and Irish, came rapidly. The town was made the county seat in 1791, incorporated as a borough in 1794, and chartered as a city in 1816. The first city charter vested the more important powers of government in a common council of fifteen members and a select council of nine members. In 1887 a new charter was adopted giving to the mayor the power to appoint the heads of departments who were formerly elected by the councils. On March 7, 1901, a new charter known as "The Ripper," was adopted, under the operations of which the elected mayor (William J. Diehl) was removed from his office, and a new chief executive officer (Adam M. Brown) was appointed in his place by the governor, under the title of recorder. By an act of April 23, 1903, the

title of mayor was restored, and under the changes then made the appointing power rests with the mayor, with the consent of the council. The following is a list of the chief city executives of Pittsburgh, known as mayors except during the period noted above:

1816-1817	Ebenezer Denny	1866-1867	William S. McCarthy
1817-1825	John Darragh	1868	James Blackmore
1825-1828	John M. Snowden	1869-1871	Jared M. Brush
1828-1830	Magnus M. Murray	1872-1874	James Blackmore
1830-1831	Matthew B. Lowrie	1875-1877	William C. McCarthy
1831-1832	Magnus M. Murray	1878-1880	Robert Liddell
1832-1835	Samuel Pettigrew	1881-1883	Robert W. Lyon
1836-1838	Jonas R. McClintock	1884-1886	Andrew Fulton
1839	William Little	1887-1889	William McCallin
1840	William W. Irwin	1890-1892	Henry I. Gourley
1841	James Thomson	1893-1895	Bernard McKenna
1842-1844	Alexander Hay	1896-1898	Henry P. Ford
1845	William J. Howard	1899-1901	William J. Diehl
1846	William Kerr	1901	Adam M. Brown
1847-1848	Gabriel Adams	1901-1902	J. O. Brown
1849	John Herron	1903-1906	William B. Hays
1850	Joseph Barker	1906-1909	George W. Guthrie
1851-1852	John B. Guthrie	1909-1914	William A. Magee
1853	Robert M. Riddle	1914-1918	Joseph G. Armstrong
1854-1855	Ferdinand E. Volz	1918-1922	Edward V. Babcock
1856	William Bingham	1922-1926	William A. Magee
1857-1859	Henry A. Weaver	1926-1933	Charles F. Kline
1860-1861	George Wilson	1933	John S. Herron
1862-1863	Benjamin C. Sawyer	1934-1936	William N. McNair
1864-1865	James Lowry	1936-	Cornelius D. Scully

A movement to consolidate the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, together with some adjacent boroughs, was begun in 1853-54. It failed entirely at that time, but in 1867 Lawrenceville, Peebles, Collins, Liberty, Pitt, and Oakland, all lying between the two rivers, were annexed to Pittsburgh, and in 1872, there was a further annexation of a district embracing twenty-seven square miles south of the Monongahela River. In 1906 Allegheny was also annexed, and as there was litigation to test the validity of the consolidation, the Supreme Court of the United States on December 6, 1907, declared in favor of the constitutionality of the act.



The first national convention of the Republican party was held in Pittsburgh on February 22 and 23, 1856.

Among the eminent men who visited Pittsburgh in by gone days we find record of the following:

1817	President Monroe	1852	Louis Kossuth
1825	General Lafayette	1860	Prince of Wales,
1833	Daniel Webster		later King Edward VII
1842	Charles Dickens	1861	President Lincoln
1848	Henry Clay	1866	President Johnson, Admiral Farragut,
1849	President Taylor and		General Grant, and Secretaries
	Governor Johnston		Seward and Welles

On April 10, 1845, a great fire destroyed about one-third of the total area of the city, including most of the large business houses and factories, the bridge over the Monongahela River, the large hotel known as the Monongahela House, and several churches—in all about eleven hundred buildings. The legislature appropriated fifty thousand dollars for the relief of the sufferers.

In 1877, the municipal government, being at the moment incompetent to preserve the fundamental principles on which it was established, permitted a strike of railroad employees to grow without restriction as to the observance of law and order until it became an insurrection. Four million dollars' worth of property was destroyed by riot and incendiarism in a few hours. When at last outraged authority was properly shifted from the supine city chieftains to the indomitable state itself, it became necessary, before order could be restored, for troops to fire, with a sacrifice of human life. The Homestead strike and riot of 1892 is another unfortunate episode in the industrial life of the city that I have time only to mention here.

The blockhouse of Fort Pitt was built in 1764. The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, ever alert to anything of an historical nature, has an able committee appointed by its president and is sponsoring the restoration of the Point. The National Park Service has approved the Point as an historical site that justifies such restoration and this can be accomplished only if the next Congress sees its way clear to make an ap-

priation for such a restoration. Historically-minded people of western Pennsylvania should take it upon themselves to write to their congressmen and senators appealing for the support of such an appropriation.

Yes, we of western Pennsylvania have as fine a heritage as any region in this great country of ours where each state is endeavoring to be one of the brightest jewels in America's great crown of glory. One of the needs of this hour in this great republic is a return to the homely, vigorous virtues of the old pioneers and forefathers. We need a great revival of Washington's fervid patriotism. We need to feel as he and our fathers felt, that public honor is private honor, that public disgrace is private disgrace, that public failure is private failure, and that public success is private success. We need to feel again, as our forefathers felt, that a life like that of Thomas Jefferson, governed absolutely by service of country, though it may end in feeble bankruptcy and ruin, is far preferable to a life devoted to absorbing millions to be scattered in frivolous enjoyments and questionable dissipations.

In conclusion, let all of us, in whatever lines our lives may lie, in whatever sections we may live, crown them with the memories of a glorious past, thrilled and stirred by the achievements of our great ancestors, stirred by the possibilities of a great future. Feeling our responsibility, let all of us, with faces towards the future, determine to discharge the great responsibility placed on us by our common country, and let each one of us resolve to aid this mighty republic to advance along the pathway of justice, equality, progress, and Christianity.