

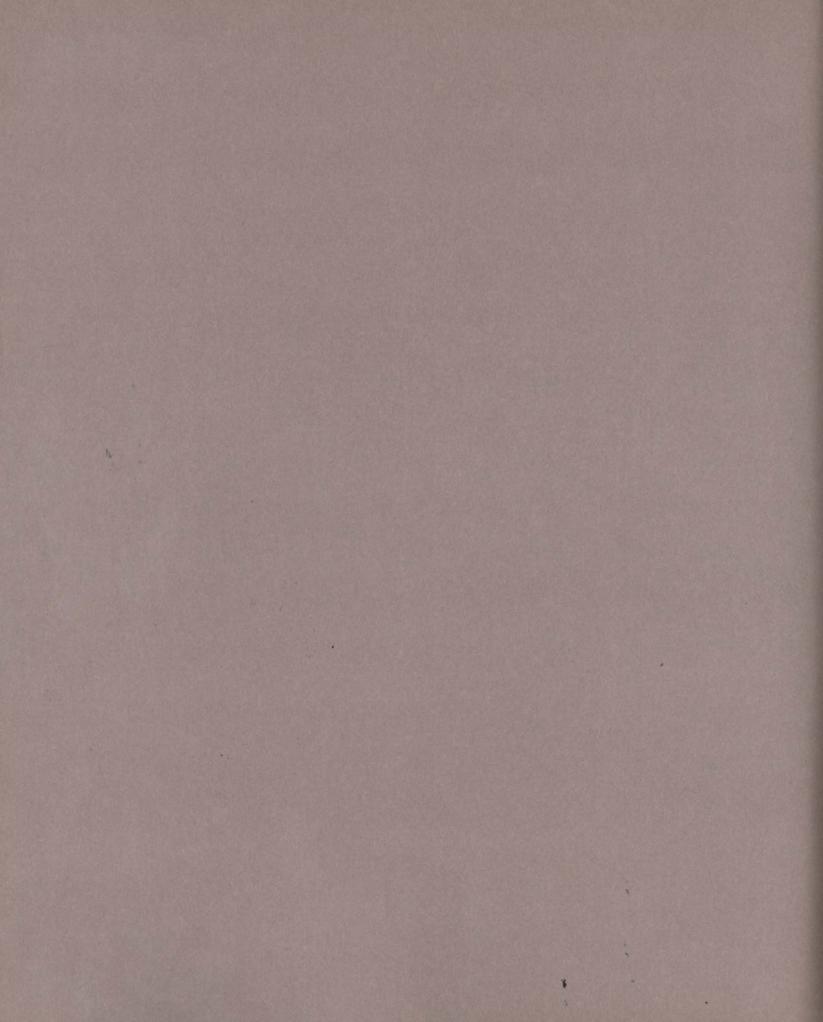
A Magazine of the City and Its Region

Fall, 1996



Edward Abbey

Appalachian Who Wrote His Way West

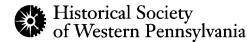




Fall 1996 Volume 79, Number 3 Formerly the Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine

Director of Publications	CONTENTS	
Marilyn Erwin	91	Director's Gallery: Ten Years to Make a Beginning:
	<i>)</i> -	the History Center Opens at Last
Editor		John A. Herbst
Paul Roberts		John A. Herost
Projects Editor	92	'My People': Edward Abbey's Appalachian Roots
Brian Butko	94	in Indiana County, Pennsylvania
Intern		James M. Cahalan
Christian Savine	108	
	108	Down the Depression River
Designer		Frank Dale
Deborah Prelaz		
	II4	Roughing It on the River: Reuben Gold
Published by the Historical	•	Thwaites in Western Pennsylvania
Society of Western Pennsylvania,		Dan Hughes Fuller
Pittsburgh.		Ban Hughes Fuller
Copyright 1996	122	Dittahungh's Lincoln Llighway Markon Compatition
	122	Pittsburgh's Lincoln Highway Marker Competition
This publication is made possible, in		Brian A. Butko
part, by the Kenneth B. and Verna H.		
Haas Bequest. A portion of the	126	The Great Sneeze: James Vale Downie,
Historical Society's general operating		Writer, 1883-1962
funds are provided through a grant		Rex Downie, Jr.
from the Institute of Museum		, j
Services, a federal agency that offers	134	Uncle Zwingle's Boiler Explosion
general operating support to the	134	0
nation's museums, and from the		James Vale Downie
Allegheny Regional Asset District.	T0 0	
	139	Photograph Credits
This magazine is printed on recycled,		
acid-free paper.	140	Reviews: Pittsburgh According to Shiebler
188NI 0042 4025	- T -	Lauren Uhl
ISSN 0043-4035		

Cover: The late Edward Abbey was a prolific writer whose 1968 book *Desert Solitaire* vaulted him to national prominence as an environmentalist voice for America's West. Abbey, *center*, pictured in 1986 with parents Paul and Mildred, grew up in Indiana County northeast of Pittsburgh. James Cahalan's two-part article on Abbey's Western Pennsylvania experience begins on page 92. *Photograph by Dick Kirkpatrick*.



Officers Chairman of the Board William C. King President Stephen W. Graffam, Esq. Vice President Torrence M. Hunt, Jr. Vice President Robert Barensfeld Vice President Fred F. Bartok, Ph.D. Vice President Michael P. Weber, Ph.D.

Van Beck Hall, Ph.D.

Robert S. Park

Treasurer

Board of Trustees

Louis D. Astorino Esther L. Barazzone, Ph.D. Michael Berger W. S. Brown IV Frank V. Cahouet Mrs. James F. Compton J. Wray Connolly Charles A. Corry Joseph F. D'Andrea John P. Davis, Jr., Esq. William S. Dietrich Sigo Falk The Hon. D. Michael Fisher Thomas A. Gaitens Russell W. Gibbons Kenneth Goldsmith Ira J. Gumberg Robert W. Hartland, Esq.

Dale Hershey, Esq. Carl O. Hughes The Hon. Ivan Itkin William McM. Jones, Jr. Mrs. Thomas J. Lewis, Jr. The Hon. Frank J. Lucchino John C. Marous C. Hax McCullough David McCullough Jeffrey L. Morby Norman Robertson Mrs. William R. Roesch Frieda G. Shapira Cecile M. Springer Joel A. Tarr, Ph.D. Jamee W. Todd H. Woodruff Turner, Esq. Edward R. Weidlein, Jr. Margot Woodwell

HE Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania is a nonprofit cultural institution founded in 1879. It provides services to the public to insure the collection, preservation, and interpretation of Pittsburgh's regional history. The Historical Society operates the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center with Library & Archives, Museum, Public Programs, Advancement, Marketing, and Business divisions, and manages the Meadowcroft Museum of Rural Life, a living history museum in Washington County, under a joint operating agreement.

Membership: Membership is open to anyone interested in the Society's goals and activities. Classes of annual membership and dues are as follows: Student (*copy of ID required*), \$25; Individual, \$40; Household, \$65; Contributor, \$100; Patron, \$250; Benefactor, \$500; President's Circle, \$1,000; Founders' Circle, \$1,879. Membership includes free admission to the History Center, quarterly issues of *Pittsburgh History* and the Society's bimonthly newsletter *Making History*, invitation to the new members' reception and special members-only events, the Society's annual report, and discounts on tours, lectures, and other services.

Communications Committee

Warren B. Dana, Chairperson Robert C. Alberts, author Perry Blatz, Duquesne University Ann Burnham, World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh Louise Craft, Carnegie Museum of Natural History Pat Crawford, Pittsburgh Board of Education Nicole Fauteux, independent film maker Maurine Greenwald, University of Pittsburgh Van Beck Hall, University of Pittsburgh Frederick A. Hetzel, University of Pittsburgh Press Rick Landesberg, Landesberg Design Associates Edward K. Muller, University of Pittsburgh Cecile M. Springer, Springer Associates George Swetnam, Pennsylvania Historical Association Joel A. Tarr, Carnegie Mellon University William Weisberger, Butler County Community College

Staff

John A. Herbst, Executive Director Janice Dziegielewski, Administrative Assistant Daniel J. Freas, Site Administrator, Meadowcroft Museum of Rural Life + Karen Hockenson, Receptionist * **Advancement** Division Betty Arenth, Advancement Director Marilyn M. Erwin, Director of Publications Brian Butko, Projects Editor Tina M. Castrodale, Administrative Assistant Rob DeOrio, Development Associate Heather Morelli, Membership Coordinator Paul Roberts, Editor Susan Wilson Tolmer, Development Associate **Business** Division D. Bruce Hayes, Business Director Keith Fries, Controller Charles Lange, Operations Manager

Karen Schneider, Human Resources Manager Robert L. Digby, Volunteer Coordinator Keith Durst, Operations Assistant William Seita, Maintenance Joseph Surmick, Accountant Darlene Vargo, Accounting Assistant Anthony Verno, Security Guard John Weston, Security Guard Michael Szulkowski, Security Guard * Library & Archives Division Carolyn Sutcher Schumacher, Ph.D., Library & Archives Director Corey G. Seeman, Head of Processing Sharon Watson-Mauro, Head of Reference Rachel Colker, Project Archivist Stephen Doell, Project Archivist Arthur Louderback, Cataloger Craig Moore, Archival Assistant + Christine Pollock, Administrative Assistant JoAnn Kartsonos, Receptionist * Cristina Lagnese, Librarian Charles Lee, Archival Assistant * + Jane Moffitt, Receptionist * Kerri Moriarty, Librarian * Marketing Division Sylvia K. Turner, Director of Marketing, Sales & Communication Holly Dobkin, Museum Shop Joyce Kushon, Visitor/Events Services Dale McClelland, Group Sales Trish Beatty, Public Relations Coordinator Katie Griswold, Museum Shop Assistant Judith Kaschauer, Group Tour Coordinator Paula Mahoney, Museum Shop Assistant Margaret O'Malley, Administrative Assistant Stacey Bondarenka, Front Desk Associate * Jon Burge, Museum Shop Associate *

Amie Petronis, Museum Shop Assistant * Shelli Petri, Front Desk Associate * Howard Pettibon Front Desk Associate ' Marlene Rouse, Front Desk Associate * Fiona Seels, Front Desk Associate * Edna Whipple, Museum Shop Assistant* Museum Division William W. Keyes, Museum Director Ellen Rosenthal, Chief Curator Kathleen A. Wendell, Registration Department Head Lauren Uhl, Special Project Associate + Tracy Walther, Special Project Associate + Catherine Cerrone, Coordinator, Italian-American Program + William Kindelan, Museum Assistant Anne Madarasz, Curator + Linda Pelan, Assistant Registrar * Gary Pollock, Assistant Curator Jennifer C. Smith, Curatorial Assistant Mark A. Tabbert, Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Watkins, Ph.D., Senior Historian **Public Programs Division** Ann A. Fortescue, Director of Education Jeffery E. Allen, Coordinator, Local History Resource Service Barbara Budde, School & Family Programs Coordinator Lynne Conner, Ph.D., Museum Theatre Coordinator + Patricia Pugh Mitchell, Adult Programs Coordinator Chrisoula Randas Perdziola, Public Programs Assistant Lorien Clemens, Actor * Jan D'Arcangelo, Educator * Garbie Dukes, Actor * Stephanie Johnson, Educator * John Koch, Actor * Allan Nesvisky, Actor * Stephanie Riccardi, Educator * Faith Rodman, Actor *Part-time employee +Special Project employee

Pittsburgh History is published quarterly as a benefit of membership in the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 1212 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Phone: (412) 454-6000. Institutional subscription: \$30. Second class postage paid at Pittsburgh, PA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 1212 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. USPS 679-200. ISSN 0043-4035.