



#pixburgh

a photographic experience

By Lauren Uhl and Leslie Przybylek

Do you love Pittsburgh? Of course you do, you're a Pittsburgher! Whether you're a lifelong yinzer or a high tech hipster transplant, you appreciate the city's deep historic roots, established neighborhoods, and reputation as a hard working town.



“The camera is the eye of history.”

- Matthew Brady

What is it in the city's DNA that makes Pittsburgh unique? For more than 250 years the region has experienced repeated waves of immigration and weathered periods of loss and renewal, yet through it all Pittsburgh's personality as a hardworking, resilient city has remained constant. The work ethic of the 18th-century Scots-Irish Presbyterians and the 19th-century Eastern European steel workers is still tangible today. It is visible in the city's sturdy worker housing stock and palpable in the way we celebrate our sports teams.

The History Center has actively collected the region's history since 1879 and housed and displayed it since 1915. As the keepers of Pittsburgh's collective memory, our Detre Library & Archives holds thousands of stories that weave together Pittsburgh's history and help illuminate its personality. Photographs are only a portion of what we collect, but they are an especially evocative medium. Each photo opens a portal to history—an undiscovered biography, a memorable news headline, a lost neighborhood landmark, an occupation that vanished with changing

times. Here we share a tiny but representative sample of that vast collection hoping to encourage you to explore it in greater depth.

Photographs capture the marriage of steelworker George Rajcan to Mary Majer and detail how the family carried on after his tragic death in the mill. Photos document the everyday work of men who toiled in brickyards and women who aspired to become airplane pilots. Construction photos record Pittsburghers conquering the beautiful but difficult terrain, building tunnels through the mountains, and bridging the rivers. They celebrate our cultural heritage of landmark institutions such as the Carnegie, the Zoo, and Kennywood. Snapshots record important moments in everyday lives whether they are a joyous wedding, family picnic, or reeling in the big one on a fishing trip.

We hope these photos and stories deepen your appreciation for the breadth of Pittsburgh's history and inspire you to think about your own life story. After all, you're part of Pittsburgh's history, too.

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