or Gettysburg. Kane returned to McKean County to rebuild his lumber empire. The discovery of oil on his lands assured the family’s income, though he died before he could enjoy its fruits.

The financial patron of the chapel was Kane’s aunt, Ann Gray Thomas, a devout Presbyterian who encouraged Kane to build a chapel in the wilds of Pennsylvania’s lumber territory in 1876. Its design is attributed to Henry J. Taylor, but little is known of him. Built of local pinkish sandstone, the chapel is said to be modeled on one in Kent, England, seen on a trip abroad by Thomas Kane and his cousin. Unlike the other chapels described here, this one has the shape of a Greek cross with two entry pavilions on the northwest elevation. It was used as a Presbyterian chapel until 1967, then sat empty for three years until purchased by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Kane’s interest in the Mormons’ plight stemmed from a lecture he attended in the 1840s in Philadelphia. He traveled extensively in the Midwest and West to learn more about their ways. Convinced that they were being unfairly persecuted, he publicized their ideas and defended them from being militarily overrun when they balked at having a non-Mormon governor in Utah. For his devotion to their cause, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints named a town in Iowa after him. The church also bought this chapel, restored it, and keeps it open as a museum in his memory.

To be continued in the Summer 2003 WPH magazine.

Lu Donnelly is one of the authors of Buildings of Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, a forthcoming book in the 58-volume series on American architecture sponsored by the Society of Architectural Historians titled Buildings of the United States. She has authored several books and National Register nominations on Allegheny County topics.

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**L&A Treasures**

By Steve Doell
Director, HSWP Archives

Joseph Coltart (1788-1866) immigrated to Pittsburgh from Dumfries, Scotland, in 1817 and was naturalized in 1826. He established himself as a stone mason in the city and worked on a number of notable projects throughout the region. He built the “new” Allegheny County Courthouse in 1836 for architect John Chislett. For the Pennsylvania Canal, he built a stone pier and walls for the water reservoir at Cecil Way near the St. Clair Bridge (now the Sixth Street Bridge), and the archway entrance to the Grant’s Hill tunnel. He also built or oversaw the building of two churches in downtown Pittsburgh – Second Presbyterian Church at Penn and 7th Street, and Associate Presbyterian Church at 7th Avenue and Cherry Alley.

Mr. Coltart (often spelled Coultart or even Colthart) married Jean Ritchie in 1821, and they had five children. Their two sons, Robert, a lawyer, and William, an oil trader, died fighting in the Civil War.

The surviving papers of Mr. Coltart include the articles of agreement for all his building projects, his will, various receipts, and a drawing of the arch he built for the Pennsylvania Canal tunnel. The tunnel and archway were rediscovered in the excavation for the United States Steel Building in 1967.

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