

As Others See Us

... Quotes about Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania

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Piano presented by Major General Richard Butler to his daughter, Mary, in 1791. Butler was a Commandant at Fort Pitt, and brought the piano to Pittsburgh from Philadelphia by pack mules.

It must appear like enchantment to a stranger, who after travelling an hundred miles from the settlements, across a dreary mountain, and through the adjoining country where in many places the spurs of the mountains still continue, and cultivation does not always shew itself, to see, all at once, and almost on the verge of the inhabited globe, a town with smoaking chimnies, halls lighted up with splendor, ladies and gentlemen assembled, various music, and the mazes of the dance.

- Pittsburgh as described by Judge Hugh Henry Brackenridge in the first issue of the *Pittsburgh Gazette*, July 29, 1786, as quoted in Claude Milton Newlin, *The Life and Writings of Hugh Henry Brackenridge* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1932), 72-3.

Pittsburgh is inhabited almost entirely by Scots and Irish, who live in paltry log-houses, and are as dirty as in the north of Ireland, or even Scotland. There is a great deal of small trade carried on; the goods being brought at the vast expense of forty-five shillings per cwt., from Philadelphia and Baltimore. They take in the shops, money, wheat, flour and skins. There are in the town four attorneys, two doctors, and not a priest of any persuasion, nor church, nor chapel; so that they are likely to be damned, with the benefit of clergy. The rivers encroach fast on the town; and to such a degree, that, as a gentleman told me, the Allegheny had within thirty years of his memory, carried away one hundred yards. The place, I believe, will never be very considerable.

- Arthur Lee, who traveled from Virginia to Pittsburgh in December 1784, as quoted in Neville B. Craig, *The History of Pittsburgh* (Pittsburgh: Kennedy & Brother, 1851), 186-7.