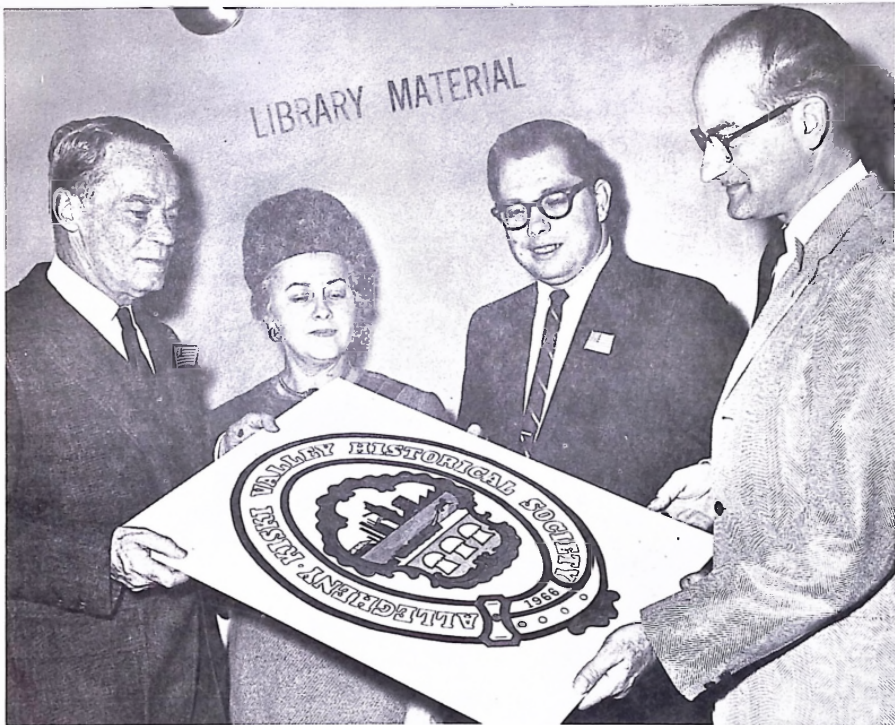




Alle-Kiski HISTORIA

Quarterly Magazine of the Allegheny - Kiski Valley Historical Society, Inc.
224 East Seventh Avenue Tarentum, Penna. 15084



DIGNITARIES AT DINNER

(PHOTO: NEWS & DISPATCH)

Robert I. Lucas, second from right, Editor of the Alle-Kiski Historia explains content of a drawing of the society's official emblem to dignitaries who attended the dinner. Left to right they are Dr. C. Stanton Belfour, President, Western Pennsylvania Historical Society, speaker; Mrs. Belfour, Lucas, and Mr. Nick P. E. Tutelo, vice President. The gala event took place at the Elks Home in New Kensington, Pa. More than 200 persons were in attendance and expressed an interest in the local society. 1967 ©

ALLE-KISKI HISTORIA

The Quarterly Magazine of the
ALLEGHENY-KISKI VALLEY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, INCORPORATED
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ALLE-KISKI HISTORIA

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Tarentum, Pa. 15084

Published 1968 A.D.



Editorial

In this day an age when men are rewriting history with a definite slant in order to brainwash our young people, to brand patriotism as a nationalistic evil, the staff of this magazine will endeavor to discover the true facts regarding the history of our valley and let the stones fall where they may.

The article on Columbus in this issue is an attempt to present more factual information regarding the early discoveries of America and to acquaint the reader with more than one version of history.

Our children are not given a good historical account of North American history prior to the era of Columbus and so much of the Columbus story is distorted, and not discussed at length in our public high school history texts.

The real history of America begins with the migration and settlement of aborigines commonly referred to as the 'American Indian' and our history texts contain microscopic information if any about the 'red' people.

We trust that you will enjoy reading all of the articles found in this first issue of the Historia and will look forward to reading future issues.

**"WE HAVE GIVEN
YOU A REPUBLIC
IF YOU CAN
KEEP IT!"**

Benjamin Franklin

These now-famous words were spoken by this great American upon the completion of the writing of our Constitution. What are YOU doing to help keep this Republic of ours? Only those who read the facts and then act upon them have done their part to keep our freedom!



WASHINGTON DAY DINNER REVIEWED

Outlining the seven visits which George Washington made to Western Pennsylvania, was C. Stanton Belfour, President of Western Pennsylvania Historical Society, who has done extensive research on the life of the first president of the USA.

The speaker, Mr. Belfour spoke before a crowd of nearly 200 persons at a Washington Day Dinner last February sponsored by the Allegheny Kiski Valley Historical Society.

This, the first public program of the society exceeded all expectations and the banquet hall was literally packed to the walls to hear the noted speaker of the event.

Among dignitaries attending the dinner were mayors, county officials, and numerous representatives of community service clubs and organizations. Toastmaster for the event was society president, John B. Gibson. The invocation was offered by the Rev. Russell Bragg, Rector, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Brackenridge, Pa. Dinner guests were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Sgt. L/C Joseph E. Leah, U.S. Army.

Members of the program committee for the dinner were Col. William E. Stewart, Mrs. William Pates, Mrs. Pat Hunt, Miss Gertrude Fry, Mr. Robert Collins and Mr. Robert Lucas.

The attractive programs which included a beautiful color photograph of Washington Crossing the Delaware were printed by Welsh Printing Co. of Vandergrift and financed by the Hunger Insurance Agency and Martins Drug Store of Arnold, Pennsylvania.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S EMBLEM

The emblem of the historical society includes depictions of three facets of the A-K Valley's diverse economic makeup. Conceived and undertaken by Robert I. Lucas, Chairman of the society's Publication Committee, the focal point of the emblem represents a montage of three elements, two of which continue to make the valley a vibrant and dynamic labor area.

The first is industry, and this is depicted in the back drop of the emblem's centerpiece. The second is agriculture, depicted by bales of wheat.

Horses pulling a canal boat recalls the era when the old Pennsylvania Canal coursed through the valley, an era long passed following closing of the canal.

The garter surrounding the emblem signifies British ancestry of the valley in colonial America. The emblem was designed by Robert Lucas, an Art Instructor for the Apollo Area Joint School District.



THE MINUTES IN REVIEW

Enis Mazzoni, Secretary

The first meeting of the Allegheny-Kiski Valley Historical Society was held on September 27, 1966 at the Edna Hotel in Arnold, Pennsylvania.

Mr. John B. Gibson, with the assistance of Miss Rena Lynn Hursh who had called the meeting, presented procedures to be followed in establishing a Historical society.

Gibson and Hursh were named temporary chairman and temporary secretary respectively at that meeting in which some twenty-four persons voted to found the society.

Among those in attendance were Mr. Gibson, Miss Hursh, Mrs. Joseph Hunt, Mrs. Raymond Mazzoni, Mrs. Edith Kline, Mrs. Kenneth Leydic, Miss Angeline Sober, Mrs. Joseph Borrison, Mr. Glendon Smith, Mr. Jesse Gravatt, Mr. William Stewart, Robert Lucas, Nick Tutelo, Dr. James T. McClowry and many others who are unknown to the secretary.

October 12, 1966

The second meeting of the new found society was held in the Pennsylvania Room of the Community Library at Tarentum, Pa. Mr. Gibson called the meeting to order and the society proceeded to discuss and accept the proposed statement of purpose, Articles of Incorporation, and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Historical Society.

a message
from the president

JOHN B. GIBSON



John B. Gibson was born in Birmingham, Central England and has been in the United States for 10 years. Mr. Gibson has been employed as a reporter-photographer with the Valley Daily News-Daily Dispatch, headquartered in Tarentum, Pa. since 1964. He is a member of the Kiski Valley staff.

Prior to this he was assistant city editor with the NEWS-CITIZEN, an evening newspaper headquartered in Vandergrift.

Gibson, 29, attended the University of Birmingham, England, where he studied journalism. He was employed with Midland United Newspapers, Ltd., a group of six weekly publications, prior to coming to the United States in 1957. He resides at Vandergrift.

Established in September, 1966, the Allegheny-Kiski Valley Historical Society, Inc. owes a great debt to Tarentum American Legion Post 85 which, the society feels, made a substantial contribution toward the goals of the society and the four county area the society serves in turning over to the historical organization its building in Tarentum for the operation as a museum and convention center.

Formative steps of the society were elephantine as the new organization passed through approval of its operational procedures, such as adoption of bylaws, a constitution, the election of officers and incorporation. The latter was handled for the society by the Pittsburgh law firm of Wright and Rundle, the legal counsel representative of that firm, Mr. Robert A. Rundle, well deserving of a vote of thanks for handling the society's incorporation expeditiously and efficiently.

The society held its first public function, a George Washington Day Dinner in New Kensington, Pa. early in 1967. An estimated 200 persons attended. Mr. William "Colonel" Stewart, longtime history buff reported that word of the dinner's success

spread to historical societies as far east as Harrisburg, Pa.

C. Stanton Belfour, president of Western Pennsylvania Historical Society, was speaker for the dinner.

With incorporation, received in the spring of 1967, came the society's opportunity to begin negotiations with officials of Tarentum American Legion Post 85 to operate that organization's building as a museum-convention center. Success of those negotiations, on the society's behalf, is due in no small measure to Mr. Francis L. Gressley, the society's museum committee chairman, and Robert I. Lucas, who heads the society's publication committee, and Mr. Kenneth L. "Pete" Leydic, a retired attorney who did most of the legwork in obtaining the signing by historical and American Legion officials of necessary legal documents for the American Legion's building under the society's jurisdiction.

But, if success in no short measure and in the brief span of its existence has been the society's story to date, it should not give cause for the organization to rest upon its laurels. Its task- that of attempting to provide a representative portrait of the gradual and orderly progression of the four county area it serves, has just begun.

It should, therefore, behoove all members to, figuratively speaking, "put their shoulders to the wheel" in an attempt to depict through a constantly enlarging collection of Alle-Kiski Valley memorabilia and through the various programs the heritage of the Allegheny, Butler, Armstrong and Westmoreland County area it serves.

The society's membership is presently approximately 200 and consists of many individual active members, some contributing members and some institutional members, the latter mostly companies, such as the West Penn Power Company and the Valley Daily News-Dispatch.

ALLEGHENY KISKI VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Appendix I

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Article 1

The name of the corporation shall be the Allegheny-Kiski Valley Historical Society.

Article 2

The period of existence shall be perpetual.

Article 3

The business and purpose of this corporation shall be to bring together those people interested in history, and especially in the history of the Allegheny-Kiski Valley. Understanding the history of our community, is basic to our democratic way of life, gives us a better understanding of our state and nation, and promotes a better appreciation of our American heritage,

The corporation's major function will be to discover and collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area; its exploration, settlement, development, and activities in peace and war; its progress in population, wealth, education, arts, science, manufactures, agriculture, trade and transportation. It will collect printed material such as histories, genealogies, biographies, descriptions, gazetteer newspapers, pamphlets, catalogs, circulars, handbills, programs and posters; manuscript material such as letters, diaries, journals, memoranda, reminiscences, rosters, service records, account books, charts, surveys, and field books; and museum material such as pictures, photographs, paintings, portraits, scenes, aboriginal relics, and material objects illustrative of life, conditions, events, and activities of the past and the present.

The society will provide for the preservation of such material and for its accessibility, as far as may be feasible, to all who wish to examine or study it, to co-operate with officials in insuring the preservation and accessibility of the records, and archives of the county and of its cities, towns, villages, and institutions and to undertake the preservation of historic buildings, monuments, and markers.

The society will disseminate historical information and arouse interest in the past by publishing historical material in the newspapers or otherwise; by holding meetings with pageants, addresses, lectures, papers, and discussion; by marking historic buildings, sites, and trails, and by using the media of radio and television to awaken public interest,

Article IV

The location of the principal office shall be Tarentum, Pennsylvania.

Article V

The name of the initial registered agent is John B. Gibson.

Article VI

The address of the initial registered agent is Vandergrift, Penna.

Article VII

The Board of Directors shall have the power to conduct all affairs of the society. The number of the board of directors shall be fixed by bylaw but shall not be less than three. The manner of election or appointment and the term of office of members of the board of directors shall be that stated in the bylaws.

Article VIII

The society shall have one or more classes of membership. The designation of such classes, and the qualifications, rights, and method of acceptances of members of each class, shall be specified in the bylaws.

Article IX

This corporation shall not have or issue shares of stock and it shall pay no dividends or pecuniary profits whatever to its organizers or mem-

6.

bers, although it may confer benefits upon members in conformity with its purposes and the law.

Article X

These articles may be amended in the manner authorized by law at the time of amendment.

Appendix II CONSTITUTION OF the Society Article I

(Article I of the constitution is identical to Article I listed under the Articles of Incorporation.)

Article II

(Article II of the constitution is identical to Article III listed under the Articles of Incorporation.)

Article III

Membership shall be of five classes: 1. INDIVIDUAL ACTIVE members - any person interested in the purpose of the society shall be eligible. 2. INSTITUTIONAL members - any organization, board, school, or library interested in the history of the Allegheny-Kiski Valley shall be eligible.

3. CONTRIBUTING and SUSTAINING members - a person, group, or firm offering special support to the objectives of the society shall be eligible.

4. HONORARY members - Honorary membership may be conferred upon any person whose activities have contributed to the objectives of the society.

Honorary members shall be elected by a three-fourths vote of members present at an annual meeting, upon nomination by the board of directors.

5. LIFE members. 6. CHARTER members - Those members who organized and served on the resolution committees and who originally initiated the society.

Article IV

The annual meeting of the society shall be held in April. The monthly meeting of the society shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Article V

The Officers and Board of Directors

SECTION 1. The officers shall be president, vice-president, and a secretary, who shall be elected for a term of one year; and a treasurer, and that number of directors which would represent each of the participating communities who shall be elected for a term of three years.

SECTION II. The officers and directors shall constitute the board of directors.

Article VI

SECTION 1. All officers and directors shall be elected by a plurality of votes cast by secret ballot at the annual meeting.

SECTION 2. Not less than two months prior to the annual meeting, the secretary of the society shall send to each member of the board of directors a blank upon which such member may nominate one person for each office open to election. Nominations shall be returned not less than one month before the annual meeting. A committee on nominations, appointed by the chairman of the board of directors, shall select the candidates from a list of all nominations for office.

SECTION 3. Nominations may also be made by any member of the society at any time prior to balloting at the annual meeting. Any nomination made after the deliberation of the committee on nominations shall be added to the slate of candidates upon affirmative vote of a majority of members present at the annual meeting. A candidate for election shall be an individual active member.

SECTION 4. A person who has been elected to the board of directors for two consecutive terms, or elected as president or vice-president for three consecutive terms, shall not be nominated to the same office unless one year elapses between the end of his last term and / continued on page 19.



Scientists say that man did not evolve in the new world, but that he migrated here. The first to discover the Western Hemisphere and to migrate to this land was none other than the ancestors of the American Indian.

Many thousands of years ago, the "red-skins" crossed the Bering Straits and spread from Alaska to Argentina and were later followed by the Eskimos. The Europeans, however, did not begin to sail westward until sometime about the 10th century.

There are countless stories of the first 'white' men who discovered the North American Continent, but one thing is certain; whoever was the first European to set foot on American soil, the Indian was here first to welcome him.

The most logical historical account of the white man's venture to this part of the globe, is that of the Viking sea rovers.

About 1000 A.D., a Northman named Leif Ericson, the son of Eric, the Red, discoveror of Greenland, set sail from Norway and upon reaching the waters of Ireland, was helplessly driven westward in a storm. By the time the storm had passed, Ericson found himself approaching the shores of a new and strange land of warmth and fertile growth.

Leif's father, Eric explored Iceland in 982 A.D. while fleeing his native Norway after supposedly killing a man. Eric decided to flee to the strange island in the west which was sighted by a Norwegian sea-rover,

Gunnior about 876 A.D. The island in mention was that of Iceland. In 983, Eric the Red discovered another great body of land which we refer to as Greenland.

As one of the first known white men to set foot on the North American continent, Leif Ericson put to shore near what some historians believe to be the present location of the State of Massachusetts. He named the continent, 'VINLAND.' From this continent called Vinland, came forth 900 years later, the greatest vintage of freedom ever known in a world of tyranny.

The stories of the Norse discovery is no doubt, the spark that ignited the adventure of Christobal Colon, populary known in American history as Christopher Columbus.

Colon, the son of Domenico Colon, was of Spanish - Jewish ancestry and generally believed to have been born in Genoa, Italy although some historians find no substantial proof to this claim.

Columbus never wrote in Italian, but Spanish, and never wrote his name as Columbus, but spelled it Colon. He had great faith in the God of Israel and a genuine conviction that he was God's man of the hour and that his discovery was a fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, found in the eleventh chapter of the scriptures. Little is known of his family, although he was married and the father of two sons, Diego and / Continued on next page.

8.
Fernando.

Upon his voyage into the realm of the new world, Columbus first set foot on one of the Bahama Islands called, Guanahani, going from there to Haiti. On his second voyage, he touched the islands of Quadalupe, Puerto Rico, and Jamaica. In his attempt to establish a colony on one of the islands, he forced his men to hard labor and hanged those who would not work. He failed in his attempt to locate the mainland of America and upon his return to Spain, charged his men to testify that they had discovered the mainland and threatened to have their tongues torn out if they did not swear an oath to his command.

Columbus failed on his first two voyages to locate the mainland, and upon his return to Spain, disguised himself as a monk to escape the humiliation of the people who doubted that the mainland of a new continent even existed. On the third voyage, Columbus set aground at Trinidad. Eventually, news reached the throne of Spain that Columbus was a poor ruler and had resorted to violence to achieve his aims. Columbus was replaced by a governor, who had him put into chains and sent back to Spain.

The King and Queen were surprised to learn what had transpired, so Columbus was released but was not given permission to return to the East Indies. The navigator at that time, felt that God was leading him to paths of a greater glory, the liberation of Jerusalem. This vision was recorded by Columbus under the title of the "Book of Prophecies."

Cristobal Colon, living in a world of fantasy and adventure and claiming to have heard voices from on high, dedicated his life to these 'mission.' The tall, red-haired sailor had never set foot on the shores of the United States; in fact, he had never really located its shoreline.

Fourteen years after his first voyage to this continent, Colon was dead at the age of 55. There seems to be little doubt that Colon had caught syphilis, as did many others

of his crew and died from it, insane, in misery, and in chains.

Five years after Columbus' discovery, John Cabot explored the coasts of New England. Years later, a man named Americus Vesputius visited the shores of Argentina and Brazil and wrote an account of his own travels. Eventually the entire hemisphere was named after him by a mapmaker, thinking Americus was the original discoverer of all that land to the west of Britain. But for this oversight, our nation may have become the United States of Vinland, or the United States of Columbia.

Americus Vesputius is honored by the naming of the new world as 'America' because he had kept a historical record of his travels.

We of the Allegheny-Kiski Valley Historical Society also attempt to honor the memory of those pioneers who cleared the land, built their homes, raised a family, and gave birth to a new nation. The roots of our democracy are anchored in the past history of men who were of many cultures, who journeyed to our shores and forged a new culture all of its own to meet the challenge of the future.

We of the Historical Society hope to continue in the struggle for peace and tranquility among all men and to inspire a renewed appreciation for the ideals and sacrifices of Pennsylvania's and America's patriots in a never-ending perseverance for the priceless heritage of freedom.

We invite you to join our ranks in a sincere effort to acquaint the public with the history of yesterday that we might create a respect for the past and a hope for the tomorrows.

R.I.L.

For additional information, you may write, call or visit with us at our headquarters in Tarentum, Penna.

On Lock Street at East 7th Avenue
Phone ACADEMY 4-9796

DONALD G. BOSWELL MAYOR

F. L. MCGEARY PRESIDENT
 J. B. BUZARD VICE PRESIDENT
 STREETS & SURFACE WATER
 WM. A. JOHNSTON FINANCE, PERSONNEL
 BOROUGHS ASSOCIATION
 J. D. WALSH WATER, SEWAGE, ENGINEERING
 A. SEKERAS POLICE FIRE
 RUTH R. TAUGHINBAUGH HEALTH LIGHT
 ZONE ORDINANCE
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ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ANN W. CHRISTY SECRETARY
 C. F. HODEL, JR. SOLICITOR
 C. W. MILLER, JR. ENGINEER
 D. WEINFURTER TAX COLLECTOR
 RUDOLPH MELANI BUILDING INSPECTOR
 H. W. SHANER SUPT. STS. & WATER

Cheswick Borough was chartered in 1902 and Harry E. Armstrong became the first burgess. The "community of homes" has since grown to a population of approximately 2,900 operating on a budget in excess of \$147,000. Its boundaries are to the North (Parkway Drive), Springdale Township; to the South, The Allegheny River; to the East, (Duquesne Avenue), the Borough of Springdale; and to the West, (Cheswick Avenue), in Harmar Township.

The first to build within the present limits of the borough was John Pillow, who owned a tavern near the old Eagan House, east of the station. Pillow later divided his land among his three sons, George, Thomas, and John. The remaining land in the borough was owned by Henry Kellet, an Englishman and three smaller lot owners between the canal and the river.

The canal, which ran from Free port to Pittsburgh, was abandoned in the early 1860's and the Western Pennsylvania branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad was in operation in 1866, and the station was named Lincoln by the railroad officials.

In 1875 there were 14 houses within the borough limits. Among them were the homes of Robert Stewart, Matthew Maclean, and the three Pillows; Archie, Thomas and George.

The first school, a log structure was situated a half mile behind the Colfax area. In 1875, a private school was built by Robert Stewart, facing Pillow Avenue. Stewart's niece became the first teacher and taught twenty-five pupils for a six-month term.

In 1878, the school was taken over by Springdale township and those

who served as the first school board members were Thomas Pillow, Robert Stewart and James C. Bunting.

Cheswick is now part of the Allegheny Valley School District.

Cheswick has only one church, a Presbyterian Church established in 1873 under the ministry of the Rev. Aaron Williams. The Postoffice was established prior to 1880 and is now situated in a new building on Pittsburgh Street. One of the first industries to locate in the borough was Penwick Distillery about 1891.

Despite the fact that a distillery was located in Cheswick, the town had no saloons until 1920.

Cheswick has little industry, but firms in adjoining communities have helped the borough to grow and prosper into an attractive suburb.

Information submitted by Cheswick Borough Council.



News & Dispatch
 Mrs. Marie Proietti, 87, of Tarentum proudly displays the society's Official flag which she made and presented during the Quasiqucentennial.

The Kenneth Leydic Family History...

by
MRS. HELEN JOHNSTON PATES

The founder of the American branch of the Leydic family would be proud to know that his great-great-great grandson, Kenneth L. Leydic, is chairman of the trustees of the Allegheny-Kiski Valley Historical Society...Jusy as proud as KENNETH is of his pioneer ancestor JOHN LIDICK, of Westmoreland County,

Mrs. Leydic, MARGARET, is a member of the society's Board of Directors, and during the summer months she and her husband live at the family farm on the Ridge Road.

Among family records most treasured by Kenneth and Margaret, is the last will and testament of the founder of the family. This John Lidick, referred to in historical accounts of early Pennsylvania days as the PIONEER or THE PATRIOT, was born in Westmoreland County in 1784 and died there in 1803.

It is fitting that Kenneth Leydic, in the sixth generation from his paternal ancestor, spends part of the year in the Fawn Township farm, purchased in 1935 from the Hunter family which had owned it since 1830. Here he studies the early American history of which his forebears were a part in a home whose structure and furniture are a "remembrance of things past."

When we visited the Leydic's in late summer we were shown the family documents which have been collected over the years. Mr. Leydic pointed out that the original spelling of the family name, as shown on the genealogical tree, had been LEIDICH, then LIDICK, LYDICK, LYDIC ...to its present LEYDIC.

In 1942, from the Washington Service Bureau, the family learned that Leidich, is one of the variant spellings of the German name, LEOPOLD, and means "Son of Leopold", being patronymic in form. Leopold is of Teutonic origin and means



Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Leydic

"bold for the people". Teutonic pertains to the primitive German language and the Teutons were an ancient Germanic people.

In his will, John Lidick, pioneer and patriot, revealed much of the tender and character of life in Pennsylvania's yesteryears. It is worth while to read portions of this will, written one-hundred and sixty five years ago, and fascinating to reflect upon the nature of Life and men as set forth in this authentic document.

In the opening paragraph, John Lidick, born thirty-eight years before the American Revolution, wrote, "I give and command my soul unto the Almighty God that gave it, and my body to the earth to be buried in decent Christian burial at the discretion of my executors, nothing doubting but at the Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me with this life, I give, devise and dispose of

the same in the following manner and form: to Mary, my dearly beloved wife, all the household furniture, one mare and colt and two cows and two sheep and to be fed during the summer seasons yearly, and likewise the said Mary, my wife, is to dwell in her own room in my dwelling-house during her natural life, and to be provided yearly and every year with a sufficiency of firewood laid at her door, one-half bushel of flax seed sewed and pulled when fit, watered and broke. Twenty bushels of good wheat milled and brought to her room, two hundredweight of meat, one hundredweight of beef and one hundred of pork, one bushel of twenty-five pounds of Bohea tea, five pound weight of coffee, the produce of six apple trees in the orchard, and one barrel of cider, to be performed by my sons, Jacob Lidick and John Lidick, Jr.

"Likewise my wife Mary is to have all the shirting cloth and wool I now die possessed of for her own use. Secondly, I will and bequeath to Jacob Lidick and John Lidick, my loving sons, my plantation where I now dwell containing in all 328 acres...."

It is interesting to note that the first-born son, Jacob, was given a smaller share of the family land holdings than the second son, John Jr. "Jacob to have one-third of the plantating adjoining the creek, Two Lick, and John the other two-thirds, including the old improvements where I now dwell on, and at the death of Mary, my wife, my sons Jacob and John Lidick are to pay the rest of my children the sum of 210 pounds lawful money, Jacob to pay 40 pounds and John Lidick the remainder, to be paid that each one shall have an equal share in the same."

There were seven other children and each was to receive his share, following the death of the mother, in successive periods of twelve months each, so that the last designated child, a daughter named Margaret, did not inherit her portion of the 210 pounds until seven years after her mother's death.

Live stock was important in these early days and John Lidick made provision for these... "to Elizabeth Stuchell, my daughter, the horse called Jelly, and to my daughter, Barbara, the horse called Jack; and to my son, James Lidick, one cow and calf and two sheep, and to my daughter, Margaret, the two-year old mare and one mare and one cow and heifer and two sheep and two parts of the grain in the ground,"

In the closing paragraph, provision was made for the remainder of the holdings, "Now I will to my wife, Mary, for her own use the remaining of my property of whatsoever I die possessed, to be equally divided among my wife and the above mentioned children." We can see that a form of prime-geniture seems to have been operating, since the land holdings were left to the first and second born sons, and since they were "nominated" as the executors.

During the long summer days Kenneth Leydic returns often to the past in his thoughts. . . . it is an easily made transition; the farm is surrounded by the same Pennsylvania hills that encompassed the patriots' "plantation", the central core of the house was built early in the last century, exposed beams in the dining room are hand-hewn and from the kitchen and livingroom emanates the charm of years gone by.

In the summer twilight, warmed by the glow from antique lamps in the livingroom, Mr. Leydic told us more about his family. He is the only son of Dr. and Mrs. C.L. Leydic; Dr. Leydic, who was born in Indiana County, (which was a part of Westmoreland Co. when John Lydick lived) came to Tarentum as a young man and practiced medicine here for sixty years; he was also a surgeon for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Dr. Leydic's wife was Alberta LOUCKS of Tarentum and her father served as station-agent for the 'Penny' for many years.

The Loucks family settled in the East-Central section of the State and Alberta was a direct descendant of Peter Loucks who arrived in America in 1759, and served in the Revolutionary War. (Con't. on pg.16)

FROM THE TIME OF WILLIAM PENN

. . . the Colonial Era . . .



In September of 1756, twenty years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Colonel John Armstrong led a band of 300 Pennsylvania Militiamen from the gates of Fort Shirley in Cumberland County toward one of the first battles of the French and Indian War. His objective . . . destroy the Indian Town of Kit-han-ne in the Alleghenies and with it, a murderous band of Leni-Lenapi Indians and their chief, Captain Jacobs.

On September 7th, Colonel Armstrong and his men reached a spot six miles east of the Indian encampment. Leaving his heavy equipment and baggage with a guard of thirteen men, he trekked forth to battle. Surely outnumbered, the element of surprise was his only hope for victory.

At dawn on September 8th, Armstrong and his men surrounded Kit-han-ne only to find the Leni-Lenapi sleeping in a cornfield just outside the village. Undaunted by his loss of surprise, Armstrong signaled for a volley into the cornfield and led the men to attack. Captain Jacobs rallied his band back to the center of the village to recover their weapons. In pursuit, Armstrong's men tore pieces of bark from the Indians' log huts and began to set fire to the village. One hut, where the Indians had stored gun powder exploded with a roar heard at Fort Duquesne, forty miles away. Most of the Indians, including Captain Jacobs, were killed by the blast and the village was completely leveled.

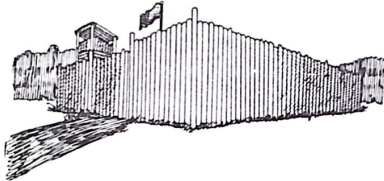
Armstrong freed many recently captured English settlers and began his journey back to the heavy equipment camp. He did not know that during the battle at Kit-han-ne, his camp guard, led by the impetuous young Lt. James Hogg, had attacked a large band of Indians and had been wiped out. When Armstrong arrived at the scene, all that was left of his guard party and equipment were the blankets in which they had slept. To this day, the area retains the name "Blanket Hill".

Armstrong was warmly accorded the thanks of a grateful people on his return to Fort Shirley. He went on to become an even greater hero in this war and climaxed his military career as General in Command of the Pennsylvania Militia at Brandywine and Germantown during the Revolutionary War.

As a reward for his gallant efforts during the French and Indian War, General Armstrong was given the land upon which once stood Kit-han-ne. It was decided him from part of an original grant of the William Penn family. From the settlement here and other neighboring developments a county was formed in 1800 and named in honor of its liberator.

Soon after the Revolutionary War, settlers and immigrants from the crowded Atlantic shores began to push westward to the sparsely settled forests of Pennsylvania. In the year 1800, there were nearly 2500 people in Armstrong County. Most were the friendly, hard working Scotch-Irish and German farmers who cleared and worked the land; some were manufacturers and traders who came to develop the industries and trade centers which were soon involved in the great western expansion of the United States.

Life for the pioneer in Armstrong County was hard and also extremely dangerous due to constant Indian uprisings. The story of one early pioneer, Massey Harbison, is a typical example. Massey married John Harbison, scout for the militia, after immigrating to Pennsylvania from New Jersey with her family in 1783. During an uprising, Mrs. Harbison's children were killed and she was taken captive by the Indians. Finally escaping, she made her way back to the burned cabin at Pine Creek where she and her husband, determined to stay, rebuilt their home and began a new family.



One Fergus Moorhead was shot at three times while on a scouting trip near Blanket Hill in 1786. When finally overtaken and captured by the Indians, he was treated as unkillable and displayed at Indian villages from Pittsburgh to Quebec, where he was finally freed.

James Claypool, first settler in Kittanning was warned of an Indian attack just in time to enable him to put a raft afloat and save his family by poling to Pittsburgh. A few days later, he returned by land to go on with his planing.

. . and the Early Industrial Age . .

Though in constant battle with Indians, the settlers were able to develop the abundant natural resources such as coal, limestone, sand and gravel, salt and fine hardwood timber. The county soon became known as a prime location for various mining, manufacturing and logging interests.

The Allegheny River, too, offered an unusually dependable and economic system of transportation, therefore it wasn't long after the very first settlements were established that industry and commercial trade were flourishing.

By the middle 1800's Armstrong County was supplying important quantities of raw materials to the eastern and southern states while manufacturing glass, iron and steel, gunpowder, cloth, pottery and building brick for shipment to the expanding west. During the Civil War period, manufacturing and mining within the county was of tremendous importance to the industrial might of the Union.

By 1865 it seemed that every possible potential of the

county had been exploited. Then, suddenly, the entire northwestern section of Pennsylvania became alive with the discovery of . . . OIL!



As oil was produced, refined and shipped throughout the country, the population soared to an astounding level. Many small villages were granted charters as Pennsylvania cities before the boom period subsided.

Black Gold became the lifeblood of Armstrong County and local manufacturers had to redouble their efforts in order to supply the needed tools and materials. This was a period of "boom-prosperity" realized only once again in American history, during the great Nevada gold and silver rush. Tremendous fortunes were made and lost overnight on "speculation" and "wildcatting." Those who supplied materials for these ventures, however, amassed the greatest fortunes of all.

Ten years after it began, the romantic Oil Boom in Armstrong County came to an end. Vastly richer oil fields to the west drew away the swollen populace and thereby reduced the inflated economy. Normalcy returned as the Oil Era passed out of prime importance in the East and became history.

. . . to the World of Today . . .

Much of the historical significance of modern day vitality of Armstrong County can be realized by visiting the towns and villages that grew here through an intriguing past to become fine examples of suburban American living today.

Plan to visit:

KITTANNING, now largest of the boroughs, was in 1730 the "most notable Delaware Indian village west of the Alleghenies." In 1801, after the county was formed, the population boasted "one lawyer, thirteen tradesmen and four singlemen".

Today Kittanning has a population of over 7,000. It is the home of the first "visible" typewriter and was the first town in America to convert to gas light and heating.

FORD CITY seemed made to order for pioneer glass maker, Captain John Ford. Coal, gas and melting sand were at hand and the Allegheny River was a perfect transportation route for Captain Ford's new industry. Plate glass is still manufactured here at Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company's large modern plant. The Eljer Division of the Wallace Murray Company, makers of ceramic fixtures is also located here.

LEECHBURG did not fully begin to expand until the Pennsylvania Canal "brought it out of the woods". With a saw mill, grist mill and wool factory, Leechburg was also among the first Pennsylvania towns to develop steel mills. From here came the men who later went to Pittsburgh and founded some of the giant mills located there today.



APOLLO, called "Chief Warren's Sleeping Place" by the earliest pioneers, became a very important center for one of the most vital items of the pioneer household — salt. Today, Apollo is the home of the largest nuclear materials and research company in the world.

FREEPORT, originally Todd Town, was headquarters for loyal Indian scouts who stayed at the blockhouse maintained there. Founder David Todd insisted it should always remain a free port for river trade, hence it became known to all travelers on the great Allegheny waterway as "Freeport." Today Freeport is the home of one of the largest refractory brick manufacturers.

PARKER CITY is presently the Smallest City in the United States. The great oil and lumber boom in the 1870's caused it to swell to a population of 25,000 when it received its charter as a Pennsylvania city. Soon after the boom ended, however, the population became much smaller. Today, with a little over 900 people, it claims just title to being the smallest city in the entire United States.

ELDERTON nearly became the home of the telegraph! In 1836, Dr. David Atler conducted some original experiments here and claimed to have discovered a way to send messages by electricity. Lack of funds caused him to give up his project.



You will also enjoy visiting:

ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. Built in 1805, this church, located six miles from Worthington in Sugarcreek Township, was the first Catholic Church to be constructed west of the Allegheny Mountains. A fine example of the pioneer place of worship, it memorializes the first Roman Catholic congregation in this region.

EARLY IRON MAKING FACILITIES. Many remnants of early iron furnaces can still be seen in various sections of the county. Two outstanding examples may be found across the river from East Brady where the first iron T-rail was manufactured. Other remains may be found in the Roaring Run area, east of Apollo.

OLD INDIAN SETTLEMENTS. Armstrong County was once the center of Indian civilization in Western Pennsylvania. Remains of their villages may still be found and artifacts are discovered every day.

SITE OF FORT ARMSTRONG. Near Manorville — a state marker shows the location of a fort erected against Indians in 1779.

BLANKET HILL. Where General Armstrong found only the blankets of his men after their destruction by marauding Indians.

Kenneth Leydic recalls that his grandfather recounted interesting stories of the mennonite culture from which he came. The Henry Flick family also came down from Peter Loucks, in the collateral line.

Although most of the information pertaining to the American branch of the Leydic family has been thoroughly documented, no record has been found of the exact arrival date. Tradition credits John Lydick, the pioneer with having met a Miss Mary May on board ship, that he courted her during the voyage and that they married upon arriving in this country.

Stories handed down from father to son in the family say that Mary's father was a sea captain, and that there were several sea captains in the Lydick family when it first reached colonial shores.

Rupp's "Thirty Thousand Emigrants" shows that a George Leidich arrived in America on the ship "Sally" in 1766. The usual practice was to list only the head of the family on the ship's list, and from this it would appear that George's son, John Lydick, the pioneer sailed on the "Sally" with his family, then a young man of eighteen, met the captain's daughter, Mary May, whom he married in 1767.

Another German emigrant, John Stuchell, married a Mary Lydick, believed to have been John Lydick's sister; three of her children married three of John and Mary May's children. In 1776 and continuing until the end of Revolutionary War in 1783, John Lydick served in Capt. Thomas Fletcher's Company of Westmoreland Rangers on the frontier, as recorded in official records of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Archives.

By the war's end, John Lydick had established himself as a property owner, and was listed among the taxables of Westmoreland Co, along with, "one horse", two cows, and six sheep." He was also assessed with a tract in Armstrong Township, then of Westmoreland, and now of Indiana County, Pa.

Family tradition states that the

Lydick settlers were chased from the tract three times by Indians before they took final possession and that they had erected a blockhouse or fort on the land.

Five years after the Revolutionary War, John Lydick bought the land which was to become his "plantation" from another pioneer, John Chain; the property was still listed in Westmoreland County, but is now in Armstrong Township, Indiana County.

Here he established a thriving agriculture enterprise, and his home was known as "The Mansion"... "Plenty of room for his large brood" says Kenneth Leydic, the ever-present twinkle lighting up his eyes.

John and Mary Lydick had nine children, and Kenneth's great-great grandfather was the seventh in the line, James, born in 1781.

The Lydick name appears in the first census of the United States, taken a hundred and seventy-seven years ago in 1790. John's brother, Jacob, is also listed, but he was not so prolific, listing only one child. From old family records Kenneth Leydic has learned that this founder of the American branch of the original Leidichs died in 1803, the year Indiana County was formed.

"My great-great-great grandmother survived her husband by seven years living on in her room in the mansion as requested by her husband...her sons no doubt being careful to lay firewood at her door, to mill the twenty bushels of good wheat and bring it to her room, to provide the meat and the produce from the six apple trees. Those must have been seven good years, a roaring fire on her hearth and two hundred pounds of beef and pork"... again the twinkle in Mr. Leydic's eyes.

In tracing his descent from the "pioneer and patriot", Mr. Leydic found that the fourth son, James, was the father of Allen A. Lydick, whose son was Dr. Joseph M. Leydic (apparently the spelling changed in this generation) who in turn was the father of Dr. C. L. Leydic, Kenneth's father. (Continued on page 20.)



Francis Gressley John Manga

FRANCIS L. GRESSLEY, is a native of Coolsprings, Pa. and is a graduate of Laurel Highlands (Fayette) Public Schols and the Rosacroix University in California; and has studied at the University of Pittsburgh and Penn State University.

Gressley is head of Vocational Education at Valley High School in New Kensington, Pa. He holds membership in the local and state educational associations; American Vocational Assoc.; International Association of Machinists and the Grolier Society. He is Vice-President of New Kensington City Council PTA and member of the Masonic Lodge.

JOHN MANGA,

Mr. Manga was born at Tarentum and is a graduate of the Tarentum Public Schools. John served three years in the U.S. Navy and nine in the U.S. Air Force and saw active duty in the Korean conflict. John is now with Westinghouse Electric Company in Cheswick.

The Manga's and their children reside in Arnold, Pa. where John is a member of the Jednota Lodge. John is Chairman of the Society's Museum Committee and a Director.

TUTELO, continued from page 21.

U.S. Post Office Department at New Kensington, Pa. In addition to his office as Vice-President of the Historical Society, he is President of the Allegheny-Kiski Valley Numismatic Society and holds membership

in the American Numismatic Society; the Orders and Metals Society of America and a charter member of the Token and Medal Society.

The Tutelo's are the parents of two children and make their home in New Kensington, Pa. where they are members of Mt. St. Peter's Church. Mr. Tutelo is an avid collector of coins, stamps, glass, buttons, and antiques of every sort.

-@-

NEW KENSINGTON, continued

Under the leadership of the redevelopment Authority Board and staff, the City moved into high gear in 1964. Over 230 structures were demolished. 1965 heralded an unprecedented year as 23 major new buildings were started in our urban renewal areas. This was made possible by the wide support given the program by New Kensington Citizens and particularly the cooperation of the Municipal Authorities and departments and the various utilities.

1967 will be a history making year as the Ninth Street Project moves into execution. This Central Business District Project will enable New Kensington to continue to be the major shopping center in the valley. In 1967, the Redevelopment Authority will begin acquisition of about 80 additional parcels in the blighted area surrounding the new housing, neighborhood commercial and industrial uses will be of benefit to everyone.

The Redevelopment Authority has been authorized by the Federal Government to survey and plan for redevelopment of the Hospital area to provide expansion for Citizens General Hospital which will enable the hospital to be the regional center for the health professions.

The Redevelopment Authority has been able to keep New Kensington Urban Renewal Plan on the move because of the community wide support it receives. Success of the Redevelopment Authority in the future is dependent on continued cooperation of our city officials and authorities.

From the office of
Mayor Lenus H. Hileman

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113 Grant Ave.

VANDERGRIFT

Peter Basile Jack Sgourakis

Dugliese FLOWER SHOP

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Society News in..

The News-Citizen

203 Walnut Street
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Howard W. Grimes, Publisher

the beginning of the term for which he is nominated.

SECTION 5. Officers and directors shall be installed at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected and shall serve until their successors have been duly elected and installed. In the event of resignation or incapacity of any officer except the president, or any director, the vacancy may be filled by a vote of the board of directors for the unexpired term of office.

ARTICLE VII

This constitution may be amended at any regular or adjourned meeting by a two-thirds vote of those voting, provided notice was given at the previous meeting, or it may be amended at a special meeting called for that purpose, with previous notice and a two-thirds vote. All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing. All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the board of directors one month prior to the date of the next meeting.

Appendix III BYLAWS

Article I

Section 1. Any person interested in the history of the Allegheny-Kiski Valley who applies for membership in any classification of membership and who renders the necessary dues shall thereby become a member.

Section 2. Annual dues for individual active members shall be one dollar. (\$1.00) Section 3. Annual dues for contributing members shall be five dollars. (\$5.00) Section 4. Annual dues for business, institutional, or professional members shall be fifteen dollars. (\$15.00) Section 5. Annual dues for sustaining members shall be fifty dollars. (\$50.00) Section 6. Annual dues for life members shall be one hundred dollars in one payment.

Section 7. Annual dues shall be payable in advance, and members in arrears more than six months after payment is due shall be dropped from membership. Section 8. Annual dues for student members shall be fifty cents. (\$.50) Section 9. Annual dues for general members shall be ten dollars. (\$10.00)

Article II

Section 1. Regular meetings of the society shall be held monthly.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the president.

Section 3. The board of directors shall meet every other month, and special meetings of the board of directors may be called by the chairman of the board.

Section 4. One-third of the active members of the society shall constitute a quorum.

Article III

The president shall have executive supervision over the activities of the society within the scope provided by these bylaws. He shall preside at all meetings. He shall report annually on the activities of the society. He shall appoint the members of committees and delegates not otherwise provided for. The vice-president shall assume the duties of the president in the event of absence, incapacity, or resignation of the president. The secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings of the society and of the board of directors, maintain a list of members, and render an annual report. The treasurer shall be responsible for the safekeeping of society funds and for maintaining adequate financial records. He shall deposit all monies received by him with a reliable banking company in the name of the Allegheny-Kiski Valley Historical Society. Monies shall be paid out by numbered checks signed by the treasurer and the president.

The treasurer will collect dues, and he shall render an annual report based on the calendar year. The board of directors shall have the power to conduct all affairs of the society. (Continued on page 22.)

The board of directors shall decide questions of policy that for any reason cannot be acted upon at a meeting of the society and perform such other functions as designated in the bylaws or otherwise assigned to it. At any meeting of the board of directors, four members shall constitute a quorum. The board of directors will elect its own chairman. The board of directors, through the chairman, shall render an annual report at each annual meeting.

Article IV

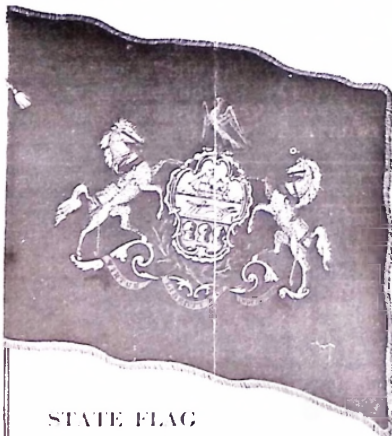
COMMITTEES: The society shall have the following standing committees: 1. LIBRARY Committee - responsible for collecting, cataloging, the care, arrangement, and repair of books, manuscripts, newspapers, and other historical source material. 2. MUSEUM Committee - responsible for collecting, cataloging, cleaning, repair, and storage of historic objects; for arranging museum exhibits, and the correct historic interpretation of the exhibits; for the care and upkeep of museum quarters. 3. PUBLICATIONS committee - responsible for finding ways and means for publishing joint or individual research studies; newsletter to members, a quarterly bulletin, or books; for publicity; for staging radio and television programs. 4. HISTORIC SITES Committee - responsible for establishing the historic validity for sites proposed for marking; for marking historical sites; for arranging historical tours. 5. PROGRAM Committee - for arranging suitable programs. 6. MEMBERSHIP Committee - responsible for membership drives. 7. NOMINATIONS Committee - responsible for making nominations for officers and members of the board of directors. The president shall appoint members and chairmen of the standing committees. Other committees, standing or special, may be appointed by the president as directed by the society or board of directors.

Article V

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the society except in such cases as are governed by the constitution or the bylaws.

Article VI

These bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a two-thirds vote of those voting, provided notice was given at the previous meeting or they may be amended at a special meeting called for that purpose, with previous notice and two-thirds vote. All amendments shall be submitted in writing.

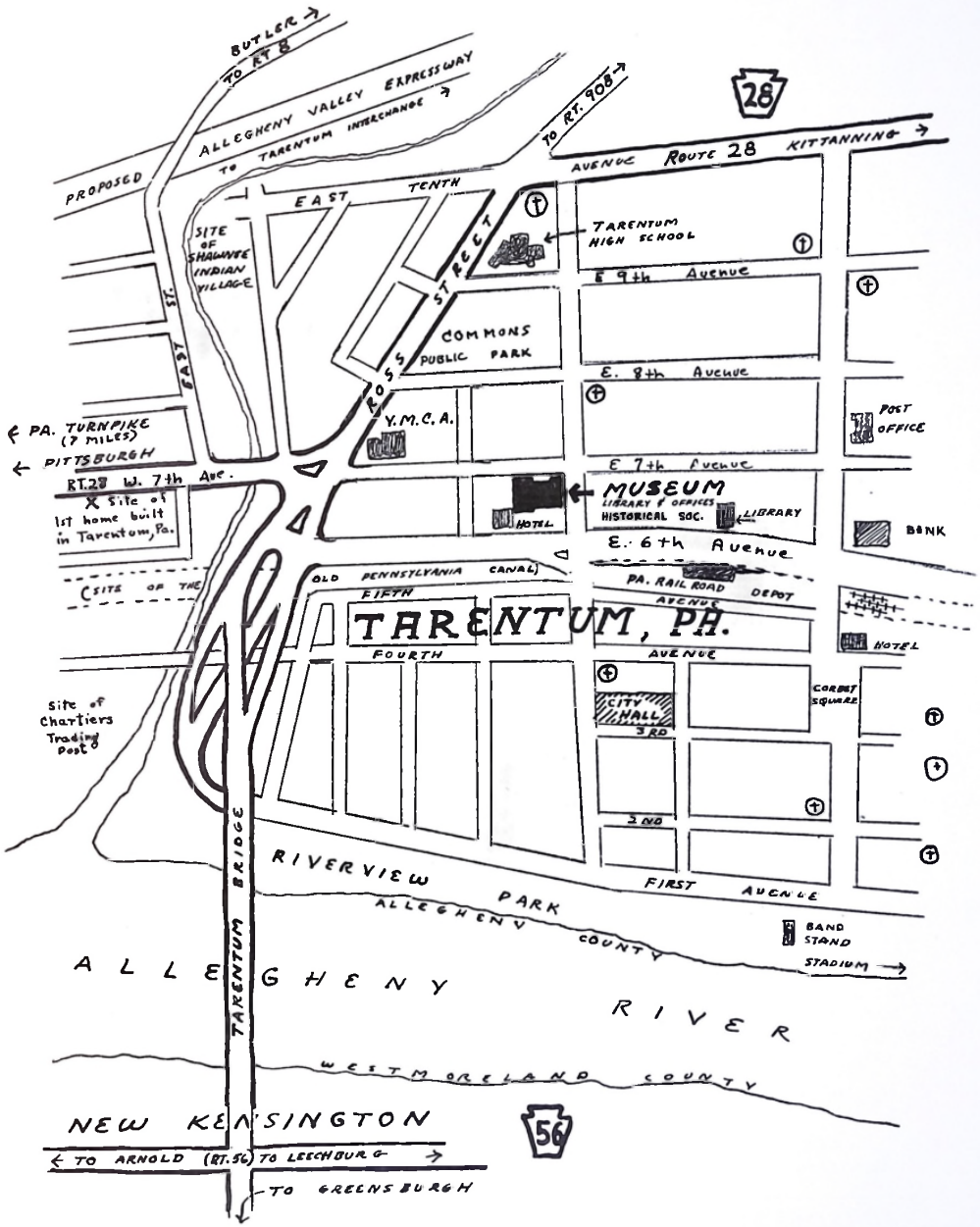


STATE FLAG

The first permanent settlers in Pennsylvania were the Swedes who came in 1643 and settled on land granted to William Penn by Charles II in 1681. Wm. Penn landed at Upland (now Chester) in 1682 and convened the first assembly and laid out the city of Philadelphia.

The province declared its independence of England July 4, 1776 and the first Constitutional Convention assembled here in Pennsylvania July 11, 1776 and proclaimed the first state constitution in Sept.

It was Pennsylvania that gave birth to the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. The Pa. state flag was prescribed April 9, 1799 by the Pennsylvania General Assembly.



BUTLER →
TO RT 8

ALLEGHENY VALLEY EXPRESSWAY
TO TARENTUM INTERCHANGE →

TO RT. 908 →



ROUTE 28 KITTANNING →

EAST TENTH

SITE OF SHAWNEE INDIAN VILLAGE

TARENTUM HIGH SCHOOL

E 9th Avenue

COMMONS PUBLIC PARK

E. 8th Avenue

Y.M.C.A.

MUSEUM
LIBRARY & OFFICES
HISTORICAL SOC. LIBRARY

E. 6th Avenue

POST OFFICE

BANK

← PA. TURNPIKE (7 MILES)
← PITTSBURGH

X Site of 1st home built in Tarentum, Pa.

(SITE OF THE

OLD PENNSYLVANIA CANAL

TARENTUM, PA.

PA. RAILROAD DEPOT

AVENUE

HOTEL

Site of Charliers Trading Post

CITY HALL 3RD

CORBETT SQUARE

TARENTUM BRIDGE

RIVERVIEW PARK

ALLEGHENY

FIRST AVENUE

BAND STAND
STADIUM →

ALLEGHENY

RIVER

WEST IRELAND COUNTY

NEW KENSINGTON



← TO ARNOLD (RT. 56) TO LEECHBURG →

TO GREENSBURGH



Headquarters of the Allegheny-Kiski Valley Historical Society, Inc.
224 East Seventh Avenue, Tarentum, Pa.

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Wright & Rundle, Attorneys-at-Law ; Pittsburgh, Penna.

Society founded September 1966 - Society Incorporated April 1967