



"Whereas, the Borough of Mount Pleasant was incorporated on February 7, 1828 by Pennsylvania Legislative Act 47 and is the oldest existing Borough in the County of Westmoreland. Mount Pleasant has a population of 6,000 and services an area of 50,000. It is located directly beneath the western slopes of the Chestnut Ridge of the Allegheny Mountains and is rich in such natural resources as timbers, farmlands, wildlife and Bituminous coal. The Borough is nestled in the watershed of the Ohio Valley, which has been a witness to significant events ranging from the movement of the Iroquois Nation and the early American settlers to the westward and eastward transport of people and products by road and rail. Mount Pleasant has grown steadily in economic and community strength; the Sesquicentennial slogan of "Proud, Pleasant and Progressive" is well suited to this cohesive, spirited small-town community."

February 6, 1978 Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

History

"Union Springs, Mount Pleasant. The Braddock or Union Springs are situated in Mount Pleasant, on the property of Mrs. Elizabeth Shields Hitchman, a short distance from the corner of Spring and Eagle Streets. Two magnificent streams of water gush forth near an old springhouse. That either the advance or rear guard of Braddock's army may have bivouaced at or near the springs seems not wholly unlikely. So strong a supply of most delicious spring water could not but attract the attention of moving squadrons." Braddock Road Series by J.F. Lacock, 1906

Loaned by E. Allison



49 Union Springs, Mount Pleasant, Pa.

Photo copyright, 1906, by E. F. Wellen.

The Western Wilderness in the Colonial Period and the French and Indian War 1682-1768

This postcard pictures Union or Braddock's Springs as they appeared in 1906, hidden by a shelter from which two streams flow on the northern edge of the Hitchman property just off Eagle Street. Before the 1930s the springs area, facing on Spring Street was used as a dump. In 1937, the WPA filled part of the wet swampy land fed by the springs when they built Ramsay Football Field. The dump, which had already buried the springs, was later filled. The Kraisinger family began developing the property in the 1950s.

Today Braddock's Springs still flow silently about 20 feet below the surface near the east corner of James Way at Spring Street. No marker shows their historic location.

The evolution of Mount Pleasant, a town that grew at the crossroad, reaches back into the age of exploration, feudal grants and colonial empires, sharing the story of the conquering of the vast wilderness beyond the Allegheny Mountains, a land claimed by three nations: the Indian, the French and the English. Its history, bloodied by the battles of savage chiefs and the armies of Christian kings, honored and disgraced by its native and adopted sons, and nurtured by the pioneer spirit of those who came and stayed, is ours.

The following summary of that colonial period and of the French and Indian War fought on our frontier, has been excerpted from the *History of the County of Westmoreland* by George Dallas Albert, published in 1882 and reprinted in 1976 by the Westmoreland County Historical Society:

All the vast region of this continent on its discovery was, according to the policy of the English government derived from feudal times, the property of the king. With it, as with all demesne lands of the realm, he might do as he pleased. Accordingly all the lands not colonized by the state were appropriated to favorites or to dependents. To satisfy a debt owing from the crown to Admiral William Penn, a donation of the tract now commonly known as Pennsylvania was granted William

Penn, son and heir to the creditor, a Quaker in religious persuasion, and a favorite and courtier at the court of Charles the Second. The nature of the grant was that it was given after the fashion of feudal grants, with the feudal strictures somewhat restricted, in conformity with the new usage established at the restoration of the Stuarts to the throne. Charles Stuart, the king, claimed a title in these lands, inhabited by savages, from discovery and from conquest, as in 1664 all the settlements and possessions of the Dutch along the Delaware River were taken from them by the English. The charter of Penn was signed by the king on March 4, 1681.

Virginia, by her charter of 1609 from James the First, claimed all the territory from the Atlantic Ocean which bounded by a straight line on the northern limits, extended "up into the land throughout from sea to sea, west and northwest," which line, if now allowed as then claimed, would take in Maryland, most of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Ohio and all West and Northwest up to 54° 40'. This patent was, in 1624 at the instance of the company, revoked, and although never afterward restored, was made the pretext by which Virginia held great and most arrogant pretensions.

In the early part of the eighteenth century, Alexander Spottwood, Governor of Virginia, headed an expedition which went out to explore the limits of their own colony. From the summit of the Allegheny Mountains he first looked out upon that vast expanse of territory theretofore unknown to the whites. He proposed a plan to the British government by which they might anticipate the settlement of this portion of country before any other of the European nations. But owing to the domestic relations of the government and to the ceaseless war on the continent, the colonies were left to see to their own advancement, and to protect the interest of the mother-country in its most remote boundaries. This polite and far-seeing Governor also, in view of this attitude and in view of the intentions of the French government in relation to these colonies, advocated the policy of establishing a chain of forts from the lakes to the Mississippi, for the attitude of French and of English was plainly observed. The English saw with jealousy the progress of the French on the St. Lawrence and the lakes. The French were active in reclaiming this unoccupied ground which each claimed, the French by occupancy and discovery (La Salle-1670), the English by original and earlier charters from their own monarchs, which charters were, it is true, boundless and took in all the land from the Atlantic to the Great South Sea. It is therefore to be noticed that the country west of the Allegheny chain was not absolutely within the prescribed boundaries of either nation.

But thus it was that through many causes the Indians who claimed these parts were, before the middle of the century (1750), confined to their reservation on the Ohio River, a name which embraced the river we now call Allegheny. Here they were more than ever open to the influences of the French, whose base of operations was at Montreal. These with a diplomatic policy peculiar to themselves, won the good graces of the Indians by representing that they were their only friends, and effected an alliance at the expense of rum and tobacco, arms for their use and trinkets for their amusement. They also succeeded in forming the various tribes, each with a local enmity toward the other, into one confederacy as against the white of English birth and against their own natural enemies. No sooner did an English trader open a cabin to deal with the natives than he was peremptorily commanded by the authority of the King of France to leave. Some were treated with a hostile and barbarous manner although there was no open war. The French descending the headwaters of the Ohio, at various places put up marks to indicate that the country was of the dominion of the christian king. In the mean time the English settlements in Pennsylvania were extending westward. The traders, who to an extent were the pioneers of civilization, preceded them, and wherever they could, opened a paying trade. Penn's proprietary government made no efforts to effect settlements west of the Susquehanna; and even the method of traffic pursued by these traders was not, as have been said, countenanced. But in spite of the strongest prohibitory enactments and the immediate exertions of the Governors themselves, there were always many ready to risk life and property in pursuit of this lucrative calling. In time the succeeding proprietaries and executives winked at this breach of faith with the Indians. And thus between the English under shadow of the colonial government of this province and the French, all the Indian trade was monopolized, and at this juncture (1748) the Ohio Company was organized.

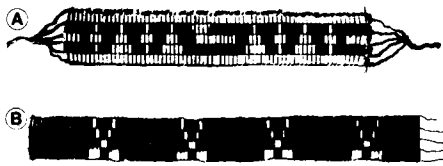
Thomas Lee, one of the Council of Virginia, with twelve others of Virginia and Maryland and a few merchants of London, formed a company with the design of effecting settlement in the wild lands west of the Alleghenies, and under this ostensible project of securing part of the Indian trade. Their grant embraced a portion of five hundred thousand acres lying on the south side of Ohio between the

William Penn's grant began at the Delaware River, near the 40th degree of north latitude, and extended west in a straight line of five degrees of longitude, and thence north to Lake Erie. It was not until a long time after Penn's establishment of Philadelphia in 1682 that these boundaries were fixed because of conflicts with colonial authorities of New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Connecticut and Virginia. The dispute with Maryland was satisfactorily adjusted in 1769 by compromising on the Mason and Dixon Line. The claim of Virginia on the territory west of the Allegheny Mountains effected and shaped our early settlement and was not without merit.

History of Westmoreland County, Vol. 1, 1906, John Boucher.

Opposite page: A gushing double spring in the dark primeval forest beyond the Chestnut Ridge, along the path pointed out by the Indian Nemacolin, is the first place of which there is a written record in what later became the town of Mountpleasant. A British army journal kept while in the colonies, shows that General Braddock and his men on their march through the western wilderness toward Fort Duquesne, stopped here to rest and water the horses about mid-day, on July 3, 1755, six days before their defeat and death at the hands of the French and Indians. The watering place was afterward called Braddock's Springs.

Although George Washington, who was Braddock's aide and guide was not with the army here, having taken sick at Little Meadow, and not rejoining the line until July 8th when it was further north, he traveled Nemacolin's Path before in 1753 on his trip to Fort Venango. These springs and the one to the east along Glades Path were probably both known to Washington. They are believed to have been the main sources of water for the early settlement of Mountpleasant.



A. Belt representing the union of four tribes in a local alliance. Dark background represents the present friendship. Alternating panels of dark and white at the end are a convention of the Iroquois. The four white triangles are tribal wig wams. The pipe in the center symbolizes the ceremony by which the tribes are joined.

B. War Belt, bearing four pairs of crossed tomahawks upon its dark background, is a call to four nations to join in a common cause. Pontiac would have sent such a belt by runner to Chief Jacob or Shingass. Each chief in turn would then send it on to the nearest tribe until the belt would be returned to its place of the beginning.

Wampum was much in use among many tribes not only for ornament but for the graver purpose of councils treaties and embassies. From ancient time, it consisted of small or fragmented shells, perforated and strung together; in the Colonial American period, white man manufactured it from the inner portion of marine and fresh water shells. In shape the beads resembled small pieces of broken pipe stem. In necklaces, collars and embroidery, their arrangement was fanciful; in belts for public purpose, their pattern and color were symbolic.

An Indian orator at every clause of his speech delivered a belt or string of wampum, its size, figures and coloring arranged to become a record of his words. Stored like written documents, these belts held meaning that could be interpreted by an elder of the tribe. When a belt was sent as a summons of war, its colors were red or dark blue or black; a peace belt's color was predominately white.

Monongahela and Kanawha Rivers. The privilege was reserved to the company of embracing a portion of lands on the north side of the river if deemed expedient. The company had several further beneficiary exemptions, in the nature of freedom from taxation, on condition of their seating settlers on the land within a limited time, and of their building a fort and sustaining a garrison to protect the settlement. As nothing could be done without the assent of the Indians, the government of Virginia was petitioned to invite them to a treaty. The company further resolved to make roads from the head-waters of the Potomac to some point on the Monongahela, to erect houses, and to locate settlements.

And now commenced a rivalry between the government of Pennsylvania and the government of Virginia. Andrew Palmer, President of the Council of the proprietary government, on June 23, 1748, gave instructions under his hand and seal to Conrad Weiser, in which he was to use his utmost diligence to acquire a perfect knowledge of the number, situation, disposition, and strength of all the Indians about the Ohio, whether friends, neutrals, or enemies . . .

Weiser, setting out from Berks County, crossed the Kiskiminetas and came to the Ohio Aug. 25, 1748. He was rendered valuable assistance by George Crogan, a trader and agent in the interest of the Council, who was settled on Beaver Creek, a few miles from where it empties into the Ohio. Of the number of their men and the various tribes they gave Weiser the count in little bundles of twigs or sticks tied to represent the several tribes. They had in all seven hundred and twenty-nine warriors. The Senecas, Wyandots, Delawares, and Shawnees had the most. They were chiefly ruled by the Five Nations.

This celebrated confederation, which had brought under their domination all the other Indian tribes in the middle part of the continent, when they were first known to the whites had their council-fires about the lakes in New York. Having conceded their lands to the whites, they now still held northwestern Pennsylvania. These five nations were sometimes called the Six Nations after they had admitted into their family the Tuscaroras, a tribe which was expelled from the Carolina in 1712. They were called by the French the Iroquois; they called themselves the Mingoos. They had been engaged in war from times long before they were known to the whites, and such was the force of their combination and their love for war that all native opposition gave way before them . . .

Weiser found that although a few were favorable to the English and especially to the colonists of Pennsylvania, yet the majority were completely under the influence of the French.

But neither the now active attempts of the government of Pennsylvania nor the attempts of the Ohio Company under the patronage of the government of Virginia affected anything either in conciliating the disaffected Indians or in thwarting the encroachment of the French.

The latter still persisted in their scheme of erecting fortifications in a proposed line from their settlements in Canada to their settlements at New Orleans. They had erected forts at Presque Isle, in Lake Erie, at Le Boeuf, at Venango. These active determinations so quickened the latent spirit of the English that Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia sent a young man of the name of George Washington to ask an explanation of their designs. Washington came out on this expedition on the 22nd of November 1753, stopped at Frazer's (an Indian trader) at the mouth of Turtle Creek. We should note this incident, that Washington was one of the first to tread the wilderness where is now Westmoreland. He came on his route by way of Wills Creek to where Gist was settled as agent of the Ohio Company and thence northwest to Shannopin's, the name of an old Indian town on the Allegheny about two miles above the Ohio. From here he examined the location at the junction of the river, and reported its situation as favorable for a fortification. He proceeded to Logtown where he had called a conference of Indians. In all his efforts and in his object he was thwarted by the influence of the French; but he acquired a great deal of information, learned the number of forts erected and projected, with the number of their garrisons and their equipments. On proceeding to Venango, he there, under the French flag, had an interview with the French commander. They there openly disclosed to him their design of holding by force against all intruders the land which they claimed from the discovery of La Salle. The council was peremptorily brought to a close . . .

But nevertheless the Ohio Company still continued their movements in the West. They had built a block-house at Redstone, now Brownsville, and in the spring of 1754 made arrangements to take permanent possession of the country about the forks of the Ohio. About the middle of February, Trent, Gist, and several others arrived at this point, and there waited on more, to the number of seventy or eighty, to come down the river, the Monongahela, on which Redstone Old Fort was built. They began the formation of a redoubt. Before their work was finished a French officer, Contrecoeur, with a thousand French and Indians and eighteen pieces of cannon arrived from Venango. They compelled Ensign Ward, commandant in

the absence of Trent, to surrender. This was the first open act of a war that desolated the colonies for nine years, and which agitated both continents, but which in the end resulted in favor of the English and so shaped the destinies of these colonies that they in time equalled in dominion and power either the empire of King George or the empire of King Louis.

The French taking possession of this disputed point, built a fort, which they called Fort Duquesne after the Governor of Canada . . . They summoned all the neighboring tribes together and loaded them with presents and beads. *And now occurring the treaty of 1754, the alienation of the Indians (by the British) was complete. This treaty was held at Albany by order of the king. This had been recommended by the Lords of Trade and Plantations, that all the provinces might be comprised in one treaty. Thus we see how that the interests of all the provinces were and how the subsequent war became one common to all.*

The action of the Ohio Company in attempting to build a fort at the Forks of the Ohio River was under the authority and assistance of the Virginia government. Governor Dinwiddie, representing the necessity of this procedure, issued a proclamation for recruits. To such as entered the service he gave a bounty of land, appropriating for this purpose two hundred thousand acres on the east side of the Ohio. Under these claims lands were held in the southwestern part of the State; but not all, for some were held by military permit, and some under the land titles of the colony of Virginia, but all under the belief that the jurisdiction of that colony covered this debatable ground.

. . . the Governor of Virginia determining on securing the site so advantageously pointed out by Washington, had in the meantime sent out two companies subject to Washington's orders. Capt. Trent, with one company, had preceded Washington, who was at Will's Creek when he got information of the surrender of Ensign Ward. *Washington knew that it was impossible that he could take the position lost, but he resolved to proceed to Redstone, and there fortify himself till the arrival of reinforcements. He hewed a road through the wilderness and over the mountains on an old Indian trail which crossed to the Potomac, and which had been pointed out by a friendly Indian in his service called Nemacolin.* At the Youghiogheny he was stopped for want of a bridge. This was about half the distance to the Redstone. He found here that the French were advancing to meet him. He therefore hastened on with the purpose of intercepting them at a place called the Great Meadows, which location he knew to be a favorable one for his security. At the dawning of the day on the 28th of May, 1754, they saw the French erecting their tents in a retiring valley. A detachment was ordered to surround them; both then fired upon the enemy at the same instant. Their leader was killed and all, with the exception of one that escaped, were captured. A stockade was here erected, the reinforcements came in due time, and Washington, by the death of Col. Fry, the commander of the expedition, was left in sole command.

Washington was at this time but twenty-two years of age, but his nature was of a calm, calculating and heroic kind. He learned from his Indian spies that reinforcements had arrived at Fort Duquesne. It was impossible for him to take it. He retired to his stockade now called Fort Necessity, and there awaited the approach of the enemy. They had scarcely secured themselves when they were attacked by fifteen hundred French and Indians. Nearly all day in the heart of the wilderness the battle raged. So well did Washington defend his handful of men that they were accorded unwonted terms by a capitulation and allowed to return to their homes, marching off in military order with their baggage.

England and France were now enemies, and the British government resolved on opposing the French in America by aggressive movements. Reinforcements of royal regulars were sent to the colonies . . . A plan of campaign was adopted, and in this campaign three expeditions were organized. The first, under command of Gen. Edward Braddock, commander in chief, was to operate against Fort Duquesne . . .

Braddock, on the 20th day of April 1755, left his camp at Alexandria on the Potomac, in Virginia, and took up his march toward Fort Duquesne. On the day of their arrival (at Fort Cumberland, the 10th of May), in general orders, the appointment of Washington as aide-de-camp to the general was proclaimed to the army . . . From here on the 27th of May were sent out five hundred men under Sir John St. Clair and Maj. Chapman to open the road to the Little Meadows, which road had been previously marked out by Washington and his friendly Indian, Nemacolin, and afterward used by the Ohio Company . . . On the seventh day after he had started thence he reached the Little Meadows, at the foot of the Allegheny Mountains, on the western side, whither St. Clair had arrived . . . Twelve hundred men with pieces of artillery, selected from the different corps, under Braddock

From the time of his arrival in 1682, Penn followed a policy of purchasing the title of land from the Indians before settling. He treated with them and gave them valuable consideration for their lands. By treaty with the Five Nations in 1754, all land within the boundaries of Penn's territories was claimed to have been purchased from the Indians. Owing to misunderstanding of boundaries and geography, the Indians afterward did not acquiesce, and separate treaties were made.

By a treaty made with the English Colonial government at Albany in 1758, the Indian leaders of the Five Nations again conveyed "*all lands westward to the setting of the sun.*" This treaty produced great dissatisfaction, for the Indians claimed they did not understand the limits of the purchase and the land conveyed did not belong to the tribes making the treaty. This strengthened the alliance between the French and Indians against the English during the ensuing nine years of war in the Western Territories.

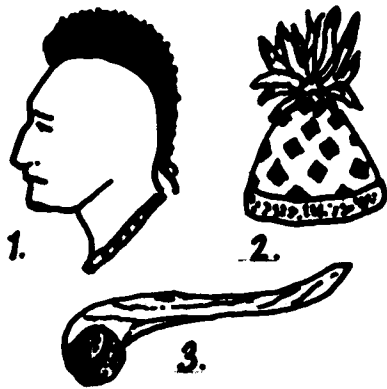
The lands here were claimed by a sixth nation, the last one admitted to the Indian federation. Having been driven out of the Carolina in 1712, this tribe, known there as the Tuscaroras, came to the land west of the Alleghenies. A fierce and warring people, the English called them the Iroquois; they called themselves the Mingoes. Jacobs was their chief.

In 1755, following the defeat of Braddock, the settlement in the western territories then considered part of Cumberland County, were overrun by Indians. Whole families were murdered; cabins burned; captives taken often were taken to depots of the French in Canada.

"Two chiefs, Shingass and Jacobs were considered the instigators of these incursions. Jacobs, with his warriors, had his home at the Delaware Indian Camp at Logtown (Kittanning) and here sometimes Shingass abided. Here they had great quantities of ammunition received from the French and from here they sallied out on their war trips."

"Shingass is described as a small man in stature, but of the utmost activity, prowess and physical endurance. He, with his mutual friend and neighbor, Captain Jacobs, helped more than any other of the Western Indians to devastate the settlements of Conococheague, Great Cove, Sherman's Valley and other settlements then along the frontier. Jacobs, an Indian chief, known by the name applied to him by the English-Americans, had his wigwam betime along the Yough and Jacob's Creek after whom the creek was called . . . Jacob's Swamp was the designation of a large body in (East) Huntingdon township, and is the name by which a portion of the land was patented. (This stream in Governor Powell's map of 1776, is called Salt-Lick Creek.)"

The Iroquois Indians like all tribes had distinctive dress and weapons as well as customs. (Chief Jacob probably wore the "Scalp Lock" illustrated below.)



1. "Scalp Lock"
2. One of several styles of headdress, painted, beaded leather with feathers.
3. War club: rounded stone fixed to wooden handle.

"In August of 1765, Col. John Armstrong with his First Pennsylvania Regiment called the Second Battalion, attacked the Indians at Logtown. Capt. Armstrong reported Chief Jacob killed; Jacob was identified by his boots which he had gotten from a French officer and by his scalp, which the soldiers took, as he dressed in a peculiar manner. One account said that Jacobs could not escape with the tall narrow boots on and was killed while trying to remove them . . . In 1764 there is mention of a Chief Jacob in Col. Henry Bouquet's journal, which some say was the son of the chief killed at Kittanning."

When the Iroquois, were vanquished from the territory after their defeat at Bushy Run by Col. Bouquet, Chief Jacob stayed behind living out his days peacefully in his cabin at the headwater of the Jacob's Creek.

In 1768, at Fort Stanwix a new treaty was made. Called the New Purchase it secured all titles for these lands from the Six Nations Indian tribes, which now included the Iroquois Nation. The Penns paid \$10,000 dollars in presents, money and unlimited rum for the territory out of which Westmoreland was later erected.

Although no account of Indian attacks on the settlers here at the crossroad between what was later Mountpleasant and Huntingdon townships exists, Albert's history of the county retells many Indian incidents involving Westmoreland's pioneer families.

himself, with Halket and his veterans, preceded Dunbar and Chapman, who were to follow by slower and more easy marches with the residue of the two regiments, some independent companies, the heavy artillery and baggage . . . *On the 3rd day of July a council was held at Jacob's Creek to consider the propriety of bringing forward Col. Dunbar with the reserves . . .* On the 9th of July at one o'clock all had crossed the Monongahela (about 10 miles from the fort) and the line of march had been arranged again. The advance guard of some three hundred under Cage took up their march, then followed a column of workmen, two hundred and fifty, under Sir John St. Clair. They were to march on till three o'clock, the general following with the main body, the artillery, and the light baggage . . . On a sudden, a rattling volley of musketry, seemingly out of the earth, as no enemy was to be seen, was poured into the faces of those who were in the lead . . . The attack was so sudden and so destructive and the panic that seized upon these was so terrible, that before they knew it all—the artillery, infantry, pioneers, baggage—were in an inextricable mass . . . By this time half of the army that had crossed the river were killed or wounded, many of the best officers had been cut down, and the general, after having five horses shot under him, received a mortal wound . . . The ball that met Braddock penetrated through his arm and lung. He lived four days after he was wounded.

The loss of the French and their allies, according to their own report, which may be taken into allowance, was only about thirty, and the most of these met death by accident from the falling timbers in the woods cut by the cannon-balls. Of the British, sixty-four out of eighty-five officers, and one-half the privates or about seven hundred, were killed, or wounded. Every field or horseback officer, except Washington, was carried off the field, and he had two horses killed under him.

The Indians may claim the glory of this victory. Those engaged were confederates who were not confined to the tribes about the Ohio, for all under the control of the French throughout the West were brought to the fort. The Wyandots and Southern Ohio tribes were represented, and Pontiac, then a young warrior, headed some of his Ottawas from the Western lakes. Cornplanter was there, too, with the Senecas, and many others since known to fame.

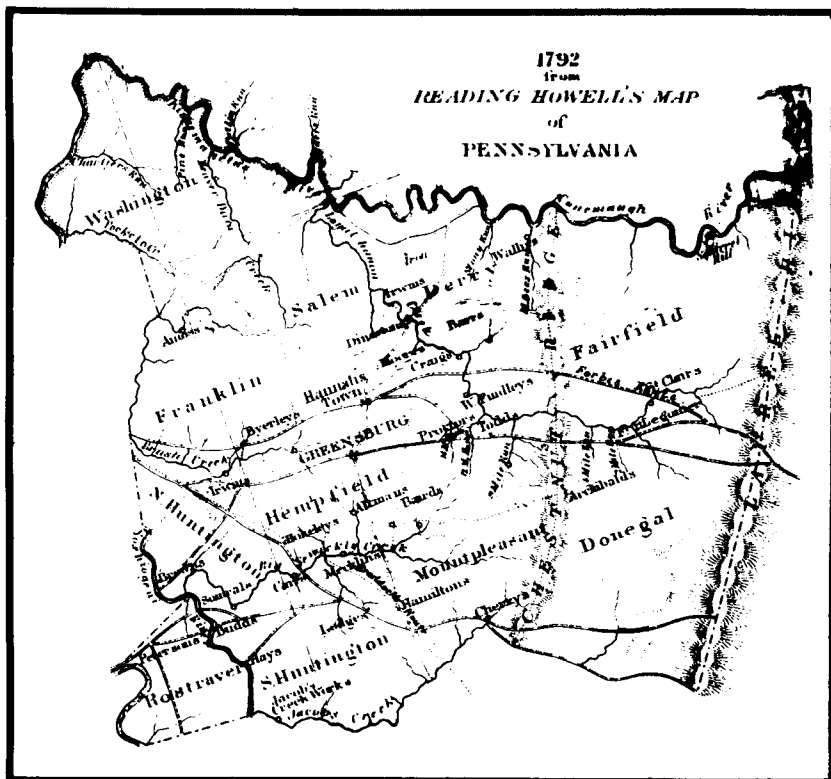
The completeness of this victory and defeat, although felt, was not fully seen till the detachment sent out by Forbes, when he took possession of the fort, three years after this, came upon the battle-field to pay the last rites to the mangled bodies of their former companions in arms . . . The dead had been left to lie as they fell.

In 1758 a treaty at Easton was effected between the Delawares and Shanane and the whites . . . Settlers, taking advantage of the lull in the war, pushed farther West

Settlements were re-established along the Monongahela, several on the old Braddock Road and at Turkey Foot. Far from the West, where the Indians had gathered closer together, came mutterings of war. As the war between France and England was about terminating in 1762, the storm at length broke out. The natives, under arrangements concerted with the great Chieftan Pontiac, attacked in squads and simultaneously, nearly every one of the outer circle of forts and settlements which circled westward from the lakes to the head-waters of the Kentucky . . . Fort Pitt was surrounded . . . Environing this fort, they penetrated as far eastward as Bedford. Ligonier was in a state of siege. In the meantime was Col. Bouquet hastening from the East to the distressed posts . . . In 1764 he was placed at the head of a force of Pennsylvania and Virginia volunteers, which he had organized at Fort Loudon, Pa. with which he penetrated in a line of battle from Fort Pitt into the Indian country along the Muskingum. The savages, baffled and unsuccessful in all their attempts at surprise ambush, sued for peace, and the "Treaty of Bouquet" made then and there, is as notorious in Ohio as the "Battle of Bouquet" (1763) is in Pennsylvania.

The Braddock Road, used before the time of Pontiac's war (1764) in preference to the Forbes road, was after that time the great highway to and through those parts, and many indeed, from the interior of Pennsylvania preferred it to the other, which was regarded as more difficult and insecure.

By the terms of the treaty of 1768 made with the Six Nations, the 5th of November, all the territory extending in a boundary from the New York line on the Susquehanna, past Towanda and Tydaghton Creek, up the West Branch, over to the Kittanning on the Allegheny, and thence down the Monongahela to the Province line was conveyed to the proprietaries. This was called the New Purchase. Of most of this region was afterwards erected Bedford and then Westmoreland counties.



Left: a map showing the townships of the southern part of Westmoreland County in 1792.

"Hamiltons", located on this map at the juncture of Mountpleasant, South Huntingdon, and Hempfield townships, refers to the place of James Hamilton, one of the first Justices of Peace appointed for the county at Hanna's in 1773. He became a member of the Westmoreland County bar in 1782. In 1802 Hamilton was one of the attorneys for Hugh Neely conveying lots in the town of Mountpleasant east of Marshall's lots. Hamilton also purchased lots from Neely, but it is not known if he ever resided in the town.

"Cherrys" located on the present site of Laurelville, refers to the place of (Ralph) Cherry who occupied the lands there prior to 1771. His son, William, was one of the first residents of the town of Mountpleasant, (1807) buying lots in both the original town plan and the Neels' "Addition to the town..."

As Part Of The Township

From 1750 and until 1771, two years after the "New Purchase" of the Western Territories from the *Six Nation Indian Tribes*, the vast wilderness beyond the Allegheny mountains was considered part of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Virginia had rendered her claim to this Indian country by a grant made in 1748 to the Ohio Company from the English Crown and by her army's defense of its frontier during the French and Indian War.

Without subdivision or civil authority, settlers who entered the territory from the South along Braddock's Road and later those who came from the East along Glade Road, uncertain of whether the lands belonged to Virginia or Pennsylvania, often squatted without right where they pleased, careful only to keep off the location of prior settlers. This ownership by occupancy or "*Tomahawk Title*," though no title under Pennsylvania law, was partially allowed by Virginia.

Until the land was satisfactorily purchased from the Indians in 1768 the Penns granted permits to occupy land in the Indian country only to certain settlers along the old roads, at stations on the rivers or about the forts where they were of advantage or necessity to the military. Any others who settled here did so without protection of the Penns' authorities and in open defiance of the law. But while Pennsylvania offered objections to settlement, Virginia offered inducements. On April 3, 1769, when the land office opened in Cumberland County, the land upon which settlers and speculators could apply for warrants sold for five pounds per hundred acres; from Virginia the same was sold for ten shillings and title was given without any presentment of money.

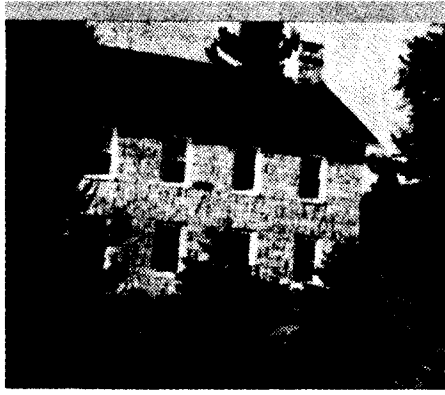
On March 9, 1771, Bedford County was erected out of Cumberland with Bedford Town the county seat. The entire territorial area was divided into eight townships; one of these was Mountpleasant, a large ill-defined area west of the Chestnut Ridge through which the major north-south and east-west traffic arteries crossed.

Mountpleasant was one of the eight original townships embraced by Bedford County when it was erected out of Cumberland in 1771. In 1773 Westmoreland County formed out of Bedford. At the first court convened at Hannastown, April 6, 1773, Westmoreland was divided into 11 townships; Mountpleasant, one of these, was defined as follows:

"Beginning where the Loyal Hannan breaks thro' the Chestnut Ridge and running down the Loyal Hannan to the Mouth of Crabtree Run and up the same to the Main Road thence with a due course to Braddock's Road thence with the south side of that Road to where it crosses Jacob's Creek thence up Jacob's Creek to the line of Fairfield (township line on the East of Chestnut Ridge)."

In 1789 the area of Mountpleasant was reduced by more than one half with the erection of Unity township in the northern section.

Another of Westmoreland's original townships was Huntingdon, located west of Braddock's Road; in 1790 it was officially divided into North and South Huntingdon. In 1798 South Huntingdon township was subdivided, creating East Huntingdon which abutted Mountpleasant township at Braddock's Road. Before 1800 the Neels, John and William, laid out an "Addition to the Town of Mountpleasant." Lots on the southwest of Braddock's Road along the Glade or Main Road were in East Huntingdon while those on the northeast were in Mountpleasant township. This "Addition" was included in the original borough limits, February 7, 1828.



The old stone house at Laurelville, built in 1797 by the eldest son of Christopher Lobingier, Judge John Lobingier, is perhaps the oldest existing building in Mount Pleasant Township or Borough. The Judge also erected a stone grist mill nearby about 1801 which caused the small hamlet to afterward be called Lobingier's Mills. The stone house is presently owned by Dr. and Mrs. Klaas Vandyk.

During the early settlement of the township, disputes arising over conflicting claims to lands were frequent. One case of record is that of Christopher Lobingier, who became the first elected Pennsylvania delegate coming out of Mountpleasant township in 1776.

In 1772 Lobingier left Lancaster County after obtaining title to lands in Mountpleasant township, then in Bedford County. Arriving at the site of what later became known as Laurelville, he found his patented lands occupied and claimed by a man named Cherry. While awaiting the decision on his appeal to Penns' Land Office, Lobingier made warrant for other lands in the township. After serving as soldier with Capt. Clark's Rangers on the western frontier of Ohio during the Revolutionary War, Lobingier acquired titles to many tracts of land in the township, by purchase or by military grant. In 1789, he was the second largest land holder in the county. He died at his Laurelville homestead in 1798; the court had recognized his claim over Cherry's a few years earlier.

"One of the early industries (of the township) was an iron furnace operated by Philip Freeman and located near the Freeman Falls. In addition to smelting iron ore, cannon balls were made here for the War of 1812.

The Mount Pleasant Furnace, built on Jacob's Creek about 1810 by Alexander McClurg, was blown out about 1820 while under the supervision of a Mr. Freeman for whom the nearby falls in Jacob's Creek was named. The furnace and its site are no longer in existence as the Pennsylvania Turnpike now passes directly over the spot."

"200th Anniversary, Mount Pleasant Township, Pa." 1973



Mount Pleasant Furnace 1810

Settlement, concentrated in the southwest, extended about these great roads. An old Bedford County tax roll lists 911 landholders with 174 tenants; many assessed as landholders were non-residents.

On February 27, 1773, during the reign of the sovereign lord, George the Third of Great Britain, a new county was erected, called Westmoreland after a county by the same name in England. The eleventh of the original provincial counties, it was the last one created under the hereditary proprietorship of the Penns.

Although Pittsburgh had been recommended by Arthur St. Clair as a more central location for the new county seat, Hannastown was regarded as the chief place between Westmoreland's western frontier at Pittsburgh and the eastern settlement at Ligonier.

On April 6, 1773, the first court convened at Hannastown. Division of the county was made embracing eleven townships; Mountpleasant was one of these. At the same session Mountpleasant township's first officials were appointed: John McClellan, constable; Solomon and John Shepperd, overseers of the poor; James Scott, supervisor. James Hamilton was justice of the peace. As emigration westward increased, Hannastown, was a very busy place, for besides court, military musters were held there.

In 1774 the first church in the township was established about two miles north of the crossroad of Glade and Braddock's Road; known as the Mountpleasant Presbyterian Church, it began through the missionary of Rev. James Power, the first ordained minister who settled in western Pennsylvania. In 1776 he brought his family to the Mountpleasant church where he served until "incapacitated by age in 1817". By his labors congregations had formed at many places including Unity, Laurel Hill and Congruity.

From the time of Dunmore's War of 1774 and 1775, when Virginia's Army usurped civil authority over the county, holding court at Fort Pitt, alleging it to be in West Augusta County, Virginia, and until after the destruction of Hannastown in 1782, the county was plagued with Indian atrocities. At first, supplied arms by the Virginians who paid for the scalps of white Pennsylvanian colonists, man, woman or child, the Indians escalated their attacks against the frontier Americans, supported by the British during the Revolutionary War. Many settlers fled to the safety of the East or huddled about the forts.

In 1775 following the Boston Tea Party and the skirmish at Lexington, the backwoodsmen of Westmoreland met at Hannastown. Speaking out against the tyranny of the English colonial system, they adopted what became known as the Hannastown Resolutions, whose noble words parallel those of the Declaration of Independence written by Jefferson in 1776. The preamble of the Hannastown Declaration follows:

At a general meeting of the inhabitants of Westmoreland, held at Hannastown on the 16th of May 1773, for taking into consideration the very alarming state of the country occasioned by the dispute with Great Britain, it was unanimously resolved that the Parliament by several acts had declared the inhabitants of Massachusetts to be in rebellion and by endeavoring to enforce those acts the ministry had attempted to reduce the inhabitants to a more wretched state of slavery than existed, or had ever existed, in any State or country. That not content with violating their constitutional and chartered privileges, they would strip them of the rights of humanity by exposing their lives to the wanton sport of licentious soldiery, and by depriving them of the very means of subsistence. That as there was no reason to doubt but the same system of tyranny and oppression would be extended to all parts of America (provided it met with success in Massachusetts), it had therefore become the indispensable duty of every American, of any man who had any public virtue or love for his country, or any compassion for posterity, to resist and oppose by every means which God had put in his power the execution of this system; and that as for them they would be ready to oppose it with their lives and fortunes. And the better to enable them to accomplish this they agreed to

immediately form themselves into a military body, to consist of companies to be made up out of several townships under association declared to be the Association of Westmoreland County.

Westmoreland was committed; she sent seven units to the frontier to fight in the War for Independence, which dragged on until 1783. The number and identity of those who enlisted from Mountpleasant township is not known. Christopher Lobingier of Laurelville, a 36 year-old native of Lancaster who came to Mountpleasant township in 1772, was one of the eight who represented Westmoreland at Pennsylvania's Constitutional Convention held July 15, 1776; and under the convention of 1790 he was a member of its House of Representatives from 1791 to 1793.

At the end of the Revolution, the paper currency of Pennsylvania was in a state of depreciation, scarce, and used only by tradesmen. In Westmoreland, *"the militia in the service of the state had deserted from the posts, because they were not paid and were in rags and the safety of the inhabitants was in their own exertions."* Fearful of Indian attack, the settlers gathered near the forts and worked the fields together; others abandoned their homesteads leaving their harvests to rot in the fields. On July 13, 1782 Hannastown was besieged by Indians and burned.

At Proctor's Tent, near what was later Unity Church, a fasting day was being observed in preparation for communion, *"the men as was their custom had come to preaching with their guns, hearing the commotion about the stockade, the people dispersed, some of the men going toward the town. The minister, Rev. Power, hastened to his home near the Mountpleasant Church in the township to warn his family."* Weeks later at the cemetery there, Power gave a Christian burial to Peggy Shaw, a young girl of 12 or 13 years who was a victim of the destruction of Hannastown, and afterward known as its heroine. Peggy was shot while inside the stockade by the random fire of the Indians as she tried to save the life of a young child who had crawled close to the picketing.

Although Hannastown was destroyed, court continued at Robert Hanna's house until October, 1786. The county seat was then moved to Newtown or Greensburg where the first court convened in January, 1787. To pay for the public land and the buildings erected thereon, a tax was levied on the people of the county not to exceed one thousand pounds Pennsylvania currency.

Although new people streamed into the county after the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783, the county's tax rolls decreased with the exodus of many settlers following Pennsylvania's abolishment of slavery in 1780. The county's area was limited and circumscribed by the erection of Washington County in 1781, Fayette in 1783 and Allegheny in 1788.

In 1789 the area within the limits of Mountpleasant township was cut in half with Unity township established in the larger and northern section. On the old township's western edge abutting South Huntingdon township, a village called Mountpleasant, was quietly taking shape at the crossing of the great roads.

The Whiskey Rebellion in the Township

"Threats to the health were everywhere—especially in the diet which overly concentrated on meat and alcohol. It was the state of the American diet rather than an outraged morality which induced Benjamin Rush to have the College of Physicians petition Congress in 1790 to control the sale of distilled liquor."

"300 Years of Medicine in Pennsylvania"
Pennsylvania Medicine, March 1968

The resulting federal law levying a four pence per gallon excise tax on whiskey and other spirits, followed on the heels of a recently repealed state tax of seven cents per gallon passed in 1780 to pay Pennsylvania's share of Revolutionary Army debts. The state law was unpopular and uncollectible in the western counties. On September 6, 1791 the federal tax collector Johnson was tarred and feathered at Pigeon Creek, Washington County. The next day, delegates from Allegheny, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties met in Pittsburgh and passed resolutions against the law; from this mutual co-operation, the Whiskey Rebellion was spontaneous and general. The tax was reduced and modified by 1794, but the citizens refused to comply demanding instead the tax's abolishment.

While few histories of the township make any note of the insurgents here during the Whiskey Insurrection, Judge Lobingier of Laurelville, a member of the Legislature and Associate Judge of the Court in 1812, barely escaped being drawn, tarred and feathered for his unpopular stand in favor of the tax. Some years before his death in 1859 at his home on South Church Street, Mount Pleasant, the Judge gave a lecture before the Temperance Society recounting the raids of the federal troops on the *Whiskey Boys* here in Mountpleasant township in 1794.

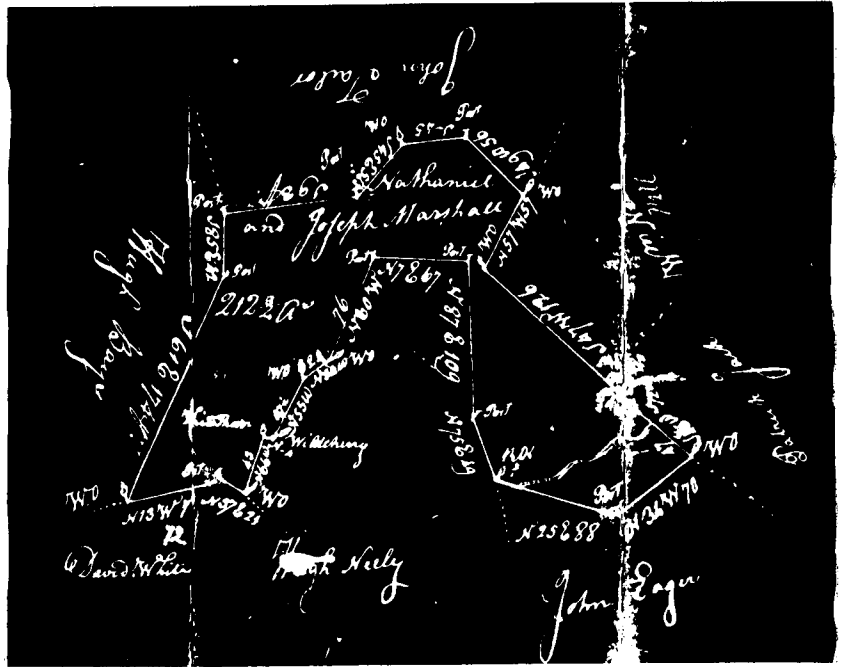
From Judge Lobingier's Lecture before the Temperance Society at Mount Pleasant, 1842:

"The Pennsylvania and Jersey troops came up through Somerset and halted in three divisions on this side of the Chestnut Ridge. The advance came on to where this town [Mount Pleasant] now stands; the second division encamped on Col. Bennett's farm, and the rear division remained at Lobingier's Mill. They remained in their encampments for the space of about eight days, during which time the cavalry, conducted by the excise officers, were out scouring the country in search of Whiskey Boys. But chiefly all those who had taken an active part in the late insurrectionary movements had either fled or secreted themselves, so that few could be found; I believe not more than one or two. That part of the army which lay in this neighborhood then struck their tents and marched to the Forks of Yough. Whilst there a few more of the insurgents were taken."

One of the township men arrested was Patrick Jack, who held the land south of Nathaniel Marshall's. He, along with the other prisoners taken during the occupation of the western counties, was later pardoned. By the end of the year, order once again prevailed as the people submitted to the tax and the distillers to inspection.

This survey dated April 16, 1786, and warrant for the tract of land, patented under the name "Partnership," are copies of the Marshalls' documents obtained through the Land Office, Department of Community Affairs, Harrisburg; Edward D. Price, director. Upon the center section of the tract, through which Glade Road and Brad-dock's Road passed, the original plan of the town of Mountpleasant was laid out about 1797.

Despite the date of application or of a warrant issue, records verify that no surveys were made on the lands here until after the boundary dispute between Virginia and Pennsylvania was mutually settled in 1784. In the old survey books on file in the county courthouse, an entry for John Nail's (Neel's) tract at the crossroad abutting Marshalls' land, shows the survey made and recorded in 1788, had been ordered in 1769.



The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, ff.

WHEREAS, *Nathaniel and Joseph Marshall* of the County of *Westmoreland* hath requested to take up *Two hundred* Acres of Land, including an Improvement on the waters of *Swiss Creek* joining *Land of Hugh Boyd, John Saylor, William Meland and Hugh Kelly*

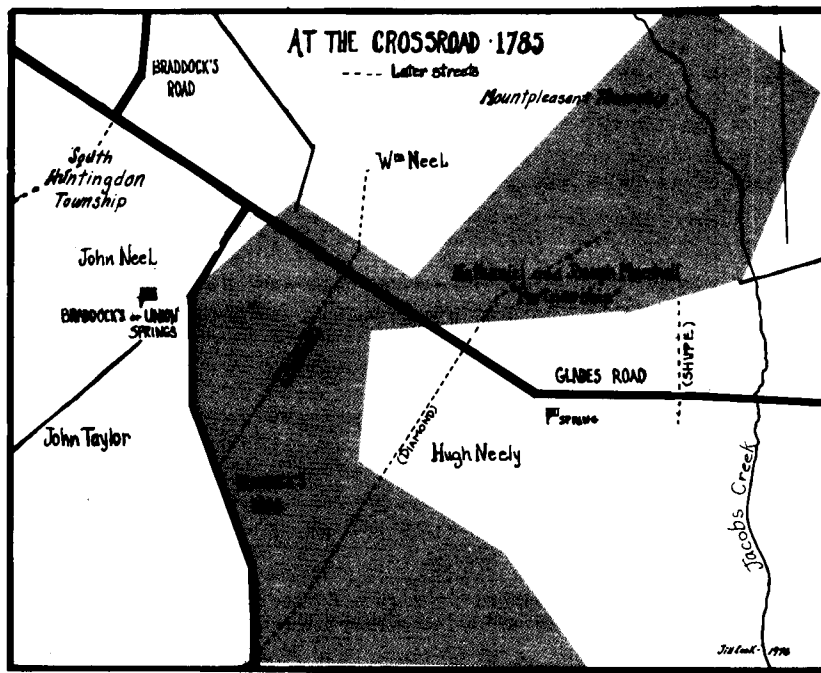
in the County of *Westmoreland* - (PROVIDED the Land is not within the last Purchase made of the Indians) for which they agree to pay, immediately, into the Office of the Receiver-General, for the use of this State, at the Rate of Ten Pounds per Hundred Acres, in Gold, Silver, Paper-Money of this State, or Certificates, agreeable to an Act of Assembly, passed the First Day of April, 1784; Interest to commence from the *first day of March 1778*. THESE are, therefore, to authorise and require you to survey, or cause to be surveyed, unto the said *Nathaniel and Joseph Marshall* at the place aforesaid, according to the Method of Townships appointed, the said Quantity of Acres, if not already surveyed, or appropriated, and to make Return thereof into the Secretary's Office, in order for Confirmation; for which this shall be your Warrant.

IN WITNESS whereof, *the Honorable Charles Biddle Esq* President of the Supreme Executive Council, hath hereunto set his Hand; and caused the less Seal of Commonwealth to be affixed, the *Thirty first* Day of *December* in the year 1785 -

To JOHN LUKENS, esq. Surveyor-General.

Ch. Biddle. V. 1.





A Frontier Town at the Crossroad

Two hundred years after the settlement of the land about the great roads on the western edge of Mountpleasant Township, and on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the Borough of Mount Pleasant new details and documents of the early town and its earliest settlers have been compiled. From these we can retrace the shaping of the frontier town into a bustling and proud business community and borough.

Joseph Marshall, an Englishman, who held the earliest known claim to the tract of land on which the town of Mountpleasant grew, probably had either special or military permission to settle near the strategic crossroad in the Western Territories. By bequest made upon his death, Joseph Marshall transferred his claim to his sons, Joseph and Nathaniel. Recitation of the line of title found on later deeds names the earliest place of reference to this claim to have been made on documents filed in Lancaster. From 1727 until 1750 before Cumberland County was erected, Lancaster had been the seat of civil authority for all the western "Indian Lands."

Although the tract was occupied and improved, it is not known whether this was accomplished by Marshall, his sons or by some tenant or squatter. Since the claimed tract was large, half lying in Huntingdon and the other in Mountpleasant, the Marshalls may have resided in either township. A William Marshall was named the first overseer of the poor in Huntingdon township when it was formed in 1773. The names of James and Archibald Marshall also appear several times on the Mountpleasant township tax roll of 1783.

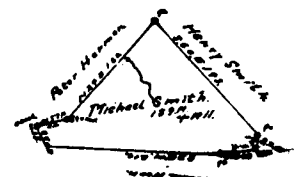
Beginning in 1784, following the resolution of the dispute over the boundary between Pennsylvania and Virginia with the extension of the Mason and Dixon line westward, the frontiersmen who had settled about the great roads here and filed warrants, finally had their land surveyed by the Pennsylvania Land Office. Joseph and Nathaniel Marshall applied for a patent, or clear title, for a tract of land called "Partnership," containing 212½ acres of improved land on Jacob's Creek in Huntingdon and Mountpleasant townships. William Neel, who reportedly arrived here

Joseph and Nathaniel Marshall were frontiersmen and impatient with the slow proceedings of the land office. The new settlers and emerging town, with its taverns and shops taking form on their land, probably crowded them.

After making verbal and simple agreements selling parts of their warranted tract, the Marshalls left Westmoreland County, before receiving the patent or clear title to the lands of "Partnership." While the town of Mountpleasant grew rapidly, no property transfers could be recorded, although many were made, without the land patent. Finally on September 4, 1806 the patent was issued. The brothers paid "....the Sum of eight dollars and thirty-seven Cents lawful money..." for the tract containing 212½ acres with an allowance of 6 per cent.

A deed dated Feb. 4, 1807 names Joseph and Sarah Marshall to be residents of Little Beaver township, Beaver County. An agreement dated Jan. 23 appointing John Bonnett of Mountpleasant township as agent "...to convey and make good and sufficient titles in law to all such purchasers as heretofore contracted with us in whole or part or parcels of the same or any part thereof which said tract of land is situated in Mountpleasant township, Westmoreland county, and commonwealth aforesaid bounded on the lands of William Neal, Oliver Bovard, John Agre, John Brinker and lands of Hugh Neely on which the town of Mountpleasant is situated containing one hundred acres and allowances be the same more or less including lots..." shows Nathaniel Marshall and his wife Ellenor to be residents of Fairfield township, Crawford county. The brothers had gone North to escape the encroaching civilization, taxes and take up lands in the new territory opened up after the *Last Purchase*, made in 1785.

In 1800 Michael Smith purchased 50 acres. This land in East Huntingdon township, south of the town of Mountpleasant, was part of a tract called "Plymouth" originally owned by Oliver Bovard. Upon entering Westmoreland in 1787, Smith had taken up lands not in Huntingdon, as earlier accounts state, but in Hempfield, as the survey found recorded below John Neel's in the old county records shows. Smith's East Huntingdon plantation, was perhaps the only one remembered by the old-timers here, on whom N. B. Critchfield relied for writing the first history of the town in 1876.



Surveyed on the 29th day of Feb. 1788. on a warrant dated Nov. 19th 1787. situated on Hempfield Co. Pa.

Surveyed on 29th

This Indenture made this first Day of January In
 the Year of our Lord Seventeen Hundred and Eighty two Between
 Michael Smith of Frederick County and Province of Maryland
 of the one part and ^{the other part} William Rubberts Blacksmith of the same
 County and State ^{the other part} Witnesseth that the said Michael Smith of his
 own free will and Consent hath bound and by these presents doth
 Bind his son Michael Smith ^{unto the said Rubberts} to learn ~~the~~ art Trade or
 Mystery of a Blacksmith and as an Apprentice to dwell with and
 serve him for and During the full term or time of three years
 commencing from the Date Hereof During all which term or time
 the said Apprentice his said Master faithfully shall serve his secrets
 Keep his Lawful Commands Gladly Every where Obey he shall
 Do no Damage to his said master or see it to be Done by others
 without letting or giving Notice thereof to his said master he shall
 not Absent himself Day or night from his said Masters service without
 his Leave Forcassion he shall not Commit Fornication he shall
 not Contract During ^{his} term with his own Goods or the Goods of others
 he shall not Buy or sell whereby his said Master ^{shall} have Damage
 without Licence from his said Master But in and by all things remain
 to behave himself as a faithful apprentice Ought to Do and the
 said Master doth Engage and promise to do his best Endeavor to teach
 or Cause to be taught the said Apprentice in the art Trade or Mystery of a
 Blacksmith he now useth and further said Master doth promise to give
 said Apprentice three Shirts two pair of Shoes yearly During ^{his} term
 and to get ^{him} shoes mended when torn two pair of Snowshoes yearly
 and two pair of Stockings in said time and one Coat and Jacket one
 hat in said time one pair of Cloth breeches and also said Master
 shall and will provide for said Apprentice good and sufficient meat
 Drink washing and Lodging fitting for such an Apprentice During
 said term and at the Expiration thereof to give him Shewing tools
 fit for Shewing horses In witness whereof the parties have hereunto
 set their hands and Seals the Day and year Above Written
 sealed and Delivered

In the presence of
 Christian Smith
 George Jacobs

William Rubberts

his
 Michael Smith
 mark

GOVERNOR of the Commonwealth of **Pennsylvania**,

Whereas *Michael Smith* hath been recommended to me, as a
 sober and fit person to keep a house of Entertainment; and being requested to grant
 him a Licence for the same, I do hereby licence and allow, the said *Michael*
Smith to keep a Public House in the Township of *Mount Pleasant* in
 the County of *Westmoreland* - - - - -

for selling of *Wine, Rum, Brandy, Beer, Ale, Cyder*, and all other spirituous Liquors by
 the small Measure in the House where he now dwells, in the said Township
 of *Mount Pleasant* - - - - -
 and in no other in the said County of *Westmoreland*, until the tenth Day of *August*
 next: **Provided** he shall not any time during the said term suffer any Drunkenness,
 unlawful Gaming, or any other Disorders, but in all things observe and practice all Laws and
 Ordinances of this Government to his said employment relating.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the State, at Philadelphia, the *ninth*
 day of *June* - - - in the year of our Lord, one thousand, seven
 hundred and ninety-eight and of the Commonwealth the *Twenty Second*.

June 9th 1798
 Received of *Mr Michael Smith* three
 pounds, twelve Shillings in full of fees By the Governor,
 due the State on this licence
John Bradford Treasurer
Westmoreland County

James Thimble
Deputy Secy

from Lancaster in 1770, applied for a tract with 208 acres called "Mount Joy" lying north of Marshalls' claim.

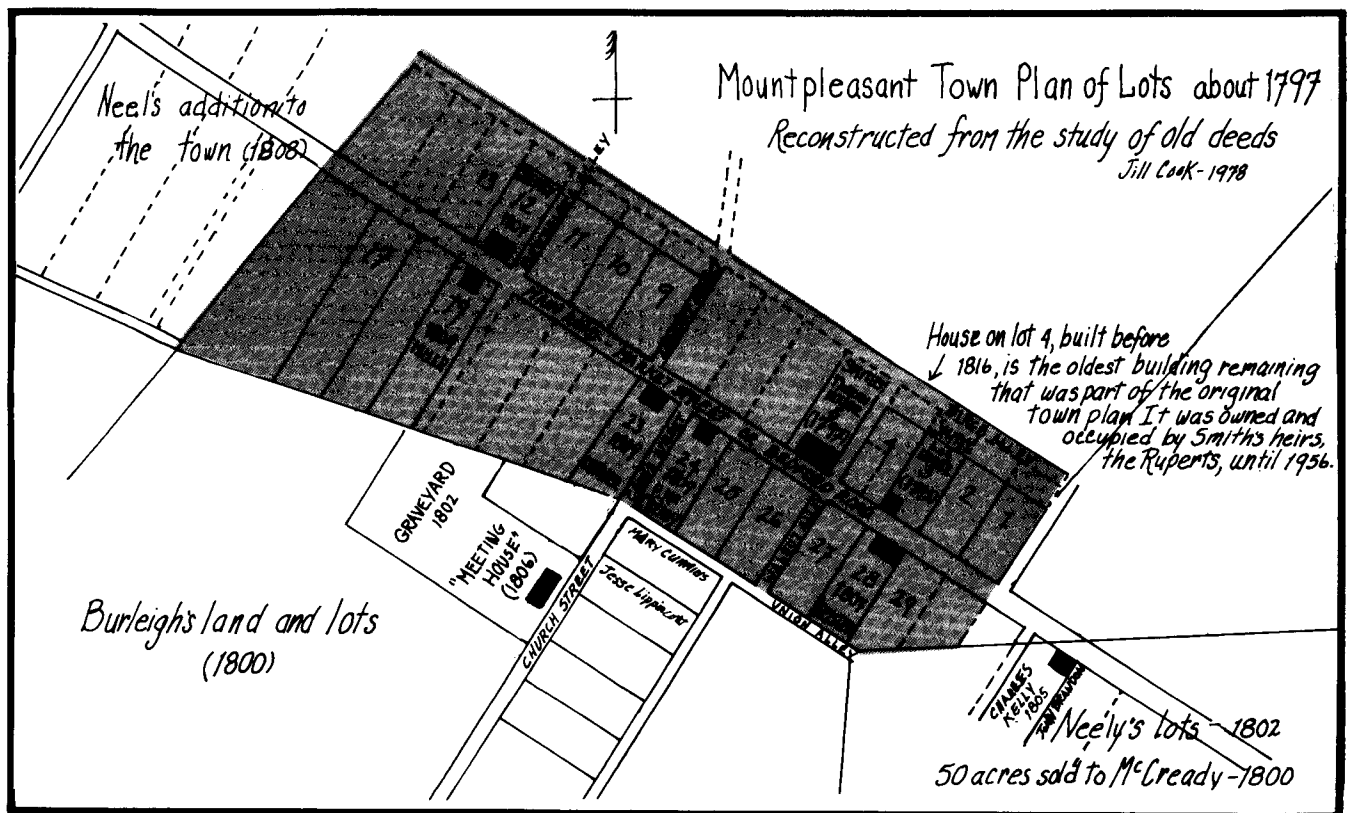
As the emigration westward renewed and increased following the close of the Revolutionary War in 1783 and with the native Iroquois Indians soon after driven into Ohio and north into the great lakes region, the traffic near the crossroad passing through the Marshalls' land attracted a number of enterprising settlers. Two of these were plantation owners living in the adjacent townships, Alexander McCready and Michael Smith.

Smith, a young German from Frederick County, Maryland, entered Westmoreland County soon after completing his apprenticeship as a blacksmith in 1786. He and his wife Suzanne took up 189 acres in Hempfield township, warranted in 1787. In 1793 Smith came into Mountpleasant township and built a "small square log house" on the north side of the Main Road, on Marshalls' land. Here Smith lived and practiced his trade, later obtaining a license to operate a "Public House" selling fermented beverages by the small measure. Careful keepers of records, Smith and then his heirs, preserved his blacksmith's indenture and his first tavern license dated June 9, 1798, which are perhaps the oldest original documents existing in Mount Pleasant.

Alexander McCready, a Scotsman, who had a large plantation lying near the mouth of Jacob's Creek, also built a tavernhouse in Mountpleasant township, on Marshalls' land. He purchased this property on the southside of the "great road" by simple agreement dated August 18, 1797, recorded in Westmoreland County Deed Book No. 7, page 731, January 23, 1807; his house was already erected here.

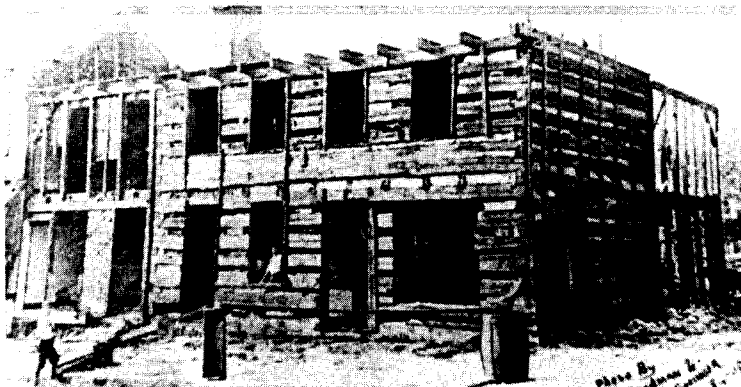
Michael Smith's tavern license, dated June 9, 1798, one of the town's oldest documents in existence, is owned by Lawrence Rehanek who acquired it through the estate of Lucy Rupert in 1959.

Opposite page: the Indenture of Michael Smith to William Rubberts (Ruberts), Blacksmith of Frederick County, Maryland, dated Jan. 1, 1782, was typical of contracts between apprentice and master of that time. The agreement stated all the conditions of the three-year term in which the younger Smith was to learn the "Art, Trade and Mystery of a Blacksmith". Soon after its termination Michael Smith came to Hempfield township where he practiced his trade and farmed before becoming one of Mount Pleasant's first residents and tavern owners, about 1793. This document must have been among the few things of value and function that the Smiths carried by horseback or wagon over the Alleghenies into the wilderness of Westmoreland County. It is owned today by Lawrence Rehanek.



5 Acres (Lots 5-24) DB-8-60 1807
 John Bonnett, att'y for Nathaniel Marshall to Alexander McCready: \$300.
 Lots No. 1, 2, 3, & 4 DB-7-740 1807
 John Bonnett, att'y for Nathaniel Marshall, to Michael Smith: \$100; (lots 60' x 100').
 Lot No. 5 DB-8-456 1809
 John Eager and John Galloway, att'ys for heirs of Alexander McCready, to Michael Smith; \$25.
 Lots No. 1, 2, & 5 Release 1816
 Orphans Court to Elizabeth, daughter of Michael Smith and wife of Jacob Kern, "...Lot No. 5 with a tavern thereon erected and
 Lots No. 1 & 2 unimproved...valued at \$1540."
 Lots No. 3 & 4 Release 1816
 Orphans Court to Mary, daughter of Michael Smith and wife of Jacob Rupard, "Lot No. 3 with a small square log house thereon
 then in occupancy by Wm. Gorgas and also Lot No. 4 with its appertinances therein poptipious of Jacob Rupard...valued at \$1540."
 Lots No. 9, 10, 11 & 12 DB-8-455 1807
 John Eager and John Galloway, att'y for heirs of Alexander McCready, to Clement Burleigh in accordance with an earlier verbal
 agreement with McCready: 24 pounds.
 Lot No. 12 DB-8-42 1807
 Clement Burleigh to William Cherry; \$22.
 DB-8-45 1807
 William Cherry to Conrad Stamm; \$400 with house and outbuildings.
 Lot No. 17 DB-7-743 1805
 Elizabeth McCready and Clement Burleigh to John McMasters; \$30.
 Lot No. 19 DB-8-240 1802
 Alexander McCready to James Miller; \$30; "...and is further bound to build on the site in the course of two years after date of this ar-
 ticle, a house not less then twenty feet by eighteen feet, two story high with brick or stone chimney."
 Lot No. 23 DB-8-266 1809
 Eager and Galloway for McCready's heirs to John Conner.
 Lot No. 24 DB-8-453 1809
 John Eager and John Galloway, att'y for McCready's heirs, to Patrick McCready; \$40.
 DB-8-454 1809
 Patrick McCready to Clement Burleigh; \$150 with house.
 Lots No. 26, 27 & 28 DB-8-49 1809
 Burleigh to Conrad Keister; \$128. (lots 60' x 133').
 Lot 28 DB-8-370 1809
 Conrad Keister to William Cherry; \$70.
 Lot No. 27 DB-36-36 1853
 Solomon Keister and wife, heirs of Conrad Keister, to J. Wrestler, D. Cherry and S. Zuck, "Trustees for Church of the United
 Brethren of Mountpleasant Borough, West Co."; \$50
 "Meeting House" DB-11-507 1815
 Clement Burleigh to "Trustees of the English and German Church, Mountpleasant...all that remaining and piece of land now oc-
 cupied as a burying ground (on) which a church is erected joining the town of Mountpleasant."

Right: One of the 34 original log and frame cabins in the town in 1810, was built by Conrad Keister about 1807 on Lot No. 28. To provide an outlet for College Avenue it was purchased from Keister's grandson, J. R. Zuck, in 1908 and razed. (Photo loaned by Fenton Keister of Scottsdale.)



Beginning at the corner of a clear field of said Nathaniel Marshall on the great road below where said McCready now does live and running a North west course up said great road to a white oak that is blazed and nominated as a corner tree and from thence about a South course to another white oak nominated as another corner tree and then running a South east course to another white oak nominated as another corner tree and from thence about a due East course a strait line to the said corner of Marshall's clear field where the line begun and said Marshall hath bargained alienated and sold to said McCready all the land within said lines above mentioned and also all trees commodities and advantages hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever to the said parcel of land above mentioned.

McCready, who is credited for laying out the early town of Mountpleasant after this purchase, paid \$18 an acre or 200 pounds. Marshall still held a large tract of land, some of which were lots in the original plan of the town of Mountpleasant, already known and recorded by that name prior to McCready's death about 1804.

McCready's was the first deed recorded for property sold from the tract called "*Partnership*." It followed the granting of a patent of clear title from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the Marshalls on September 5, 1806; for this tract they paid \$8.37 lawful money. In 1807 the brothers divided the tract, with Nathaniel taking the hundred acres at the northeast lying in Mountpleasant township. Joseph Marshall returned north to Beaver county, Nathaniel to Crawford county. In February of 1807, Attorney John Bonnett, whose plantation was just east of the town lying along the Main Road, was named as agent to sell Marshall's remaining land.

On the 12th, Bonnett sold five acres to McCready's heirs; on the 16th, land and lots including 25 through 28 were sold to Clement Burleigh, an Irishman, who made claim by an earlier verbal agreement. (Burleigh had set aside part of this land about 1802 for a meeting place and burying ground for the German and English congregations of the Reformed Church, along the road later known as Church Street. A log church was built here about 1806.) On the same day Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 were sold for \$100 to "*Michael Smith Innkeeper in the town of Mountpleasant*." They measured 240 feet fronting on Market (Main) Street and 100 feet in depth, with Walnut Alley, now named Keister's Alley, on the east. Smith's log house stood on Lot #3.

Much conveying of property then occurred; Burleigh to Keister, Keister to Cherry and etc. On July 18, 1809 Michael Smith purchased from the McCready's heirs, Lot #5 on which his tavernhouse was erected, paying \$20 lawful money. Smith died in 1815.

By 1810 most of the town lots had been sold, and additions to the original plan had been opened. About 34 log and frame cabins, built by tradesmen and tavern and innkeepers, formed the bustling frontier town of Mountpleasant. (Taking this year as the founding of the town, one hundred years later, in 1910, "*Old Home Week*" celebrated the first centennial of Mount Pleasant.) The following description of the town is taken from Albert's history of the county:

A lady traveling through the southern part of the county in the days of the stagecoaches (1815?) has left on record some observations made of the place. The village (Mount Pleasant) is described as one of those kind peculiar to Pennsylvania. Most of the business was done on one street which was long and narrow. The houses were generally built close up to the street; few of them had yards in the front. The majority of them were then antiquated and shabby looking; but this no doubt was to be attributed to the flimsy material of which they had been constructed. But it was noticed at that day that there were some houses evidencing taste and refinement. The same writer remarks on the high moral character and social standard of the residents...

In the early 1800s such refined travelers usually only stayed the night or long enough to refresh with a meal or whiskey at McCready's. The settlers moving west and north, stopped here only briefly to rest and water their horses on the Diamond, or have them shod at Smith's or visit the shop of his son-in-law, young Jacob Rupert, to replenish their supply of salt or flour. The rough and rugged drovers and wagon masters, which



"The Rupert building, first brick house in Mount Pleasant," is an inscription penned beneath this photograph found in a 1910 "Old Home Week" booklet on file in the Mount Pleasant Free Public Library. If this is true, the building was erected in 1812. Division of Michael Smith's property, in 1816, names this building on Lot No. 3 as a business house for son-in-law, Jacob Rupert. Aside from being the oldest existing building in town, its first floor has functioned continuously as a shop of one type or another for more than 160 years. It is today owned by Lawrence Rehanek; Armor and Gunsallus Drug Store occupies the shop. Seventy-eight years ago Myer Posner began his "Jewelry business" there.

One of the most interesting transactions made, which also gives insight into McCready's financial state and profession, is found in a purchase of land from Hugh Neely's tract made in 1800: for 50 acres south of the great road, McCready paid 3 pounds per acre "...at the following terms: viz two bonds negotiated at seventy-five pounds, and two watches in Good Running Order at the rate of thirty-eight pounds in hand delivered and upon the first day of May ensuing, the (balance) become due in merchantable whiskey at the merchant rates in the County according to the number of acres." DB-5-268 -

GREENSBURG:

Friday, January 4, 1822.

FLOUR, in Philadelphia, per bbl. \$6 37 to 5 50
Whiskey, gal. 35

WESTMORELAND TAXABLES.

The following table shows the number of taxable inhabitants in the different townships of Westmoreland, as ascertained at the last four septennial assessments, and also the number of deaf and dumb persons and slaves in 1821.

TOWNSHIPS	1800	1807	1814	1821	D. & D. SLV.
Mountpleasant,	204	318	423	410	1
Derry,	400	419	492	581	
Washington,	167	295	419	262	1
Salem,	203	268	293	407	1
Franklin,	255	236	320	355	3
South Huntingdon,	161	289	337	399	
East do.	166	233	267	274	1
North, do.	280	358	468	534	10 1
Unity,	292	396	434	535	2
Fairfield,	214	352	406	481	
Monrover,	240	279	283	290	1
Donnegal,	270	363	402	472	
Hempfield,*	550	506	656	784	4
Greensburg,		125	150	138	3
Allegheny,†				254	
Totals	3402	4368	5370	6176	22 6

*In 1800, Greensburg borough was included in Hempfield, and several townships which then belonged to the county, were previous to 1807 stricken off or formed into new counties.

†Allegheny—formed out of Washington.



Portraits of Robert Hitchman and his wife, Elizabeth McCready, probably made in the 1840s by Israel Ebersole, Mount Pleasant's first photographer, were fixed on small metal discs using the new French Daguerretype process, then placed in a locket. Passing from Drusilla, one of Hitchman's 14 children, the locket is presently owned by great-granddaughter Mary Drusilla Donohue of Greensburg. Gradler Photos

Right: the Hitchman House, built about 1820 by Robert Hitchman, was razed in 1935 in preparation for the building of the post office. Hitchman's grandson, George Sherrick, added a third floor in the 1870s when he managed the hotel; he was succeeded by H. J. Jordan and William H. Templeton as proprietors. Wade Stillwagon's first job was office manager here for Templeton about 1900.

were a part of the frontier life, tarried long enough to earn for the settlement the name "Helltown". The legend of how the town got its present name sprang from this period. A traveler on horseback inquired of tavern owner Michael Smith the name of this place. "It's called Helltown," replied the tavernkeeper, to which the traveler shook his head. Turning in his saddle toward the gentle slopes rising to the Chestnut Ridge, "It should be called Pleasant Mount," he admonished.

For so it was and so it became the Borough of Mount Pleasant on February 7, 1828, one hundred and fifty years ago, making it the oldest existing borough in the county. A town of 300, it served as a religious, educational and business center for the surrounding fertile farms of the townships.

The prosperity and growth of business and trade quickly brought permanent change to the town's appearance and character. In the county, Mount Pleasant was second in size and date of incorporation only to Greensburg which had been a borough since 1799. In business, it was considered first, as noted by the following quote from Albert's history:

One who scrutinizes the old files of the county paper cannot but observe that the businessmen of the town "had enterprise and energy more than common. They had advertisements constantly and were the first in the county to separate the goods offered into specialties. We believe that the firm of "Stouffer & Lippencott," about 1822, then in the general merchandise business, advertised more extensively than any other in the county.

An 1818 county tax notice lists first class (brick?) houses only in the borough of Greensburg and the town of Mountpleasant. By 1819 the town was served by the Somerset-Mountpleasant turnpike on one end and the Robbstown-Mountpleasant turnpike at the other. Robert Hitchman who had married McCready's daughter in 1818, built a large brick two-story "Hitchman House" at the corner of Main and Church streets about 1820. A fine hotel, it soon became the center of the town's activities.

In 1828, with the incorporation of the town, law and order were established here. Mountpleasant's "Helltown" or frontier period ended, and the history of the Borough of Mount Pleasant began.

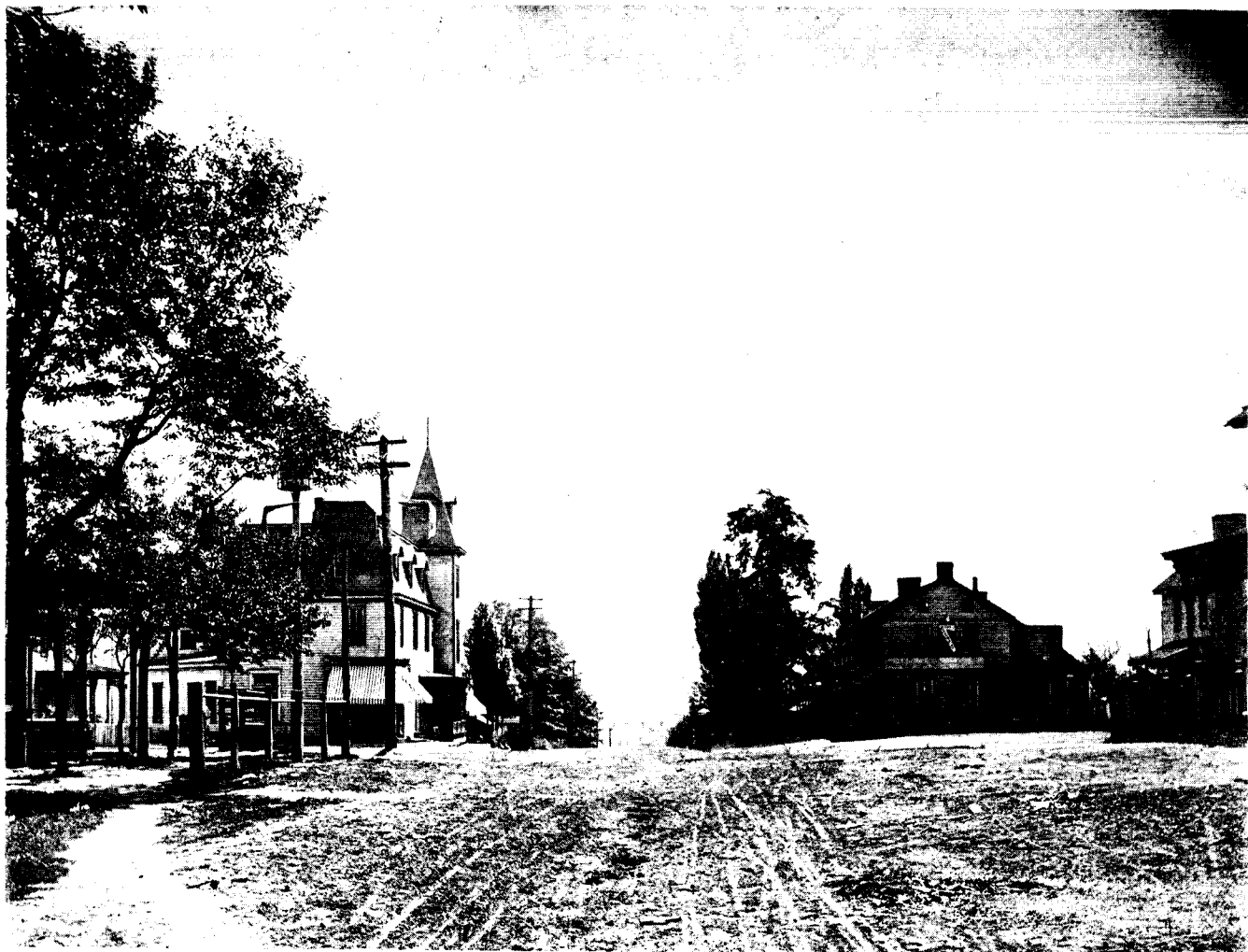
Loaned by the post office



"Mount Pleasant is a beautiful town situated in Westmoreland County, Pa., on the Somerset and Mount Pleasant turnpike, about forty miles east of Pittsburgh."

.... "To every enterprise for the good of mankind and the upholding of our free institutions, her people have been zealously committed. In war she has furnished her share of means and men and in peace she has aided to the best of her ability in developing the country around her. For moral tone genuine Christian culture, her people are not surpassed by the citizens of any town in the land. May her future be bright, pure and peaceful as in the past..."

N.B. Critchfield 1876



The First Fifty Years

For the Westmoreland County celebration of the Centennial of the United States, N. B. Critchfield, who was secretary of the Western Pennsylvania Classical and Scientific Institute, prepared the first history of Mount Pleasant, recounting the town's growth up to that year of 1876, when the borough was nearly half a century old. Although this history was reprinted in part in the Westmoreland County Atlas of 1876, subsequent writers, retelling the story of the early town, often fail to acknowledge their source or its author.

The following is Critchfield's essay as it first appeared in the *Mount Pleasant Dawn*, August 23, 1876, found while leafing through bound copies (1875-1877) of the newspaper on file in the Mount Free Public Library.

Above: this photograph of Mount Pleasant looking East on Main Street at the Diamond Square records the appearance of the town about the time its first history was written in 1876. The Methodist Episcopal Church on the northside of Main Street was built in 1837 and used until 1853 for regular services.

Mount Pleasant

VOL. II.

WEDNESDAY MO.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

D. R. MARSH'S

OFFICE & RESIDENCE.

On East Main street opposite the
Morrison House
april 1y



J. A. LOAR

Surgeon, Dentist.

Office three doors east of United Brethren
Church, Main Street. Residence on College
St. All work guaranteed.

JOHN D. McCALEB,

Justice of the Peace.

Collections promptly attended to

Office corner of Main and Church streets,
over the store of Ebersole Trauger & Zuck,
Mt. Pleasant, Pa., July 23, 1875. July 29 6t,

MANSION HOUSE,

C. S. SHERRICK, Proprietor,
Corner Main and Church Streets,
MOUNT PLEASANT, PA.

This House has been completely refitted
and elegantly furnished and is now open for
the reception of guests. The table will be
supplied with the best the market affords.
apr-19-1y.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

MT. PLEASANT, PA.

CAPITAL 150,000.

DIRECTORS.

J. B. SHERRICK	WM. B. NEEL,
H. W. STONER,	WM. J. HITCHMAN,
WM. SNYDER,	WM. D. MULLIN,
SMUEL WARDEN,	ABRAHAM HORBACH.

JNO. SHERRICK

Jno. Sherrick, Pres't. Henry Jordan, Cashier.
Sam'l Warden, Vice Pres't W. J. Hitchman, As't. Casr.
Particular attention given to Collections, and pro-
ceeds promptly remitted

History of Mt. Pleasant.

MT. PLEASANT, Pa., July 5, 1876.

ED. DAWN.—*Sir*: In handing you the enclosed History of Mt. Pleasant for publication I feel that in justice to myself I should say that when, at the request of the committee appointed to prepare such History, I consented to undertake the task, I had no thought of its coming before the public in so tangible a form. The work was undertaken in order that there might not be a failure in any part of the programme prepared for the 4th, and the only time I could find to devote to it was a portion of Saturday and Monday evenings the 1st and 3d. I hand it to you without having had time to rewrite any portion of it, conscious of its imperfections and want of completeness, and only ask that the circumstances under which it was prepared be considered a sufficient apology for its appearance in this manner.

Very truly yours,

N. B. CRITCHFIELD.

Mount Pleasant is a beautiful town, situated in Westmoreland county, Pa., on the Somerset and Mt. Pleasant turnpike, about forty miles east of Pittsburgh. We have no data by which we can definitely determine the date of the first settlement in the section of country in the immediate neighborhood of the town. Westmoreland county is the mother of all the counties west of the mountains. During the contest between the English and French governments for the possession of the valley of the Ohio, forts were erected by the troops sent against Fort Duquense, at Ligonier and Loyalhanna. In the year 1858 the petty strife between the English and the French was ended. Fort Duquense and the territory eastward, to the mountains, fell into the hands of the English government and became a part of the province of Pennsylvania. The fertility of the soil and the many natural advantages possessed by the territory west of the mountains, brought many pioneers into this part of the province, by whom the foundation was laid for making this one of the most fruitful and attractive portions of the State. Until 1773 Bedford county comprised all that portion of the State lying west of the mountains. During this year West-

moreland county was separated from Bedford and subsequently the other western counties were formed from territory originally belonging to this. The county seat of Westmoreland was located at Hannastown, about thirty-one miles from Fort Pitt and not far from the present county seat. A court house and jail, both log buildings, were erected at that place, and in April of the same year, (1773) the first session of court ever held west of the mountains was opened. After the burning of Hannastown by the Indians, which took place on the 13th of July, 1782, the county seat was removed to Greensburg, a town laid out about three miles distant from Hannastown, the same year.

As near as can be determined, the section of country immediately surrounding Mt. Pleasant was settled about the year 1770, three years before Westmoreland county was established. The first part of the town was laid out by Alexander McCready, who purchased the land from Nathaniel Marshall, on the 28th day of August, 1797. Before this date, however, about 1793, a house was erected by Michael Smith, an enterprising German, and by him occupied as a tavern. A copy of the license granted Michael Smith, by Governor Mifflin, to sell wine, rum, beer, ale, cider, and all other spirituous liquors, under restrictions not to allow drunkenness and gambling, is still in existence, bearing date June 9th, 1793. This tavern house, which was the first built in the place, is still standing on Main street, and is the same that is occupied by Mrs. M. A. Overholt. Prior to the year 1810, which is as far back as the recollection of our oldest citizen goes, there were but thirty-four houses in town, all of which were built of logs, and seven of which are still standing. Among the oldest citizens of the place we find the names of Michael Smith, Alexander McCready, Chas. Fullwood, Esq., Wm. Hunter, Conrad Kester, Wm. Cherry, Clement Burleigh, Esq., Wm. Anderson, James Lippencott, Rev. James Estep, John Connell, Wm. Flynn, David Hunter, and others.

* Correct date 1763

Mt. Pleasant Town

NING, AUGUST 23, 1876.

NO. 21.

The first brick house in town was built in the year 1812, on the lot now occupied by Isaac Stauffer's store-room.

Mt. Pleasant became a borough in the year 1823. One of the institutions of the town in the early part of the present century was a joint stock company, organized about the year 1814, for the purpose of carrying on the mercantile business, under the name of "The Farmers' & Mechanics' Store." The company occupied as a place of business a log building which stood on the lot now occupied by the store-room of Ebersole, Trauger & Zuck.

About the year 1821 the Somerset & Mt. Pleasant Turnpike Co. was organized, with John Lobingier as President. This road furnished the town of Mount Pleasant and vicinity the principal means of commercial communication with other portions of the country until the completion of the Pennsylvania railroad. After the completion of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad to Cumberland, Md., the trade from this place eastward passed over the Turnpike to Cumberland, and the trade west went by way of West Newton, to which point there was at that time slack water navigation from Pittsburg. As soon as the P. R. R. was completed, the greater portion of travel and trade, east and west, went by way of Greensburg until the Mt. Pleasant & Broadford railroad was built, which was completed in 1871.

The First National Bank of Mt. Pleasant was incorporated in 1864, with C. S. Overholt as President and John Sherrick as cashier.

In 1867 a few of the citizens of the place united in purchasing a lot of ground containing eleven acres, about one-eighth of a mile from town, and after being incorporated as the Mount Pleasant Cemetery Association, proceeded to the laying out of lots and ornamentation of the grounds now known as the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

The same year (1867), by petition to Legislature, our people, the majority of whom have always been devoted to the cause of temperance, secured an act prohibiting the sale of intoxicating

liquors in the town, or within two miles of the borough limits. Frequent attempts have been made to secure the repeal of this act, but without success.

In 1872 the Mt. Pleasant Gaslight Co. was incorporated, but up to the present date the operations of the company have been confined to the purchase of some lands adjacent to town.

The completion of the Mt. P. & B. F. R. R., and the consequent opening up of the immense coal fields along the line of the road and in the vicinity of town, gave to every interest of the place a new impetus. Many new buildings were erected and the population increased much more rapidly than ever before. The financial panic of '73, however, brought a reaction. A number of our business men failed. Many mechanics and others who came to the place but a few months before were compelled to leave and seek the means of living elsewhere. Houses but recently built were vacated, and others that were commenced were left unfinished. The increased demand for houses that immediately preceded the panic gave rise to the organization of the Mt. Pleasant Building and Loan Association which deserves being noticed as one of the corporations of the place.

The people of Mt. Pleasant have always been the friends and advocates of popular education. At no time within the recollection of our oldest citizens has this important work been neglected. In accordance with the spirit of the Constitution of 1776 requiring that "schools shall be opened in every county," a school house was among the first buildings erected in the place, and during the progress of legislation on this subject, the efforts of the people have been at no time relaxed to attain greater proficiency in their educational work. The public school system provided by the act of 1834 was soon adopted, and from that time to the present steady progress has been made. The present school building, which contains facilities for four grades and about three hundred pupils, was erect-

ed in the year 1866. Westmoreland College, located at this place, was founded in 1849, and was for a time under the control of the United Brethren Church. After a few years it passed into the hands of the German Reformed Church, by whom it was operated under the original charter. In 1871 the Baptist denomination, by petition to the Legislature, secured an act incorporating a school at this place, under the name of the Western Pennsylvania Classical and Scientific Institute. Subsequently the Board of Trustees purchased the building erected by the corporation known as the Westmoreland College, and the work of education is still being carried on by the new corporation in the same place.*

In the reception and promotion of the true doctrines of christianity, the people of Mt. Pleasant will compare favorably with the citizens of any other town in the State. At the present writing there are in the town seven Church buildings, the property of as many different denominations of christians, valued at about \$75,000. The Associate Reformed Church (now the United Presbyterian) organized a congregation in this place in the year 1802**

Thus stands the history of Mt. Pleasant, in the 79th year of her existence as a town. To every enterprise for the good of mankind and the upholding of our free institutions, her people have been zealously committed. In war she has furnished her share of means and men, and in peace she has aided to the best of her ability in developing the country around her. For moral, social and genuine christian culture, her people are not surpassed by the citizens of any town in the land. May her future be bright, pure and peaceful as the past, and may her historian at the end of the century upon which we this day enter be able to add to the record of her virtues and her attainments in every thing pertaining to the honor and dignity of our race.

Mt. PLEASANT, July 4th, 1876.

* Names and succession of owners are incorrect; see Institute history herein.

** Church histories are included in Religion section.

IN MEMORIAM: JOHN W. GEARY

PROCEEDINGS IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEBRUARY 11, 1873.

REMARKS OF HON. JOHN LATTA.

Mr. Speaker: I rise to offer my tribute of respect to the memory of Pennsylvania's late Chief Magistrate. Representing, with my colleague (Mr. Greenawalt) the county in which John W. Geary was born and brought up—the county of Westmoreland—I would be unfaithful to the feelings of my constituents, as well as the sentiments of the numerous personal friends of our late Governor, if I failed to express their sadness at his sudden demise. Words seem hollow and expressionless when uttered in the presence of death, and can no more reach the ear of the dead than can the tear of sorrow touch the lifeless heart.

When the telegraph wires flashed the news across the State of the sudden end of John W. Geary, sadness filled the hearts of the people. The errors of a man who filled so many different stations of trust during an important era in American history, were all forgotten when the hand of death fell so unexpectedly, and completed its mission so suddenly, and his virtues and noble actions alone were remembered. The anxious inquiries, the saddened faces, and the earnest expressions of sorrow seen and heard by and among men representing different political parties, demonstrated the heart's true feeling, and conveyed a grander and nobler eulogy than any that can be pronounced by human tongues.

The first inquiry made to me when I stepped from the cars at Greensburg, on Saturday morning last, was whether it was true that ex-Governor Geary was dead. On every street corner of that town knots of men were assembled with anxious, earnest looks, conversing about the sudden end of one who was so intimately known, and so generally and much respected. Mr. Geary was born in Westmoreland county, this State, in the year 1819, and was, therefore, in his fifty-fourth year when he died. During the half century of his life, many and important changes and revolutions in government on the Western hemisphere have occurred, in some of which he took an active part. His life, so eventful and varied, is worthy of the study of the young men of the present day. His honors were all the fruit of his own indomitable energy. The golden hand of wealth never scattered rich flowers along his pathway. No royal hand ever offered to assist him to position and place. He combined in his character the "*suaviter in modo*" with the "*fortiter in re*," and thus was enabled to secure success. Ever devoted, as he was to his native State, he never swerved from the line of the patriot's duty to the Republic.

When his country called, he responded.

Whether on the field of battle or in the council of his own State, his dauntless spirit was equal to the emergency. When he died the common school system of Pennsylvania lost an earnest friend, and the soldiers' orphans, whom he always regarded as the "wards of the State," a faithful guardian. But, he is dead. Summoned by the Grand Master of Heaven, no act of ours can re-animate his lifeless form. The grave will soon close over his remains. Let his virtues be written on our hearts to guide, direct and cheer us as we advance along the highroad of destiny.

I shall ask the indulgence of the House a few moments longer, while I notice a few of the prominent transactions in his checkered life. Of poor, but respectable parentage, he arose by his own energy to the first position in the State. In early life he taught school, after which he followed civil engineering for a short time. He then entered Jefferson College, where he received a liberal education. After leaving college, he received an appointment on the Portage railroad. When the Second Pennsylvania Regiment was organized for the Mexican war, he was chosen Lieutenant Colonel. He was with his command in all the battles from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico, in which his regiment was engaged.

When the Stars and Stripes were planted on the halls of the Montezumas, and the gates of the city of Mexico were entered by American troops, Gen. Quitman appointed him commander of the Citadel. He was then chosen Colonel of his regiment. In 1849, President Polk appointed him postmaster of San Francisco, and mail agent for the Pacific coast. He served as first alcade and afterwards as the first mayor of the Golden City. In 1852 he returned to his native State and county.

In July, 1856, President Pierce appointed and commissioned him as Governor of the territory of Kansas, which position he held until March 10, 1857, when he resigned and again returned to Pennsylvania. During this trying time, when lawlessness, rapine and murder rolled their avalanches of crime and blood across that new territory—when "border ruffians" and New England immigrant aid society raiders were engaged in assassinations and robberies—when the highways were filled with desperadoes "whose sole aim and end (in the language of Geary himself) was assassination and robbery," in fine, when no man's life was safe unless surrounded by an armed guard, it is not surprising that he should have resigned, and especially,

when he did not receive that earnest support from the Federal administration which the necessities of the times and the circumstances demanded. But, before he resigned his trust, he laid the foundation for that peace which afterwards was consummated.

When the storm clouds, which had been gathering over the South, burst upon the Nation, he raised the Twenty-eighth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers—fifteen hundred strong—which was mustered into the service of the United States, at Philadelphia, on June 28th, 1861. Out of this regiment Knap's Pennsylvania battery of six guns was formed. He had command of the upper Potomac district, and during the fall of 1861, and the winter following, his regiment guarded all the fords of the Potomac from Harper's Ferry to Point of Rocks, participating in the battles of Ball's Bluff and Bolivar Heights.

In March, 1862, his regiment led the advance of Banks' army in crossing the Potomac at Harper's Ferry, and he, having received the star of a Brigadier General, had command of the movement along the Loudon Valley. He received a severe wound in the arm at Cedar Mountain, but returned to duty in five weeks. After this battle he was given the command of the Second division of the Twelfth corps, and fought it at the ill-fated battle of Chancellorsville, as well as at the greatest battle of the war—Gettysburg. His repulse of the charge of Ewell at Culp's Hill, will ever shine brilliantly in the annals of battles.

After the mighty combat at Gettysburg, which cleared the State of armed foes, his division was transferred to the Army in the West, where, as Second division of the Twentieth corps, it participated in all the actions of that great campaign—Wauhatchie Valley, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Buzzard's Roost, Snake Gap, Resaca, &c.—which culminated in that famous march to the sea. Sherman appointed him Military Governor of Savannah, when that city passed into the hands of the Federal army. When the war was ended, his sword was again sheathed, and he returned to enter the field of politics.

Prior to the late war, he had always acted with the Democratic party. Having been tendered the nomination for Governor of Pennsylvania by the Republican party in 1866, he accepted, was elected, and in 1869 was re-elected. His civil record, like his military, has but few blemishes which time will not wear away.

Critchfield's history of Mount Pleasant notes the transformation of Nathaniel Marshall's land into a well-established community where the institutions of religion and education kept pace with the expanding business and industry on the pikes, a public school system in 1837, the Mount Pleasant College in 1850, and eight protestant churches along with the early merchants, tradesmen and innkeepers.

At the onset of the Civil War, the Wardens, Robert, James and Clark, organized Company B, which was mustered into the 28th Division of the Pennsylvania Volunteers in 1861 under the command of Col. John W. Geary, a native of Mount Pleasant. Their departure marked the beginning of a proud yet sad period for the community as the following account from the *History of the Mount Pleasant United Presbyterian Church 1802-1902* describes:

The pastorates of Revs. Fife and Fields covered the stirring years which preceded the war, and the four years of its progress. The recollection of our people of that time are more concerned with things military than ecclesiastical, yet some of the war memories are part of the Church's history. Two officers went forth out of our congregation, Robert E. Warden, Captain, Company B, Twenty-eighth Regiment, afterwards, major, for whom is named the army post of the town, and Captain John G. Andrews, of Company B, One Hundred and Forty-second Regiment. The same week of July, 1861 that Rev. Fife left his congregation . . . Major Robert E. Warden assembled his men and marched away to the army, terminating his services for his family, his church and his town. On that day a large number of citizens met in the town to express their high regard for the officer, who had twice served the county in the Legislature. They presented him with a sword and gave to every man of his company a Bible. A large concourse of people went with the company to Greensburg. Before the beginning of the next pastorate, a few days over a year, Major Warden's body was brought home from the hospital at Winchester, Va., and buried at Middle church cemetery.

By 1865 most of the soldiers returned home. Some had been decorated, some maimed and some killed. With only the old church graveyard in the borough, the town was forced, regretfully, to bury her heroes at a distance.

The Mount Pleasant Cemetery Association formed and purchased five acres of land on Braddock Road Avenue from James Neel; by 1867 the forest of black oak there had been cleared.

Much advancement and expansion followed the return of the soldiers to civilian life. With fresh ideas and energy these new leaders took charge. In 1866 and again in 1869 John White Geary was elected Governor of Pennsylvania. In Mount Pleasant the first borough ordinance was passed in 1866; the first utility company formed in 1867; a large annexation of property increased the size of the borough in 1868; a new weekly newspaper, *The Journal*, began in 1873.

A change of attitude toward the tavern business was marked in 1867 as Mount Pleasant's citizens petitioned the state legislature for the prohibition of the sale of liquor in the borough and within two miles of her boundaries. The *Mount Pleasant Dawn* carried many editorials, chiding citizens who had missed a temperance meeting or had not yet taken "The Pledge." In 1884, the year the Smith's first tavern was razed, Mount Pleasant formed the first WCTU Chapter (Women's Christian Temperance Union), in the county. However, the prohibition was much abused according to John Shields, owner and publisher of the *Journal* who helped win the law's repeal in the 1880s. More than 50 "Speakeasies" had continued to operate here during the prohibition.

A friend of Shields, Samuel Clemens, was probably the most famous man to ever visit Mount Pleasant. While young and seeking adventures, the men had worked together on the Mississippi. Several times the two men visited together at Shield's parent's home in Mount Pleasant. Clemens, already a successful young writer later became the United States' greatest humorist, writing under the name of Mark Twain. Unfortunately, there is no known record of his impression of our town.



Our Most Distinguished Citizen

John White Geary was the son of Richard and Margaret White Geary, Presbyterians of Scotch-Irish descent, who came to Mount Pleasant and opened a private select school shortly before John's birth.

His birthplace is believed to have been a farmhouse situated just southwest of the point where Diamond Street now intersects with Church Street. The family afterward lived on Church Street in a house located on the site now occupied by the office of the Mount Pleasant Journal.

John attended local schools and was a student at Jefferson College, Canonsburg, when the death of his father forced him to leave school and find employment to support his mother. After studying engineering and surveying independently, John found employment in Kentucky with the state and the Green River Railroad. He returned to Pennsylvania to become assistant superintendent of the Portage (canal) Railroad, afterward becoming distinguished as a soldier and government official.

A few days after completing his second term as governor of Pennsylvania in 1873, John White Geary died suddenly in Pittsburgh; he was 54 years old.

The late James Olinger of Mount Pleasant was a great admirer of Geary and collected information about his life and his many activities. On a trip through the South Olinger retraced the route of Geary's 28th Regiment, visiting its battle sites.

Another local admirer of Geary was the late Welty W. (Chief) Washabau, who worked for years to have Mount Pleasant give more recognition to this native son. Carrying his efforts before borough council, he was instrumental in having one of the streets in Ramsay Terrace named in honor of Geary when the plan of lots was laid out. *From material submitted by Scott Lane.*

Evan Lutheran Church.—Pastor, Rev. L. S. Harkey. Services once a month at 10½ A. M.



Opposite page: The family of one of the town's civic and business leaders, D. P. Lowe, was photographed about 1890 by A. N. Stauffer: seated: Anna Horner Lowe; Clyde, Franklin, D. P. Lowe; standing: Margaret, Edwin, Cora, Samuel.

Although the post Civil War period was a time of pride and progress, Mount Pleasant's position as the major business center in the county was being threatened; it didn't have a railroad. An examination of the 1867 *Westmoreland County Atlas* maps reveals that Greensburg and Latrobe, both served by Penn Central for several years, were overtaking Mount Pleasant's lead. The traffic here on the pikes had been slowly dwindling. The following is taken from the 1910 "Old Home Week" booklet:

"... About the year 1854 when John A. McAdams was yet a small boy he visited Greensburg and heard the first locomotive whistle in his life, the P.R.R. having about that time built their road through the county seat. Interest arose for the railroad to be extended to Mount Pleasant and a delegation of citizens from this place, headed by Daniel Shupe went to Philadelphia where they interviewed the officials of the company and showed statistics which proved the exports and imports of Mount Pleasant were greater at that time than those of Greensburg.

After much controversy, the P.R.R. became provoked and spitefully built the Southwest Branch to the west of Mount Pleasant, instead of passing through the town ... Later the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad was asked to come to Mount Pleasant ... a joint meeting of officials and citizens was held in the Baptist Church. In the meantime the stock of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad was absorbed by the B. & O., then creeping west from Wheeling, and under this company the first railroad to Mount Pleasant was constructed (1871). The ire of the P.R.R. however was aroused and they

K. EBERSOLE, J. A. NELSON.
Secretary. President.

The Kate Zimmerman Family in the 1880s in front of their new Main Street home on the third lot east of the Diamond. In the 1920s this house became the Noss Hotel; in the 60s after being condemned, it was torn down. Its lot still remains vacant in 1978.



Loaned by Frank Zimmerman.



managed to gain possession of the road by artifice. All the engines of the B. & O. were ordered across the Broadford bridge and then it was burned. This forced traffic on the road to be hauled by the P. R. R. by way of the Southwest Branch (which had a station in Tarrs).

When the Broadford Railroad came, it was not primarily to haul the area farm products or livestock. The lines were laid to the manufacturing center in the town of Texas, east of the borough. In 1867 the business directory listed 11 manufactures, 3 tanners and four distillers here. Five years later after the railroad laid its lines, the Henry Lentz Foundry at the corner of Hitchman and Smithfield streets was the new industry in the borough; Hunt and McCaleb Foundry and Machine Shop on the northside of the pike along Shupe's Run with Corwin's Planing Mill on the southside, were the new Texas industries. Shupe had developed his quarry behind the grist mill and was making lime in kilns. Just across the stream the Duncan Brothers were manufacturing coke. Coke, made from the soft bituminous coal here, and used only locally since the 1840s, was fast replacing charcoal in the making of iron as that industry became more efficient to meet the demands of the railroads' builders.

Farmers all over the Connellsville Coal Region were selling their lands to coal mine developers and moving to the towns. New residential sections began to spring up. In Mount Pleasant, in the 1880s, the most

The Mount Pleasant Patron

Wednesday, March 29th, 1876.

MT. PLEASANT AND BROADFORD RAILROAD. On and after MONDAY February 28th, passenger trains will arrive and depart from the several stations as follows.

EAST.		a.m.	p.m.
Mt. Pleasant.....	0.41	5.30	
Stauffers.....	0.50	5.45	
Iron Bridge.....	0.56	5.51	
West Overton.....	7.01	5.56	
Fountain Mills.....	7.06	6.01	
Tinstman.....	7.16	6.11	
Morgan.....	7.24	6.19	
Broadford.....	7.34	6.29	
Pittsburgh.....	10.14	9.14	
WEST.		a.m.	p.m.
Mt. Pleasant.....	12.14	7.58	
Stauffers.....	12.36	7.14	
Iron Bridge.....	12.27	7.14	
West Overton.....	12.19	7.39	
Fountain Mills.....	12.12	7.39	
Tinstman.....	11.59	7.24	
Morgan.....	11.49	7.15	
Broadford.....	11.41	7.18	
Pittsburgh.....	9.39	5.54	

MOUNT PLEASANT MARKET REPORT.

CORRECTED EVERY WEDNESDAY.

Flour, superfine.....	\$8.00
extra family.....	
Wheat & bushel.....	1 80
Eye, ".....	70
Corn, ".....	75
Oats, ".....	65
Potatoes, ".....	1 20
Butter, roll.....	25
Eggs, ".....	13
Chicken, ".....	60
Hams, sugar cured.....	17
" country.....	15
Sides.....	18
Shoulders.....	13
Lard, No. 1 in kegs.....	15
Molasses, N. O.....	10
Syrup.....	75@1 00
Coffee, best Rio.....	23@30
" Java.....	40
Mocha.....	50
Peaches, dried & b.....	15@
Apples, dried & b.....	12
Sugar N. O. & b.....	10@12
" Crushed.....	15
Mackerel, (S) 1/2 bbl.....	6 00
Cheese, ".....	20
Lye, concentrated.....	20
Candles, Star.....	25
" Mould.....	18
" Dipped.....	
Soap, country.....	8
" Rosin.....	10
Feathers.....	70
Nails, " keg.....	5 00
Carpet chain.....	35@40
Cotton yarn.....	40
Candle-wick.....	8
Corn brooms.....	30@40
Tubs.....	75@1 00
Backs.....	20@30
Shag, ".....	18 00
Shetting, Brown.....	10@15
" Bleached.....	4@30
Salt & bbl.....	2 00@2 50
Wool.....	40@

The Lowe Family at home in their fine new house completed about 1880. Only slightly altered in appearance after nearly one hundred years, the house stands on the north side of Main Street just east of the Diamond Memorial Square.



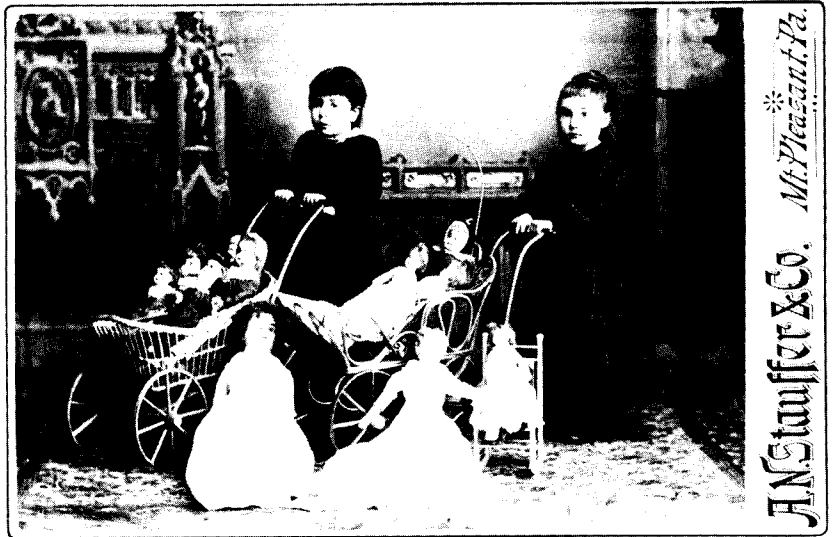


A photograph of Mount Pleasant's second photographer, Aaron Stauffer, as a young man. (1867).

Our Photographers, Recorders of Times Past

During the second half of the 1900s the town and its people were captured in prints by the photographer Aaron Stauffer. After attending the Mount Pleasant College in 1850, the year it opened, Stauffer became a partner in a dry goods business with his brother, Isaac. Aaron later learned the trade of photography with Israel Ebersole, buying out Ebersole, Zuck and Trauger in 1867. With his 15-year-old brother-in-law, Robert Goodman, as an apprentice, Stauffer opened a new studio in this building, at the corner of Main and Church streets, operated along with a retail business. At the time of Stauffer's death in 1899, the studio and workrooms were located at 600 Main Street. But the similar background on many of the old photographs indicates the bulk of his salon work was done at the former location.

The photography tradition continued with Goodman, associated for a short time with Elmer Springer, who moved to Indiana, Pa.; in 1910 Goodman and a new young partner, Frank Kough, recorded the town in picture for the "Old Home Week" booklet. In the 1920s their studio moved to 603 Main Street where Kough enlarged the portraiture business after Goodman's death in 1927. In the 1950s, when Frank A. Gradler and his wife took over the firm, they moved to the Stauffer's earlier location, the Brad-dock building, which they later bought. Another generation of Gradler, John and his wife Carol Fox, presently operate the Gradler's Studio. As was characteristic of the Mount Pleasant photographers before them, the Gradlers have been leaders in the civic and political affairs of the community. Their profession shares a continuity of a 120 year tradition of service to Mount Pleasant.



desirable homes were west of the Diamond; near Church Street and beyond were considered choice addresses.

Farm laborers, too, left the land and came to town seeking easy factory jobs. The wages were attractive as there was a shortage of laborers in the post-Civil War period. From England, Wales, Scotland and Germany others came as contract labor or as settlers provided free passage to the United States by the federal government. For these workers Daniel Shupe built company houses along Shupe Street. Before 1876 he laid out and sold a number of lots in Spring Garden, later called Standard. (At the same time he laid out a plan of lots along the Mount Pleasant and Broadford Railroad which he called Bridgeport.)

The borough and township had been growing at a rapid but healthy pace. The schools and churches had happily expanded and the newcomers were welcomed. Critchfield's history of Mount Pleasant ends here, comfortably and confidently looking into the future.

He did not note the roots of a new industry taking hold about the borough and in the townships, which would relentlessly force and carve changes over the next 40 years upon the land and its people, for the full potential of the rich Pittsburgh coal seam which underlaid the area, was recognized by only a few.

About 1880, A. N. Stauffer and his children stood in front of the house at 729 West Main Street while Robert Goodman took this photograph. The house became the home and office of the Doctors Marsh about 1900. When the street was widened, the trees and wall and later the porch were removed. Although, the appearance was slightly altered by an addition of an office on the east side, its basic clean shape remains unchanged. The house is presently owned by the Marsh's daughter, Jean and her husband, E. C. Brownfield.

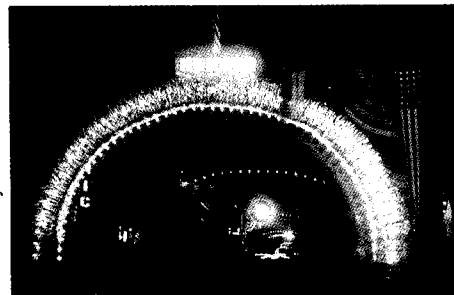
Photo loaned by Judy Cooper of Greensburg.



Coming down to the present the town of Mount Pleasant occupies a place of prominence among the progressive municipalities of the state of Pennsylvania. Its five miles of paved street, its efficient executives and persistent enterprises have become known coast to coast. Despite its more than a century of existence the town has only begun to grow. With succeeding years the business interests and the growth of population will have won for Mount Pleasant its due place in the state records as a home town—at the same time a business center of more than ordinary prominence.

“Old Home Week” booklet, 1910

Loaned by Sarah Weisel



A Second Growth 1878-1928

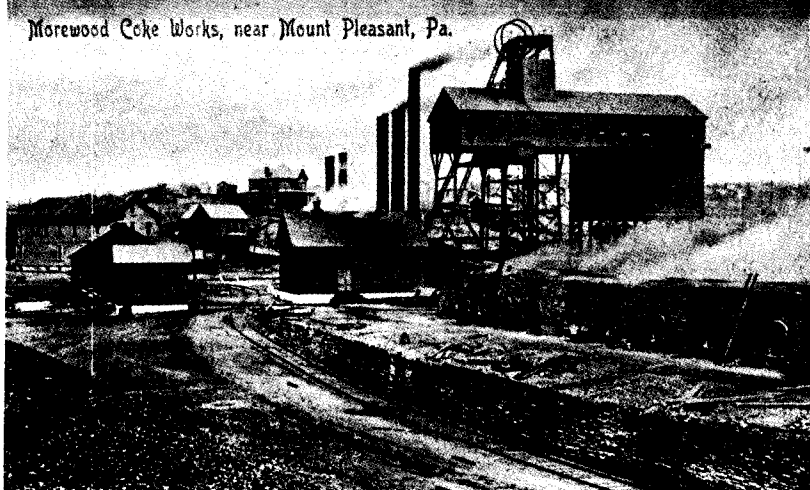
The Panic of 1873 brought to the end the post-Civil War prosperity; liberal federal immigration laws, made hastily to cure the shortage of labor, now gorged the market with unskilled and unemployed foreign laborers.

In Mount Pleasant, while the newer tradesmen did not weather the Panic, the older businesses and manufacturers remained stable, though no expansion occurred. In the surrounding townships some of the independent operations of the new coke industry were caught short and forced to sell cheaply; others lost confidence in the industry and sold out, taking what they could get.

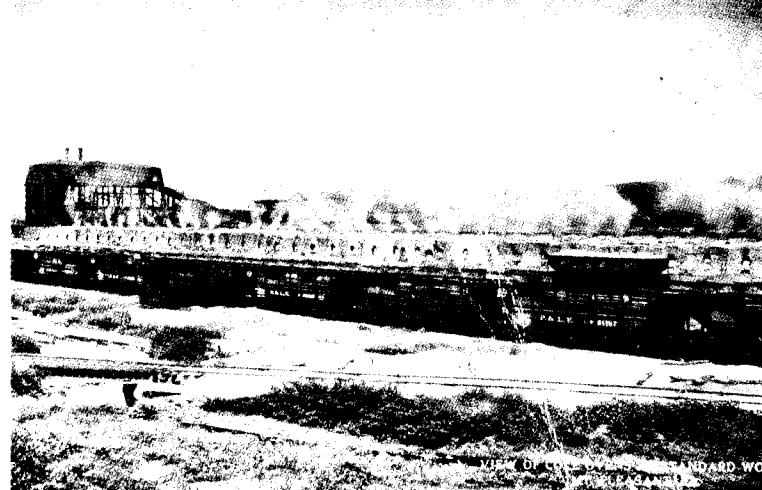
Consolidation and expansion of the industry followed under the guidance of a few enterprising businessmen; the youngest and most daring of these was probably Henry Clay Frick of West Overton, who had attended a couple of terms at Mount Pleasant's Westmoreland College. In 1866 when he was 17 years of age he clerked in his Uncle Martin Overholt's store here on West Main Street, getting his first practical business training. In 1871 the Henry C. Frick Coke Company was formed which acquired extensive coal lands over the next decade. In 1882 Frick and J. M.

Above: an arch made of coke at the west end of the Diamond, was one of the many which spanned Main Street during the 1910 "Old Home Week" celebration, July 4-7. The initials at the top indicates the importance of the H. C. Frick Coke Company, to the borough. Although less permanent, these arches and their placement were appropriately reminiscent of the Triumphal Arches in Europe, commemorating the return of a victorious sovereign, for here most certainly, "Coke was King." Also shown above: the coke arch at night illuminated by electric lights.

Morewood Coke Works, near Mount Pleasant, Pa.



Loaned by Wade Stillwagon



Mount Pleasant Library Collection



Loaned by Ferne S. Leonard

Right: the "Patch" at Standard Shaft, in appearance better than the majority of company towns of the region, shared the same oppressive atmosphere of the other feudal-like private towns. Until 1933 when the communities were finally opened, permission to enter or leave had to be granted by the hated and dreaded "Coal and Coke Police" registered by the state but employed by the company. (At Standard Shaft Front Street was built about 1890 and Back Street about 1916. After the closing of mines in 1936, houses were sold, beginning in 1937. The oldest tenant had preference to buy their house. In a double house, a renter on one side paid \$11 while the purchaser made up the difference for the monthly \$22 payment. A 6 room house sold for \$900; 8 rooms, \$1200; 10 rooms, \$1500. "Shanty Town" with little 3 room houses, had been torn down earlier. From an interview with Lou Sibal)

Loaned by Leo Zelko



Photos loaned by the Westmoreland Fayette Historical Society



Schoomaker owned the largest operation in the county, the Morewood Coke Company Limited, located southwest of Mount Pleasant in East Huntingdon Township; it had 470 ovens. At the borough's northern edge, Standard, began in 1873 by A. A. Hutchinson and Brothers of Pittsburgh, ranked third; it had 360 ovens.

In 1881, Frick Coke Company was reorganized; the Ferguson Brothers of Pittsburgh, Frick's old partners, Frick and the Carnegie Brothers, new partners, divided the 40,000 shares of stock. In 1883, as Frick bought up new properties, including Standard, Carnegie Brothers, later incorporated as U. S. Steel, became the majority stockholder.

Between 1879 and 1882 the number of ovens in the area doubled from 4,114 to 8,091. This rapid growth had been accomplished by laborers whose numbers had also doubled as a wave of newcomers from Eastern and Central Europe began arriving here. Mount Pleasant was a center for this growing industry and population.

Up and down Main Street the old log and frame cabins and tavern houses were replaced with new "brick blocks", older frame buildings had their faces lifted and squared with a modern "western front." The First National Bank of Mount Pleasant was joined by several new and one foreign exchange bank. Two telegraph companies' wires connected the coke brokers to the steel-making centers. In 1892 twelve telephones were in operation in Mount Pleasant.

The town's growth was so rapid that twenty years of building was required before the community's schools and churches again became even adequate. The pace and quality of life had changed!

Just as the native Iroquois Indians responded to the settlers invading their western territories a hundred years earlier, the second and third generation Americans reacted to this massive wave of newcomers as a threat and with hostility. The eager new workers brought by the coal and coke companies became the scapegoats for all the problems of the industry, the poor wages, working conditions and the ensuing price wars. Newspapers here attacked them in the most offensive language, often clouding the real issues. A placard echoing this resentment for the non-English speaking laborers was found tacked up outside the Morewood mine about 1884. Called "An Appeal to the Christian Public," it insulted every facet of the immigrants' lives, in this case the first arrivals here, the Hungarians, before making its points:

One of the most degrading influences brought to bear upon our community is the indiscriminate portion of Hungarian serfs and their employment in public works in preference to good local citizens who are willing and can perform more and better labor for the same pay . . . Little do they care for our working men or our businessmen. They are ruining both and well they know it . . . Go to any of these coke works where these serfs are employed and you will find women and children at work fit only for the stoutest of men . . . girls of ten years of age working and drawing coke; . . . extreme promiscuity in their marital relations, carrying on an illicit whiskey traffic . . . If it really takes men, women and children at hard labor to keep a family which lives on the cheapest and filthiest of wares, what will other American citizens do for a living?

Isolated by language and the feudal-like company "Patch" the workers labored hard to please their new lord, the company. Asked who was the president of the United States, a Hungarian reportedly replied "King Frick"; the company had supplanted the old system of the Empire. The Polish and Slavs and later the Italians arrived. Between 1880 and 1890 the population of the township increased by 3,500 (which would have been greater had not the borough annexed Texas and Bunker Hill in 1885). The borough's population jumped from 1,197 to 3,652 in the same period. At the Chicago World's Fair in 1889 the H. C. Frick Coke Company boasted the largest works in the world with 9,999 ovens operating at Standard.

MOUNT PLEASANT BRANCH, BALTIMORE AND OHIO.	
1882	Ovens.
H. C. Frick Coke Co., Henry Clay.....	100
H. C. Frick Coke Co., Frick.....	106
H. C. Frick Coke Co., Morgan.....	164
H. C. Frick Coke Co., White.....	148
H. C. Frick Coke Co., Foundry.....	74
H. C. Frick Coke Co., Eagle.....	80
H. C. Frick Coke Co., Summit.....	142
H. C. Frick Coke Co., Tip Top.....	56
H. C. Frick Coke Co., Valley.....	152
Mullen, Strickler & Co., Mullen.....	82
Boyle & Rafferty, Boyle's.....	252
J. M. Cochran's estate, Buckeye.....	116
J. M. Cochran's estate, Star.....	20
Jos. E. Stanfer & Co., Dexter.....	40
J. D. Boyle, Fountain.....	50
McClure & Co., Diamond.....	66
McClure & Co., Painter's.....	228
Charlotte Furnace Co.....	60
W. A. Keifer.....	40
B. F. Keister & Co., Franklin.....	50
A. A. Hutchinson & Bro., Standard.....	360
James Cochran & Co., Clinton.....	44
	2430

The habits and dress of the non-English speaking newcomers' women were a great curiosity to the residents here as reported in Albert's history;

"Among the miners underground Hungarian men are plenty enough. Above surface their wives and daughter share their labor with the men. Broad-backed and brawny, the women handle the long heavy iron scraper at the hot mouth of the oven. They all wear boots; that is for a few months in the winter. In the summer they go barefoot, and even thus early are found the strong imprint of plenty of pink toes in the yellow mud. Their skirts are scant, and leave room for about two feet of sunburn below. A distinctive feature of their costume is their head-dress, which usually consists of a shawl, not wrapped turban fashion, but pinned under the chin."

About 1900, the daughter of one of the miners at Standard Shaft, checks the bread in the preferred and traditional backyard oven. The long narrow backyard was efficiently used to keep chickens, and grow a small vegetable garden and grapes for making wine.

Westmoreland Fayette Historical Society



Some Sad Times

On December 23, 1903 the Duquesne Limited traveling the Baltimore and Ohio Railway from Pittsburgh to Connellsville at 50 miles an hour was derailed by a pile of heavy timber which had fallen from a westbound freight two miles west of Dawson. The smoking car, filled to capacity, was thrown on top of the engine where many of the 65 casualties were scalded to death. Two fatalities, William Kalp, an insurance man, and A. Wade Shupe from the prominent flour mill family, brought a cloud of sadness to the entire community.

A Christmas eve fire, December 24, 1906 destroyed the Galley Brothers' Carriage building on Washington Street. There were no casualties but C. A. Springer, the loyal volunteer fireman that he was, had little assistance that holiday eve and later nearly succumbed to the flu.

An extra street car was put into service Christmas day of 1909 and at the Standard switch just northeast of town slammed into the rear of another car. The one went up over the other, causing severe injuries, amputations and crushed limbs. Among those injured were William, 13, and Robert, 11, the former suffering amputation of his right leg and a crushed left foot; both were brothers of John Jordan who still resides on Center Avenue. Christmas that year was no holiday for the many victims, their families, and the hospital personnel who worked feverishly to alleviate pain and suffering.

Compiled by Sue Spence

Michael Gismondi, a Cedar Street resident of the Dutchtown area, lost his life in 1905 attempting to save a 13-year-old boy Percy Summy, who had fallen into a well, and subsequently died. In 1906 Gismondi was awarded posthumously the silver medal of the Carnegie Hero Commission.

This award, along with \$600 for support, was presented to Gismondi's widow, Caroline Sellitto Gismondi, who was expecting their first child. Mrs. Gismondi later married Vincent Rosso, founder of Rosso Florist. Gismondi's child, Machelline, died in 1918 during the influenza epidemic.

As of 1977 the Carnegie Hero Commission has recognized 6,287 acts of bravery since its founding in 1904 by Andrew Carnegie to recognize "... in a suitable manner heroic efforts to save human life made by those following peaceful vocations." Of this number, the silver medal has been awarded 615 times. A complete roll of award recipients is kept on display at the commission headquarters in Pittsburgh. *From material submitted by Vincent Miele*

ACTS OF HEROISM—Continued		
No.	ACT	AWARD
27	Michael Gismondi, aged twenty-seven, laborer, died attempting to save Percy Summy, aged thirteen, from suffocation. Mt. Pleasant, Pa., September 22, 1905. Gismondi was overcome by gas six feet from the bottom of a thirty-foot well, while descending a ladder to rescue the boy, who was already unconscious and later taken out dead.	Silver Medal and \$600 toward support of widow.

By 1890 it was apparent that the Connellsville Coke Region was expanding faster than the demand; there were too many mines, ovens, and workers. The price of coke dropped; companies employed fewer and at reduced wages. Workers, already forced to live on the barest of necessities in cramped quarters of boarding or company houses, at first were grateful for the work and the little pay. Finally exasperated with the continued reduction of wages they struck. Strike breakers were brought in and trouble brewed. In 1891 a strike at Morewood Mine resulted in the deaths of 13 Hungarians angry over their jobs being taken by new company men.

Acting United Mine Worker's President, Michael Barrett, elected at Scottdale, quickly issued statements deploring violence.

There is no nationality in this. No Hun, no Slav, no Italian, no other thing than an effort to improve the condition of the coke workers . . . Do not break the Law; if you strike, stay home, and don't forget that you are a citizen (in fact, or in prospect) and let your acts prove that you can be both and still be a striker.

We do not want their plants nor do we care what profit they earn from their capital, but we maintain that we should get a living wage from our labor.

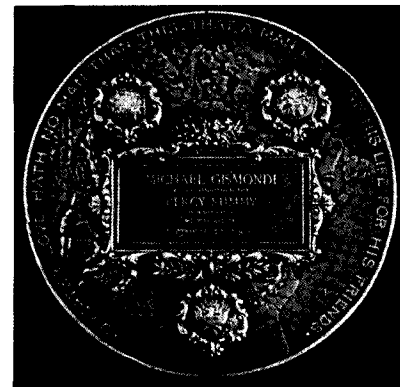
The Standard workers already had a contract; not until the strike became national did these men lay down their tools. In the end the strike was lost, although some gains had been made. The courts failed in their attempt to find justice for the strikers' deaths. With the help of the multilingual priests, who had been their spokesmen during the troubled times, many workers relocated in the lumbering region of the Northwest. The borough's population dropped sharply before 1900.

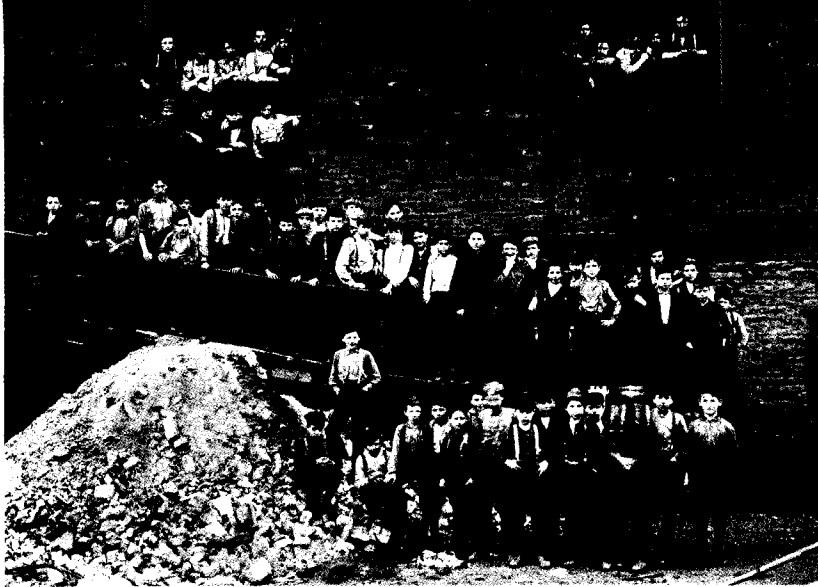
A new demand for coke was created by the Spanish American War; conditions here improved and the region was peaceful for the next 25 years.

The great labor force and fuel available in the coal and coke region attracted the glass industry. In 1896 Bryce Brothers, makers of fine handblown crystal, located their plant along Bridgeport Street near the railroad depot. In 1905, the Duncan Plan of lots was opened adjoining the borough on the east along the pike with 15 manufacturing sites to be served by a railroad. In 1907 the L. E. Smith Co. bought a plant there. The glass companies soon became major employers of the borough and the township.

Between 1900 and 1910 the town's population reached its full growth and stabilized at 5,800, from which it would vary only slightly over the next 60 years. All the immigrants were gradually being assimilated and taking places of leadership in the community,

Gradler Studio Photos





Boys at Bryce Brothers Factory on Bridgeport Street, 1901.

revitalizing the old pioneer spirit. By 1906 four Catholic churches and 3 parochial schools had joined the borough's one Jewish and 12 Protestant congregations.

In 1910 the town took stock of itself and celebrated with "Old Home Week" commemorating its first one hundred years of existence, and its growth from that little village of Mountpleasant with 34 cabins in 1810.

A new armory built in 1906, the first high school building completed in 1908 and a new "City Hall" building in 1910 reflected the prosperity of the community. Its character was also expressed in its organizations compared to others in the county. The local chapters of the I.O.O.F., a federated woman's club (Saturday Afternoon Club), the Needlework Guild and the Red Cross Society were the first organized in Westmoreland. The college here, known then as the Institute and in its sixth decade, had survived to become the county's oldest existing school of higher learning. The Jacob Justice Free Dispensary established in 1901 and the Mount Pleasant Memorial Hospital opened in 1904 were the second medical facilities. Between 1881 and 1905 there were 28 registered physicians listed as residents of Mount Pleasant.

The wife of one of these, Mrs. M. W. Horner, a daughter of Burgess Smith, read a paper on the history of Mount Pleasant to the Saturday Afternoon Club in 1938. It delightfully recaptured the pleasant sights, sounds, smells and places of daily life in Mount Pleasant at the turn of the century. Part of this paper is found on the following pages.

The less pleasant memories of this time include the constant battle with dirt and cinders, waged and proudly won by every housewife who accepted this annoyance as a symbol of the area's prosperity. Fine gritty cinders from the thousands of burning coke ovens that surrounded Mount Pleasant covered everything from roof tops to window sills and geranium plants. Angry mothers were one of the greatest hazards faced by little boys who climbed trees and consequently appeared as smaller versions of their older brothers who had spent the day working in the mines. The Church Street laundries, Dullinger's by steam and Lee Wing by hand, were very busy making white again shirts that were soiled after being worn only half a day. Women who hung their laundry outdoors to dry were plagued with little pockets of black dust collecting in the seams and folds of the sheets and table linens.

Mine accidents were frequent and the horse-drawn hospital

The Mount Pleasant Journal

JOHN L. SHIELDS, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Published every Wednesday at Mount Pleasant, Pa., where it is entered at the postoffice as second-class matter.

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Office:—Journal Block, 33 S. Church St

Personally appeared before me, a notary public, on August 27, 1913, John L. Shields who was qualified that he is the sole publisher of THE JOURNAL, published weekly at Mount Pleasant, Pa.

S. C. STEVENSON.

WEDNESDAY, - Sept. 3, 1913.

Mount Pleasant is located in the southeastern part of Westmoreland county on branches of both the Pennsylvania and Baltimore & Ohio Railroads and on the main line of the West Penn Railways Company, and in the heart of the famous Connellsville Coke Region, being surrounded by over 2,000 coke ovens. It has a population of over 5,800, having increased 22 per cent. in the past ten years. Immediately surrounding the borough limits live fully as many more people; while the distribution of the local postoffice is over 18,000.

In addition to the largest coke plant in the world, Mount Pleasant has two big glass factories, tool factory, foundry and machine shops, planing mill and lumber yards, coach and wagon factories, two national and one foreign exchange banks, trust company, three automobile garages, two flouring mills, brewery, distillery, ice plant and two pop factories.

The mountain water supply has proven itself the best in this end of the state, having stood up under the longest drouths this section ever experienced, and in addition to cheap coal there is a splendid service of natural gas, making the town ideal in the way of sites for new industries.

There are 57 square miles in the watershed which supplies the town. The present storage capacity, which is over two hundred million gallons, could be doubled at very little expense.

Thirteen Protestant and four Catholic churches afford the worshiper a choice enjoyed by few towns of this size.

The Mount Pleasant Institute, Public and Parochial Schools place the town in the front rank in the way of educational facilities.



In Smith's garden, West Main Street 1900

College Avenue from Walnut Street, Mt. Pleasant, Pa.



Loaned by Library Collection



Celebrating the return of the Spanish American War veterans, Church Street at Main, 1899.

Main Street looking east, 1910



Loaned by W. Hixon

Mount Pleasant

... All the houses on Main Street were built without front yards, but all of them had large flower and vegetable gardens in the rear. Our old home was owned by a Mr. Sipe, the first house carpenter in our town, who in turn sold it to a Mr. Shallenberger who had it weather-boarded that people came from miles over the country to see it and then Mr. W. H. Smith, my father, bought it.

Mount Pleasant was also a musical center. The Sutherwood family called themselves "The Traveling Musicians." They traveled during the winter and gave musicales as they called them, all over the country, and they spent the summer at Mellington, a mile east of Mount Pleasant. We also had a crack band; the community got these boys their suits and they bought an old circus wagon and traveled all over the state giving band concerts in the early nineties.

Our first musical studio occupied several rooms in the old Ark, still standing across from Miss Marie Rumbaugh's home on Main Street. They had the first organ in the town. Miss Mollie Butz was the voice teacher who specialized in what one would call "sob" music, songs such as, "Thou has learned to love one another," "Father dear Father come home with me" etc. Prof. Levan, the piano teacher, had the second organ in the town. It was a great curiosity because it had a six octave keyboard as long as an ordinary piano. My sister took lessons from both these teachers and taught the "Sob" music to another sister Kate.

It hasn't been so many years ago when we had the largest number of coke ovens burning in the United States and Mount Pleasant was the main coke center. There were no chain stores. We hadn't the privilege to vote and men would sell their votes for fifty cents, and a quart of cider. Now they vote them without the additional fifty cents. And any reliable butcher would give you a pound of bacon for five cents, and the calf liver for the cat.

The old National Hotel was the hub of the village. A row of willow trees stood in front and a pump to quench the thirst of all drovers. We had no radios and all the news of the world radiated from the hotel and the mighty questions of the day were settled, the scandal of the town aired, with occasional remarks about the goings on in Washington ... All the drug stores had green and red bottles in the windows and we bathed in the family wash tub; the boys of the family in the old swimming hole. Men didn't swear in the presence of the women and women didn't swear at all. Several real old ladies smoked a pipe; young ladies didn't know what a cigarette or a cocktail were made for. No home was complete without a prowling cat, hunting dog and a parrot. Every home was not complete without a buggy and a horse. All girls were able to ride horseback or side saddle.

The Lippincott home, our present hospital, was the show place of

The writer and her family in 1909: Mr. William Smith, father, Miss Anna Smith, Mrs. Kate Stevenson and Mrs. Pearl S. Stevenson, (far right) daughters; Bert Smith, son, William Stevenson, grandson; Mrs. William Smith, daughter-in-law; Viola Stevenson, Jean Smith, Sarah Smith and Sarah Horner, granddaughters.



The Way It Was

the town. Charles Bills drove an old hack out to Alverton to meet all the trains. He lived in a one-story house where Mrs. Cort lived. Well-dressed men wore silk hats and Prince Albert coats. Women wore bustles and hoop skirts. East End was called "Texas" with a board walk from the Reformed Church to the B&O Station and a row of maple trees on both sides of the street from the B&O Station to the Church of God. The streets were lighted with oil lamps, then flickering gas lights. There were several licensed saloons in the town who all sold "fighting" liquor. We had very little trouble in town and only had one policeman.

We hadn't any hospital for no one seemed to get seriously ill. Every house had an outdoor hammock made out of barrel staves and every family had home-made bread three times a day. Men worked from dawn to dusk for \$1.00 a day. Woman's work was never done. We had no movies and evenings were spent in quilting, playing games and Eli Culbertson was an unheard of person. Gasoline was then used only to take the grease spots out of clothing, particularly Sunday suits, and to hurry the fires along. You started at 5:00 in the morning to make Jones Mills by noon for picnics on the 4th of July or any other holiday. No woman would tell her age after twenty-one or before she was sixty-five. It was a disgrace to have a mortgage on the old home-place. You could buy an egg for one cent, and that was all it was worth; chickens were twenty-five cents apiece and you always had three for one meal. Grown-ups never chewed gum and every man and boy whistled. There were hitching posts and watering troughs for the horses all along Main Street, and a drinking fountain in front of Schindel's Barber Shop erected by the WCTU of the town.

Automobiles were very scarce. Mr. O. P. Shupe had the first one in town. You could hear it a mile away and smell it the same distance. Shin plasters were used during the Civil War for money, due to the inflation of the dollar. Every family had the picture of their ancestors in the parlor; some on easels and others hung on the wall. One finger bowl with a geranium leaf in the water was sufficient for the entire family after the meal, if you used any at all. Father and all the older male members of the family had a mustache cup, displaying the owner's name, for their coffee, meat platters were filled with steak to fill up the center of the table and the tablecloth was red. Jams and jellies by the dozen, and the pie or dessert, whichever it was, might be at the end of the table to notify you to save room for it.

Excerpted from a paper read in 1938 at the Saturday Afternoon Club by Mrs. M. W. Horner, the daughter of William Smith who was burgess in 1883 and the wife of Dr. Horner. The Horner family home on the northeast corner of the Diamond, is presently the B.P.O.E. building.

Main Street looking west from the Diamond, 1900.



Loaned by Viola Stevenson



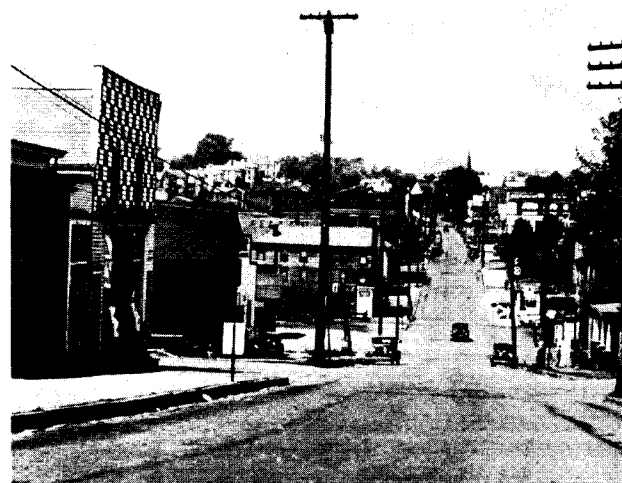
Children parade past the Diamond, 1900s.

Front of Main Street, Showing West Penn Junction Mt. Pleasant, Pa.

Loaned by Library Collection



Loaned by Bucky Osterwise



East Main Street looking west

Smith's Blacksmith Shop on Diamond Street 1900.





Burgess
Sam P. Stevens



Officer
M. F. McCulley

In the book *Mounted Justice, True Stories of the Pennsylvania State Police*, published in 1922, a story of the *Black Hand* in Mount Pleasant is recounted in a chapter titled "Cut Beans and Company." Burgess Sam Stevens and Lieutenant McCulley of Mount Pleasant are given credit for helping to solve the crimes of the "*Mane Nero*" and the ending of their reign of terror here in 1919. During this time two men were shot and killed, one had his throat cut and the bartender of the Italian Club drowned himself in the reservoir. For these crimes two men were convicted; one was sent to prison for 18-20 years, the other was convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to serve 10-12 years. The *Black Hand* terror in Mount Pleasant ended.

There is another story of the local *Black Hand*, though remaining unconfirmed, it is openly circulated. In the 1920s during prohibition when bootlegging in Mount Pleasant abounded, as it did in most small communities, Al Capone, Chicago underworld leader, came here in search of a hideout. Not finding a secure one, it is believed he fled to Masontown.

ambulance purchased in 1905 rushed to the scene as fast as eight legs could carry it. Fires, as well as several trolley and railroad accidents, shocked the community.

An attempted Morewood Mine payroll holdup in 1901 created a hero and some excitement. In 1906 Michael Gismondi, a laborer from the "*Dutchtown*" area, who lost his life attempting to save a boy who had fallen into a well, was posthumously honored by the Carnegie Hero Award. During the *Great War*, a number of our young men died on battlefields in France. In 1919 uneasiness and anxiety was caused by "*Black Hand*" activity and murders in Mount Pleasant.

The passage of the Eighteenth Constitutional Amendment in 1920 prohibiting the manufacture, sale and transport of intoxicating beverages, resulted in bootlegging operations in this area which founded new fortunes for some citizens. In "*Dutchtown*" there was known to be a lady who sold whiskey for 50 cents a pint from her basement window: this was Mount Pleasant's "*Hole in the Wall*". Until prohibition ended in 1933 raids by officers of the law on illegal liquor stills were prominent in newspapers and frequent Ku Klux Klan rallies stirred the nearby mountain areas.

A miners' strike in 1922, following the removal of the World War I wage freeze, brought the president of the UMW, John L. Lewis, to Standard to rally the laborers. As the industry was already depressed, little gain was made and wages continued to be low. The end of the coal and coke domination of Mount Pleasant's economy and the town's period of second growth had already passed.

Traffic and the pace of life at the crossroad continued to change and accelerate as demonstrated by the following borough ordinances:

Ordinance No. 53 June 7, 1898

... it shall be unlawful for any person to ride a bicycle or similar vehicle upon the streets of the Borough at a speed greater than seven miles per hour.

Ordinance No. 91 Sept. 16, 1910

Section Four Every operator of an automobile or other motor vehicle shall sound his horn or other signal device when overtaking another vehicle...

Section Seven. The maximum speed (is) set at 12 miles per hour on the streets and alleys of the Borough.

While the motor car challenged the horse and wagon's supremacy of the roads, the 1925 borough ordinance prohibiting the driving of cattle through the town's streets and alleys marked the end of an era and the tradition from which the town of *Mountpleasant* sprang more than one hundred years earlier.

In 1925 when cattle were being driven from the rail depot up Main Street to be slaughtered, a bull broke from the herd near Cherry Avenue, attacked and mauled to death Sam Mellinger. The young butcher from the west end of town, Ed Hostoffer, shot the ferocious beast; the following week, on October 9, Ordinance No. 185, prohibiting animal drives on Main Street, was passed by Borough Council, one of whose members was Harvey Mellinger, brother of the victim.

Main Street looking east, 1920s.



Loaned by Library Collection

On Diamond Memorial Square, where once scores of Conestoga Wagons rested, stands the Doughboy monument, a landmark of the community. Erected in 1924 by the citizens of Mount Pleasant and surrounding areas to honor their sons' service in the nation's wars, this monument combined with the Sesquicentennial slogan, Pleasant, Proud, and Progressive, mirrors the character of the community as it celebrates and continues to grow.

Loaned by Kirk Rumbaugh



In Our Time 1928-1978

Four years after the dedication of the Doughboy, the borough celebrated its 100th anniversary of incorporation. The "Souvenir Centennial Book" publication pictures Main Street lined with brick blocks and busy little shops; after a century, Mount Pleasant was still the bustling business center of the surrounding townships. Looking toward the gentle slopes rising to the Chestnut Ridge, natives and strangers alike encountered signs of progress: the myriad of crisscrossing telephone, telegraph and West Penn electric lines, trolley cables and heavy black clouds of coke smoke. Construction of a new high school, Ramsay, to be the last borough school erected, had begun; the Institute continued as a music school. The Grand Opera House brought fine performers to the town and church attendance was high. In 1928, Mount Pleasant was a town feeling confident about the future and taking pride in its past. A year later nearly every aspect of its life had been altered.

Scott Lane, a young reporter on the Journal staff during this period, wrote: "The stock market crash in October of 1929 swept away all the Mount Pleasant banks; for many citizens, life was never the same. Wide-

On Nov. 11, 1924 the Doughboy Monument was unveiled on the Diamond which was then renamed and dedicated as Memorial Square. Erected by the patriotic citizens of Mount Pleasant area, the 21 foot monument carries this inscription in bronze letters: "Erected to the memory of our gallant sons who endured the hardships and fought our nation's battles." Upon its base are the dates of the wars in which our men have served:

1775-1783	(Revolutionary War)
1812	(War of 1812)
1846-1848	(Mexican War)
1861-1865	(Civil War)
1898-1899	(Spanish-American War)
1917-1918	(World War I)
1941-1945	(World War II)
1950-1953	(Korean War)



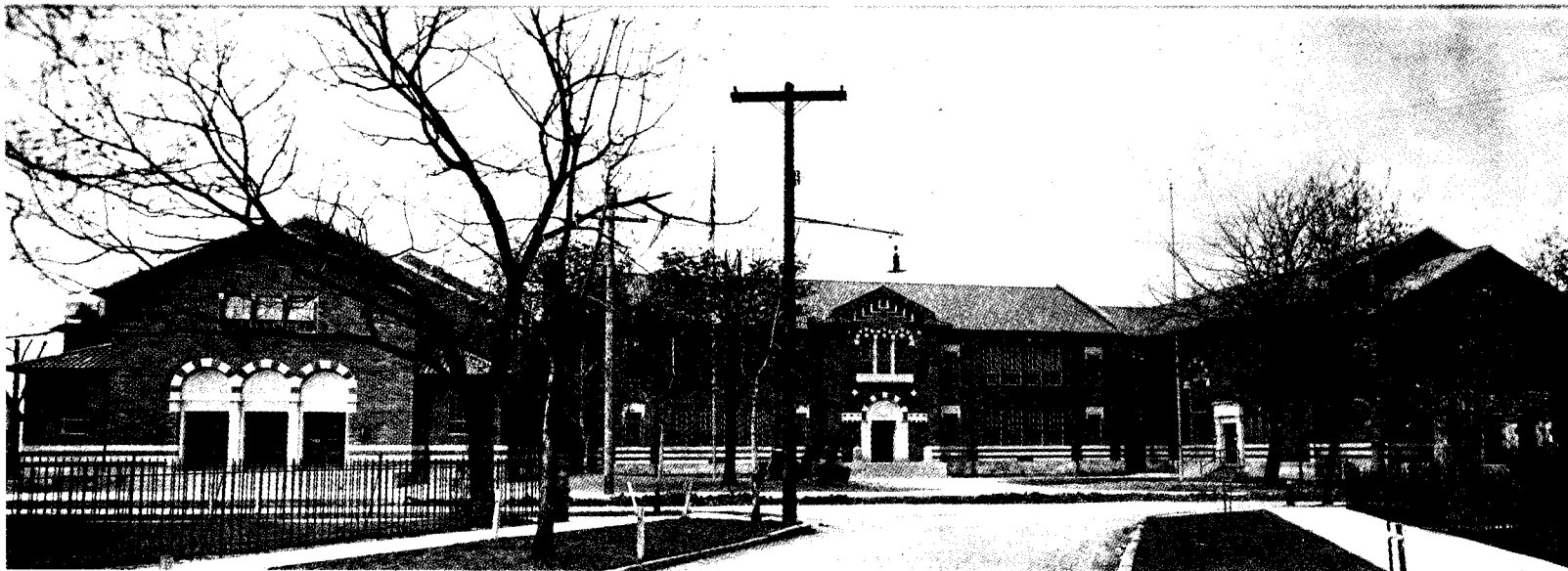
Loaned by Kirk Rumbaugh



Above: During Mount Pleasant's Centennial celebration in 1928, Johnny "Mac" McCelland, stood in front of his "Mount Pleasant News Co." as his news boys prepared to leave by Somerset Bus for Pittsburgh for a day at the baseball game, a treat provided by Johnny "Mac". A native of Irwin and an eccentric millionaire, who smoked used cigarette butts and once tried to rent a hat to go to a funeral, Johnny "Mac" spent his adult life operating the Main Street newsstand and living at the Noss Hotel. He and Carrie Noss, hotel owner and an artist, were among the most colorful characters of our town during this century.

Left: The Dedication of the Doughboy Parade, 1924.

Below: The new Ramsay High School, 1930.
Library Collection

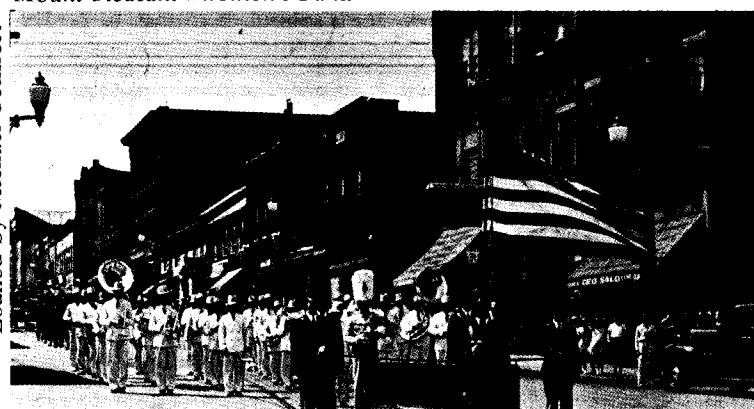


Loaned by Frank Janesko

Mount Pleasant Firemen's Band



Loaned by Michael Comfort



spread unemployment brought hard times as a national depression took hold and deepened."

Among the victims of the Depression was the president of the Mount Pleasant National Bank, and borough treasurer, John Dickey Hitchman, who was found dead at his desk in his Walnut Street home of a self-inflicted gun shot wound.

In the 1930s the government work projects tried to revitalize people and communities; the WPA in Mount Pleasant developed the Yoder Avenue Park and the Ramsay High School football field and tennis courts, provided aid to our newly formed library, and improved our roads. The first section of the Pennsylvania Turnpike construction began with one of their five offices located in Mount Pleasant. In 1939 the road construction employed 1,755 men.

With little or no money to spend, people found diversion in forming new bands, sports teams, and cultural and social clubs. Our Firemen's Band and the Woman's Club are among those which began in this period.

In 1932, during a strike in which one man was killed, the Standard mines were closed. Although some of the coke ovens were used for a short time during World War II, these mines were never reopened. Many of the miners' children left the area. Others found their way into the military, going voluntarily or as draftees during World War II, never to return. This war, which took the lives of eight Company E soldiers, ended the period of the Great Depression, hard times that would not be easily forgotten.

Myra Bollinger Pifer, the present postmaster of Tarrs, who grew up in Mount Pleasant during the Depression provided these memories of the time:

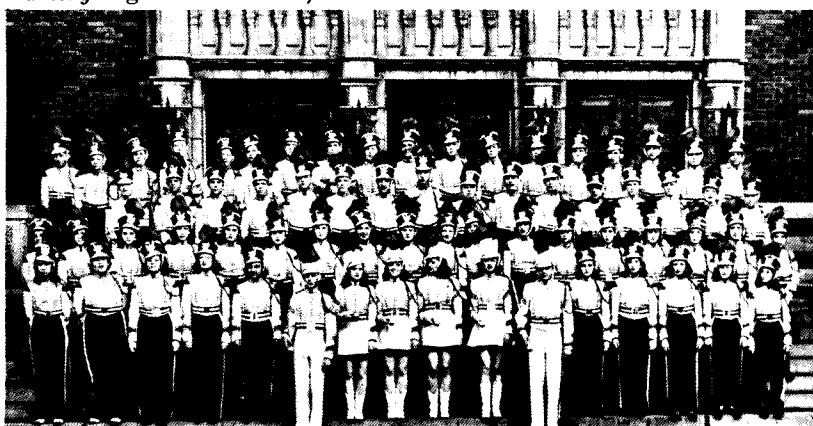
We lived near Bryce's factory where my father was a glass-blower. I can remember the long lines of men waiting outside each morning hoping for a day's work. Sometimes a few were called in to substitute for absentees; a certain number of workers were needed to complete a "shop". Working conditions in those pre-union days were poor. Workers could be suspended or discharged for just talking or whistling on the job.

The relief program at the local level was very chaotic; regulations varied from community to community. At the program's inception, in one nearby community, anyone "on relief" had to have the electrical power turned off in their house. A common practice compelled a relief recipient to turn in his car license plates so that he could not drive.

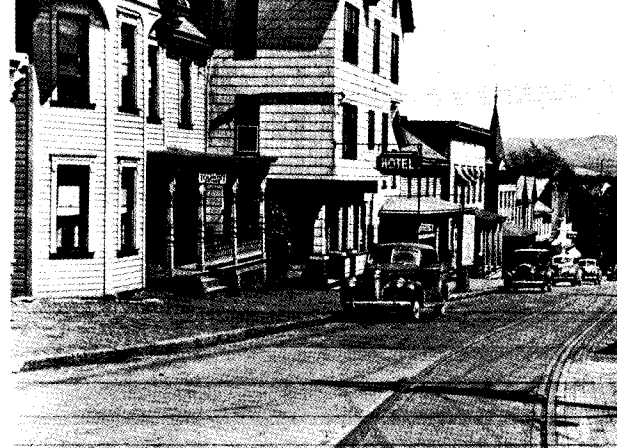
At Third Ward school a milk program was initiated. Each child was weighed and the underweights, of which group I belonged, were given milk to drink; in the presence of other hungry children this was a very uncomfortable experience. My classmates breakfasted on "coffee soup" a concoction of coffee with sugar and milk poured over bread to be eaten with a spoon. As most families had vegetable gardens, our basic diet consisted of stewed tomatoes, potatoes and beans. Meat appeared on the table on Sundays only or not at all. We home-processed everything we could get, but often there was no money to buy the sugar to process fruit and fruit juices.

From my child's-eye-view, our life style was fine. We managed to go to the movies now and then. In many homes playing cards was looked upon with horror, but my father enjoyed the games and we were encouraged to bring

Ramsay High School Band of 1942 to 1943.



Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce Photo



Main Street east of Memorial Square in the 1940's showing the Noss Hotel.

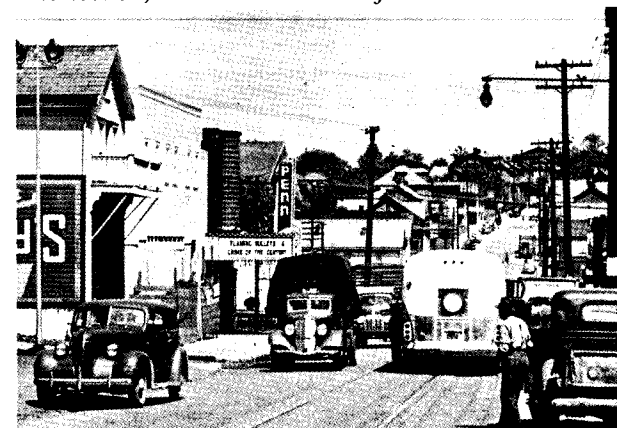


Main Street just west of the intersection of Shupe Street; the Moose building shown burnt down in 1967.



After World War II, Main Street looking toward the intersection of College Avenue.

Main Street looking east from Shupe Street intersection, with Bunker Hill beyond.

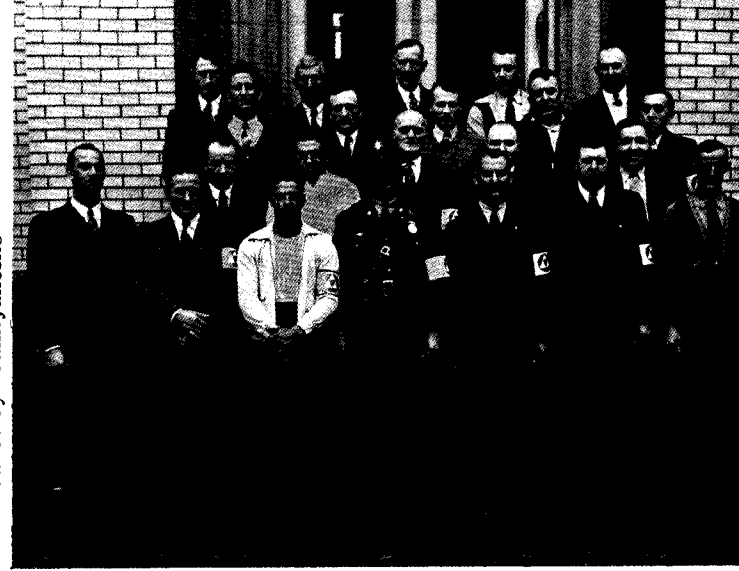




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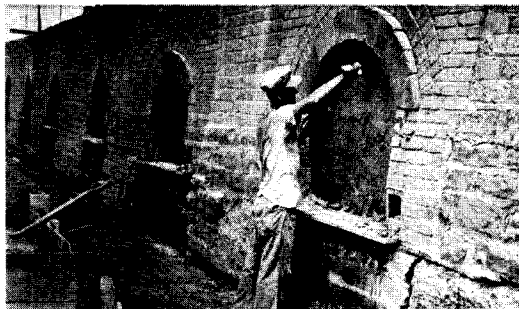


Photo loaned by Frank Janesko



Our Civil Defense Unit of 1941 poses in front of the Mullin Avenue Borough Building, 1st row: Charles Grabiak, George Elmo, Emilio Rinaldi, Police Chief Joe White, Anthony Crivella, Edwin Swink, Andrew Macey; 2nd row: John Bolaney, Ralph Biancardi, Joseph Zeman, Lawrence Mathias, Anthony Antonette; 3rd row: Frank Martorella, Otto Zeman, Spencer Hyde, Henry Clausner, Clarence Faust; 4th row: Shannon Kreinbrook, Abe Farrah, Elmer Hank, Frank Eckels, Peter Ricotta.

Below: in the 1960s the second and last stand pipe built by Mount Pleasant Water Company was pulled down by Cramer Wrecking Company assisted by Potomac's Atlantic Service. The alley running along the northern edge of Frick Park, originally called Union Alley, carried the name Stand Pipe Alley for more than 75 years; today it is called Spence Way. Its multiangular course is historic, following the boundaries of the original tracts purchased in 1797 by McCready and Burleigh from Marshall and abutting Neel's tract.



Closing the coke ovens at Standard, 1956.



In 1957 Ramsay High senior, Jan Sikorsky, broke a national scholastic record with a javelin toss of 222' 10 1/2" at WPIAL meet.



friends home to play. My aunt and uncle came one night each week at our house; the men played cards while the ladies went to revival meetings. I had a happy choice of two diversions.

The WPA provided culture to me personally. My aunt rented a small vacant storeroom to the WPA for an art class. I remember the instructor, an unemployed school teacher, as a thin, undernourished looking person. My mother and aunt (who were not at all interested in art) assembled a class of women. Though I was younger by many years, I was dragged along to the class, probably to help fill the quota. We sat at a long table covered with oilcloth and newspapers transforming glass containers into beautiful vases or whatever.

(In 1935) my sister graduated from Ramsay High School as the WPA and relief agencies ran out of funds. Their graduating class had no yearbooks, no class rings and no graduation pictures. I remember lingering on the fringes of her graduation party to hear the jokes about whether the graduates should join the WPA or the Army...the Army of the Unemployed.

As the "New Deal" brought recovery to the economy, my mother echoed her own "Amen" to the Great Depression: she gave away all her home canning equipment.

The post-war prosperity of the 1940s and the GI bill restored many of our young people to the community as teachers, lawyers and doctors. New cars and baby carriages once again appeared on the streets; new homes were built on West Vine and Smithfield streets, on St. Clair and Joseph streets and all along the perimeter of the older sections of town. The Civil Defense Unit gave their equipment to the Fire Department, which then provided the town with the first trained emergency first-aid teams.

In the 1950s the Inter-Community Industries, an organization formed to attract new industry and add job opportunities to the area were successful in bringing Permali and Durasteel to Mount Pleasant Township, Screw & Bolt, now Modulus, and Williamhouse to East Huntingdon Township, and a number of smaller firms to the borough. Pittsburgh National and Gallatin Banks, along with several savings and loan institutions, established offices on Main Street. In 1968 construction of a new Gallatin Bank building required the relocation of Mullin Avenue and the falling of the borough jail built in 1912. The building of the Red and White Supermarket on the southeast corner of the Diamond took away the old Ultz restaurant and a large row house. East of the Pennsylvania Railroad station, Summy's and Leeper's old feed stores were razed for the construction of the Super Dollar Shopping Plaza.

Dedication of the new central firehouse, on Church, with ceremonies held on the building's south side facing the not yet complete library, brought a large interested crowd of citizens in 1969.

Population 1790-1970 taken from the United States Census by Decades

	Mount Pleasant Township	Mount Pleasant Borough	East Huntingdon Township
1820	2,026	—	1,383
1830	2,381	—	1,516
1840	2,133	554	1,774
1850	2,576	534	1,873
1860	2,469	497	2,000
1870	2,547	717	2,134
1880	4,224	1,197	4,404
1890	7,788	3,652	8,109
1900	10,228	2,197	10,587
1910	12,997	5,812	10,126
1920	12,583	5,862	8,336
1930	10,918	5,869	6,159
1940	10,534	5,824	6,149
1950	10,111	5,883	5,984
1960	10,365	6,107	6,574
1970	10,830	5,895	7,234

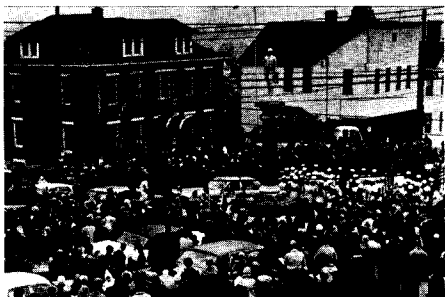


The Pennsylvania Railroad Station was torn down in Dec. 1976.



In 1977 a new railroad trestle goes up at Rath's Crossroads just north of the borough.





The Doughboy monument, struck by an automobile, laid fragmented on the square, Jan. 27, 1968. On February 8, council voted to restore the statue to its original position. The next day, the remaining part of the base was struck again, but no further damage was sustained by the monument. On Nov. 11, 1969, the new Doughboy was dedicated. Highlights of the ceremony included a reading of the history of the original Doughboy by Henry Abromson, a welcome by Charles Cronin, borough council president, and introductions by Dr. Willard Stevens.



As the business community began to rebuild, Mount Pleasant, too, renewed her institutions and old landmarks fell. The Institute was razed for the building of a new hospital facility completed in 1965; the remodeled hospital building erected in 1841 and the hundred year old Church Street school were cleared permitting a core of municipal services including a new library and firehouse to cluster at the eastern edge of Frick Park. An enlarged school district merged in 1966. Along the east side of North Church Street the development of Ramsay Terrace peaked; on the street's west side, Pleasant Manor, a federally funded public housing project, opened in 1968. That year Chrysler Corporation purchased a site between Mount Pleasant and New Stanton and later constructed an 11-acre building there. Although the would-be assembly plant stood empty for almost a decade, it held great promise for the industrial future of the area.

In 1968 the doughboy was toppled accidentally. Improved, replaced and rededicated in 1969, it continued to symbolically reflect the spirit of Mount Pleasant, a community renewing itself. A scrapbook for the year 1968 to 1969, compiled by the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce, showing the area's progress and vitality, brought our town state-wide recognition by winning first prize in the "Better Community Contest."

In 1976 Volkswagen of Germany bought the Chrysler plant; in 1978 their first "Rabbit" automobile came off the assembly line. This plant, along with the H. C. Frick Community Hospital, now the borough's largest employer, is bringing a wave of newcomers to the community as a third cycle of growth and assimilation begins.

On the occasion of the borough's 150th anniversary of incorporation, as the town marks its more than 200th year since the first white settler established here, Mount Pleasant pauses to reflect and celebrate its proud past while looking toward a dynamic future, endowed with the rich resources of good citizens, leaders and neighbors.



Main Street looking West from the junction, 1971.

On the east side of Church Street, the newest residential development in Mount Pleasant, Ramsay Terrace.



Journal Photo