

A Place of Great Historic Interest Pittsburgh's First Burying-ground

BY

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Trinity Court Studio, R. W. Johnston.
Trinity Church and First Presbyterian Church Today.
McCreery Building on the right.

A PLACE OF GREAT HISTORIC INTEREST PITTSBURGH'S FIRST BURYING-GROUND

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CHAPTER I.

THE INDIANS AND THE FRENCH.

The burying-ground of the dead, among savages and civilized people alike, has always been regarded as being as holy as the temple or the church. It is this sentiment that inspired the savages to offer to the dead gifts of food and drink, and the civilized races with their more esthetic natures and less material tastes to deck the tombs with flowers. The early Christians animated by their new found knowledge of the resurrection regarded the cemetery as the sleeping place of the dead. It was the wish born of the innate hope for a reunion with the dead. The desire is illustrated by the story of the old Goth, who having been converted to Christianity and being about to receive Christian baptism, paused as he was stepping down into the font, and asked the priests, if in the heaven to which their rites would admit him, he would meet his pagan ancestors. On being answered in the negative he stepped out again and declined this method of salvation.

The earliest to die in any community, whatever their station in life, have an interest for those who follow after them, and if the dead are ancestors or kindred of the living the interest is doubly strong. Pittsburgh is comparatively

young as cities of the world go. Less than two hundred years ago the land where the city now stands had been hardly seen, much less occupied, by white men. It was only when the controversy for its possession between the French and English became acute that the place began to be known. Being quicker witted than the English, the French were the first to plant themselves between the two rivers, building Fort Duquesne as a barrier against the aggressions of the English. There was a considerable force of the French, and life was rude and there being war, there were deaths among them, and a regular burying-place was established, almost, if not at the beginning.

The French stronghold stood at the point of land formed by the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, two or three hundred feet north of Penn Avenue and about two hundred feet west of the Block House, the sole remainder of Fort Pitt. Fort Duquesne was built of squared logs and had stockades with bastions at each corner and was fifty yards wide; there were intrenchments around the fort which were about four rods distant. (1) It was surrounded by a ditch on the two sides which did not front on the rivers. The full name was "Fort Duquesne under the title of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin at the Beautiful River." The Rt. Rev. Mgr. A. A. Lambing, who in 1885 published a translation of the "Register of Fort Duquesne" containing a list of the interments, marriages and baptisms which took place in the French fortress, stated that the precise location of the cemetery could not be determined (2), but intimated that it might have been in the neighborhood of the fort. In this conclusion he was mistaken. The ground about the fort was low. Since that time it has been filled twelve feet or more. The condition of the ground was further changed when the two bridges located at the Point were built, the approaches being raised from fifteen to eighteen feet above the present level of the surrounding land. John McKinney, a soldier in Braddock's army who was taken prisoner when the English were defeated, and was carried to Fort Duquesne (3) has left a description of the fort and its surroundings in which he said, "the waters sometimes rise so high that the whole fort is surrounded by it, so that canoes may go around." He added that he thought he once saw them when they had risen nearly thirty feet. It is not at all probable that under these circumstances the burying-ground would be in the immediate vicinity of the fort.

On Colonel George Woods' plan of Pittsburgh, laid out in 1784, there appeared a narrow street twenty feet wide called Virgin Alley, being the street directly north of and

parallel with Fifth Street, now Fifth Avenue. In the block bounded by this alley and Sixth Street, now Sixth Avenue, by Wood Street and Smithfield Street, was a tier of lots numbered from 433 to 440. The entire block is now covered by the McCreery store, the First Presbyterian Church, Trinity Church and burying-ground and the Oliver Building. After the Revolution, John Penn, Jr., and John Penn, who owned all the land within the town of Pittsburgh, whether settled or vacant, by their two deeds both dated December 24, 1787, conveyed for a nominal consideration, that portion of the block beginning sixty feet east of Wood Street and extending eastwardly to within one hundred and twenty feet of Smithfield Street, being lots numbered from 435 to 439. The westerly half of this tier of lots was conveyed to the trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation of Pittsburgh, now the First Presbyterian Church, and the easterly half to the "trustees of the congregation of the Episcopal Protestant Church, commonly called the Church of England, in trust forever for a site for a house of worship, and a burial place for the use of said religious society."

On these five lots according to the most reliable authorities, the earliest burying-ground in the present city of Pittsburgh was located. William M. Darlington, the eminent local historian, whose family connections were among the earliest settlers, stated that in the rear of the present Trinity Church, adjoining Virgin Alley, and on the line of division between the Episcopal churchyard and that of the First Presbyterian Church stood an ancient Indian tumulus; that in the sepulchral mound and in the ground adjacent were interred the dead of the older Indians, of the Indians of later times, of the French of Fort Duquesne, and of the British and Americans (4). That the French buried their dead in this ground is also asserted by Isaac Craig, an historical student of note, and the son of Neville B. Craig, to whom Pittsburgh is indebted for the preservation of many of the documents relating to the early history of the city.

In 1877 the First Presbyterian Church decided to abandon that portion of its burying-ground surrounding the church and including the land fronting on Virgin Alley, for the purpose of erecting a new Sunday-school building and lecture room. Isaac Craig and John B. Guthrie united in a suit to prevent the church from carrying out its design. In this proceeding Isaac Craig presented a written statement which was admitted in evidence by agreement of all parties, in which he told of the use of the burying-ground by the French while they held Fort Duquesne (5). That it was

the current belief seventy or seventy-five years ago that the first burying-ground in Pittsburgh was on this location, appears from a letter written in 1846 by the Rev. George Upfold, rector of Trinity Church from 1831 to 1849 (6). Besides the location was such as the Indians would have selected, it being well known that Indian burials were made in pleasant locations and on high dry land out of the reach of floods or standing water. It was, therefore, natural for the French to choose this site in which to bury their dead; and in addition the land was considerably higher than Fort Duquesne, and could be readily seen from that point.

Virgin Alley began at Liberty Street, now Liberty Avenue, and extended to Smithfield Street. Prior to the adoption of Colonel Woods' plan, this alley had existed in front of the French burying-ground, and connected with the old winding road, a part of which was approximately on the location of Liberty Street, and led to the original Fort Pitt, and before the erection of that temporary structure had extended to Fort Duquesne. According to tradition, and this tradition is probably based on facts, it was called by the French, the "Path to the Cemetery under the title of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin at the Beautiful River," because it led from the fort to the burying-ground, which like the fort, was "under the title of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin." This poetic, no less than religious appellation, so it is further alleged was shortened by the English upon their taking possession of the territory, into the prosaic Virgin Alley, and that Colonel Woods adopted the name. In 1903 Virgin Alley was widened to forty-four feet, the added width being taken from the land on the northerly side of the thoroughfare. The name has since been changed to Oliver Avenue, after the well-known Pittsburgh family.

Before the occupation by the French of the land between the two rivers it was covered with forest trees. After the erection of Fort Duquesne these were cut down to the distance of a little more than a musket shot from the ramparts (7). The first interment was Toussant Boyer, a young Canadian, who was buried on June 20, 1754. But the one to attract the most attention and the one referred to by Isaac Craig in his statement, was the burial of the officer who commanded the French and Indians at Braddock's defeat, Captain Daniel Hyacinth Marie Lienard deBeaujeau. The battle of the Monongahela was fought on July 9, 1755, and the losses of the British were appalling. Out of twelve hundred men engaged, the loss in killed alone was more than seven hundred, while

of the French, Canadians and Indians combined, so far as known, only twenty-eight men were killed. Among them, however, was the captain of infantry who had planned and encompassed the overwhelming defeat of the British.

For three days the great triumph had been celebrated at Fort Duquesne, for three days the fruits of victory had been coming from the battlefield. The dead were brought in to receive military funerals. Ensign de la Perde who had died of wounds had been buried on July 10th, and Lieutenant de Carqueville who was killed in the battle was buried on the same day. The baptized Indians who were killed were likewise probably buried in the consecrated ground, while the heathen Indians were interred according to the rites of their respective tribes in land adjoining the cemetery. But on the third day the paens of victory were silenced and a deep sorrow overwhelmed the victors. The brave officer who had commanded in the battle was to be laid to rest. It was the most impressive scene that the Western wilderness had ever witnessed.

It is easy to conjure up a picture of that stirring day. The white flag with the golden lillies flying over Fort Duquesne was at halfmast. The six or seven hundred Indians mustered from the Ohio Country, from Canada, from the Great Lakes were moving about or squatting in front of their wigwams and camp-sheds which were scattered over the cleared ground almost to the edge of the woods. Near the fort in indiscriminate confusion was the plunder gathered on the battlefield. A hundred head of cattle were there, and among them and about them were tethered several hundred horses. In utter disorder lay brass cannon, motars and howitzers, broken gun carriages, barrels of powder, flour and military stores of every description.

The cannon of Fort Duquesne began to boom slowly, one after another; then the great wooden gate opening on the drawbridge swung outward and a procession emerged, crossed the drawbridge, and moved in the direction of the burying-ground. A few French officers in white uniforms with blue facings were in advance, Contreoeur, the commandant of the fort walking alone; next came a company of French regulars. Canadians picturesquely clad in fringed hunting shirts and fur caps followed. Now the bier came in view. Six French soldiers, three walking on either side carried a rude coffin made of bark. A Recollet friar in coarse gray habit walked behind. The Indians began joining the procession, the black and red war paint still on their faces. Many were wearing the uniforms, and grenadier caps that (8) had been taken from the British soldiers who

had fallen in the battle. A few wore the dress of British officers, including the sash, half moon and laced hat. Nearly all carried poles on which were fastened scalps on which the blood had scarcely dried. Their great chiefs, famous warriors of many tribes, led them, Athanase, chief of the Hurons, and Pontiac, chief of the Ottawas, who was later to become the greatest chief of them all. In the shadow of giant trees beside the Indian mound, the procession halted.

The burying-ground was thinly dotted with graves. A few were newly made with rude wooden crosses stuck in the earth. Tall poles on which were painted figures telling the deeds of the deceased, projected from the Indian graves. The pictures on the poles, faced toward the East, or rising sun, in order that the warriors sleeping beneath might look toward the happy land to which they would presently go. Many Indians were assembled awaiting the procession from the fort. Their faces betrayed sorrow. They recalled the bravery of the fallen Frenchman; it was on the day before the battle that Contrecoeur had sent De Beaujeu to them to ask that they join in attacking the British; and they had declined saying to him, "No, father you want to die and sacrifice yourself." They remembered, too, that they had promised to consult together, and that the next morning the Frenchman had sallied forth from the fort with his few troops, and again asked for their assistance and on their second refusal had declared that he would nevertheless go to meet the enemy, when they determined to follow him (9). How happy it had made them that they had been participants in the overwhelming victory, and now their hero was dead!

The friar repeated the office of the dead. The coffin was lowered into the grave; the soldier's requiem was the continued booming of the cannon at the fort, and a volley fired over the grave; but the burying-ground remained filled with soldiers until nightfall.

For three years longer the French continued to bury their dead in this land. The majority of the interments were soldiers, but there were also civilians, carpenters who had worked in the fort, servants, and others who were on some mission or business at the fort and had died there. Then there were children, mostly English, whom the French had rescued from their Indian allies; also adult Indians and Indian children were buried there. History fails to tell what became of the grave of DeBeaujeu, nor is there any tradition. The gallant Frenchman deserves an enduring monument, and it should be erected by the citizens of Pittsburgh in the grounds where he was buried.

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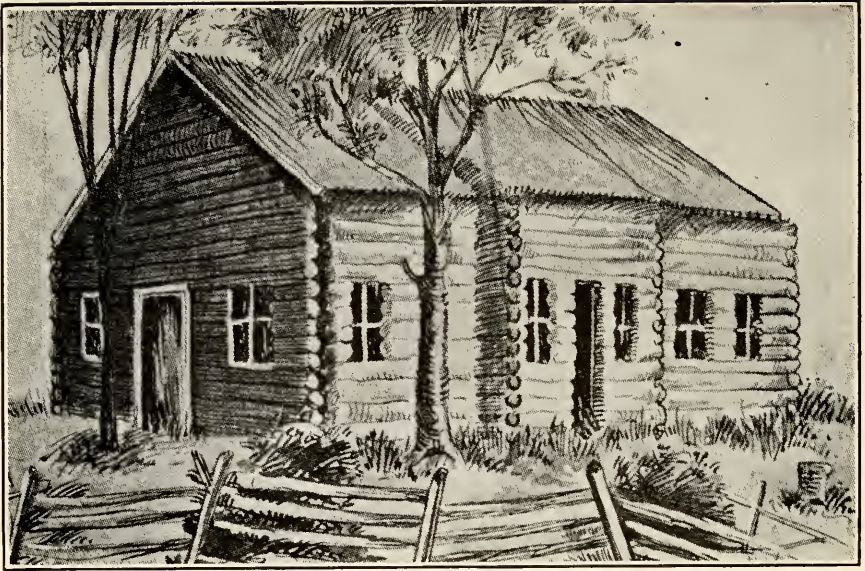
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CHAPTER II.

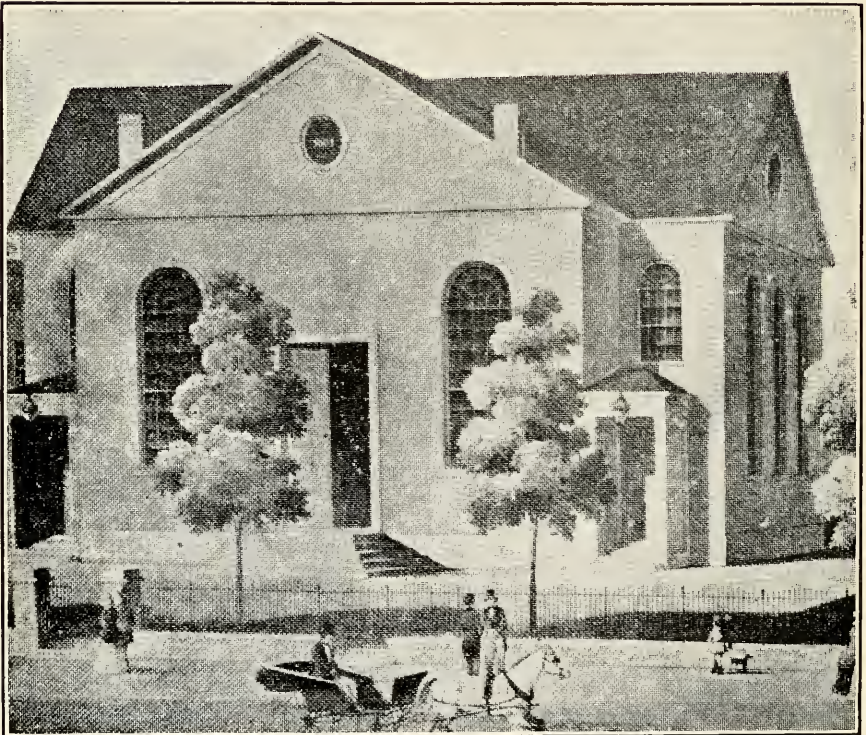
THE PIONEERS OF PITTSBURGH.

On November 24, 1758, the French after setting fire to the fort, burning the outbuildings and blowing up one of the powder magazines, abandoned the place; and the British under General John Forbes took possession. Where the religion had been Roman Catholic, it now became Protestant. The British built a temporary fort and then one of a permanent character, both being named Fort Pitt, after the great minister whose genius had planned the campaign which resulted in wresting the country from the French. The consecrated burying-ground of the French began to be used by the heretical British army. The French crosses and the Indian poles decayed, the Indian mound was cut away, and if the British graves were marked at all it was by placing at the head a slab or boulder, or a piece of stone broken from some neighboring ledge, roughly shaped by the blacksmith or other mechanic with the army, and on which he had chiseled a rude inscription.

The burying-ground was used successively for the interment of British, Colonial and Revolutionary soldiers, as well as by the townspeople generally. The records of the early burials are scanty, few antedating the Revolution. Even the registers of the two churches are only fragmentary. In Trinity churchyard, while many tombstones have been removed, there are still a large number in place, on some of which the epitaphs are legible while on others the inscriptions can only be deciphered in part or not at all. The burying-ground of the First Presbyterian Church has been wholly abandoned and is covered with buildings; and the available information in regard to burials there, as well as those in Trinity churchyard, is widely scattered, being contained in local histories, in memoirs, in biographical sketches, in works on genealogy, in old newspapers and in the testimony produced at the hearings in the suit of Craig and Guthrie against the First Presbyterian Church. The reminiscences of persons whose ancestors or other relatives were buried in these graveyards, while perhaps not always reliable, is yet of some value. An article published in *The Pittsburgh Daily Dispatch* of February 23, 1877, gives perhaps the fullest account extant of the graves of at least the best known personages who were buried in the Presbyterian burying-



Presbyterian Meeting House, Virgin Alley, now Oliver Avenue
1786-1805.



First Presbyterian Church, Wood Street, 1805-1852.

ground, including also many of the interments in Trinity churchyard.

In anticipation of the conveyance to them by the Penns of a portion of the old public burying-ground, the Presbyterians had in 1786 erected a building of squared timbers, facing on Virgin Alley. In 1802 the Presbyterian congregation purchased lot numbered 440 adjoining their property and fronting on Wood Street, and built a new brick church which fronted on that street. The land conveyed to the Episcopalians remained clear of buildings for many years and was known as the Episcopal burying-ground; and by act of the general assembly of Pennsylvania of March 21, 1806, the title was confirmed to the recently incorporated Trinity Church. At different times, beginning in 1827, Trinity Church purchased various pieces of land adjoining their own on the east, and extending fifty feet to Carpenters Alley, until in 1863 they had acquired the entire strip between Sixth Street and Virgin Alley. Most of the burials in the two cemeteries were of course of local people, but included were also persons of national and even international reputation.

A man of international reputation was Captain Thomas Hutchins, the Geographer General of the United States, who died in Pittsburgh on April 28, 1789, and was interred in the Presbyterian burying-ground. He was a soldier, a surveyor and an author. Among other books which he wrote was *A Topographical Description of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland and North Carolina*, which was published in London in 1778. The work was based on a survey made by Hutchins and attracted wide attention in London where the author then resided; but it did not save him from persecution and imprisonment for being loyal to his native land, in whose service he was finally able to enter in 1781. The funeral services were conducted by the Rev. John Heckewelder, the Moravian missionary and an old friend of Hutchins', who happened to be in Pittsburgh at the time. In the account of Hutchins' death which appeared in *The Pittsburgh Gazette* of May 2, 1789, it was said:

"His map early laid the foundation of American geography, and his services since his appointment under the United States have been universally acknowledged.

"He has measured much earth but a small space now contains him."

An interment in the Episcopal burying-ground of more than ordinary interest was that of the Indian, Red Pole, a chief of the Shawanese tribe who died in Pittsburgh on Jan-

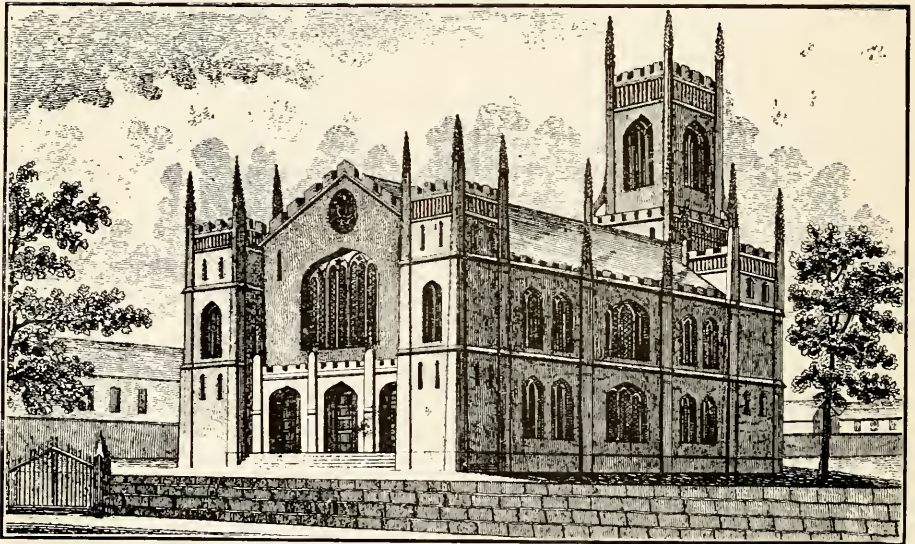
uary 28, 1797. The first Trinity Church, commonly called the "Round Church," an octagonal brick building stood on the triangular lot bounded by Wood Street, Liberty Street and Sixth Street. The second Trinity Church was built in the burying-ground in 1824-1827. In Dr. Upfold's day the Indian chief's remains lay buried in this church immediately beneath the chancel containing the communion table or altar, the most honored place in the church (1). The tombstone was erected by order of the Secretary of War, in consideration of services rendered by the deceased to the United States government in effecting the pacification of certain Indian tribes, and so far as known has always remained outside of the old and the present church, being now located along side of the west wall of the latter edifice. The epitaph records that the deceased was "Lamented by the United States."

Another distinguished stranger who died while on a visit to Pittsburgh was Commodore Joshua Barney, the United States naval officer who, during the Revolution, was the first man to unfurl the American flag in Maryland, his native state. In the Revolutionary war, while in command of the "Hyder Ali" he captured a number of British ships, including the "General Monk." Ballads were written about his achievements, and "The Roaring Hyder Ali," was as familiar as the nursery tales of lisping infancy. He was a captain in the French navy from 1795 to 1800. When the war of 1812 opened he again entered his country's service and in 1814 commanded in Chesapeake Bay. His death occurred on December 1, 1818, and the interment was in the Presbyterian churchyard.

The early history of Pittsburgh can almost be read in the lives of the men and women who were interred in the old burying-grounds. In their records may be found the story of the political development of the place, of the beginning and rise of its social, commercial and industrial life. The early dead were adventurers in the old and best meaning of the word. Many no doubt had birth and position in the East or in the foreign lands whence they came, but they lacked fortune, and to gain this they had come to the frontier, or to the new Western town. There were among them men who had begun life as Indian traders, and on the breaking out of Revolution had joined the patriot armies, and at the close of the war returned and laid aside their uniforms and become merchants and manufacturers, or perhaps public officials. Other Revolutionary soldiers had come to Pittsburgh for the first time after their military careers were over. Lawyers, physicians and clergymen, as well as states-



“Round Church,” Liberty Street now Liberty Avenue.
First House of Worship of Trinity Congregation.



Trinity Church, Sixth Street, now Sixth Avenue, as designed by the
Rector, the Rev. John H. Hopkins, 1824-1870.
From Pittsburgh in the year 1826

men, politicians and demagogues came and flourished or failed, and died. Nearly all were speculators in lands or town lots. Men of the humble classes, men whose names never appeared in the newspapers, or in men's mouths except in their own little circle, the mechanics and laborers were buried there. There were hundreds, perhaps thousands whose suggestive epitaphs would read something like the inscription on a few lone tombstones still standing in Trinity churchyard. One of these records the fact that James Fowler died in 1780 in the 34th year of his age, and "to the qualities of a good mason and an ingenious mechanic, united in him those of a sincere friend and an honest man," the other states that it was erected "In memory of Thomas Fox, Stone Cutter, who died on April 8, 1839, aged thirty-one years." The lowly negroes, slave and free, whose only designation in life was "John, a black man," or "Mary, a black woman," were buried there.

In this little tract of land the dust of the great and the insignificant, the learned and ignorant, the rich and poor, men and women, parents and children, the married and the unmarried, commingled.

The first interment made in either of the burying-grounds while in possession of the British was that of Captain Richard Mather of the Royal American regiment, who died at Fort Pitt on March 16, 1762, and was buried in that part of the burying-ground now controlled by Trinity Church. Another soldier of that day to be buried in the old graveyard was Colonel William Clapham. Colonel Clapham was a prominent man. He had commanded a regiment of infantry raised by the province of Pennsylvania, and in 1756 by order of Governor Morris had built Fort Augusta and later Fort Halifax on the Susquehanna River near Shamokin, and becoming dissatisfied resigned from the service in March, 1757 (2). He became a resident of Pittsburgh, and on April 14, 1761, under the direction of Colonel Bouquet took a census of the village. Shortly afterward his application for the right to settle on land on the Youghiogheny River eighteen miles from Pittsburgh, acquired by him from the Indians, was approved by Colonel Bouquet and General Monckton, Colonel Bouquet's superior in New York, and with his family he settled there. In the early spring of 1763, Pontiac's savage hordes began overrunning the West and among their first victims were Colonel Clapham and his family, who were murdered on May 28, 1763, three of his men who were at work escaping through the woods and carrying the news of the massacre to the commander of Fort Pitt (3). Colonel Clapham's remains were afterward

laid to rest in the Presbyterian burying-ground.

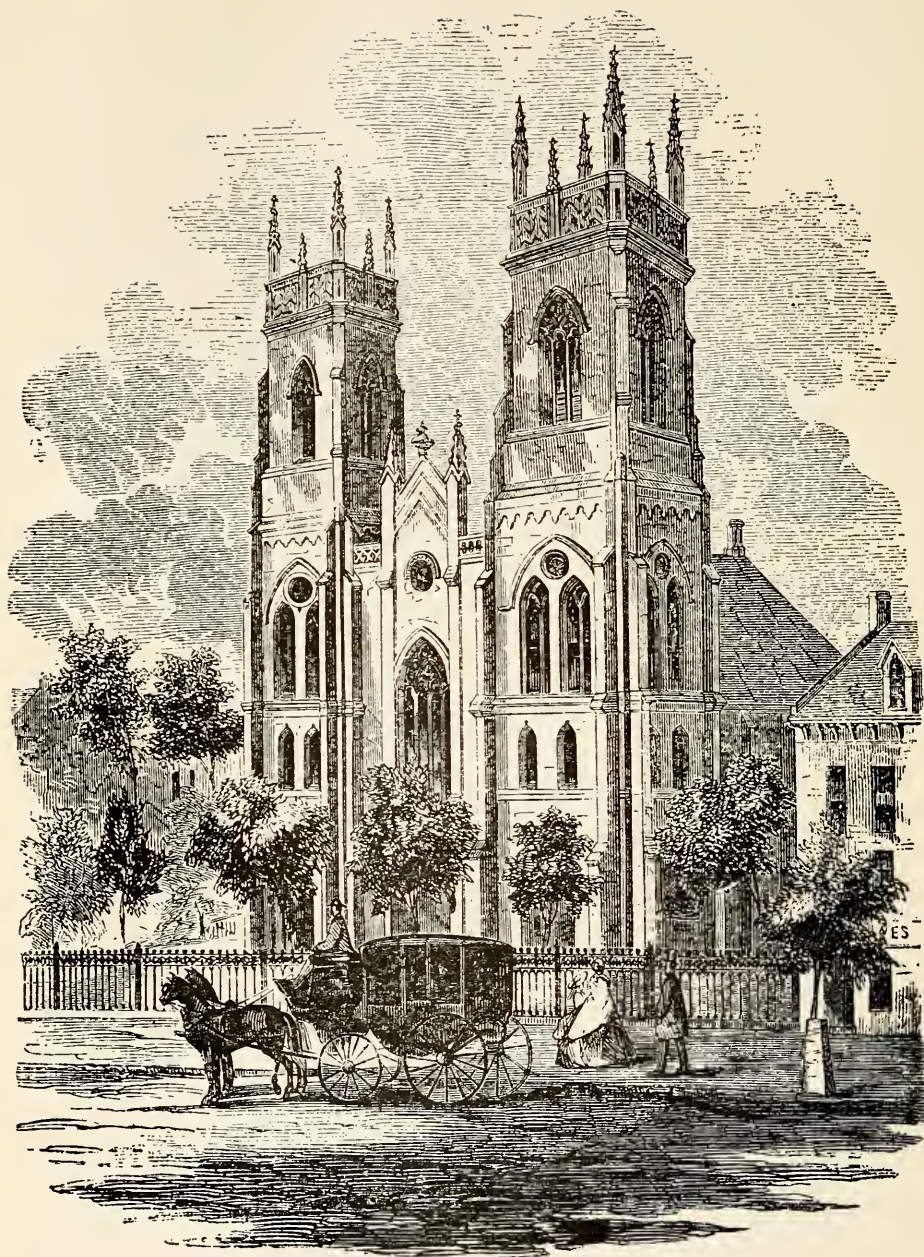
Captain Samuel Dawson, formerly of the British army, but who later saw service in the Continental army in the Eighth Pennsylvania Regiment, was buried in the Episcopal burying-ground. He died on September 6, 1779. The stone slab covering his grave is still to be seen and is the oldest tombstone in the Trinity churchyard.

John Ormsby died on December 19, 1805, at the age of eighty-five years. He was a soldier in the French and Indian War, coming with General Forbes' command, in which he was an officer. He was successively Indian trader, ferryman, innkeeper and merchant. His tombstone in Trinity churchyard has been well taken care of by his descendants.

At the time of publication of the article in *The Pittsburgh Daily Dispatch* many of the tombstones which have since been removed were in place in the First Presbyterian Church burying-ground. One of the most prominent was that of General John Neville, who died on July 29, 1803. In war and in peace he had a notable career. He was the colonel of a Virginia regiment in the Revolution. In civil life he was still more conspicuous, being a member of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, a delegate to the convention which ratified the Federal Constitution and Inspector of the Revenue during the Whisky Insurrection. His country home was destroyed in 1794 by the Insurgents during that dark period of Pennsylvania's history. He was noted for his charming hospitality, and when in 1797 the French princes, the Duke of Orleans, afterwards Louis Philippe, king of France, and his two brothers, the Duke of Montpelier and the Count of Beaujolais, visited Pittsburgh, it was at the home of General Neville that they were most lavishly entertained. After the Duke of Orleans had become king of France, many years subsequent to General Neville's death, he recalled the pleasant days that he and his brothers had passed with the old American soldier. (4)

Near this grave was that of Major Isaac Craig, General Neville's son-in-law. In the Revolution he was captain of marines, and captain of artillery, and in later years United States deputy quartermaster and military storekeeper. In conjunction with Colonel Stephen Bayard, with whom he had formed a partnership in the mercantile business, and also to deal in lands and lots, he purchased on January 23, 1784, the first land in Pittsburgh sold by the Penns; and he was the partner of Colonel James O'Hara in glass manufacturing. He was the grandfather of Isaac Craig and died on May 11, 1826.

Colonel Presley Neville, the son of General John Neville,



First Presbyterian Church, Wood Street, Erected in 1853.
From a view taken in 1857.

died on December 1, 1818, near Neville, Ohio. He was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, a cultured, well-bred gentleman, elegant in person and with polished manners. Like his father, he was warm-hearted and hospitable, and his home, after his father's death, was the social center of Pittsburgh. In the Revolution he was the aid-de-camp of LaFayette and his personal friend; and the distinguished Frenchman, on his visit to Pittsburgh in 1825, was much affected when he viewed the former home of his old companion-in-arms. Washington had also been attached to him, and when on Washington's death a memorial service was held in Pittsburgh, it was Colonel Neville who delivered the oration. He held many offices of trust, both national and state, but the lapse of time brought political changes, and in his old age fortune forsook him. In 1816 Governor Snyder removed him from the lucrative office of Prothonotary of the county to which, although a Federalist, he had been appointed by Governor McKean in 1806 on the death of Tarlton Bates. Heart-broken, he left Pittsburgh and went to Ohio, where he settled on the land which the government had given him in consideration of services in the Revolution, and there he died in indigence. In the springtime when the early flowers were in bloom and the birds had again begun to sing, he was brought home. The remains arrived on the keelboat "Triton," and on Wednesday evening, May 26, 1819, an imposing funeral was held. His former political enemies united with his friends to do him honor. In the long procession in which he was borne to the Episcopal burying-ground, marched the military, the mayor, the recorder, and the select and common councils of the city, followed by a large concourse of citizens (5).

Colonel Aeneas Mackey was a native of Scotland and had been an officer in the British army. In 1754 he was in command of the Royal Independent Company from South Carolina, and accompanied Colonel George Washington on his first expedition from Virginia into the Ohio Country. He signed the articles of capitulation with Washington when the force surrendered to the French (6). As early as 1767 he was an Indian trader in Pittsburgh, and when the controversy arose between Pennsylvania and Virginia, in regard to the line dividing the two provinces, he favored Pennsylvania. In 1774 he was one of the Pennsylvania justices and was arrested at Hannastown, the county seat of Westmoreland County, by Doctor John Connelly who represented Virginia, and was detained for four weeks. In the Revolution he commanded the regiment largely raised in Westmoreland County, which afterward became the Eighth

Pennsylvania. In the terrible winter of 1777, the regiment was ordered to proceed to New Jersey and join the army of General Washington. Next to Benedict Arnold's advance into Canada, this movement across the state in the dead of winter was perhaps the most severe march undertaken by any body of troops during the war. The men were without tents; they lacked food and clothing, the roads were execrable and in the mountain passes were deep snows. Colonel Mackay brought the regiment safely to its destination, but the awful strain was too much for even the sturdy soldier and frontiersman, and on February 14, 1777, he died, and was buried with military honors in Philadelphia, the remains being subsequently removed to the Presbyterian burying-ground in Pittsburgh.

In the army sent into Western Pennsylvania to put down the Whisky Insurrection was the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry. Among the private soldiers was Meredith Clymer, the son of George Clymer, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and at this time Inspector General of the Revenue under the excise law which had caused the rebellion. At Parkinson's Ferry, now Monongahela City, on November 18, 1794, Meredith Clymer died, and like Colonel Mackay, was interred in the Presbyterian churchyard.

Another of the earlier graves in this burying-ground was that of Joseph Nicholson, an Indian interpreter and scout, who died on October 1, 1796, at the age of 57 years. When quite young he had been a captive among the Indians, spoke several Indian dialects and was well acquainted with their customs, being an adopted member of the Six Nations. He was for many years interpreter for the garrison at Fort Pitt, both while in the occupancy of the British and later. He was the best known of all the interpreters and scouts on the western frontier, and had led a most adventurous life. He accompanied Washington on his journey from Pittsburgh to the Kanawha River Country in October, 1770. In 1774 he was one of Governor Dunmore's scouts in his war against the Indians. The story of his participation in the Indian dance which he and his brother, Thomas, and Simen Girty and his half-brother, John Turner, gave before Lord Dunmore, in which their Indian songs and yells are said to have "made the welkin ring," illustrates the intimate character of his knowledge of Indian life as well as his versatility (7). He was guide and interpreter for Colonel Broadhead in the summer of 1779, in that officer's campaign against the Indians of the Allegheny River Val-



The Present Trinity Church in 1898

ley, where he was wounded (8). In 1782, with his brother Thomas, he guided the disastrous expedition against the Sandusky towns, which was led by Colonel Crawford (9). In 1790 he conducted Cornplanter, the principal chief of the Six Nations and several other Indian chiefs to Philadelphia to see President Washington, and was himself kindly received by his old employer of twenty years before. The Indians loved him and were grateful for his work in their behalf, and took advantage of this occasion by calling on Governor Mifflin and the Supreme Executive Council, and petitioning them to grant Nicholson six square miles of land "lying in the forks of the Allegheny and Broken Straw Creek," which included the land where the battle between Broadhead's men and the Indians had been fought, and which the Six Nations had already renounced to him (10).

There were many notable graves in the Presbyterian churchyard. Mrs. Sarah Sample died in November, 1801, aged 58 years. She was the widow of Captain Samuel Sample who conducted the tavern at the northeast corner of Water and Ferry streets where Washington lodged in 1770, while on his way to the Kanawha Country, and who, as Washington related in his journal, kept "a very good house of public entertainment." In the Revolution Captain Sample was deputy quartermaster general in General McIntosh's campaign against the Indians, in 1778-1779.

In the war for the liberation of the Colonies, John Wilkins had at his own expense equipped a company which he commanded. After leaving the army he kept a tavern and store at Carlisle. Having failed in business he removed to Pittsburgh in 1783 to retrieve his fortunes. Here he became a merchant, was an associate judge, the second chief burgess of Pittsburgh, treasurer of the county, and an elder and the mainstay of the Presbyterian Church. In 1789 there was some dissension in the church and the Rev. Samuel Barr, the pastor, asked for his dismissal at the hands of the Redstone Presbytery, alleging among other reasons, that John Wilkins and another elder were not supporting a character becoming the office of elder, in that they drank and played cards. Mr. Wilkins' answer before the Presbytery was characteristic. He frankly admitted that he both drank and played cards. He declared that with others he met in the evening and took a game at whist or loo; that Mr. Barr was frequently present and was far from discountenancing them, that upon a certain occasion being invited to take a game at loo, he had said it would not suit, as there

were a number of bigoted, narrow-minded McMillanites on the other side of the river who, if they heard of it, might call him to account. Mr. Wilkins related that Mr. Barr had originally asked him to become an elder, and that he had declined, as he was fond of taking a game at loo, and would not wish to be restricted in that amusement when he met with friends. Mr. Barr had replied that he might be indulged in that with his friends, provided he did not go into riots, and kept it from the knowledge of the people (11). Mr. Wilkins died on December 11, 1809.

General John Wilkins was the son of Captain John Wilkins and like his father, served in the Revolution, being surgeon's mate. After the Revolution he was quartermaster general, and during the Whisky Insurrection brigadier general of the militia. He was the first president of the Branch Bank of the United States in Pittsburgh, and died on April 30, 1816.

Colonel Stephen Bayard, Major Isaac Craig's associate in the land purchased from the Penns, had also served in the Revolution, and was the son-in-law of Colonel Aeneas Mackay. He was a native of Maryland but was reared by his uncle in Philadelphia (12). At the outbreak of the war he became captain of a Philadelphia company known from its aristocratic origin as the "silk stocking company," which was attached to the Second Pennsylvania Battalion, subsequently the Third Pennsylvania Regiment. He was advanced to the rank of lieutenant-colonel and served in the Eighth, Sixth and Third regiments. He was on the frontier with the Eighth Regiment, several times acting as commader at Fort Pitt, during the absence of Broadhead, Gibson or Irvine. After the war he settled in Pittsburgh, and besides being Major Craig's partner in various enterprises, established a sawmill, a saltworks and a distillery, and planned the first market house. In later years he removed to a place on the Monongahela River, twelve miles above Pittsburgh, where he laid out the town of Elizabeth, named for his wife, where he engaged in boat-building. He died in Pittsburgh on December 15, 1815.

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CHAPTER III.

IN WHICH THERE ARE ALSO WOMEN.

A number of other soldiers of the Revolution were buried in the Presbyterian churchyard.

Colonel James O'Hara had been an officer in this war, was chief burgess of Pittsburgh in 1803, and was perhaps the most extensive landowner in the borough and the vicinity; he was the originator of the glass manufactory which he and Major Craig operated, and also owned a brewery and other enterprises. He died on December 21, 1819.

General Adamson Tannehill, who died on December 23, 1820, was born in Maryland where he enlisted in the Revolutionary army, becoming second lieutenant; he was made captain in 1779, and with his corps was transferred to the Pittsburgh frontier. In November, 1780, he was temporarily in command of Fort McIntosh (1). At the close of the Revolution he conducted a tavern in Pittsburgh, and was a popular man and an astute politician. Later he became a justice of the peace and while holding that office was convicted of extortion. The conviction was thought to disqualify him from exercising the office, but being a leading Democrat, Governor McKean remitted the fine which had been imposed and reappointed him to the office of justice of the peace. The prestige which he had regained as the result of the action of Governor McKean was again lost during the War of 1812. He had become an officer in the state militia, and during the war was elected to command the brigade that was organized in Western Pennsylvania, and which was sent to northern New York where troops were being collected. In November an attempt was to be made to invade Canada by way of the upper Niagara. In the morning when the troops were to embark for this undertaking and cross the river, General Tannehill's brigade failed to appear, the men having deserted almost in a body and gone home in squads.

Major Ebenezer Denny, a Revolutionary officer, and aid-de-camp of General Arthur St. Clair in 1791, was county commissioner of Allegheny County and the first mayor of Pittsburgh when it became a city in 1816. He was also a successful merchant, dying on January 21, 1822.

Major Abraham Kirkpatrick who died on November 17, 1817, was the brother-in-law of General John Neville, and



First Presbyterian Church, Wood Street, in 1903,
when taken down to make way for the McCreery Building.

had fought gallantly in the Revolution. He was a justice of the peace for Allegheny County in 1788, and was commissary general of the Western army at the time of the Whisky Insurrection. The feeling against him during this time was more bitter than even against General Neville, as he was accused of being responsible for the death of Captain James McFarlane, the leader of the Insurgents who attacked General Neville's house. His barn on Coal Hill, now Mount Washington, was burned by the Insurgents, who also intended to burn his dwelling in Pittsburgh, but were dissuaded from doing so. Major Kirkpatrick and Hugh Henry Brackenridge, subsequently a judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, had had a personal encounter arising out of a law suit in which Brackenridge appears to have been severely dealt with, and for which a prosecution was then pending (2). This caused Brackenridge to be extremely bitter in his reflections on Major Kirkpatrick during this time. He was buried in the Episcopal burying-ground.

Dr. Felix Brunot, a Frenchman, was another of the Revolutionary soldiers whose remains were interred in this burying-ground. He was the friend of LaFayette and came to America with him in 1777, settling in Pittsburgh twenty years later, where he practiced medicine for many years. His mansion on Brunot's Island was the scene of much gaiety. Here Doctor Brunot entertained LaFayette in 1825. He died on May 23, 1838.

The famous Butler family had several members buried here. Mrs. Maria Smith Butler who died on January 18, 1824, was the widow of General Richard Butler, that celebrated resident of Pittsburgh, who had been an Indian trader and Indian agent, and in the Revolution was the second in command to General Daniel Morgan at Saratoga, and the second in command to General Anthony Wayne at Stony Point. After the Revolution he held various offices in Pittsburgh and fell fighting on the Miami River on November 4, 1791, during St. Clair's unfortunate expedition against the Indians. It was related of Mrs. Butler that when her son James R. Butler, the captain of the Pittsburgh Blues in the War of 1812, was on September 23rd of that year, about to start with his command for the boats which were to take them down the Ohio River to the Wabash Country to join the army of General William Henry Harrison, he marched his company in front of his mothers' home, when she met him at the door. Upon bidding her son farewell she said to him so that the whole company might hear: "My son, remember that you are a Butler. Keep that name ever in

honor. Farewell! God bless you!"

Not far from the grave of his mother is also the burial place of Captain James R. Butler, who died on April 30, 1832. With his command he took part in the battle of Mississinewa and the battle of Fort Meigs, the command distinguishing itself in both battles, their gallant conduct being specially noticed in General Harrison's reports.

Colonel William Butler was another of the celebrated Butler family and was a brother of General Richard Butler, dying in Pittsburgh in 1789. He was an old resident of the village, being in the Indian trade with his brother prior to the Revolution. He was lieutenant-colonel of the Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment. Revolutionary soldiers pointed to him as the bravest man in battle they had ever known. On September 25, 1783, the legislature granted him the right to establish a ferry from Pittsburgh to the north side of the Allegheny River; he was also forest ranger for the reserve tract opposite Pittsburgh to "prevent the commission of waste upon the timbers of the reserve tract." Here he operated a farm.

A unique tombstone in the Episcopal burying-ground was that of Patrick Murphy. It was "unique" because there was inscribed on it the curious statement that he was "a respectable citizen of Pittsburgh." He died in January, 1797, and had been the proprietor of the inn on Market Street known by the "Sign of General Butler," named for General Richard Butler, which in its day was the leading tavern in the town. That Patrick Murphy was respected as well as "respectable," is amply shown by the names of the men who owed him money as appears from the inventory of his estate filed in the Register's office of Allegheny County after his death. The amounts owing to Patrick Murphy varied. The Rev. Samuel Barr owed him one pound, nineteen shillings and six pence, Pennsylvania currency, since 1789, the year that he severed his connection with the Presbyterian Church. From this small sum, which may have been a tavern score, the amounts increased, in one case being 685 pounds. These larger sums were owed by such well known citizens as General John Gibson, John Wilkins, Sr., Colonel Presley Neville, United States Senator James Ross, Colonel James O'Hara, General John Wilkins and Major Ebenezer Denny.

Mary Murphy, commonly called "Molly" Murphy, was the widow of Patrick Murphy. She died in January, 1826, and succeeded her husband in the conduct of the tavern. In her day she was one of the best known characters in

Pittsburgh. She could neither read nor write, but was withal a capable business woman. Judge Henry M. Brackenridge, the son of Judge Hugh Henry Brackenridge, said of her that she was as rough a Christian as he ever knew, but that no more generous or benevolent person ever lived. In the pamphlet circulated against James Ross when he was a candidate for governor in 1808, and which Jane Marie is credited with having written, Mrs. Marie pays a high tribute to the generosity of Mary Murphy, stating that she and her child "would have perished had it not been for the kindness of Mrs. Murphy" (3).

On January 8, 1806, the community was shocked by the death of Tarlton Bates, the brilliant editor of the *Tree of Liberty* and the Prothonotary of the county, in a duel, the result of a political quarrel. He was one of several distinguished brothers. The eldest was the second governor of the state of Missouri, another was a member of Congress from Arkansas, while a third was a candidate for President in 1860, and became a member of President Lincoln's cabinet. The interment of Tarlton Bates in the Episcopal burying-ground was attended by the largest number of people that had ever collected at a funeral in the borough.

A number of clergymen were buried in one or the other of the graveyards. The Rev. Robert Steele was the second pastor of the Presbyterian church and served the church from 1802 until his death on March 22, 1810. He was an educator of note, (4) and was liberal in his views and tolerant of worldly fashions; he was a good performer on the violin. His limited resources obliged him to live economically, and with his own hands he worked at building his dwelling. He was of a sociable disposition and a delightful companion; and was a freemason and always helpful to his fellowman. When a row of houses on Wood Street was on fire in the early hours of the morning of the winter in which he died, he was among the first to rush to the scene of the conflagration and assist in extinguishing it and caught the cold which caused his death (5).

Rev. John Wrenshall was the father of Methodism in Pittsburgh, and was a writer of some ability and a merchant of prominence. He died on September 25, 1821, and was buried between his two wives, both of whom had preceded him to the grave (6).

The Rev. Sanson K. Brunot, the son of Dr. Felix Brunot, died on June 11, 1835, in the 27th year of his age. In the short number of years since his ordination he founded the parishes of Blairsville and Greensburg, as well as Christ

Church in Pittsburgh, for the latter of which his father erected the first church building (7).

Allegheny County's first judge learned in the law was Alexander Addison. He had been a minister of the gospel in the Presbyterian Church, and studying law was admitted to the bar. Upon the adoption of the Pennsylvania constitution of 1790, which provided for a president judge learned in the law for each of the judicial circuits, Addison was appointed by Governor Mifflin, president judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, which included Allegheny County. Judge Addison was a staunch Federalist in politics and by 1799 the country had turned from Federalism to Democracy. Addison had with him on the bench a lay judge named John B. C. Lucas, a Frenchman and a rabid Democrat, with whom he quarreled. Impeachment proceedings were begun, and the Democratic party being in power in the legislature, Addison was tried, impeached and removed from the bench, the victim of political rancor. He died on November 27, 1807, in the forty-ninth year of his age. On his tombstone in the Presbyterian churchyard there was inscribed a panegyric on the dead, which closed with observation that "he left a widow and eight children to mourn over his premature grave."

Across the line in Trinity churchyard his successor, Judge Samuel Roberts, who died on December 13, 1820, sleeps the long sleep, and the low shaft which marks the place of his burial gives no indication that he was the second president judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Pennsylvania.

James Mountain was a lawyer who died in 1813, when only forty years of age (8). He was a polished gentleman, and one of the most eloquent men who ever graced the Pittsburgh bar. His reputation in this respect was spoken of by lawyers long after his decease.

Colonel Stephen Lowrey of Queen Anne County, Maryland, died on December 29, 1821, aged 75 years, and was buried in the Episcopal burying-ground. He was an Irishman by birth, and a commissary in the Revolutionary army, and was well known in Western Pennsylvania, being a large landowner, particularly in Butler County. His daughter was the second wife of Thomas Collins, an eminent Pittsburgh lawyer.

George Adams was the second postmaster of Pittsburgh, holding the office from 1794 until his death on April 1, 1801 (9).

George Robinson was the first chief Burgess of the borough of Pittsburgh, was afterwards a member of the legis-

lature and engaged in the manufacture of white flint glass, and was associate judge of Allegheny County at the time of his death on February 6, 1818 (10).

The oldest man to be buried in the Presbyterian churchyard was John Cameron, a Scotch gardener, who died on March 23, 1822, at the age of 107 years. Many stories have been told of the old Scotchman. In early life he had served in the British army in the Highlanders; and his grandfather had fought at Culloden. He was an honest, stubborn Presbyterian who would have sacrificed his life for the doctrines of his church as he understood them.

General Jackson on his way to the White House stopped in Pittsburgh over Sunday. The landlord sent to Cameron's Garden for vegetables on Sunday morning. Cameron refused the request emphatically. The host went himself, plead necessity, threatened to withdraw his custom, etc., all with no result. "Well, let me go into the garden myself, and I will pay you tomorrow!" the landlord pleaded. "No! No!" declared the Scotchman with emphasis: "It is far better to let General Jackson do without vegetables than to break the Sabbath."

The hero of the battle of New Orleans highly complimented the gardener when he heard of the incident from the vexed landlord.

Cameron was asked how he managed his hot-beds on Sunday. "I judge on Saturday night, and raise the sash a little with a corn cob for air," he answered.

"But were you never mistaken," he was pressed. "Yes, one Sabbath morning," he replied. "I knew that frost was coming; but I had no right to move the cobs on the Lord's day. The next morning about five hundred dollars worth of plants were frozen."

"How did that loss affect the year's gain?" his interlocutor continued. He responded: "I never spoke of it before; perhaps some would not believe me; I cannot account for it, but that year I made more money off my garden than in any year of my life."

William Peter Eichbaum died on February 9, 1827. He was a native of Germany, was an expert glassworker and superintended the construction of the glass works which Colonel James O'Hara and Major Isaac Craig established. Subsequently he founded a glass cutting establishment, the first of its kind in the United States. In a publication of the day it was said he was "an ingenious German who had been formerly glass cutter to Louis XVI, king of France." (11)

John Johnston was postmaster of Pittsburgh from 1804 to 1822; and was also a watchmaker and silversmith. He died on May 4, 1827 (12).

John Darragh died on May 14, 1828, aged 56 years. He was a merchant in Pittsburgh, a justice of the peace in the borough for many years, burgess, and mayor of the city from 1817 to 1825. He was also president of the Bank of Pittsburgh from 1819 until the time of his death (13).

Alexander Johnston, Jr., was cashier of the Bank of Pittsburgh from 1814 until his death on May 9, 1832 (14).

The grave of Mrs. Susanna Taylor, the wife of the Rev. John Taylor the first rector of Trinity Church, who died on January 16, 1829, is in Trinity churchyard to the right of the entrance and near the Sixth Avenue wall which incloses the burying-ground.

George Evans died on September 24, 1830. He was the son of Oliver Evans of Philadelphia, the inventor of the high-pressure steam engine. He was a man of several interests; he conducted the largest steam grist mill in the city, a plow factory, an air foundry, and was besides interested in the Columbian Steam Engine Company, the most important steam engine building concern in the West (15).

Dr. Peter Mowry was a leading physician and one of the earliest to practice medicine in Pittsburgh. He died on May 5, 1833, and was buried in Trinity churchyard. He began his medical studies with Dr. Nathaniel Bedford, the first physician to locate in Pittsburgh, and subsequently attended lectures at the University of Pennsylvania (16).

Christopher Cowan, who died on March 12, 1835, built the first rolling mill in Pittsburgh in 1811-1812 (17).

Thomas and Samuel Magee were hatters, the former dying on November 24, 1823, and the latter on June 6, 1836. They manufactured and supplied the town with beaver, castor and roram hats (18).

Miss Louisa Amelia Shaler, the second daughter of Judge Charles Shaler, the president judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit composed of the counties of Allegheny, Beaver and Butler, died on July 16, 1839, in the twenty-first year of her age. On the tablet erected over her grave was the statement that it was consecrated by her father "to the memory of a beloved child, who at a moment of hilarity and pleasure in the bloom of youth and loveliness was suddenly bereft of life by a fall from a horse (19).

James Johnston, the father of Alexander Johnston, Jr., who died on September 19, 1842, was a soldier of the Revolution (20).

Charles F. W. vonBonnhorst was born in Prussia, the scion of a noble house. He left Germany for the United States after the battle of Jena, in which he commanded an artillery corps. In 1821 he located in Pittsburgh, became a member of the board of aldermen, studied law and was admitted to the bar, dying on February 23, 1844, and being buried in Trinity churchyard.

As Judge Hugh Henry Brackenridge had been very prominent in the little community, his wife must necessarily also have attracted some attention. Mrs. Sabina Wolf Brackenridge survived her husband for many years, dying on February 18, 1845. It is related that she was the daughter of a German farmer in Washington County. Her future husband, while riding the circuit, stopped at her father's house to escape the rain. When ready to depart, the old farmer directed his daughter to bring the lawyer's horse to the door. Her appearance made a deep impression on Brackenridge and after he had gone some distance he turned back and asked Mr. Wolf for his daughter's hand in marriage. Receiving the consent of both the father and daughter, he married her, sent her to a school in Philadelphia, whose business it was according to the chronicler to "wipe off the rusticities which Mrs. Brackenridge had acquired whilst a Wolf." (21)

James S. Stevenson had been a member of Congress and a candidate for governor of the state against George Wolf. He was engaged in white lead manufacturing and died on October 16, 1851 (22).

Literature had a representative in the burying-ground, although long after the days of the pioneers. The young journalist, author and playwright, Charles P. Shiras, died on July 26, 1854, in the thirtieth year of his age. He was the author of *Redemption of Labor*, a volume of poetry which gives strong indications of genius, and of a drama called "The Invisible Prince, or the War of the Amazons," which was played at the Old Drury Theatre early in the decade beginning in 1850. (23) This and the burial of James S. Stevenson were two of the latest interments to be made in either of the churchyards.

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6. Note—Rev. John Wrenshall was buried in the Presbyterian churchyard.
7. Note—Rev. Sanson K. Brunot was buried in the Episcopal churchyard.
8. Note—James Mountain was buried in the Presbyterian churchyard.
9. Note—George Adams was buried in the Presbyterian churchyard.
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11. Zadok Cramer. *The Pittsburgh Magazine Almanac for 1810*, p. 54.
Note—William Peter Eichbaum was buried in the Episcopal churchyard.
12. Note—John Johnston was buried in the Presbyterian churchyard.
13. Note—John Darragh was buried in the Presbyterian churchyard.
14. Note—Alexander Johnston, Jr., was buried in the Presbyterian churchyard.
15. Note—George Evans was buried in the Episcopal churchyard.
16. Note—Dr. Peter Mowry was buried in the Episcopal churchyard.
17. Note—Christopher Cowan was buried in the Episcopal churchyard.
18. Note—Thomas and Samuel Magee were buried in the Episcopal churchyard.
19. Note—Miss Louisa Amelia Shaler was buried in the Episcopal churchyard.
20. Note—James Johnston was buried in the Presbyterian churchyard.
21. John Pope. *A Tour through the Southern and Western Territories of the United States*, Richmond, 1888, pp. 15-16.
Note—Mrs. Sabina Wolf Brackenridge was buried in the Presbyterian churchyard.
22. Note—James S. Stevenson was buried in the Presbyterian churchyard.
23. Note—Charles P. Shiras was buried in the Episcopal churchyard.

CHAPTER IV. YESTERDAY AND TODAY.

At funerals in the early days the coffin was carried from the house to the burying-ground, the distance being generally short, sometimes on the shoulders of the bearers, at other times by supports placed crosswise under the bier, and which projected on both sides. The minister, mourning relatives and friends walked behind. Sometimes the bell on the Court House tolled while a prominent citizen was being borne to his last resting place. It was the custom for the attending physician to take part in the procession to the grave, following immediately after the clergyman. This was the order followed at the funeral of Colonel Presley Neville (1).

William Price, commonly known as "Billy" Price, whom Anne Royal, who visited Pittsburgh in 1828, describes as "an eccentric little gentleman well known for his odd humor and the universality of his mechanical genius," (2) had a pipe manufactory in Kensington, which adjoined the city on the southeast, and which from the fact of the pipe manufactory being located there, was generally called Pipetown. The practice of the physicians attending funerals led "Billy" Price to one day mar the solemnity of a funeral by calling out to the physician who was in the funeral procession and whom he knew well, "Ah, doctor, I see you are delivering your work, the same as I do."

The funerals of the women were always impressive, and when the person to be buried was young and of prominence, the funeral became doubly so. Oliver Ormsby Page tells interestingly of the funeral of Mrs. Emily Morgan Simms, a daughter of Colonel Presley Neville (3).

"Mrs. Simms died in Pittsburgh on February 5, 1821, while on a visit to her native city, her husband, Colonel W. D. Simms, being a resident of Washington City. . . . The bier which held the remains was carried on the shoulders of the bearers. Walking four on each side of the bier as honorary pall-bearers, were eight ladies dressed in white muslin, white stockings and slippers, their heads covered with long white lace veils reaching to their feet."

Mrs. Simms was thirty-five years of age when she died. She is said to have been fascinating. Judge Henry M.

Brackenridge said all of Colonel Neville's children were as beautiful as the children of Niobe (4). The glowing language of the poem on her name, which Tarlton Bates wrote, indicated that the young Virginian was in love with her when she was a girl. The burial place of Mrs. Simms is still to be seen, marked as it is by a stone slab covering the entire grave (5) but the grave of the elegant Tarlton Bates, who admired her so, disappeared many years ago.

In 1821 Thomas Cannon, together with his family, removed from Wilkinsburg to Pittsburgh, into a house situated on Sixth Street, opposite the Episcopal burying-ground. He had a daughter named Jane, then about six years of age. Here the family resided for six or seven years. Jane married and became Jane Grey Swisshelm, and a famous woman in many spheres. In her autobiography, published in 1880, she gives her recollections of the Episcopal and Presbyterian graveyards. The Episcopal burying-ground was "a thickly peopled graveyard," she wrote. It and the Presbyterian churchyard were above the level of the street, and "were protected by a worm fence that ran along the top of a green bank," where the children of the neighborhood played and gathered flowers. Sixth Street was unpaved and there were no gaslights, and when Jane's grandmother or bachelor uncle, in the solemnity of the night took the little girl to walk in the burying-grounds, she believed that they were people with the ghosts of the dead who were buried there; and she relates that when in 1824 the Trinity congregation began to excavate for the foundation of the church, which they proposed to erect in their graveyard, "there was a great desecration of graves" (6).

W. G. Lyford in a letter from Pittsburgh dated December 15, 1836, described the two burying-grounds. In language intended to be facetious but which is merely flippant, he said: "On entering the churchyard, in Sixth Street, I was forcibly struck with the singular order in which the sepulchres for the dead were arranged—some at 'heads and points,' if I may be allowed the privilege of making light comparisons with grave subjects—and others, as a seaman would say, 'athwart-hawse.' The slabs appeared older than their inscriptions seemed to indicate, and, from the delapidation of many of the tombs, I suppose the deposits to have been the first in the city. I could decipher the epitaph, however, of only one octogenarian—George McGunnege, who died in 1821, aged 85. There reposed, however, the remains of Capt. Nathaniel Irish, a Revolutionary officer, born in 1737, died in 1816" (7).



Trinity Church, Sixth Avenue, as it appeared in 1870, when taken down to make way for the present structure.

But the sleeping place of the dead in the early days must have been an attractive spot. "How pleasant the spreading trees! How green the sods which covered the graves! An oasis amidst the dust and bustle of a growing city," was the description of the Rev. Richard Lea, who knew the burying-grounds since 1813 (8).

As other churches came into existence, they generally also established burying-grounds, either about their churches, or in some other part of the city, or in one of the neighboring townships, and many burials were made in them. The Trinity churchyard and the Presbyterian churchyard combined, after deducting the area occupied by the buildings, contained less than one acre. They constituted indeed a veritable "God's acre." And notwithstanding the establishment of the other burying-grounds, the old churchyards had become so crowded with graves that when Isaac Craig was a boy (he was born on July 12, 1822), "they never dug a grave without encroaching upon other graves" (9). William G. Johnston, who was born in Pittsburgh on August 22, 1828, in the reminiscences of his boyhood, gives similar testimony when telling of the sexton of the Presbyterian church preparing graves. "And I fancy too that I can again see him as with other boys, I have sometimes watched him digging graves in the old churchyard, now and then tossing up bones, a matter of special interest to us on such occasions" (10).

In 1869, when Trinity Church was preparing to build the present edifice, it procured the passage of a law by the Pennsylvania legislature authorizing the congregation, "in case of all unmarked or unknown graves to remove and place the remains underneath the church or chapel which is proposed to be erected." In 1877, the Rev. S. F. Scovel, the pastor of the First Presbyterian church, made a similar suggestion in regard to certain graves in the burying-ground of his church. In the classic language for which he was noted, he said "that about half a dozen graves, it was expected might remain *in situ* covered by the buildings which it was proposed to erect." (11).

The conduct of the burying-grounds seemed to have become chaotic. The first great despoilment of graves in the Presbyterian burying-ground took place when the Sunday school building was erected in 1826 (12), and the next when the third church was built in 1853, which was large and extended a considerable distance over the lot used for burials. When Trinity Chapel was built in the early seventies of the

last century in addition to the graves marked by tombstones, about four hundred graves were uncovered. In the Presbyterian burying-ground the graves were even more numerous. Many of the graves were deprived of their headstones. Other tombstones were removed from their proper places, the ground was leveled, and there was nothing to indicate that anyone was buried there. Isaac Craig said the grave-stones were used as curbstones (13). Probably after the year 1844, when steps were taken to establish Allegheny Cemetery, very few interments took place in either burying-ground although they were not permanently closed until 1848 or 1849, and even after that period there was an occasional interment, notably that of James S. Stevenson and Charles P. Shiras. After that time many of the bodies were disinterred and removed to Allegheny Cemetery.

Thousands have been laid to rest in that single acre. It must be borne in mind that in the old days of these burying-grounds, the birth rate, and the mortality among the children were both larger than at present. Life, even with the more wealthy, was a constant struggle, food was coarse and illy prepared, clothing deficient, and the habitations were far from being the comfortable dwellings of today. Then, too, medical science was as crude as the homes where the physicians practiced. People did not live as long as they do today. It was rare for men or women to attain the age of eighty years. When anyone reached that age it was remarked upon, as was done by W. G. Lyford when he came across the grave of the octogenarian, George McGunnegle, in Trinity churchyard. It is not exaggeration to say that during the ninety-five years that the old burying-ground is known to have been used as such, there were at least four thousand interments.

Judge Daniel Agnew, who was chief justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania when the case of Craig and Guthrie against the First Presbyterian Church was argued, in an address delivered before the Allegheny County Bar Association on December 1, 1888, gave utterance to sentiments strongly antagonistic to the removal of the dead from the Presbyterian churchyard. He declared that the "up-rooting" of the old burying-ground was an "act of vandalism," and called attention to the fact that he had dissented to the opinion of the Supreme Court in that case. (14)

In this dissenting opinion the venerable jurist used language that was still more indignant. "I deny the right of removal for individual or private interest, whether it be for building a lecture room for a church congregation, or a Sab-



Trinity Court Studio, R. W. Johnston.
First Presbyterian Church and Trinity Church Today.
Oliver Building on the left.

bath school room," he proclaimed. "Its purpose is to save money by taking ground appropriated for the dead. Thus to coin money out of the bones of the dead, is to violate a purchaser's right to sepulture, contrary to the instincts of race and the keenest sensibilities of the heart." (15)

He did not live to see the remainder of the burying-ground "uprooted," when in 1902 the congregation leased for a period that is almost perpetual, at an enormous rental, all that it owned of the lot on Wood street and two-thirds of the lot adjoining which had always been used as a graveyard. The other part of the burying-ground was reserved for the purpose of erecting the new church which the congregation now occupies. In the property of the First Presbyterian Church there are now apparently no graves, all but the cement walk along the easterly side of the church being covered by buildings. Trinity Church still maintains a graveyard of respectable dimensions, there being in it about two hundred graves which are marked by tombstones of various descriptions, although even here a portion of the land has been disposed of for commercial uses. In Trinity Church descendants or relatives of those interred have been largely in control of the church organization, and have seen to it that the graves of their kinsmen were protected.

There are philosophers who teach that reverence for the dead is really the influence which the dead exercise over the living. The belief in the power of the dead over the living has been given new force in a recent remarkable novel by a Spanish writer (16). In this brilliant work of the imagination the author beholds the dead occupying the highways of the living; they stride out to meet them; in his opinion morality, customs, prejudices, honor, all are their work.

The old burying-grounds lie in the heart of a city of perhaps seven hundred thousand people. The dust of thousands of dead lies buried in these churchyards, under the churches, and beneath the tall buildings which cover a portion of the grounds. If it is true that the dead command the living, then the influence of this army of the dead, imbued as it is with the wisdom of the ages, must be tremendous with the almost three quarters of a million people dwelling in Pittsburgh. Cleansed of their worldly failures, deficiencies, errors, delinquencies and transgressions, they would possess a transcendent power for good in every sphere of human life, religion, government, society, morals, education, science, art, literature, commerce, and industry.

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