

**FROM: "History of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania," A. Warner & Co. Publishers, Chicago, Illinois, 1889.**

**Page 115-119, Volume II, Chapter X, Townships & Boroughs  
Wilkins – Sterrett (Wilkinsburg) – Braddock**

### Wilkins Township

December 16, 1788, at the first session of the court of quarter sessions for Allegheny County, Justice George Wallace presiding, the county was divided into seven townships, the most important of which received the name of Pitt, and was bounded as follows: "Beginning at the mouth of the Pokety's creek, thence up the Allegheny river and by the line of the county to the mouth of Flaherty's run, thence up the Ohio river to the mouth of the Monongahela river, thence up said river to the mouth of Turtle creek; thence up Turtle creek to the mouth of Brush creek, thence by the line of Plum township to the place of beginning." September 6, 1792: "According to a petition made by a number of the inhabitants of Pittsburgh, read at June sessions, 1792, and laid over till September:

*"Ordered,* That so much of Pitt township as lies within the following boundaries, that is to say, beginning at the point or confluence of the rivers Monongahela and Allegheny, and turning up the margin of Monongahela to the Two-Mile run, thence up said run to the head thereof, thence by a due north course to strike the Two-Mile run that empties into Allegheny river, thence down the said Allegheny to the place of beginning, be and the same is erected into a new township called Pittsburgh township."

This is the earliest mention of a reduction in the original area of Pitt township. In 1796, by the erection of Pine and Deer, its territory was restricted to the triangle between the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers. Pittsburgh became a city in 1816; when a still farther encroachment was made upon the western border of Pitt; and five years later Wilkins was formed from its eastern portion. Other subdivisions of its territory were made from time to time, until Pitt township, which once embraced half a score of counties, was obliterated from the map of Allegheny county. That part of its territory in 1796 not included in the city limits at the present time was erected into Wilkins township November 10, 1821, by decree of court confirming a line of division viewed by Robert Beatty, Joseph Reed and Dunning McNair. Of its present boundaries, that on the east was established in June 1789, when Thompson's run instead of Brush creek became the line of division between Pitt and Plum; that on the north in 1850, when Penn was erected; that on the west in 1879, by the erection of Sterrett; and that on the south in 1885, by the erection of Braddock.

Among the early families of this township the following are remembered: Charles T. Johnson, Nathaniel Montgomery and his son Nathaniel, Elliot Davis, Henry Chalfant, Christian Linheart, William Clark (three generations of the same name), Rev. James Graham, James McKelvy, John McKelvy, Robert Milligan, James Gilmore, James Swisshelm, John Henning and his son Samuel, Thomas Dickson, Peter Perchment, John

Kelly and his sons James, John, Archibald, Thomas, William and Benjamin, Ephraim Smith, Adam Dougherty, James B. Linheart.

James Kelly, long a citizen of Wilkins, was born in the eastern part of Allegheny County, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October, 1794. His father, John Kelly, was a native of Ireland, and his mother, whose maiden name was Mary Johnson, was born in Pennsylvania. His childhood and youth were passed on his father's farm in what is now Penn township, in this county. Like most of the youths of this region, he received only a common-school education, but his acuteness of observation, his industry and his large fund of common sense rendered this education available beyond that of many of the men of his time. When he was seventeen years of age his father dies, and, being the eldest son, the care of the farm devolved on him. He continued in charge of this farm till 1825, when he was married. He soon afterward engaged in the manufacture of lime, which he continued during many years.

Early in his business career he commenced the purchase of real estate. From time to time he added tract after tract to his purchases, till he came to be the owner of many hundreds of acres in what are now the townships of Wilkins, Penn and Sterrett, and the borough of Wilksburg. His revenues were derived from his lime business, from the mines that were opened on his lands and from the rents of his farms. He took a lively interest in the development of the Pennsylvania railroad, and was the contractor for a division of this road, which he sublet in sections. He also furnished many ties for this road. His distinguishing characteristics were benevolence and kindness, and so strong were these feelings that he was often imposed on by designing and unscrupulous persons. He donated freely of his real estate to churches and benevolent institutions in this vicinity, and many victims of adverse fortune are now enjoying the results of his benefactions. He thus erected to his memory monuments more enduring than marble.

During his entire life he was a consistent Christian, and was strictly conscientious in all his transactions. He was firm in the maintenance of what he believed to be his rights, and thus became involved in expensive litigations. As age crept on him, advantage was taken of his failing judgment, and the result was that he died a comparatively poor man, but his memory is not tarnished by a single dishonorable action. His death occurred in 1832 at the age of eighty-eight. He had six children, of whom three are now living.

Of Hon. William Wilkins, from whom the township was named, mention is made in the chapter on Bench and Bar at page 253, Part I, this work.

***Page 253, Volume I, Chapter XIV, Bench and Bar  
Early Courts – Judicial Officers – Stocks and Pillory – William Penn's "Peacemakers"  
– Circuit and Judicial Districts – The Bench – The Bar –***

William Wilkins succeeded Judge Roberts. He was born December 20, 1779. His father moved to Pittsburgh, in 1786. He was educated at Dickinson College, and read law with Judge Watt, at Carlisle. He was admitted to the bar in Pittsburgh, 1801. He was

appointed president judge of the Fifth district December 18, 1820; resigned May 25, 1824, when appointed judge of the district court of the United States for Western Pennsylvania. In 1828, when on the bench of the United States district court, he was elected a member of Congress, but before taking his seat resigned, giving as his reason that his pecuniary circumstances were such he could not give up the judgeship to accept a seat in Congress. But in 1831 he was elected to the senate of the United States for the full term of six years, and resigned the judgeship. In 1834 he was appointed minister to Russia, and remained one year at the court of St. Petersburg. In 1842 he was again elected to the house of representatives of Congress. After the explosion of the monster gun on the Princeton, February 28, 1844, which killed Mr. Upshur, secretary of state, and Mr. Gilmer, secretary of war, Mr. Wilkins was appointed by President Tyler secretary of war, which office he held until March, 1845. In 1855 he was elected to the state senate from his county for one term.

***Page 273, Volume I, Chapter XIV, Bench and Bar  
Early Courts – Judicial Officers – Stocks and Pillory – William Penn’s “Peacemakers”  
– Circuit and Judicial Districts – The Bench – The Bar –***

Of William Wilkins, in a mere history, it is scarcely wise to speak in the loving terms a knowledge of him prompts. No one ever knew him fully who did not respect and admire him. He came here at the close of the last century, with Trevanion B. Dallas, his brother—in-law, and he soon became prominent. Of Dallas and his elevation to the bench, we have spoken elsewhere. Wilkins was a courtly and polished lawyer and statesman, and he became, as he grew older, a citizen of commanding influence. In his addresses to the jury he did not play the orator, but confined himself to solid talk. A gentleman who heard him addressing a jury, in the grand-jury room of the old courthouse on Market street, describes him as standing close the the jury, delivering a well-studied sentence, and then walking away for a minute to the other end of the courtroom and back again, when he delivered another sentence, and then walked off again, repeating this till he came to an end. This is not the style of a pleader now. But the jury understood him, and so did the court. They were used to this style, and thought nothing of it. He served, as various times, in the state senate, in the senate and house of representatives at Washington, as minister to Russia, as secretary of war, and as judge of the United States district court. At some time in 1832 the democrats of Pennsylvania refused to accept Martin Van Buren as a candidate for vice-president, and the electoral vote of the sate was cast in that year for William Wilkins.

***Page 119- Volume II, Chapter X, Townships & Boroughs  
Wilkins – Sterrett (Wilkinsburg) – Braddock***

The township is crossed from east to west by the Northern turnpike and by the Pittsburgh & Greensburg turnpike. December 7, 1817, Patrick Campbell, a contractor on the Pittsburgh & Greensburg turnpike, was murdered by John Tiernan, a workman in his employ, at a cabin near Turtle creek, in this township. Campbell boarded with Tiernan.

At night, while asleep in his bed, Tiernan killed him with an ax.<sup>1</sup> After robbing the victim, Tiernan fled with his horse, and several days later appeared upon the streets of Pittsburgh. He was at once arrested. At the trial Judges Samuel Roberts and Francis McClure presiding, the commonwealth was represented by William Wilkins and Richard Biddle, the prisoner by Walter Forward and Charles Shaler. The execution occurred at Boyd's hill. This event was among the most important in the early criminal annals of the county.

The coal interests of the township are important. The Hampton Coal company and the New York & Cleveland Gas Coal company are the principal miners and shippers. Lateral railroads connect the mines with the main line, Pennsylvania railroad. The population of Wilkins in 1860 was 2,260; in 1870, 3,435; in 1880, 4,426.

Beulah Presbyterian Church, one of the oldest of that denomination in the county, received supplies as early as 1795, when it is referred to in the minutes of Redstone presbytery at "Pitt Township." The first pastor, Rev. James Graham, was installed in 1804. There are also Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches, the latter being known as Mount Carmel. Churchdale cemetery is in the eastern part of the township.

#### Sterrett Township

Sterrett Township was formed from Wilkins, by decree of court, September 13, 1879. The proceedings in this case were begun November 18, 1876. Under the act of 1871, the Pittsburgh city councils admitted a portion of Wilkins township into the city, as the Thirty-seventh ward, by ordinance of May 2, 1873. After protracted litigation the courts annulled this proceeding, until erected into a separate township. The name was conferred in honor of James P. Sterrett, eighth president judge of the common pleas court of the county, to which position he was appointed January 4, 1862, upon the death of Judge McClure. He was elected in 1862, re-elected in 1872, and resigned in 1877 to accept an appointment to the supreme court.

#### Braddock Township

This township was erected March 9, 1885. August 29, 1884, upon petition of a number of citizens of Wilkins for the division of that township, the court appointed as viewers of the proposed line Charles Davis, J.G. Weir and R.S. P. McCall, who reported favorably. When the question was submitted to popular vote, March 9, 1885, it was decided affirmatively by a majority of one hundred and four, and the name Braddock was given the preference by a plurality of one hundred and four.

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<sup>1</sup> See page 253, Volume I, Paragraph 1

***From “The Progress” – September 8, 1971, Page C-1, “A Press Salute to the Wilkins Township Sesquicentennial”***

*“Greetings:*

*My sincere congratulations are extended to the Township of Wilkins upon the occasion of the Sesquicentennial Celebration to be held September 11-18, 1971.*

*The citizens of Wilkins are to be commended for their dedication and effort for constructive programs for the good of the Township. There is no doubt that the members of your community have benefited greatly from this dedication.*

*As Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I respect and admire the efforts of those in our citizenry who bring honor and achievement to our State.*

*My very best wishes for the continued growth and success of the Township of Wilkins.*

*Milton J. Shapp, Governor”*

***From: “Welcome to Wilkins,” Compliments of The Century Club of Wilkins Twp., History of Wilkins Township, Circa 1962, author unknown***

Wilkins Township at one time was a rural land of rolling hills and farms in the southeastern portion of Pitt Township.

Wilkins Township was formed from Pitt Township on March 10, 1821. The Township then had an area of 34.5 square miles with a population of 1830. The Township’s boundaries ran from the Allegheny River on the north, Thompson’s Run and Turtle Creek on the East, the Monongahela River on the south and Pitts Township, now Pittsburgh, on the west. At that time, the Township was crossed by two main roadways called Raystown Indian Trace. The North Fork was the early path to Fort Pitt from Fort Bedford. Many people traveled this road to get to the west. Later, parts of this road became the William Penn Highway. The South Fork ran through the village of Turtle Creek. This road, plus the railroad station that was built in 1851, helped to develop this area. The South Fork later became the Greensburg Turnpike.

One of the early settlers was Christopher Linhart, who settled along the areas between Thompsom and Chalfant Runs. A log cabin built by the Linharts in 1782 is still standing after 180 (now, 223) years. The Perchmonts operated a stagecoach stop, ticket office, an inn, supply store and tavern along what is now Greensburg Pike.

The earliest industry was farming. Much soft coal mining was done during the period from the 1870’s to World War I. Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Westinghouse built a metal foundry in the Linhart area.

As many portions of Wilkins Township grew and became urban areas, separate municipal governments were created from Wilkins Township. These include most of the

municipalities in the East Suburban and Turtle Creek Valley areas. The last such creation was Churchill Borough in 1934.

Wilkins achieved its present First Class Township status in 1910. The present Township size is 2.75 square miles with a population of about 9,400 (now 6917). Even though it is small in size, it is a first class community and still growing. It has good schools, is close to shopping areas and is near churches of many denominations. It is also served by a good police department and volunteer fire company. In recent years, many new industries have moved into the area, making it a prosperous community and a nice place to call home.

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### *“History of Wilkins Township” – author unknown, circa 1962*

The early history of Wilkins Township is a historical research into the mother of the early villages of the eastern end of Allegheny County. From 1821 to the mid 1930’s a total of fifteen different municipal subdivisions have incorporated from the original land area of the early Wilkins Township.

#### ERECTION OF WILKINS TOWNSHIP AS A MUNICIPALITY.

The Township of Wilkins was created as a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by a decree of Quarter Sessions Court of Allegheny County, dated November 10, 1821 ----A hundred and forty one years ago.

The area involved at the time included the 34.5 square miles parcel of Allegheny County, bounded at the north by the Allegheny River; at the south by the Monongahela River; with the eastern lines being the streams of Plum Creek, Thompson’s Run and Turtle Creek; with the City of Pittsburgh being the western boundaries. The area was mostly farm lands, with villages at Turtle Creek, Braddockfield, and Wilkinsburg.

#### EARLY ROADS OF DEVELOPMENT

The villages, especially of Wilkinsburg and Turtle Creek were developed by the two main roadways or trails that traverse the township.

The North Fork of the Raystown Indian Trace, was a very early path to Fort Pitt from Fort Bedford, and led through the village of Wilkinsburg. Indian traders, military scouts, armies, pioneers, merchants, etc., on their way to the “Gateway of the West” required services along this early roadway. Farms, inns, skilled craftsmen, etc., began the development of the area. Later, this roadway became a toll road and was known as the Northern Turnpike to New Alexandria and Harrisburg. This became a private road, and owners of land which the roadway passes collected the tolls. After the advent of the railroads, the roads became a part of the Commonwealth’s system, and later still, parts of

the road became the William Penn Highway. This roadway in 1962 is about completely obliterated by the presence of residences on its early right-of-way.

The South Fork of the Raystown Indian Trace, like the Northern route, also led through Wilkinsburg, but it also ran through the village of Turtle Creek. This road, plus the erection of a railroad station in 1851, assisted greatly in the development of Turtle Creek. Late in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, an industrial giant, the Westinghouse Company assisted enormously in the creation of Turtle Creek and its suburbs. The South Fork later became a toll-road, known as the Turnpike between Greensburg and Pittsburgh. It is still known at the present time as the Greensburg Turnpike. At one time, for a short while, it was a part of Lincoln Highway.

## VILLAGES TO MUNICIPALITIES

As the inhabitants of the various early villages became more populous, a need for additional community services from the local government became a severe strain on the township system of government. Constables had too wide a range to cover, tax collection offices were too distant, and overall the polls, justice of the peace, etc., were too cumbersome, so new municipalities were born.

The first secession from Wilkins Township was the erection of McNair Township on August 31, 1850. About six months later, the name was changed to Penn Township and within the past few years, it has again changed to Penn Hills Township. The land area lost was about 20 square miles.

With the advent of the Edgar Thompson Steel plant, and its industrial population, Braddock Borough was erected on June 8, 1867 from Wilkins Township. Area was only about ½ square miles. At the time of the secession of Braddock, the village had a population of almost 1,000.

September 13, 1879 found the formation of Sterrett Township which soon after became part of the City of Pittsburgh. Area was negligible, but it was a part of Wilkins Township.

The Township of Braddock was created from Wilkins Township on March 9, 1885. This was created more or less from the overflow of the industrial population of the district. It included villages of Swissvale, Copeland, North Braddock, Rankin, Brinton, Bessemer, Hawkins and Hannahstown. Its population at the time was very heavy, at approximately 7,000 and incorporated a land area of about 6 square miles.

The village of Wilkinsburg was erected as a municipality in 1887, and included about two square miles of land area.

Turtle Creek, with about ½ square miles of Wilkins Township area, developed into a municipality on July 25, 1892, and East Pittsburgh was erected on April 6, 1895. The Westinghouse Industry with its manpower demands led to the erection of these

communities. It also aided in the creation of the Borough of Chalfant in 1914 and the Borough of Forest Hills in 1918.

Many small area annexations were made from the Township of Wilkins to its new born municipalities, over a period of years.

The latest creation of a municipality from Wilkins Township was the erection of Churchill Borough on July 27, 1934. This land area involved about 2.5 square miles.

The 1962 land area of Wilkins Township now stands at 2.54 square miles --- a loss of 30 square miles --- but created a new vast area of expansion and new nucleus of local governing bodies.

The population census of the Township of Wilkins since its creation read like a barometer. One can note very readily, the years of the creation of new political subdivisions by the decrease in population.

1830-----1,927	1849-----2,163	1850-----3,019
1860-----2,260	1870-----3,455	1880-----4,426
1890-----2,304	1900-----2,247	1910-----3,626
1920-----3,455	1930-----4,127	1940-----3,804
1950-----4,261	1960-----8,331	

The farm land population of the township did not vary to any marked degree. The advent of industry, and villages of craftsmen and merchants, did much to change the population picture.

Total population of the land area that comprised Wilkins Township in 1821 would in 1960 amount to 175,000 inhabitants.

## EARLY POSTOFFICES

The Turtle Creek village post office was opened in Henry Chalfant's store in 1832, and the village became more extensive with this new service. Families from all directions out of Turtle Creek came to Turtle Creek for their mail. It was almost impossible to find the so-called village lines.

The Wilkinsburg postmaster was appointed in 1840 and the store of Abraham Stoner was the locale of this service. Again, village lines, knew no bounds. An overlap existed between the Turtle Creek and Wilkinsburg post offices, depending largely on the whim of the service seeker.

Braddocksfield, another early Wilkins Township village had a postmaster appointed in 1853, in the merchant-shop of William Fleming.



The Linhart post office was opened in 1895 and continued service until 1942. The community was formerly known as Millerstown, but a post office had been authorized earlier in the eastern section of the Commonwealth. The name of the most prominent family of the area was adopted as the name of the post office.

Local deliveries of mail was not started until the Twentieth Century. Post offices that now serve the 1962 edition of Wilkins Township are zones 21 and 35 of Pittsburgh, Turtle Creek and East Pittsburgh.

## EARLY PIONEERS OF THE AREA

Perhaps the earliest families who inhabited the land area that presently constitutes the Township of Wilkins were the Linharts, Powells, Perchments, Myers, Currys, Gilmores, Hennings and Johnsons.

The Christopher Linharts emigrated from Germany and settled along the areas between Thompson and Chalfant Runs. The land grants were issued in the name of Christian Linhart on March 10, 1786 for 350 acres, and Christian Linhart, Jr., on February 22, 1788 for an additional 150 acres. A son of Chris Linhart built a log cabin in 1782 that has been occupied for the past 180 years. It still stands in splendid condition. The original homestead, built in 1774, still stands, but many changes have been made. Perhaps, only the foundation is original in the homestead built in 1774. The private cemetery of the Linhart family is well kept, and head stones date back to burials of 1775.

The John, William and Malachia Powell land warrantees are dated October 23, 1769 for 168 acres to William, December 24, 1784 for 317 ½ acres to William Jr., another 191 acres to William Jr., dated January 24, 1805, a tract of 111 ¾ acres to Malachia, dated March 8 1786 and on November 2, 1769 an area of 153 2/5 acres to John.

These tracts of land were in the area of the Greensburg Pike roadway, and in later years, the Cline heirs, the kin of the Powells' homesteaded the area. William Powell was one of the first of the local pioneers to volunteer in the Revolutionary War, and was killed very early in the Continental Army of General Washington at Kingsbridge, New York. Agnes Powell, widow, acquired a tract of 165 acres in the immediate area of former Powell land grants, soon after the Revolution.

James Gilmore, Sr., emigrated from Ireland and purchased a number of tracts of land in Wilkins Township from 1834 to 1872. Practically all of the land laid between the Greensburg Pike and the Beulah Road. The farm became a residential area known as Gilmore Acres in 1944. James Jr., came home as a Civil War hero, having suffered through the Confederate Military Prison at Andersonville, and escaping. He served the Wilkins Township School District as a School Director for almost forty years.

The Peter Perchmonts were very early pioneers of the Greensburg Pike district, and operated a stagecoach stop, stagecoach ticket office, an inn, supply store and tavern

during the heyday of the Turnpike tollway. After the advent of the railroad, the establishment was closed and reopened about 1927 as a tavern.

James Delaney, a grandson of Peter Perchment, Jr., discontinued as operator of the Morning Star Inn in 1955, and this severed relations with the Peter Perchment kin and the old stagecoach stop. The building was completely destroyed by fire in 1961.

The Johnson farm, located in the Ridgewood Manor and Suncrest Manor area of Wilkins Township was patented to Charles Johnson in 1826. Charles Johnson was a grandson of John Johnson, secretary to George Washington, and John Johnson acquired about 600 acres in the early Wilkins area for governmental service. Some of the Johnson family tree are still residents of the nearby area.

The James Myers land grant of 295 acres is dated March 7, 1786 but was not patented until March 15, 1815 to Susanna Miers. The Eliazer Miers plot of 29 acres is dated 1815 and both tracts of land eventually became the Curry Farm, who were kin of both James and Eliazer Myers. This later incorporated into the #2 Hill district of Wilkins Township.

The Samuel Henning Farm, now known as Eastmont was purchased in the early 1800's by the father of Sam, and was a prosperous farm of about 150 acres. It was sold early in the 1900's and in 1950 became a residential development.

#### VERY EARLY INDUSTRIES IN PRESENT WILKINS AREA.

The earliest occupation, and the most prosperous within the confines of the 1962 boundaries of Wilkins was farming; while its short lived but wealthy occupation was coal mining during the middles of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Practically, all of the hills of present Wilkins Township are undermined by empty coal veins. The yield of coal has perhaps never been accurately reported, so fast was the output.

In 1850, the village of Turtle Creek had a population of 200 inhabitants, but 500 coal miners lived in the surrounding area.

A series of grain mills were built along the Thompson Run stream, and the area was generally known as Millerstown. This industry was active in the area until steam and electric power proved cheaper than the waterwheel. It was a costly venture because of damage by floods to the dam structures.

The Westinghouse interests built a metal foundry in the Linhart area early in the Twentieth Century, and this enabled a few hundred employees to erect homes in the nearby areas.

The Westinghouse facilities, Churchill Cemetery, Penhurst Golf Club and the Swiss Farm Dairy are some of the older enterprises of the Wilkins Township area. The General Motors Training Center, ATECO, Pitt Tool and Die Shop, The Beulah Shopping

Center, the Rodi Road Industrial area and the Penn Center Complex are the newer businesses of the district.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

At its earliest erection, the Township was governed by road supervisors appointed by county government. Later, two road supervisors, assessor, treasurer, clerk and auditors were elected by inhabitants. Constables and Justices of the Peace for many years were appointed by state or county governments.

Legislature on April 28, 1899, authorized the creation of townships of the first class, provided that the biennial census reported at least 300 inhabitants per square mile. Allegheny County Courts, after the 1900 census authorized the Township of Wilkins to become a first class township, with the closer refinements of a suburban municipality. The following commissioners were elected: President ---Ritchey Calvin Harrison, Vice-President ---Israel Plummer, Members---John Martin, Sr., Henry R. Chalfant, and Henry Kane. Reymer Bush was elected as treasurer-tax collector.

The Township Board of Health was established on May 29, 1907 and the first Board comprised Dr. McGeary, Thomas Fleming, Edward Beech, John Edwards and Secretary Jas. M. Dobbie. Taylor Martin was appointed Health Officer. The Township joined the County Health Department in 1957.

A police ordinance was adopted on October 2, 1909, but only special officers were used on a part time basis until 1956 when a full time police force and Civil Service Commission were completed.

Planning and Zoning laws were established in 1931 and W.R. Shafer appointed as first building inspector.

Civil Defense Council was created in 1942 and reactivated in January of 1951. Warden Services were deleted from Civil Defense and the Auxiliary Police Association of Wilkins Township was chartered on January 18, 1957.

## FIRE COMPANIES.

The No. 1 Volunteer Fire Company comprising the Linhart, #2 Hill and Churchill areas of Wilkins Township was organized for a short period on February 8, 1915. After World War I, the company was reorganized on October 7, 1921 with Alex Cunningham as President and Michael Niehl as Chief.

The No. 3 or Franklin Volunteer Fire Company was formally organized after World War I, on October 22, 1922 with Harry F. Schoeller as President and John P. O'Brien as chief.

The Eastmont or Wilkins #4 Volunteer Fire Company was organized in 1954 with Robert Miles as President and James Steel as Chief.

## RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The present Wilkins Township is composed of a number of large and small residential developments. Some areas vary from 600 home plan to only a few houses. Some of these are set some distance from others. The developments can be called: Eastmon, Gilmore Acres, Ridgewood and Suncrest Manors, No. 3 Hill, Linhart, Greensburg Pike, Penwood (Cline, Wallace and Powell Streets) Churchill Road, Brown Avenue, Brown Plan, Penhurst, Briaridge and Crestmont.. Exclusive of state and county roads, the total mileage of streets in these developments is well over 18 miles.

## ACTIVE CIVIC AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Always an aid to any community is an effective and active group of residents, who spend endless hours of time in making a community, a better place to live.

In Wilkins Township, the following are all very efficient and well directed organizations.

The Parent-Teachers Associations of the Eastmont School, Gilmore School, Wilkins Junior High School, Shaffer School, Gray School and the Franklin School.

The Fire Companies and their Ladies Auxiliary of No. 1, No. 3 and No. 4.

The Civic Associations of Gilmore Acres, Ridgewood and Suncrest Manor and Eastmont.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 6681 and their Ladies Auxiliary.

The Women's Club of Wilkins, the Eastmont Women's Club and the Century Club.

The Italo-American Club and Ladies Auxiliary.

The Lions Club of Wilkins, the Auxiliary Police Association and many individual civic leaders.

These are the "GRASS ROOTS" of Wilkins Township.

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**LIST OF SECRETARIES  
TOWNSHIP OF WILKINS**

Name	Date of Tenure
G.H. Plummer	1901-1903, 1904-1912
J.P. Sleigle	1903-1907
J.P. Fobbie	1907-1909, 1914-1924
R.R. Taylor	1912
H.W. Cargo	1912-1913
A.A. McKeever	1924-1926
T.W. Huey	1926-1927
J.M. Maher	1928-1929
J.W. Barlner	1928-1934
N.H. Coxon	1934-1936
J.G. O'Brien	1936-1941
C.C. Saunders	1941-1944
J.A. Bendot	1944-1950
M.J. Martinelli	1950-1964
W.K. Baldwin	1964-1984
Francis Kuszajewski	1984-1991
Gerald Patterson	1992-1994
Paul Vargo	1994, 1999-2001, 2002-2003
Bruce Jamison	1994-1999
Carolyne Ford	2001-2002
Rebecca Bradley	2003-

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**FIFTY YEARS OF FIRST CLASS TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT IN WILKINS  
TOWNSHIP 1901-1950**

**By: J.A. Bendot**

CHAPTER I. ERECTION OF WILKINS TOWNSHIP

Wilkins Township was erected through a petition of inhabitants of Pitt Township, presented to the Court of Quarter Sessions of Allegheny County at the August term of Court, 1821.

Transcription of the original petition follows:

“To the Honorable Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the County of Allegheny.

The petition of the subscribers, inhabitants of Pitt Township of said County respectfully sheweth,

That the great extent of the limits of said township renders it impossible for the several township officers to execute the duties of their respective offices without great trouble and inconveniences – that your petitioners believe said Township may be divided in such manner and effect a great convenience to the inhabitants generally.

They therefore respectfully pray that suitable persons may be appointed to enquire into the propriety of granting the prayer of this petition and to make a plot or draught of said Township so proposed to be divided and the division line proposed to be made therein and make report as required by law and they will pray, etc.”

Signed ----William Reed, Samuel Ferguson, Mathew Mathews, Jacob Hurisig, William Johnston, Hugh McDonnale, John Wilson, Christian Hurisig, Patrick W. Hanna, William Wilson, Henry Stotler, Andrew Johnston, Nathan Wilson, Emmanuel Stotler, David Lewis, Samuel Wilson, Frederick Lowry, William Duff, William Wilson, John Lowry, John Duff, Sr., John Duff, Jr., Alex Cummings, George Givins, James Morrow, William Bright, James K. Porter, John Carns, Henry Morrow, Alexander McCune, Robert Wilson, David Duff, William Morow, Thomas Sampson, James Wilson, Jr., Jacop Usack, William Sampson, George Johnston, James Grbek, David Sampson, Alexander Kennedey, Levi McIntire, Charles Springer, David Patton, William W. Geltwill, Edward Thompson, George Welles, D. Gilliland, Peter Reymer, William Sinnard, David Gilliland, Sr., Lewis Matthews, James Graham, Adam Gilliland, Abraham Bush, James Johnston, Bovard Grandel, Daniel

Mathews, James May, Thomas Wilson, James McGrigor, John Wilson, James McDonald, Samuel Cully, John Mathews, and Charles Johnston.

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On November 10, 1821, by decree of Court confirming a line of division viewed by Robert Beatty, Joseph Reed, and Dunning McNair, the Township of Wilkins was erected. The Boundaries consisting on the east by Thompsons Run and Turtle Creek; on the north by the Allegheny River; on the south by the Monongahela River; and on the west by Pitt Township.

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From the period of the erection of the Township of Wilkins until the creation of a First Class Township in 1901, vast areas were divided into new townships, or were incorporated into boroughs.

The Township of Penn was erected from Wilkins Township on July 8, 1850. Although Penn Township was originally name McNair Township, a change was made early in its hirtory and it remains Penn Township to the present time.

The Township of Sterrett was erected from Wilkins Township in 1879 and later became a portion of the Borough of Wilkinsburg in 1896.

Braddock Township was erected from Wilkins Township on March 9, 1895 and later Braddock Township was subdivided into the Boroughs of Braddock (346 acres), North Braddock (973 acres), Swissvale (813 acres), Rankin (282 acres), and Braddock Hills (723 acres).

The Borough of Wilkinsburg was incorporat4ed from Wilkins Township on October 5, 1887. (1,293 acres).

The Borough of Edgewood was incorporated from Wilkins Township and Sterrett Township in 1888 (360 acres).

The Borough of East Pittsburgh was incorporated from Wilkins Township and Braddock Township in 1895 (282 acres).

Incorporation and annexations of portions of Wilkins Township into other municipalities will be covered in later pages as effective during the 1901 to 1950 era.

## CHAPTER II. CREATION OF A FIRST CLASS TOWNSHIP

An Act of the Pennsylvania Legislature approved the 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 1899 created and classified townships of the first and second class.

A transcription of the subject Act is set forth in brief form:

“Whereas, In those more populous townships of the Commonwealth, which are in a large measure devoted to residential purposed, there is need of a from of municipal government having greater powers than are now possessed by the local governments of townships under existing laws.

SECTION I. Be it enacted, That for the purpose of legislation regulating their municipal affairs, the exercise of certain corporate powers, and having respect to the number, character, powers and duties of certain officers thereof, the Townships now in existence and those to be hereafter created shall be divided into two classes. These townships having a population of at least three hundred to the square mile, as shown by the United States Census, shall be township of the first class. All other townships shall be townships of the second class.

SECTION II. It shall be the duty of the County Commissioners in every county of the Commonwealth to ascertain whether any township in the county comes within the conditions hereinbefore set out as constituting a township of the first class, and by proclamation, to be issued prior to the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and thereafter on or before the first day of January, following the ascertainment of population by the decennial census of the United States, to designate the townships of the first class, if any within the county; and in all townships so designated, the officers provided for by this Act shall be chosen at the municipal election then next ensuing, and the township government constituted by this Act shall go into force on the first Monday of March then next ensuing.

SECTION IV. In townships of the first class the following township officers shall be chosen by the qualified voters at the Township elections on the third Tuesday in February:

First. In the first year of its organization and in every second year thereafter, five township commissioners, and if the population of the township exceeds five thousand, then an additional commissioner for each tow thousand of population in excess of five thousand. The said commissioners shall hold office of a term of two years. No township commissioner shall receive any salary or shall be eligible to any other township office.



Second. In the first year of its organization and in very third year thereafter, a township treasurer who shall hold office for the term of three years.

Third. Annually, a township auditor, who shall hold office for a term of three years as provided by existing laws.

The official term of the above named officers shall commence on the first Monday in March and continue until the election and qualification of their successors.

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### POPULATION

Year	Population	Notes
1839	1,927	First census as the Township of Wilkins
1840	2,163	
1850	3,019	Penn Township erected in 1850
1860	2,260	
1870	3,455	
1880	4,426	
1890	2,304	
		Creation of Braddock and Sterrett Townships and incorporation of Borough of Wilkinsburg.
1900	2,427	
1910	3,626	
1920	2,455	Incorporation of Chalfant Borough
1930	4,127	
1940	3,899	Incorporation of Churchill Borough
1950		

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### CHAPTER III. BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS

The organization meeting of the first Board of Commissioners of the First Class Township of Wilkins was held in the Lime Hill School, on March 4, 1901.

President . . . . . Ritchey Calvin Harrison  
 Vice-President . . . . . Isarel Plummer  
 Member. . . . . John Martin, Sr.

Member. ....	H.R. Chalfont
Member. ....	Henry Kane
Treasurer. ....	Reymer Bush (three year term)
Solicitor. ....	A.M. Thompson (Board appointed)
Secretary. ....	George H. Plummer (Board appointed)

Ritchey Calvin Harrision - -

President of the first Board of Commissioners in 1901-02, member of Board in 1914-15, appointed as member in November 1924 to fill a vacancy and continued in office through 1924-25-26-27-28-29 and died in office 1930. Born August 24, 1884 and a Republican. Married Annie M. Harrision, a descendent of Christian Linhart, pioneer settler and soldier of the Revolution era.

The second Board of Commissioners of Wilkins Township organized their Board on March 2, 1903 to serve their community until March 6, 1905. Meetings were held in the Rose Hill School.

President. ....	R.Y. Muir, resigned May 1904
Vice-President. ....	D.J. Cuppa, appointed president May 1901
Member. ....	W. J. Clark, appointed V/President May 1904
Member. ....	John Shiel
Member. ....	Henry Herald
Member. ....	Edward Beere, appointed May 1904
Appointed Solicitor. ....	S.M. Myers
Appointed Secretary. ....	Alex. Cunningham, Jr., resigned May 1903
Appointed Secretary. ....	J.P. Sleigh, appointed by Board June 1903

J.P. Sleigh - -

Secretary to the Board of Commissioners of Wilkins Township by appointment in June 1903, serving in that capacity in 1904-05-06-09-10-11. Born July 27, 1873 in England, and resident of Wilkins Township from 1895 to 1911 when Pittsburgh Coal Company transferred their mining operations to Export, Pa. Miner by trade, served six year term as Justice of the Peace in Wilkins Township and a period of 12 years in Export. Still active in Westmoreland County politics. A Republican.

1905-1906 TERM OF OFFICE

President. ....	D.J. Cuppa
Vice-President. ....	W. J. Clark
Member. ....	Darby Downey
Member. ....	John C. Linhart
Member. ....	D.H. Maxwell, resigned Sept. 1905
Member. ....	Thos. Emaneul, appointed Sept. 1905
Appointed Solicitor. ....	S.M. Myers

Appointed Secretary . . . . . J.P. Sleigh  
Treasurer . . . . . Robert Breeger, elected 1904 to 3 yr. Term

Robert W. Breeger –

Treasurer of Wilkins Township for 1905-05-06-10-11-12-13. Born in Germany in 1862 and a resident of Wilkins Township since 1886, was a Republican and also was superintendent of the Churchill Cemetery. Dies in 1914 while in office.

1907-1908 TERM OF OFFICE

President . . . . . D.D. Fouka, resigned June 1907  
Vice-President . . . . . J.A. Stewart, appointed Pres., March 1908  
Member. . . . . J. Rafter  
Member. . . . . R.S. Maddock, appointed V. Pres. Mar 1908  
Member. . . . . J. Garrity  
Member. . . . . Edward Steinbert, appointed to vacancy  
June 1907, resigned March 1908  
Member. . . . . D.J. Cupps, appointed to vacancy March  
March 1908, resigned July 1908  
Member. . . . . Thomas Lawton, appointed to vacancy  
July 1908  
Appointed Solicitor. . . . . S.M. Myers  
Appointed Secretary . . . . . James N. Dobbie  
Treasurer . . . . . William Peterson, elected for 1907-08-09

Thomas W. Lawton –

Appointed Commissioner in 1908, elected President for 1909-10-11. Born in England, September 10, 1876. Resided in Wilkins Township from 1898 to 1942. Republican and retired from Westinghouse as Foreman in 1942. Now living in St. Petersburg, Florida.

1909-10-11 TERM OF OFFICE

By an act of the Legislature, the terms were to begin on January 1, 1912, and previous office holders carried into January of their terms.

President . . . . . Thomas Lawton  
Vice-President . . . . . Daniel Cregan  
Member. . . . . John Franey, resigned April 1911  
Member. . . . . August Endres  
Member. . . . . W.J. Clark, appointed May 1911  
Member. . . . . Joseph Funk  
Solicitor. . . . . Stewart Cunningham

Secretary . . . . . J.P. Sleigh  
 Treasurer . . . . . Robert Breeger, re-elected 1910 four year  
 term

August Endres –

Commissioner in 1909-10-11. President of the Board from 1924 to 1931, inclusive. Born June 10, 1868 in Allegheny County, and a resident of Wilkins Township since 1870. Worked as a carpenter, farmer and miner in the district. Father and Mother came to the Pittsburgh district in 1850 from Germany. Republican. Died in 1950.

1912-1913 TERM OF OFFICE

President . . . . . W.J. Clark, resigned as President January  
 1913  
 Vice-President . . . . . J.F. Brown, appointed President January  
 1913, resigned as President, March 1913  
 Member. . . . . J.J. Edwards, appointed Vice President May  
 1913  
 Member. . . . . Luke Luckock, appointed Vice President  
 January 1913  
 Member. . . . . J.B. Richardson, resigned November 1912  
 Member. . . . . E. Mower, Jr., appointed December 1912  
 Appointed Solicitor. . . . . S.H. Huselton  
 Appointed Secretary . . . . . R.R. Taylor, resigned October 1912  
 Appointed Secretary . . . . . H.W. Cargo, appointed Oct. 1912, resigned  
 April 1913  
 Appointed Secretary. . . . . B.O. Kiefer, appointed April 1913

Theodore H. Schmidt –

Longest reign of appointed municipal officer of Wilkins Township. Served as Solicitor from 1934 to 1949. Born in Turtle Creek, November 20, 1904. Member of the House of Representatives, member of the Allegheny County Bar Association, Lawyer, Democrat.

1914 – 1915 TERM OF OFFICE

President . . . . . Jacob Beech, resigned November 1915  
 Vice-President . . . . . Robert Galbraith, appointed President  
 November 1915  
 Member. . . . . John Martin  
 Member. . . . . Neil Thompson, resigned August 1914  
 Member. . . . . R.C. Harrison  
 Member. . . . . Daniel Cregan, appointed September 1914,  
 resigned January 1915

Member. . . . . Henry Z. Clark, appointed November 1915  
 Member. . . . . Harry E. Adams, appointed February 1915  
 Solicitor. . . . . James E. Hindman  
 Secretary . . . . . John Dobbie  
 Treasurer . . . . . Alex Cunningham, Jr., elected to a four-year  
 term

Alex Cunningham, Jr.

Treasurer-Tax Collector of Wilkins Township during 1914 to 1925, inclusive. Republican, born May 17, 1867 in McKeesport, and a resident of Wilkins township from 1872 to 1926. Was weigh master of the New York, Cleveland Gas Coal Company while that company operated mines in this district, and was also assistant yard master for Westinghouse Electric Corporation at East Pittsburgh. Scotch descent. Died February 11, 1930.

1916-1917 TERM OF OFFICE

President . . . . . Robert E. Galbraith  
 Vice-President . . . . . Daniel E. Foulka  
 Member. . . . . H.Z. Clark  
 Member. . . . . Ira W. Huey  
 Member. . . . . William Leax  
 Solicitor. . . . . James E. Hindman  
 Secretary . . . . . John Dobbie

John Dobbie—

Appointed Secretary of the Board of Commissioners from 1914 through 1923. Born in Scotland in 1852. Republican, registered Assessor of Wilkins Township for many years. Veteran of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation. Died in 1932.

Michael Niehl –

Elected Commissioner in 1938-1939, Presiden of the Board from 1940 to 1943, and member of the Board from 1944 to 1949. Served three full four year terms. Original member of the Wilkins Township Volunteer Fire Company #1 as organized in 1915 and appointed as Second Assistant Chief at that time. Held the office of Chief of the #1 Fire Company after its reorganization in 1921. Democrat. Born July 31, 1894 in Carnegie. Resident of Wilkins Township since 1895. Of German descent. At present is chief steward at the American Legion Club in East Pittsburgh.

1918-1919 TERM OF OFFICE

President . . . . . William Leax  
 Vice-President . . . . . H.Z. Leax

Member. ....	E.E. Foulks, resigned June 1918
Member. ....	Ira W. Huey
Member. ....	William Campbell
Member. ....	James P. Davis, appointed August 1918
Solicitor. ....	Ralph R. Brown
Secretary. ....	John Dobbie
Treasurer. ....	Alex Cunningham, Jr., re-elected to a four-year term

Joseph E. Augustine –

Appointed to the Board of Commissioners in 1934 to fill a vacancy. Member from June 1934 to 1947, completing over three full four year terms as a member of the Board. Was President from 1935 to 1939, and Vice-President from 1944 to 1947. Democrat. Born March 17, 1896 in Yugoslavia. Resident of Wilkins Township since 1926. Employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad as an electrician. Active in Firemen's affairs in the Franklin Co.

#### 1920-1923 TERM OF OFFICE

President. ....	William Leax, resigned as President January 1921
Vice-President. ....	Ira Huey, appointed President January 1921
Member. ....	G.B. Jones, appointed Vice-President January 1922
Member. ....	James P. Davis
Member. ....	William Campbell, resigned February 1922
Solicitor. ....	R.J. Brown, died in office, January 1923
Solicitor. ....	J.L. Collins, appointed March 1923
Secretary. ....	John Dobbie
Treasurer. ....	Alex Cunningham, Jr., re-elected to a four-year term

William Bayer –

Appointed Commissioner in February of 1922. Member of Board until his resignation in 1934. Was President of the Board from 1932 to 1934, Vice-President from 1924 through 1931. Republican. Born June 6, 1892 in Wilkins Township, now part of Forest Hills Borough. Present Tax Collector of Churchill Borough. Resigned from Board of Commissioners when Churchill Borough was incorporated from Wilkins Township. German and Swiss ancestry.

## 1924-1927 TERM OF OFFICE

President . . . . .	August Endres
Vice-President . . . . .	William Bayer
Member. . . . .	Robert Kirkpatrick, died December 1926
Member. . . . .	Albert W. Hosbach, appointed January 1927
Member. . . . .	W.B. Dobbie, resigned October 1924
Member. . . . .	R.G. Harrison, appointed November 1924
Member. . . . .	J.P. O'Brien
Solicitor. . . . .	William McNair, resigned November 1925
Solicitor. . . . .	G.M. McDonald, appointed November 1925
Secretary . . . . .	T.W. Huey, appointed July 1926, resigned May 1927
Secretary . . . . .	J.M. Maher, appointed 1927
Treasurer. . . . .	Alex Cunningham, Jr., resigned 1926
Treasurer. . . . .	A.A. McKeever, appointed 1926

Albert Hosbach –

Appointed Commissioner in 1927, served as member of the Board in 1928, 29-30-31. Republican. Born in Wilkins Township, May 14, 1891. Member of Board of Managers of Churchill Cemetery.

## 1928-1931 TERM OF OFFICE

President . . . . .	August Endres
Vice-President . . . . .	William Bayer
Member. . . . .	R.C. Harrison, Died 1930
Member. . . . .	F.A. Little, appointed 1930
Member. . . . .	A.W. Hosbach
Member. . . . .	C.E. Brandfass
Solicitor. . . . .	G.M. McDonald
Secretary . . . . .	J.M. Maher, 1928-1929
Secretary . . . . .	J.W. Barker, appointed 1930
Tax Collector . . . . .	A.A. McKeever

Andrew A. McKeever –

Secretary to the Board of Commissioners 1924-25-26, resigned July 1926. Appointed Tax Collector 1926 and served continuously as tax collector until death in 1934. Born April 21, 1902 in Wilkins Township and was of Irish ancestry. Republican.

Charles E. Brandfass –

Commissioner 1928-29-30-31. Democrat. Born July 1888 in Wheeling, West Virginia, of Dutch English parents. Resident of Wilkins Township since 1920. Helped

organize Franklin Volunteer Fire Company of Wilkins Township in 1922. Auto mechanic by trade. Died 1950.

1932-1933 TERM OF OFFICE

Board reorganized in 1934

President . . . . .	William Bayer
Vice-President . . . . .	Carl C. Hensell
Member. . . . .	George C. Ostien
Member. . . . .	Bernard H. Goodwin
Member. . . . .	Thomas E. Grouse
Solicitor. . . . .	G.M. McDonald
Secretary . . . . .	J.W. Barker
Tax Collector . . . . .	A.A. McKeever

Bernard H. Goodwin –

Commissioner 1932-33-34, appointed Treasurer-Tax Collector 1934 to 1945, Auditor 1926-27-28-29. Born in Rochester, New York, October 27, 1882, Democrat. Appointed member of Allegheny County Planning Commission for six year term in 1926, and reappointed in 1942 for additional six year term. In 1940, elected as State Representative in House, and re-elected in 1942. Elected Treasurer of Allegheny County in 1943, and presently Register of Wills.

1934-1935 TERM OF OFFICE

COMPLETION OF A FOUR YEAR TERM – REORGANIZED 1934

President . . . . .	T.E. Crouse, resigned June 1934
Vice-President . . . . .	C.C. Hensell, appointed President July 1934
Member. . . . .	G. C. Ostien, appointed Vice President July 1934
Member. . . . .	B.H. Goodwin, resigned July 1934
Member. . . . .	Dr. C. Reber, appointed August 1934
Member. . . . .	W. Bayer, appointed June 1934
Member. . . . .	J.E. Augustine, appointed June 1934
Member. . . . .	J. Walker, appointed June 1934
Solicitor. . . . .	T. H. Schmidt
Secretary . . . . .	N. H. Coxon
Treasurer . . . . .	A.A. McKeever, died May 1934
Treasurer . . . . .	B.H. Goodwin, appointed July 1934

John J. O'Brien –



Secretary to the Board of Commissioners 1936-37-38-39-40 and resigned in 1941. Democrat. Born March 10, 1890 in Patton Township. Lived in Wilkins Township from 1896 until his death in 1943. Scotch-Irish.

Michael Bassara –

Vice-President 1936, appointed President 1936-37-38-39. Democrat. Born May 7, 1907 in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Resident of Wilkins Township since 1929. Serbian ancestry.

1936-1937-1938-1939 TERM OF OFFICE

President . . . . .	J.C. Augustine, resigned May 1936
Vice-President . . . . .	M. Bassara, appointed President May 1936
Member. . . . .	J.G. Leax, appointed Vice President January 1938
Member- 36-37. . . . .	Q. Green, term expired 1937
Member. . . . .	W. McFarland, resigned September 1938
Member. . . . .	J. Damico, appointed September 1938
Member – 38-39 . . . . .	M. Niehl, elected 1938
Solicitor. . . . .	T.H Schmidt
Secretary . . . . .	J.G. O’Brien
Treasurer/Tax Collector . . . . .	B. H. Goodwin

1940-1941-1942-1943 TERM OF OFFICE

President . . . . .	M. Niehl
Vice-President . . . . .	R.B. Rose
Member. . . . .	J.E. Augustine
Member. . . . .	Charles Straley
Member. . . . .	Edward Ayers
Solicitor. . . . .	T.H Schmidt
Secretary . . . . .	M.V. Blagovich, resigned 1940
Secretary . . . . .	J.G. O’Brien, appointed 1940 resigned 1941
Secretary . . . . .	C.C. Saunders, appointed 1941
Treasurer/Tax Collector . . . . .	B. H. Goodwin

Richard B. Rose –

Vice President 1940-41-42-43, President 1944-45-46-47. Member of the Board 1950. Born October 5, 1889 in Pittsburgh, of English parents. Resident of Wilkins Township since 1918 and operates small poultry business.

Charles Straley –

Commissioner 1940-41-42-43-44-45-46-47. Democrat. Born January 27, 1912 in Wilkins township. Of German ancestry and employed as Foreman in Westinghouse Electric Corporation plant in Linhart.

1944-1945-1946-1947 TERM OF OFFICE

President . . . . .	Richard B. Rose
Vice-President . . . . .	J.E. Augustine, reappointed 1950 to fill vacancy. Re-elected 52-53-54-55
Member. . . . .	M. Niehl
Member. . . . .	Charles Straley
Member. . . . .	Edward Ayers
Solicitor. . . . .	T.H Schmidt
Secretary . . . . .	C.C. Saunders, resigned May 1944
Secretary . . . . .	J.A. Bendot, appointed June 1944
Treasurer . . . . .	B.H. Goodwin, term expired 1945
Treasurer/Tax Collector . . . . .	C.D. Blakley, elected four year term

Calvin D. Blakley –

Treasurer 1946-47-48-49 and re-elected for additional four year term. Justice of the Peace of Wilkins Township from 1932 to 1950. Republican until 1932, Democrat ever since. Born July 10, 1895 in Wilkins Township. Scotch-Irish ancestors. Presently employed by County of Allegheny as an Inspector of Weights and Measures.

Edward Ayers –

Commissioner 1940 to 1947. Born in Wilkins Township. Democrat. Coal and poultry dealer.

1948-1949-1950-1951 TERM OF OFFICE

President . . . . .	James J. Watt, resigned August 1950
Vice-President . . . . .	J.E. McVicar, resigned August 1950
Member. . . . .	D.J. Aiello, 1948-59; 1962-66, 1966 to ____
Member. . . . .	M. Niehl, term expired 1949
Member. . . . .	R.B. Rose, elected 1950 four year term
Member. . . . .	Helen DeLaney
Solicitor. . . . .	T.H Schmidt, resigned 1949
Solicitor. . . . .	Frank Reich, appointed 1949
Secretary . . . . .	J.A. Bendot, resigned 1950

James J. Watt –

President of Board of Commissioners 1948-49-50. Township Auditor from 1930 to 1947. One of the first officers of the Franklin Volunteer Fire Company of Wilkins

Township when organized in 1922. Still active in Fire Company affairs, and has held many various offices during the years. Employed by the Wilkins Township School District. Democrat.

Helen V. DeLaney –

Member of the Board 1948-49-50. Born in Niles, Ohio and one of the few lady Commissioners ever elected to office in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Kin of Captain Peter Perchment, officer of the Revolution and pioneer, land-owner in Wilkins Township. Mrs. DeLaney lives in the old stage coach inn of the original Pittsburgh-Philadelphia Turnpike, which later became the Lincoln Highway, but now is a lateral highway of the present Lincoln Highway of Ardmore Boulevard. Republican.

#### CHAPTER IV. EARLY ORDINANCES

##### MAY 1901     FIXING THE PERMANENT MEETING PLACE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AT THE MCCREA SCHOOL

School houses were used in the early years of rural governments as the meeting places for all municipal organizations, as well as civic and farm organizations. Tax-collecting and voting were also duties of the school houses. The McCrea School was a one-room frame building located at what is at the present time, the junction of the new William Penn Highway and Churchill Road.

##### MAY 1901     FIXING THE SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF APPOINTIVE OFFICERS AND LABORERS EMPLOYED BY THE TOWNSHIP.

The annual compensation of the Township Secretary recorded as \$50.00. The road supervisor paid at the rate of \$2.00 per day, nine hours of labor constitutes a day. Day laborers paid \$1.50 per day of nine hours. All teams paid at the rate of \$4.00 per day of nine hours.

##### MAY 1901     PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF (eligible) AND ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP

Ten handbills or more shall be posted in public places in the Township, until that time that a newspaper may be published in the Township.

##### JUNE 1901     GRANTING THE WILKINS TOWNSHIP WATER COMPANY THE RIGHT TO LAY PIPE, MAINS, AND CONNECTIONS IN THE STREET, ALLEYS, ROADS, AND PUBLIC PLACES OF WILKINS TOWNSHIP FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPLYING WATER TO THE PUBLIC

During this period, a main water line was laid on the Greensburg Pike and taps were taken to the side streets and roads of the Township by the subject water company to provide water for residents of the immediate Greensburg Pike Area.

JUNE 1901    FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 1901 AND  
                  APPROPRIATING THE PROCEEDS OF TAXES COLLECTED.

Rate of millage set at two mills on the dollar, and \$2,000 appropriated for streets, roads, paths and highways.

JUNE 1901    RELATING TO THE RUNNING AT LARGE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF  
                  CERTAIN DOMESTIC ANIMALS

Unlawful to permit horses, mules, hogs, cattle or other domestic animals to stray or run at large on the roads or public places in the Township.

JULY 1902    REPEALING AN ORDINANCE IN REGARDS TO WAGTES AND  
                  SALARIES OF TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES

Supervisors wages to be \$2.25 per day. Day laborers to be paid \$1.75 per day. Teams to be paid \$4.50 per day and salary of secretary to b \$75.00 annually.

AUGUST 1902 GRANTING PERMISSION TO THE PITTSBURGH AND  
                  ALLEGHENY TELEPHONE COMPANY TO CONSTRUCT AND  
                  MAINTAIN POLES, CONDUITS, WIRES AND CABLES WITHIN  
                  TOWNSHIP LIMITS.

AUGUST 1902 GRANTING THE NEW YORK AND CLEVELAND GAS COAL  
                  COMPANY THE RIGHT TO ERECT AN INCLINE ACROSS THE  
                  ROAD LEADING FROM MILLERSTOWN TO TURTLE CREEK, AND  
                  TO BUILD A COAL RAILROAD ACROSS A TOWNSHIP STREET  
                  ON WHAT IS KNOWN AS NO. 3 HILL FOR TH EPURPOSE OF  
                  CONVEYING COAL.

The history of coal mining in Wilkins Township must be considered as important during the early 1900 period. State geologists have estimated that Wilkins Township possessed in approximately 4.2 square miles, about 27,917,000 short tons of the Pittsburgh vein of coal, and the estimate from the same source places the Upper Freeport vein at approximately 14,219,000 short tons in about 2.11 square miles. The inclines and coal railroads as mentioned in the above ordinance were operated at the Duquesne Coal Company area of "Mucklerat," now part of Forest Hills Borough, as well as the New York Cleveland Gas Coal Company, No. 2 Hill mine, down Rebecca Street right of way and the No. 3 Hill incline as contained in the ordinance. Both the mines of the New York and Cleveland Gas Coal Company ran into the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad tracks.

SEPTEMBER 1902 GRANTING THE ROSE HILL ELCTRIC COMPANY  
CERTAIN PRIVILEGES

A corporation, incorporated and organized for the purpose of supplying light, heat and power by means of electricity to the public in the Township. Permitting the erecting, constructing, laying, maintaining, operating and wiring its wires, cables, conduits, and conductors upon, through, along, under and over said Township streets, alleys, highways, and roads.

OCTOBER 1902 GRANTING TO THE TURTLE CREEK VALLEY STREET  
RAILWAY COMPANY CERTAIN PRIVILEGES

That the Turtle Creek Valley Street Railway shall construct, and operate a line of electric railway across and along the Township roads as follows: commencing at the limits of the Borough of Turtle Creek, thence along the Township road which is the extension of Wilbur Avenue and commonly known as Saw Mill Run to McCraes School, where the Township road intersects with the Greensburg Pike. Commencing at the point of intersection with the route above set forth at the Township road in Wilkins Township near McCraes School, thence along the Township road to the intersection of said Township road and Clugston Avenue in Trevaskis Terrace Plan of Lots, as laid out and recorded; thence along Mortimer Avenue to Clugston Avenue; thence Mortimer Avenue to Brown Avenue. Street railway shall be standard gauge (5'2") and the rails shall be girder rails and shall be laid on the grade of the road and flush with the surface thereof; and the said street railway company shall pave with brick and pay the costs of paving of all that part of the said roads between their track and for a distance of one foot on the outside thereof. The fare charged to each passenger for a single trip over any part of, or the entire route covered by this franchise shall not exceed five (5) cents. After the road is completed as aforesaid, this franchise shall be revoked in case of a failure of the street railway company to run at least one car each way every thirty minutes during the time from 5 AM until 12 PM of each day, and provided that this condition shall not apply when such failure is due to strikes of unavoidable accidents.

JUNE 1903 CHANGING THE MEETING PLACE OF THE BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS TO THE ROSE HILL SCHOOL

AUGUST 1903 PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN OFFICIALS OF THE TOWNSHIP  
AND FIXING SALARIES THEREOF

Salary of Township Solicitor shall be \$250.00 per year. Township Secretary's salary shall be \$125.00 annually. Road Supervisor to be paid \$2.50 per day of nine hours. Day laborers to be paid at the rate of \$2.00 per day of nine hours. Terms to be paid \$5.00 per day of nine hours.

AUGUST 1903 PROHIBITING DRIVING INTO GUTTERS, ETC., ALONG  
THE PUBLIC ROAD AND DRIVING UPON THE SIDEWALK  
AND DEFINING THE PENALTY THEREOF

It shall be unlawful for any person to drive with any wagon, buggy, cart, carriage or with any vehicle whatsoever drawn by a a horse, or horses or any other animal or animals whatsoever into the gutters, or water tables made and constructed for the purpose of draining or any road, alley, or public highway within this Township. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive any of the above vehicles upon the sidewalks, footwalks, footpaths, lying by along any roads of public highway within the Township.

DECEMBER 1903 GRANTING THE NEW YORK AND CLEVELAND GAS COMPANY THE RIGHT TO ERECT A TRESTLE ACROSS WHAT IS TERMED OR COMMONLY KNOWN AS A CONTINUATION OF BROWN AVENUE AND BUILD A COAL RAILROAD ACROSS THE SAME FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING COAL ACROSS THE SAME.

MAY 1904 AMENDING A SECTION OF AN ORDINANCE

That all day laborers be paid at the rate of \$2.00 per day of nine hours work to be amended to read “that the rate of wages for laborers or work on roads to be 20 cents per hour.”

JUNE 1904 GRANTING THE PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY THE RIGHT TO USE AND OCCUPY THE STREETS, AVENUES, ALLEYS, HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC GROUNDS OF THE TOWNSHIP AND LAY PIPE THEREIN FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPLYING GAS TO THE TOWNSHIP AND ITS INHABITANTS.

The first gas line was installed into the Township at this time. Location of the first line cannot be confirmed.

JUNE 1905 CHANING THE PLACE OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO NEWTOWN SCHOOL HOUSE

JULY 1905 TAX LEVY FOR YEAR 1905

Six mills on the dollar assessment with \$5,000 appropriated to the road and highway budget.

JULY 1905 GRANTING THE BESSEMER ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY THE RIGHT TO ERECT AND OPERATE WIRES FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICITY OVER, ALONG AND UNDER AND ACROSS THE HIGHWAYS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILKINS

AUGUST 1905 EXTENDING THE TIME FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A STREET RAILWAY BY THE TURTLE CREEK VALLEY RAILWAY COMPANY ALONG CERTAIN STREETS AND HIGHWAYS OF THE TOWNSHIP

APRIL 1906 RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SIDEWALK ALONG THE TOWNSHIP ROAD LEADING FROM THE BOROUGH OF TURLTE CREEK TO MILLERSTOWN FROM THE END OF THE PRESENT BOARD WALK.

The owners of ground fronting or abutting along the Township road leading from the borough of Turtle Creek to Millerstown School shall upon notice to do so lay a sidewalk 3 ft. in width, such sidewalk to be made of hemlock plank, 2 inches in thickness and not less than 8 inches in width resting on two sills of hemlock, such sills not to be less than two inches by four inches, the planks to be nailed firmly to them.

APRIL 1906 PROVIDING FOR THE TAX LEVY AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1906

A tax of five (5) mills to pay current expenses to be levied.

OCTOBER 1909 AUTHORIZING THE ELECTION OF POLICEMEN, DEFINING THEIR DUTIES AND FIXING THEIR SALARY THEREOF

Chapter V will list the police officers of the Township as completely as the Township records will reveal.

OCTOBER 1909 AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH THE UNITED ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY FOR THE FURNISHING OF ELECTRICTY FOR LIGHTING STREETS AND ALLEYS

To furnish four (4) arc lamps of 2,000 candlepower capacity each, at \$60.00 per lamp per year. The first street lights in the Township.

NOVEMBER 1910 AUTHORIZING THE CENTRAL DISTRICT AND PRINTING TELEGRAPH COMPANY TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE ITS POSTS, POLES, WIRES, CABLES AND ALL OTHER NECESSARY OVERHEAD APPARATUS ON, OVER, AND ALONG THE STREETS, ALLEYS, ETC.

APRIL 1912 GRANTING THE MONONGAHELA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, THE RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATING AND MAINTAINING POLES, WIRES, AND DEVICES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP FOR THE PURPOSES OF CONDUCTING ELECTRICTIY THROUGH THE SAID TOWNSHIP AND FOR THE FURNISHING OF LIGHT, HEAT AND POWER TO THE CITIZENS OF SAID TOWNSHIP.

DECEMBER 1912 AUTHORIZING AND INCURRING A BONDED INDEBTEDNESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING ROADS,

STREET AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS BY AN ISSUE  
OF BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000

The Township's first bond issue.

NOVEMBER 1913 PROVIDING FOR LICENSING PEDDLERS, HAWKERS, ETC.,  
IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WILKINS

It shall not be lawful for any person or persons, firms or firm, to be employed or concerned in the business of hawking, peddling, or selling produce, fruit, vegetables, oysters, fish or merchandise or either or any of them from house to house, or upon the public streets, lanes, alleys, or at the railway stations, or at wholesale or retail, within the limits of the Township without first having taken out at the Secretary a license as hereinafter provided.

MARCH 1914 CREATING AND ESTABLISHING A BOARD OF HEALTH IN  
THE TOWNSHIP AS PROVIDED BY THE ACT OF  
ASSEMBLY OF JUNE 12, 1913, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE  
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND  
MAINTENANCE OF BOARDS OF HEALTH IN BOROUGHES  
AND TOWNSHIPS OF THE FIRST CLASS AND DEFINING  
THEIR POWERS AND DUTIES, ETC."

Chapter VI will contain the available records of the Township Boards of Health.

APRIL 1915 AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE  
TOWNSHIP TO MAKE AND ENTER INTO A WRITTEN  
CONTRACT WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA WATER  
COMPANY FOR FURNISHING OF WATER TO THE  
TOWNSHIP OF WILKINS, FOR FIRE PROTECTION, AND  
PROVIDING FOR THE INSTALLATION AND FIXING THE  
RATES FOR WATER SERVICE.

First installation of fire hydrants in the township –13 in number.

APRIL 1922 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE INCURRING OF A  
BONDED INDEBTEDNESS OF THE TOWNSHIP IN THE SUM  
OF \$35,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYMENT OF CERTAIN  
EXISTING INDEBTEDNESS OF THE TOWNSHIP AND FOR  
THE FURTHER PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND  
REPAIR OF THE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS OF THE  
TOWNSHIP, AND THE PURCHASE OF THE NECESSARY  
EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES THEREFORE

The second bond issue of the Township.



APRIL 1924            AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DUQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY TO FURNISH ELECTRIC LIGHT FOR THE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS OF THE TOWNSHIP.

Actually a renewal of a contract made in 1909, but the contract above an additional street lighting program. Original 1909 contract with United Electric Light Company still active. At the time of this contract, there were 111 street lights in service, costing approximately \$4500 annually. In 1924, the lamps were rated in either 250 candlepower or 100 candlepower.

OCTOBER 1927        DECLARING THE INTENTION AND DESIRE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS TO ACQUIRE, ENTER UPON OR TAKE CERTAIN PRIVATE PROPERTY FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The said ordinance is intended for the purchase of land, and a suitable building to be erected thereon for a Township house in which to hold elections, store road machinery, hold meetings of Township officers and for such other Township uses as the same may be required. The building erected on this land is known presently (1950) as the Powell Street Fire House, and houses the fire equipment of the Franklin or #2 Volunteer Fire company. More details of the Volunteer Fire Company in later chapters.

NOVEMBER 1927      SIGNIFYING THE DESIRE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO INCUR A BONDED INDEBTEDNESS OF \$30,500 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS TO PAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR A SUPPLY OF WATER FOR FIRE PROTECTION TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF SAID TOWNSHIP AND TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO ESTABLISH GRADES UPON CERTAIN STREETS OR HIGHWAYS IN THE TOWNSHIP AND DO THE WORK NECESSARY TO GRADE SUCH STREETS OR HIGHWAYS TO THE GRADES SO ESTABLISHED AND AS MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR A WATER SUPPLY.

Third bond issue of the Township and providing water supply to large majority of the residents of the Township.

MARCH 1929           EXPRESSING AND DECLARING THE DESIRE OF THE BOARD TO PURCHASE OR ACQUIRE CERTAIN REAL ESTATE IN SAID TOWNSHIP TO BE USED AS A PUBLIC STREET AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF ERECTING OR CONSTRUCTING A BUILDING THEREON.

For the construction of a street leading from Larimer Avenue extension to Railroad Street and for using the balance thereof or so much thereof as may be required, for the purpose of building and constructing upon the same a building to be used as a fire house for the storage of such other tools, equipment and apparatus of the Township as the Township may desire to store therein. A compilation of data on the fire company will be contained in a later chapter.

DECEMBER 1931 REGULATING AND RESTRICTING THE ERECTION, CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, REPAIR OR USE OF BUILDINGS: THE PERCENTAGE OF LOT THAT MAY BE OCCUPIED THEREOF: ECT., ETC., PROVIDING FOR A BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OVER.

Data on the Township Zoning and Planning Commission will be more fully covered in Chapter IX.

OCTOBER 1934 CREATING A COMMITTEE TO MEET WITH A LIKE COMMITTEE FROM THE BOROUGH OF CHURCHIL, TO DETERMINE AND ASCERTAIN THE PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE INDEBTEDNESS OF WILKINS TOWNSHIP THAT SHALL BE ASSUMED BY THE BOROUGH OF CHURCHILL.

Creation of the Borough of Churchill will be covered in Chapter XIII.

APRIL 1938 INCREASING THE BONDED INDEBTEDNESS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILKINS IN THE AMOUNT \$30,000, THE SOLE OF SUCH INCREASE TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYMENT OF OPERATING EXPENSES OF SAID TOWNSHIP.

Fourth bond issue of the Township.

MAY 1946 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DUQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY TO FURNISH ELECTRIC LIGHT FOR THE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS OF THE TOWNSHIP.

Light contract was left to expire in 1933, and this ordinance directs the installation of 95 lamps.

## CHAPTER V. SPECIAL POLICE

The First Class Township Law of 1899 empowered the Board of Commissioners to establish a night watch and police force. This power has been used sparingly by the Board of Commissioners over the period of the past fifty years. It must be remembered that a rural district cannot be patrolled efficiently unless a large number of police officers are available. Many of the police as recorded are dollar-a-month employees, while a few

have fared a few cents better. Most of the officers were on call only and did not have effective patrols. Constables were used to some advantage as police officers.

The following records were obtained from the service records of appointments, salaries, etc., but do not tend to denote with any great accuracy the special officers of Wilkins Township.

Milo M. Staymates, 1904, 1909, 1910, 1914, 1915, 1921  
Charles Maines, 1908, 1912, 1920  
Jacob Glunt, 1912, 1914, 1915  
George H. Welsch, 1921, 1914, 1915  
John J. Weber, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1935  
Patsy J. Varlotts, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1944  
Fred Harmuth, 1932, 1933, 1934  
John P. Vechter, 1937, 1938, 1939  
Joseph R. Urban, 1938, 1939  
Michael Cerjanic 1940 through 1950 inclusive  
Dominic Aiello, 1949, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1945, 1946, 1947  
Frank Granchai, 1944, 1945, 1946  
Paul Megelaye, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1949, 1950  
Rudolph Korpas, 1944, 1945, 1947  
Alex Russell, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1949, 1950  
Samuel A. Palorino, 1948, 1949, 1950  
Lawrence Aiello, 1949, 1950  
Robert Seath, 1949, 1950

In 1950 a police car was procured through the efforts of the present Police Department and effective patrol schedules are performed.

## CHAPTER VI. BOARD OF HEALTH

The first Board of Health of Wilkins Township was established in 1907 and comprised of Dr. McGreary, Thomas Fleming, Edward Beech, John Edwards and John Dobbie.

Following an Act of Legislature, the Board of Health was reorganized in 1914 and consisted of the following personnel: Dr. J.E. Riggs, Neil Thompson, S.A. Rath, Coleman Beavers and William Harper.

Changes in personnel became consistent with changes of Commissioner personnel resulting in the following members of the Board of Health:

James Kennedy, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911. Thomas Flemming, 1907, 1908. Edward Beech, 1907, 1908, 1909. John Edwards, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910. S.A. Rath, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914. Harry E. Adams, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913. Thomas B. Yengst, 1912. G.B. Jones, 1912, 1913. Dr. J.E. Riggs, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918.

C.C. Jackson, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918. George H. Welsch, 1912, 1913. Coleman Beavers, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919. Harvey L. Mease, 1920. Neil Thompson, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918. Thomas Boney, 1919, 1920. Elmer Gray, 1919, 1929, 1924. Dr. Lewin, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933. James Walker, 1924, 1925, 1936. Dr. Chas. Reber, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1941, 1942, 1947. John P. Vechter, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940. William Sanders, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935. Richard Seath, 1935, 1936, 1937. Alex Pieniadz, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941. Michael Milewski, Jr., 1937, 1941. Dominic J. Aiello, 1938, 1939, 1940. E. O. Kerr, 1942, 1947, 1948, 1949. Alex Russell, 1949. Dr. W.A. Bauer, 1948, 1949.

Health Officers – Taylor Martin, 1908, 1909. Ezekiel Gray, 1910, 1911, 1912. T.C. Jones, 1913. Frank Lewis, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1923, 1924. H.C. Chilcoth, 1919. A.F. Hunter, 1919. Morgan E. Davis, 1920, 1921, 1922. Frank Prehoda, 1924, 1925, 1926. John Weber, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936. Rudolf E. Chatlos, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947. Robert Smith, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947. James F. Giles, 1948, Julius Cybulko, 1949.

Severe small pox epidemics occurred in the community in 1903, 1905, 1917 and 1918.

## CHAPTER VII – AUDITORS

D. Crawford, 1903. J. Black, 1903. M.C. McIntosh, 1903, 1907, 1919, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1929. O.C. Rath, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1908, 1910. F.C. Long, 1910, 1912, 1913. R.L. Crawford, 1910 to 1915, inclusive. S.A. Rath, 1914, 1915, 1917 to 1925 inclusive. George H. Welsch, 1922 to 1925 inclusive. B.H. Goodwin, 1926 to 1929 inclusive. C.E. Rhodes, 1930 to 1933 inclusive. James J. Watt, 1930 to 1947 inclusive. D.F. Brean, 1930 to 1933, inclusive. R.L. Kirkpatrick, 1932, 1933, 1934. Joseph A. Tomasic, 1933 to 1939, inclusive. Thomas J. Kirkpatrick, 1935 to 1942 inclusive. Joseph E. Kelly, 1940 to 1943 inclusive. James Wilson, 1944 to 1949, inclusive. M. Joseph Martinelli, 1946 to 1950, inclusive. Mary Aglietti, 1948, 1949, 1950. John Pugliano, 1950.

## CHAPTER VIII – RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Prior to 1900, the major plans of lots of record in Wilkins Township were the New York and Cleveland Gas Coal Company Lots, A, B, C, D and E. Known as Sections, and the Duquesne Coal Company Plan of Lots and the McMaster Plan of Lots.

Additional developments occurred in the following acceptances of plans of lots by the Board of Commissioners:

Trevaskis – Rose Hill Plan in 1901  
Trevaskis – Belvedere Plan in 1906  
Ostien Plan in 1906

Ardmore Boulevard Plan in 1910  
East Pittsburgh Addition in 1912  
Brown Plan in 1913  
Bryn Mawr Plan No. 1 in 1915  
Dr. Hager revised Plan of Samuel A. Brown in 1915  
Lane Plan in 1916  
Ayers Plan in 1916  
Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Plan in 1919  
Revised Plan of Interborough Improvement Company, a part of Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Plan in 1924  
George Dowling Plan in 1928  
Ayers Plan in 1929  
Ridgeway Plan in 1925  
Hill Crest Plan in 1929  
Rose Manor Plan in 1929  
Bishoff Plan in 1937  
Rock Glen Plan in 1936  
Gilmore Acres Plan in 1947  
Churchill Estates Plan in 1948  
Ostein Heights Plan in 1948

Trends in valuation of real estate in the township were as follows:

1917: \$1,795,300	1912: \$1,977,680
1934: \$1,861,013	1941: \$2,030,418
1950: \$3,515,352	

Present day members of the Board of Managers include:

President Clarke E. Fry  
Secretary-Treasurer George H. Welsch  
W.H. Kuhns  
Merle Jones  
James G. Harrison  
Albert W. Hosbach  
David Beveridge, Sr.

Present members of the Board of Corporators are

President W.H. Kuhns  
Secretary Merle E. Jones  
G.B. Jones  
C.C. Kent  
Cash K. Patterson

CHAPTER IX – PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

As authorized by the Wilkins Township Zoning Ordinance in 1932, a Board of Adjustment was established. The first Board comprised H.F. MacLane as Chairman, James W. Barker as Secretary, and Chas. Brandfass and George H. Welsch as members.

The first Zoning and Planning Commission was organized in 1942 with Roger W. Warren as Chairman, George H. Welsch as Vice-Chairman, William Harper as Secretary and members Philip A. Froyd and Angelo Nese.

Members of succeeding Boards were as follows:

Roger W. Warren, 1942, 1943, 1944  
Geo. H. Welsh, 1942 to 1947, inclusive  
Angelo Nese, 1942 to 1948, inclusive  
Philip A. Froyd, 1942 to 1945, inclusive  
William Harper, 1942, 1943, 1944  
Louis Kram, 1946, 1947, 1948  
Earl R. Piper, 1946, 1947, 1948  
Frank Stanley, 1946, 1947, 1948  
Harold W. Gray, 1947, 1948  
Richard B. Rose, 1948  
M. Joseph Martinelli, 1948, 1949  
Joseph H. Wagner, Jr., 1948, 1949, 1950  
Walter Short, 1949, 1950  
Russell V. Simeral, 1949, 1950  
George T. Leslie, 1950  
Edward Branzel, 1950

Building Inspectors:

W.R. Shafer, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936  
Robert Smith, 1936 to 1949, inclusive  
John A. Bodner, 1949 to 1950

## CHAPTER X – VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY #1

Wilkins Township Fire Company No. 1 was first organized in 1915 in Frank Muir's basement with the following officers elected at the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of that year. President – Frank S. Muir, Vice-President – William A. Rath, Second Vice-President—James N. Dobbie, Secretary – John M. Allen, Ass't Secretary –G. Clyde Glunt, Treasurer – Alex Cunningham, Jr., Chief – Dan Walker, First Assistant Chief – Frank Lewis, Second Assistant Chief –E. C. Mower, Jr., Captain – J.C. Glunt, with Michael Niehl appointed Captain in August, 1915. Trustees – Theodore Mower, John Harper and N.H. Coxon.

In 1921, this Fire Company was reorganized with the following officers elected: President Alex Cunningham, First Vice President Joseph Yost, Second Vice President John Weber, Secretary Morgan E. Davis, Assistant Secretary William Wilson, Treasurer Theodore Niehl, Chief Michael Niehl, First Assistant Chief John Niehl, Second Assistant Chief George S. Wilson, Captain Allan Wilson, Trustees: David Beveridge, Frank Lewis, Allan Wilson and Harold Gray.

Members of the original fire company included the officers as mentioned and the following: Earl Cunningham, Ray Taylor, George Muir, Samuel Gray, Thomas Ireland, George Harrison, Andrew Gray, Fred Knoerr, Elmer Knoer, Michael Niehl, Reuben Dobbie, W.H. Bush, Norman Ireland, Nicholas Niehl, Morgan Davis, John Weber, Ben Williams, R.C. Harrison, James Dobbie, John Niehl and Bert Lawton.

Members of the reorganization of 1921 included the following: Allan C. Wilson, Harold Gray, Clarence McINTyre, G.F. Lewis, Frank O'Brien, John Staderman, J. Harper, Theodore Niehl, D. Beveridge, Joseph Hezlep, George Brown, Walter Foulks, Alfred Sadler, John F. McCarthy, M. Niehl, John Emanuel, Jr., George Damico, R.L. House, E.H. Ackard and J. Niehl.

In 1922 the Volunteer Fire Company was known as the #2 Company and the same year the first hose cart was purchased and put into service. In 1924 a Howe Fire Truck was purchased. 1929 was the erection of a permanent building for the housing of equipment and a meeting place. In 1940, a Ward LaFrance truck was purchased and is at the present time the standard fire fighting apparatus of this company. The company has during the years returned to the title of the No. 1 Fire Company.

Long service officers of this company include: David Beveridge with twenty-one years of service as trustee; Jacob Weber with eleven years and including seven years as secretary; Harold Gray with twenty-three years as treasurer; Joseph Yost, Sr., with thirteen years of varied offices; and John Weber with seven years. William Wilson at ten years, Michael Niehl at eight years, John Niehl with twenty years mostly as trustee, Mathew Niehl with eight years, Albert Niehl with seven years, Ed Beveridge with thirteen years, J.P. Sholder with nine years, William Emanuel with twelve years, Jacob Niehl with thirteen years, David Beveridge, Jr., with ten years and Thomas J. Kirkpatrick with six years.

## FRANKLIN FIRE COMPANY

The Franklin Volunteer Fire Company was organized on October 23, 1922 in Schoellers' Chicken Coop with the following officers being elected to the "Bucket Brigade:" President H.F. Schoeller, Vice President C.W.D. Johnston, Secretary C.H. Wessel, Treasurer W.R. Shafer, Chief J.P. O'Brien, First Assistant Chief W.R. Shafer, Second Assistant Chief James J. Watt, Trustee J.P. O'Brien, Trustee W.R. Shafer, Trustee H.L. Mease, Trustee C.E. Brandfass, Trustee W.H. Coburn, and Trustee H.F. Schoeller. The original membership included the following: R.A Scully, J.S. Houck, E. Everett Apt, E. Shumar, S. Hilos, Fred Harmuch, C.E. Rhodes, Jos. Chinick, Thomas

Williams, Peter Plantis, Wm. P. DeLaney, Anton Huber, Clifford Thompson, Peter Hubert, S.M. Wessell, Al Osborne and Alex Gray.

In 1925, a 1917 Ford auto-truck was converted into a combination squad car—fire truck, and in 1926 a Hose Cart-Chemical Truck was purchased from the American LaFrance Company. This was a hand-drawn affair. At the present time a Peter-Pirsch Fire Truck of the latest design is operated by this company. It was purchased in 1941. Although the records are somewhat obscure, it was found that the original emergency phone number for fire call was in the home of J.J. Watt. At the present time, the emergency phone for fire calls in this district is still in the home of J.J. Watt.

## CHAPTER XI –POLITICS

A partial insight of the Township political trend is afforded in the following results of Presidential election records in the past thirty years.

1920	Republican	Democrat	Socialist	Labor
#1 District	98	38	91	3
#2 District	42	25	9	2
#3 District	23	11	31	
1932	Republican	Democrat	Socialist	Communist
#1 District	160	270	39	16
#2 District	37	33	5	
#3 District	69	184	40	19
1940	Republican	Democrat	Socialist	Communist
#1 District	264	614	1	2
#3 District	191	414		6

Presidential candidates:

1920—Republican – Harding & Coolidge, Democrat Cox & Roosevelt, Socialist – Debs & Stedman

1932—Republican – Hoover & Curtis, Democrat – Roosevelt & Garner, Socialist – Thomas & Maurer, Communist – Foster & Ford

1940—Republican – Wilkie & McNary, Democrat – Roosevelt & Wallace, Socialist – Thomas, Communist – Browder.

## CHAPTER XII – ROAD CONSTRUCTION AIDS



With the advent of the Federal agencies such as the RWD, FCWA, PWA, WPA, etc., the township received substantial financial aid in the construction of many helpful projects.

With a grant of \$5,200 as County Aid, a retaining wall and grading of Dorothy Street for approximately 300 feet was completed. In 1934, approximately one mile of Cline Street was drained, graded and resurfaced. During 1936, a survey of the questionable township boundary lines was undertaken by the WPA, but almost at completion of the survey, the lines were found to have been surveyed from the wrong monuments outside of the Township. This required another survey in July of 1938 and although the survey was completed in March of 1939, there still exists indefinite boundary lines. Wallace Avenue was graded, stone guttered, and surfaced for a distance of 2,000 feet in May of 1937, and at the same time the completion was announced of 3,825 feet of grading, surfacing and stone guttering of Harrison Road and included 500 feet of cribbing and 300 feet of culvert.

In 1937 the quarrying of stone on the Harrison properties and the Trevaskis properties became a heavy WPA project for stone for many projects around this district. In July of 1937, Alpine Boulevard was resurfaced as was the WPA grading of George Street. Powell Street was completed in 1938. August of 1939 found the completion of the storm sewer between the municipalities of Chalfant Borough, North Braddock Borough and Wilkins Township. This was a three-party county aid project. Two inches of bituminous coating on Highland Avenue roadway from Churchill Road to Clugston Avenue was reported completed in 1939. During the same year, a bituminous coating was applied on Negley Avenue from Highland Avenue to Rebecca Street.

With the joint aid of the WPA and the County, a distance of 634 feet was surfaced and completed in November of 1942 of McMasters Avenue from the Turtle Creek Borough line to Larimer Avenue.

Under the WPA, other streets and roads were graded, surfaced, guttered, etc., but the records of these agencies are somewhat removed from research, and many definite distances and dates are not obtainable.

Including the quarrying of stone for the entire district, it is estimated that the Federal government spent in the neighborhood of one million dollars in the construction of road projects in Wilkins Township. The estimate is based on the available statistics as found in proposals, estimates, and some outright grants as recorded within Township records.

## CHAPTER XIII – LOSS OF TERRITORY

At the time of the incorporation of the Township of Wilkins from Pitt Township in 1821, the land area affected measured approximately 22,000 acres, or about 34.2 square miles. Incorporation of new townships in 1890 including Braddock, Penn, Sterret

and annexations by Wilkinsburg Borough, Turtle Creek, Borough in 1892 and 1898 reduced the area to about eight square miles in 1900.

The Borough of Wilkinsburg annexed additional Wilkins Township territory on December 4, 1904.

Turtle Creek Borough also annexed additional Township land on October 25, 1910.

A petition for the erection of the Borough of Chalfant from a part of Wilkins Township was filed in Court of Quarter Sessions on August 21, 1914, and on August 24, this petition was withdrawn. Another petition for the erection of this Borough was filed in the Court of Quarter Sessions on November 4, 1914 and the subject Borough was erected on December 12, 1914. The entire Borough of 89 acres was erected from Wilkins Township.

The Borough of Wilkinsburg made an additional annexation from Wilkins Township on September 30, 1915.

A petition to incorporate a tract of land situated partly in the Township of Wilkins and partly in the Township of Braddock, being traversed by the Ardmore Boulevard and known by the general term of Ardmore was presented to the Court of quarter Sessions. A tract embracing the plans of Bryn Mawr, Edgewood Acres, Ardmore No. 1, Rockwood and territory adjoining and adjacent was incorporated as Forest Hills Borough on July 3, 1918 and consisted of 979 acres.

1,446 acres of territory was lost in the incorporation of Churchill Borough in 1933. This tract was entirely situated in the Township.

In conclusion, the resulting territory in 1950 is 2.57 square miles, or approximately 1,650 acres whereas the original tract in the incorporation of Wilkins in 1821 was 22,000 acres. About ninety-two and a half percent of the original territory has been lost.

#### CHAPTER XIV. OLDEST BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT

Incorporated November 5, 1881 under the title of the Church Hill Cemetery and managed at that time by a Board of Managers comprising the following personnel:

President T.C. Robinson of Patton Township  
Secretary C.R. Church of Wilkins Township  
Treasurer Jos. S. Johnston of Wilkins Township  
Thomas McKee of Wilkins Township  
James M. Paterson of Wilkins Township  
John McIntosh of Patton Township  
Joseph B. Hezlep of Patton Township

A Board of Corporators in conjunction with the workings of the Board of Managers consisted of the following:

William C. Hill of Wilkins Township  
William McIntosh of Wilkins Township  
James Gilmore of Wilkins Township

The Church Hill Cemetery was incorporated under the Non-Profit Laws of 1874 and still remains at the present time a non-profit organization. No member of the Boards receive compensation.

Early rules of the Cemetery were:

“NO VEHICLE IS TO BE DRIVEN AT A GAIT FASTER THAN A WALK”  
“NO SMOKING IN THE CEMETERY AREA”  
“NO VEHICLE SHALL BELEFT WITHOUT A KEEPER”

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## UNTITLED HISTORY

Some of the early families that came prior to 1790 and homesteaded for a period of at least fifty years on a portion of the original tract will be listed. Not all of the early patents were actually homesteaded.

Many of the homesteaders cultivated and cleared tracts, but perhaps ten or twenty years were required to properly buy the land.

In the majority, members of these families took a very active part in the administration of local and school government, as well as serving their church. A review, will find that they also took an interest in the security of their land and family.

Northern portion of the early township: Families of Abraham Bush\*, John Duff\*(a), sons James (a), William (a), John\*, Alexander (a) and sons (John, James, David, William, Robert and Thomas); Samuel Ferguson\* and sons, Enoch, Isaac and James; Rev. James Graham\* (a) and sons Robert (a) and James; Chris Hershey\*, sons John and Chris; Jacob Hershey\*; Charles Johnson\* (a) and sons John, James, William and Andrew; John Johnson (a) and son James\* (a); Andrew Johnson\*(a); William Johnson\*(a); Alexander Kennedy\*; David Kerr; Alexander McCune\*; Alexander McGregor, son James\* (a); Levi McIntire; William McNall; Henry Morrow\* (a) sons John, James\*, Henry (a) and Hugh; Thomas Sampson\* and sons John, James, William\*, Thomas, David\*, and Alexander: Chris Snively and sons Henry and Emanuel; Frederick Stoner and sons Chris, John, David, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph and Frederick; Mrs. Stottler and sons, Emanuel\*, Henry\*, Jacob and grandsons, Jacob, Henry B., David, Emanuel and Andrew; Francis Wilson (a); John Wilson\*; Samuel Wilson\*, Thomas Wilson\* and sons, George, Francis and James\*; William Wilson\* and Samuel Yourd(a).

Legend: \* indicates a signer of the petition to erect Wilkins Township from Pitt Township. (a) Buried at Beulah Church grave yard.

Playing the most important role in the early life of Western Pennsylvania was transportation.

The terrain from the east was not easy, but a system of early paths by the Indians, greatly aided the migration to the west.

The Indian nomadic trend was moving, and the general term of both the early settlers and fur traders, “dry-moccasin” proved a great asset to the early travelers. Generally they avoided the marsh lands, and held to the high ridges – to avoid flanking by their enemies. This crest travel on the hills provided the view for game, settlements, and hidden dangers.

The paths that were most prominent and popular in the erection of the lands in and around the confluence of the Allegheny, Monongehela and Ohio Rivers was the early Raystown Trace, later known as the path to Fort Bedford.

This path had two variants which separated near Bullocks Penns. The northern fork heading slightly north-east, while the southern fork was headed slightly south-east. The southern variant traversed through the settlement of Turtle Creek and then headed toward Bushy Run.

These two forks were turned into roads when General John Forbes and Colonel Henry Boquet widened them for their military conveyances on their way to drive the French from Fort Duquesne, in 1758.

In Forbes memoirs he writes “Desiring to avoid possible ambush in the defiles of Turtle Creek (stream) thru which the southern path ran, we used a new road widened by our military engineers.”

Earlier in our writings we noted some of the writings and descriptions of these roads by traders, adventurers and military ambassadors.

Eventually the pack horse, Conestoga wagon, stage coach, etc., developed the settlement en route. The prospective tiller of the soil was quick to homestead a plot of land, near these pioneer trails and settlements. About this time, roads were being built for convenience rather than security.

From the Act of Assembly of the Commonwealth of Penna. In 1803 we note: “An act to improve the state road from Turtle Creek to Pittsburgh, or from the house occupied by Joseph Springer to Pittsburgh. \$1,000 approximately.

During 1805-06 a regular line of primitive stages operated over the state road from Pittsburgh, by way of Greensburg, Somerset and Chambersburg.

In 1807 stock certificates were being sold in the formation of the Pittsburgh and Greensburg Turnpike Road Company. This was the southern variant of the original Raystown Trace.

Financial problems plagued this company, and in 1811 the stock certificates were extended for three years. Construction was completed to Pittsburgh on February 28, 1816, and the cost to that date for the construction was \$145,018.

Mileages from Pittsburgh to Turtle Creek was listed as twelve miles, and an additional twenty miles to Greensburg. To Fort Ligonier was an additional nineteen miles, but was not a part of the Pittsburgh and Greensburg Turnpike Road Co.

In 1818 proposals for the erection of toll gates for the Pittsburgh and Greensburg Turnpike were received at a meeting at Mrs. Adams on Turtle Creek Hill. The toll gates to be placed near Robert Stewart's Tavern and at Thomas Neel's Tavern.

The following advertisements appeared in the Feb. 5, 1819 issue of the Pittsburgh Mercury—"Proposals for maintaining the Pittsburgh & Greensburg Turnpike Road from Thomas Chalfant at Turtle Creek to Pittsburgh and James Irwin on Turtle Creek to Greensburg—use limestone.

A petition was received by the House of Representative, dated December 11, 1819, for additional appropriations in aid of the payment of debts of the Pittsburgh-Greensburg Turnpike Road Company.

Report published in 1821 for this road company: From commencement of the corporation to December 31, 1820.

Received from the Commonwealth 1,600 share of stock	\$80,000
Received from 45 road shares for two mile lane	268
Received from 1,295 subscribers, paid by individuals	61,925
Received from W. Friedl, late Treasurer	36,652
Received from present treasurer, 1819 toll	8,519
Received from present treasurer, 1820 toll	8,234

Received approximately \$250,000

Paid contractor for making road	\$145,018
Paid for building gate houses	2,500
Paid salaries of gate keepers (1816-17-18)	2,208
Paid contractor for road repairs	27,881
Paid for additional gate houses	101

The toll gates were three-four miles apart and the managers hired gate keepers or tended the gates themselves. The managers were generally owners of land over which the road was laid.

Stockholders never received dividends from this company.

The early officers of this company were elected yearly, and the earliest officers were listed in the Pittsburgh newspapers.

President William Wilkins, Managers William Cavan, Thomas Chalfant, James Hartofrd, William Hindsman and Robert Stewart served from 1819 through 1825; Samuel Fleming and William McCullough (1820-1825); Simon Drum, Jr. and Treasurer James Fleming (1819-1823); with the following serving short terms—William B. Foster (1819), William Hamilton (1819-20), James Irwin (1819 & 1823); Dunning McNair (1819), Tobias Painter (1819-20), David Shileds (1819-23-24-25); Eli Coulter (1820), James Adams & Thomas Neal (1823), John Young, J.I. Scull, H. Fullerton and Boyle Irwin, with Treasurer Joseph Irwin in 1825.

The north fork of the Raystown Trace was opened as a road in 1819 and a law authorized the Northern Turnpike from the east to Pittsburgh. The road was known as the Pittsburgh-New Alexandria Turnpike, and it also was a toll road, with financial difficulties.

The stage which used this roadway had the following time table:

Leaves Harrisburg – Tuesday at 12 o'clock  
Arrives Clarks Ferry – Tuesday night  
Arrives Lewistown – Wednesday night  
Arrives Blair's Gap – Thursday night  
Arrives Huntingdon – Friday night  
Arrives Armagh – Saturday night  
Arrives New Salem – Sunday night  
Arrives Mrs. Morrow's – Monday morning – noon

Fare was \$14 for trip or 7 cents per mile each way, per passenger, with fourteen pounds of baggage.

Distances were listed as: Pittsburgh to the Brick Tavern – 18 miles, and from the Tavern to New Alexandria – 14 miles, to Armagh 22 miles, etc.

Mrs. Morrow's boarding house on a five mile section of the turnpike was offered for sale in 1819.

The Legislature was requested that additional shares of stock be subscribed under date of January 4, 1820.

The shareholders in this road company were notified to pay their installment of \$2.50 per share under a legal ad dated July 24, 1820.

Some of the early officers of this, Pittsburgh-New Alexandria Turnpike Road Company were: President Jeremiah Murry (1819 through 1824), Managers Charles Johnston (1819 through 1824), Treasurer John A. Gilchrist (1819 through 1824), Hugh Bingham (1819) Jacob Haymaker (1819-20), James Kelly (1819-20), James Murry (1819-20), William McCrea (1819-20), Thomas McCrea, Jr., (1819-20), James McKibben (1819-20), Dunning McNair (1819), William Noland (1819), Robert Rounney (1819-20), Walter Forward (1820), William Newton (1820), John Cratty (1820), Thomas Wilson (1820), Robert Carothers (1820), Dr. Benjamin Burrell (1824), Joseph Miller (1824), Samuel Black (1824), and William Guthrie (1824).

In 1850 the Pittsburgh and Braddock Plank Road was laid out and was completed in 1851 with the terminus near the new railroad stone arch at Brinton.

With the opening of the Pennsylvania Railroad for traffic from Pittsburgh to the Brinton Station on December 10, 1851, the traffic, especially of heavy freight, found a new era in hauling. The toll roads, suffering financial losses as it was, met a new monster.

When the railroad completed the gap which had existed between Brinton and Latrobe, on November 29, 1852, this removed the hauling from the Turtle Creek scene. Of course, many of the skilled craftsmen removed from the area.

The railroads did create new centers of activities but it took a while for the development of new crafts in the older settlements.

We shall return to earlier times, and review some of the early settlers and homesteaders of the eastern end of Allegheny County, of which portion, the township of Wilkins was erected.

Payroll for a volunteer corps of scouts employed on the frontiers of Allegheny County, June 27, 1792 to July 5, 1792.

Captain Peter Perchment, Sergeant George Brown, Privates – William Brown, William Eliot, Thomas Rose, Frank Drean, James Wilson, Leven Bennett, John Carnahan, John McKnoll, Jacob Burkhardt, John Burkhardt, Mallicky Burkhardt, Alexander Lin, Peter Wilson and William Clenning.

Received payment during 1794, '95, '96, '97.

A partial return of the commissions of the officers of Battalions of Militia – in the County of Allegheny, May 1, 1792.

Fourth Battalion – 1<sup>st</sup> Company – Captain James Sample, Lt. James Robinson, and Ensign Samuel Murphy.

2<sup>nd</sup> Company – Captain Thomas Grier, Lt. David Euston, and Ensign Edward Middleton. 3<sup>rd</sup> Company – Captain Jacob Haymaker, Lt. Thomas Carroll, and Ensign Thomas Wilson.

4<sup>th</sup> Company – Captain, Hugh Ross, Lt. Andrew McINTire, Ens. Stephen Cisna. 5<sup>th</sup> Company – Captain Edward Smith, Lt. Stewart Heany and Ens. John Wise.

6<sup>th</sup> Company – Captain John McMasters, Lt. Mark Dreary, and Ens. John Patterson. 7<sup>th</sup> Company – Captain Nathaniel Points, Lt. George MCDowell, and Ens. Robert Cunningham. 8<sup>th</sup> Company – Captain Abdiel McClure, Lt. David Irwin and Ens. John Pantoney.

Second Regiment – 1<sup>st</sup> Company – Captain Josiah Tannehill, Lt. John Johnston, Ens. Alexander Shaw. 2<sup>nd</sup> Company – Captain Alexander McNickle, Lt. William Wolf, and Ens. Ebenezer Finnemore. 3<sup>rd</sup> Company – Captain David McNair, Lt. Andrew McClure, Ens. George Rolleter.

4<sup>th</sup> Company – Captain Robert Anderson, Lt. Barrabas Highland and Ens. John Wise. 5<sup>th</sup> Company – Captain Peter Perchment, Lt. James Lesly and Ens. Samuel Puntney.

6<sup>th</sup> Company – Captain Robert Cunningham, Lt. Thomas McMullen, and Ens. James McElroy. 7<sup>th</sup> Company – Captain John Patterson, Lt. William McMullen, and Ens. John McGonnigle. 8<sup>th</sup> Company – Captain Alexander Logan, Lt. Benjamin Ppor and Ens. James Poor.

Election Results – August 19, 1793. Allegheny County Militia.

Second Regiment: Lt. Colonel (Commandant) Dunning McNair, Major 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion – Andrew McINTire, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion – James Sample, Regimental staff – Adjutant – William McMullen, Quartermaster – William Ellicott, Jr., Paymaster – Abdiel McClure, Surgeon – Nathaniel Bedford, Surgeons Mater – Peter Mowry.

September 1818 the following note appeared in the Pittsburgh Statesman - Election – Citizens comprising the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of 61<sup>st</sup> Reigment. Election to be held at house of T. Caffin (Chalfant) innkeeper at Turtle Creek, on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> of October, to ballot for major in room (place) of J. Sill, Esq. Resigned.

Form for hiring substitute for militia service.

“These present certify that Christopher Crawford, Esq., sub Lieut. Of the County of Lancaster, hath provided, hired and procured Jacob Miller of the same county, yeoman, to serve as a substitute in the 1<sup>st</sup> class of militia, of Lancaster County, in the



commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for and in the place of Levi Andrew Levi of the borough of Lancaster, in the county aforesaid, for which service the said Jacob Miller is to have and receive the sum of forty pounds, lawful money of Pennsylvania. And the said Jacob Miller doth hereby acknowledge and declare, that he hath entered as a substitute for the said Levi Andrew Levi in the 1<sup>st</sup> class of the militia aforesaid, and will well and faithfully serve and perform his duty as a soldier therein, agreeable to the laws of the said commonwealth, and subject to the rules and regulations of the said commonwealth in such cases made and provided. And that hath received from the said Christopher Crawford, Esquire, the sum of ten pounds in part of the said Levi Andrew Levi.

In witness whereof as well the said sub-lieut., as the said Jacob Miller have hereto set their hands, the 22 day of September 1777. Christopher Meyers, Lt. John DeHuff signature mutilated.

The above subject Levi Andrew Levi held the first patent on the plot of land which eventually became the settlement of McNairstown (Wilkinsburg).

Muster roll of militia of Allegheny County called out as Rangers for the protection of the Frontiers under command of Captain Nathaniel Points.

Capt. Nathaniel Points, May 17, 1791 to June 11, ,1791 and May 20 1792 to June 22, 1792; Ensign Robert Cunningham, May 7, 1791 to June 1, 1791; Sgt. Thomas McMillan, May 17, 1791 to June 11, 1791 and May 20, 1792 to June 22, 1792; Privates – James McJunkins and William Maxwell, May 17, 1791 to May 23, 1791; Stephen Hall, May 17, 1791 to May 23, 1791 and June 3, 1791 to June 11, 1791; James McElroy, May 17, 1791 to June 2, 1791; Thomas McKee and John Clugston, May 24, 1791 to June 2, 1791; Andrew Turk, May 20, 1792 to June 22, 1792; William Carothers, June 3, 1791 to June 11, 1791; John Ockiltree, William Powell , James Henry, Stephen Porter, George Lessly, and James McWilliams, May 20, 1792 to June 22, 1792; Sgt. John Armstrong, Privates James Armstrong and John Dunbare, May 22, 1791 to June 1, 1791.

Received payment during 1795-96-97.

Payroll for a volunteer corps of scouts employed on the frontiers of Allegheny County, State of Pa. Rendered at a time of apparent danger. June 25, 1792 to July 2, 1792.

Capt. Thomas Sampson, Lieut. George McDowell(b), Ensign Robert Cunningham, Sgt. Andrew McClintock(b), Privates James Beaker (b), William Bonner, John Clugston (b), David Kerr (b), James McElroy, John Dumbare, John Rice, William Powell, George Ryan (b), John Scott, Daniel Thorn (b), and John Turk (b).

(b) No signature for receipt of payment

1793 – April 18. The Governor this day, appointed John Wilkins, Jr., Esquire, a brigadier general of the Brigade composed of the Militia of the County of Allegheny, and

being commissioned accordingly for 7 years agreeable to the late act of assembly. He was informed of his appointment.

Frontier scouts or militia at this time was a home guard outfit and were chiefly called at the time of apparent danger by Indians and their attacks on homes and settlements.

The July 1788 return of commissioned officers of the Pittsburgh Battalion of Militia in Westmoreland County (Allegheny County erected September 24, 1788) commanded by Lt. Colo. Adamson Tannehill.

Captains: John Irwin, Jeremiah Murry, Thomas Sampson (a), Nathaniel Points (a), James Morrision, William Tilton, Abdiel McClure (a) and David Watson.

Major: Samuel Ewalt.

Lieuts: James Todd, George McDowell, Richard Cunningham, James Kern, John Craig, David Irwin, William Dunning and John Scull.

Ensigns: Acquilla Putney, James McWilliams, Oliver Ormsby, William J. Miller (a), George Cochran, John Thompson, James Wray and William Earles. (a) local residents.

The payroll for volunteer corps of scouts employed on the frontiers of Allegheny County, State of Pennsylvania, for a period of ten days, March 25 to April 3, 1791.

Captain Thomas Sampson, Lieutenant John Thompson, Ensign William Powell, Sergeants William O'Dermit and William Nellis, Privates John Butler, James Amberson, John Bonner, Jacob Burkhardt, James Davidson, John Dunlap, James Alexander, Jacob Foreman (b), Charles Hamel, Thomas Hamilton (b), James Henry, John Lyon, William McCrea, Daniel McMunn, James Myers, William KcKee, Ezekiel McGinnis (b), John and Peter Shaw, Thomas Thomson, James Thompson, John White (b), Alexander Dempster, David McMunn, Eli Powell and John Powell. (b) no signature

Received payment September 1795.

At first census of the United States taken in 1790 for the Township of Pitt, Allegheny County, the register indicates George Wallace as the head of the household with five males under 16 years of age, three females, and one slave.

In the January 4, 1823 issue of the Pittsburgh Gazette, the following advertisement appears. "George Wallace, living on Braddocksfield, near Pittsburgh, offers \$20 reward for the return of 'Jefferson.'"

General John Gibson, father-in-law of George Wallace, and who retired to Braddocksfeld, was very prominent in both the military and political fields.

At 18 he was with the Forbes expedition to Fort Duquesne (1758) and served as a colonel in the 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment. He was a Justice of the Peace as early as 1775, and commanded the Western Department of the Army in 1780. He attained the ran of Brigadier General, September 30, 1783.

He was appointed as one of the first trustees, with his son-in-law, George Wallace to the Pittsburgh Academy at its establishment in 1781. The Academy became the Western University of Pennsylvania, and later the University of Pittsburgh. In 1787 he and George Wallace became trustees of the Presbyterian Church.

Gibson was appointed a judge of the Allegheny County courts in 1791, and served a short time as administrator of the Territory of Indiana after its admission as a state in 1800.

He died at Braddocksfeld, April 22, 1822, age 82, at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, George Wallace. He was buried in Allegheny Cemetery.

This completes a brief resume of the villages prior to the erection of Wilkins Township.

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1821

During the latter part of this memorable year a new township was created and two of the pioneer settlement developers learned of their personal financial crisis.

The national panic following the War of 1812 was being held accountable for the bankruptcy of many businesses, but even during the 1819-20 session of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, a committee was formed to study the "Distress of the Times." (Dec. 17, 1819).

Coal was becoming of interest in the district as noted in some of the deeds of record which included a clause termed as "coal pits."

With the addition of Wilkins, the County of Allegheny has now 16 municipalities instead of the original seven as formed in 1789. The new townships are Fayette, Robinson, Ohio, Ross, Pine, Indiana and Wilkins, and the City of Pittsburgh. This is in addition to the original Townships of Pitt, Plum (b), Versailles, Elizabeth, Mifflin, St. Clair and Moon.

1822

The electors of the township met in the house occupied by Francis Wilson on Frankstown Road to elect the governing officers. The meeting place was decreed as of Jan. 31, on a petition to the Penna. House of Representatives, and it is to be noted that this house remained the voting place for over 20 years.

No record has been found of the first elected officials of the new township. It does reveal that Pitt and Wilkins Township were in the same district for the administration of the minor judiciary – the justice of peace was appointed by the Governor for the district.

June – The Bank of Pittsburgh, foreclosing on a mortgage on a 230 acre tract of land, “Frazier’s Field,” is offering it for sheriff sale. It contained 80 acres of cleared land, two frame houses and other buildings. Judge George Wallace of Braddockfield is in debt.

June – A marshal’s sale on suit of William Griffith and John B. Wallace of a tract of 856 acres is being offered, at the tavern of William Steele, in Wilkinsburg, Saturday, June 15. This is the major part of the residential estate holdings of Colonel Dunning McNair of Wilkinsburg.

The site of the tract can be more specifically cited as being situated on Nine Mile Run, seven miles from Pittsburgh, and where the village of Wilkinsburg stands. The adjoining lands belong to William Elliot and A. McClure and others. This tract was sold to William Griffith on October 19, 1824.

1823

The first appointed tax collector of the new township was Dougal McFarland. The appointments were annually. The constable listed for the community was Samuel St. John, which meant that this official may have served more than one township.

The House of Representatives of the State was kept quite active during this financial stress period with a number of petitions for aid. March 18, a petition was heard for financial aid for the Turnpike Road on the northern route from Pittsburgh to New Alexandria. A year later, March 29, the Governor was to take action on the Pittsburgh to New Alexandria Road.

The House also sent to committee for study, Bill 212, which was an Act to incorporate a company to erect a railroad from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh.

June 26. George Wallace was approved and commissioned by Governor Joseph Heister to be the justice of the peace for District #2, which was for the Township of Pitt and included Wilkins in the County of Allegheny.

Dec. 15. William Arthurs was appointed justice of the peace for the Twp. of Wilkins and Pitt. Commissioned by Governor Heister.

1824

An additional foreclosure by sheriff sale on a 369 acre tract of land on suit of James Ross, former owner. This is another of the holdings of Dunning McNair, of Wilkinsburg.

The annual appointment of tax collectors reveals the name of Charles Johnston for the year, Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

Feb. 26. Arthur F. Gore is commissioned by Governor John Andrew Schulze as a justice of the peace for the district comprising Pitt and Wilkins Townships.

1825

May 29, Marquis de Lafayette, 67, on his historic visit to America is a house guest at the Wallace Mansion at Braddockfield. He was enroute to Pittsburgh.

Colonel Dunning McNair, founder of Wilkinsburg dies at his Dumpling Hall residence in November.

Persons having claims against the estate of Dunning McNair, late of Wilkinsburg were advised to make their claims known to the administrators, Dunning R. McNair and Samuel H. Scott.

The Edgeworth Seminary, the first ladies boarding school west of the Allegheny Mountains, was organized by Mrs. Mary Gould Oliver.

1826

The Edgeworth Female Seminary, leased the converted Wallace Mansion at Braddockfield, and stayed at that location for twelve years. The first principal, Miss Marie Smith married William Brown, a local coal operator.

Coal digging has become one of the chief occupations in the township.

April – The tract of 856 acres in Wilkinsburg purchased by William Griffith by virtue of a sheriff sale, has now been transferred to Mark Collett.

1828

The steam sawmill of Isaac Mills is busily engaged at Braddockfield.

1829

The Tax Collector for Wilkins Township is William McKelvey.

The United Presbyterian Church of Turtle Creek has organized with 30 charter members. The first pastor, Mungo Dick served from 1829 to 1835.

1830

May – Regimental orders of the 61<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Second Battalion of Penna. Militia met in Wilksburg. Captains were Irwin and Carothers, and Lieutenant Alters met at house of John Johnson.

September – the Edgeworth Ladies Seminary at Braddocksfield advises the public of a long stay at this school site. The fine arts teacher is Mr. Gilleland. Mrs. And Miss Oliver are operating the school.

The 1830 census statistics reveal that housed at the seminary were the following age categories: Mal-40 to 50 years of age –1, females under five years of age –2; females – five to 10 years of age – 20; females 10 to 15 – 20; females 15 to 20 – 25; females 20 to 30 – 11; females – 30 to 40 – 11; females – 50 to 60 – 2; females – 80 to 90 – one person.

December – Brigade orders 61<sup>st</sup> Regiment to organize a battalion under Captain George; Independent Rifle Blues under Captain Logan; Washington Independents under Captain Withrow; and Lafayettes under Captain James W. Johnson. Met at John Johnson in Wilksburg.

December – Field officers of 61<sup>st</sup> Regiment met at house of Mr. Chalfant in Turtle Creek. Colonel Carothers, Lt. Col. Muse, Major Alexander and Major Johnson.

The first census of Wilkins, taken this year, enumerates the population as 1,927 with 302 heads of households. It is interesting to note that the census-takers are making a house-to-house count, and from the previous census of 1820, when the township was in Pitt Township, the only appreciable changes were in the settlements of Turtle Creek and Wilksburg. These were the only variations of names in the house-to-house registration.

1832

The first post office was established in the township, located at Turtle Creek, with Henry Chalfant serving as postmaster for five years. The post office was located in his general store.

Tax collector appointed for the year was William McCall.

1833

August 28. James Kelly, who was associated with John Wilkins in the lime business, acquires much of the Dunning McNair mortgaged tracts from Mark Colett, at approximately \$8 per acre.

The Wilkins Post office is established, west of Wilkinsburg, with Louis Fluck as postmaster, and deputies John Searley and William McLane.

1834

Wilkinsburg established their first fire protection method – all males, twelve years or older would, at the sound of the school bell, pickup anything that would hold water, and proceed to do their duty at a fire.

March 31 – The first five miles of the turnpike was macadamized by subscription funds.

May 1-2 – The first public inspection of the Edgeworth Female Seminary was opened to the public.

Christian Snively was elected as a county auditor.

Wilkins tax collector was Christian Hershey.

Taxes assessed by the county to Wilkins was \$1,226.11

Electors of Wilkins were to elect six school directors as per the Free Common School Act.

1835

Legislature approved an appropriation of \$12,000 to the Pittsburgh and Greensburg Turnpike Road Company to improve the condition of the road.

James Gilmore purchased 100 acres from John McKelvey.

Electors were to elect two school directors and two supervisors, for 1836.

1836

The schools were appropriated \$112.58 from the state and \$242.57 from the county, but the county assessed Wilkins \$1,707.09 ½ for the county tax. Wilkins tax collector was John Stoner.

Unseated lands were offered for sale. These were land tracts without homes built thereon or tracts of land that were not cleared at least partially.

1837

Postmasters at Turtle Creek were John McMasters and William McCulloch, and served for a term of five years. William Gore was appointed as postmaster at the Wilkins post office for a period of five years.

Colonel Miller purchased a tract of land at the mouth of Turtle Creek. On this tract he built a flour mill, saw mill, woolen mill, and boat dock. Boats and barges were also built, and he became a leader in the shipment of coal from the area. The port was listed in the very early navigational records.

Tax collector for the year was James Kelly. He is developing the Wilkinsburg area, since taking over the Dunning McNair holdings a few years ago.

The township has been assessed \$2,060.18 ½ taxes by the County.

1838

The school appropriation due from the state was \$302.33. The tax collector was Christian Snively.

1839

Duncan Hamilton purchased the two acre tract of land from David and Margaret Robbins. This was the site of a grist mill on Thompson Run.

1840

The Wilkinsburg post office was established in the Abram Stoner store, and Abram Stoner was appointed as first postmaster for a five year term.

The Disciples of Christ congregation were organized in Braddocksfield, mainly through the efforts of Isaac Mills. The house of worship was not erected until 1854.

The township organized their first school board. The directors were James Graham, Christopher Snively, Emanuel Stotler, David Gilleland, John Stoner, John Horner and James Kelly.

John Black purchased the John and Mary Perchment property lying in the meadow lands, along the Turtle Creek stream between Braddocksfield and Turtle Creek village. Black operated a store in Turtle Creek until 1853.

Although the results have been lost, but an election was held during the year for the office of: one supervisor, one treasurer, one clerk, one assessor, two assistant assessors, three auditors, two constables, one judge of elections and two inspectors of elections.



The population according to the Census taken during that year was 2,163.

1841

The first public school building appears in Wilkinsburg, at the corner of Wallace and Center Avenue. This building was attributed largely to the efforts of James Kelly.

The dam and locks on the Monongahela River, known as Dam #2 has been completed, and the pool has greatly enhanced the moving of coal barges on this river. A town is laid out by Col. Wm. L. Miller, who is operating coal mines in this area. The town is know as Port Perry and is at the mouth of Turtle Creek.

The dam is located 11.2 miles, (from the forks of the Ohio – point) east of the forks of the rivers, and the Monongahela River flows west. This lift is about 8.7 feet, and the upper level was 718.7 feet. The Turtle Creek stream is 11.5 miles from the point. The flow of the river is westward with the locks on the right bank.

On May 5, the Wilkinsburg Railroad was chartered, with the following as incorporates; James Kelly, Abraham Horback, Harmar Denny, William Peebles, William Noble, John Roup, Francis Bailey (Liberty St.), James Dunlop, Christian Painter, Thomas Scott, John Schoenberger, William Wilkins and Robert Graham. The capital stock was \$100,000, and was for a railroad from Pittsburgh to Wilkinsburg. The railroad was not completed by this Corporation.

A review and relocation of the state road from the borough of Greensburg, in Westmoreland County, to intersect with Greensburg and Pittsburgh Turnpike Road, at or near the house of Henry Chalfant in Turtle Creek, in Allegheny County, as lies between John Morrow's and John Brinton's was completed. The action had been authorized April 16, 1838.

The Land Office is offering "unseated" land for sale. These are described as a piece of land in nature. Town lots are those with no personal property on it, without residence or cultivation.

David Shields sold a 31-acre tract to Elliot Davis.

1842

John McMasters was reappointed postmaster for an additional five years, and John M. Davis was appointed a deputy for five years.

Wilkins postmasters were Casper Negley and Wm. Joyce, both for a three-year term.

Articles of incorporation were completed for the building of an artificial road from the City of Pittsburgh by way of Braddockfield to Turtle Creek, at or near the farm of Allen Brown. Commissioners named were Andrew Watson, Samuel Thompson, John Arthurs, Charles Conliff (Pitt Twp.), George W. Irwin (Peebles Twp.), John Adams, Robert Milligan, George Wallace, William G. Hawkins, and others.

Regulations included the roadway would not be less than 40 feet, nor more than 60 feet in width; roadway to be bedded with wood, stone, gravel, or any other hard substance; must compact and of sufficient depth to secure a solid foundation. No toll to be charged for those using the roadway for funerals; going to and from places of worship; members of the militia; and electors, coming or going to the polls.

Duncan Hamilton's mill on Thompson's run is running at capacity.

1843

Although the South Avenue Methodist Episcopal church congregation was organized in 1832, the house of worship in Wilkesburg was now complete.

In 1826, the number of managers of the Greensburg and Pittsburgh Turnpike Road Company had been reduced to five. Three were elected by stockholders of the company, and two were elected by the auditor general of the commonwealth. A new Act of the legislature specified that all five managers would be elected by the stockholders.

1845

Arthur Gore was appointed postmaster of Wilkes for a five year term. The new Wilkesburg postmasters were Edward Thompson for a five year term, and Abram Horbach, Jr. for a one year term.

The Wilkesburg Reformed Presbyterian Church of Wilkesburg was built, but the congregation was not formed until 1848.

The first school house in the northern section of the township was the Washington School.

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1846

William Anderson Herron and his father, John, with W.H. Brown purchased a coal farm on the Monongehala River, near Turtle Creek. The coal that was mined was hauled to barges and floated down the river. The ease of transportation on the waterway of the coal aided greatly the mining of coal in the township.

Rev. J.M. Hastings was appointed pastor of the Beulah Presbyterian Church, following the death of Rev. James Graham, who had served the congregation over forty years (1804-1845). Rev. Hastings served Beulah until 1865.

April 13<sup>th</sup> – The Pennsylvania Railroad Company was incorporated.

April 21<sup>st</sup> – Signature of governor Francis Pickens affixed to bill granting Baltimore & Ohio Railroad the right to construct its extension to Pittsburgh.

1847

Henry Chalfant, pioneer merchant of the Turtle Creek settlement moved west of the village on the Pittsburgh and Greensburg Turnpike to a farm.

Jacob S. Kunkle was appointed as the postmaster at Turtle Creek and served for a period of four years.

1849

Patton Township was erected from Plumb Township, and the eastern side of the Thompson Run stream was called Patton. Part of the village of Turtle Creek was in Patton and the other part in Wilkins.

Henry Z. Mitchell was appointed postmaster of Wilkinsburg and served that post for a period of eight years.

1850

Was a year of events in Wilkins. It was the start of a new era in the township.

The Seventh United States population Census for the township counted 1,588 white males, 1,387 white females, 21 colored males and 23 colored females for a total of 3,109. A total of 506 dwellings were enumerated.

Occupations were listed with the laborers at 316, farmers 286, miners 72, shoemakers 28, carpenters 23, blacksmiths 20, merchants 11, inn keepers 11, weavers 8, wagon makers 7, clerks 6, millers 5, teachers 5, physicians 5, and plasterers 4, and others to a lesser number.

Foreign born were: Irish 144 females and 202 males; German 35 females and 65 males; English 42 females and 43 males; Welsh 4 females and 9 males; and Scotch 7 males and three females.

The laboring occupation was far above average at this census taking period, since a railroad was being built thru the township and a number of labor camps were enumerated during this period of construction.

The settlement of Port Perry, which was not in Wilkins Township was supplying a demand for coal miners in the Braddockfield area, which did not reveal the true value of the industry in Wilkins.

The wealthiest individual, as noted by declared personal property, was James Kelly, of Wilkinsburg, who was worth \$180,000 at that time. He was the peer of the community until his death in 1882.

The following advertisement appeared in the Pittsburgh Morning Chronicle – “Meadow lands of Braddock’s Field farm property for sale – includes slack water of Monongahela River and in a few months a road will be built from the city to that point.”

The church of the United Brethren was built in Wilkinsburg.

It was during this year of 1850 that the township was decreased by over 50% by the secession of the northern portion.

Following a petition in December of 1849, Robert Logan, Thomas Davidson and Daniel Beeber were approved by court to view the boundary of a new township. The new township was erected into Adams Twp. on July 8, 1850, but the action of the court was reconsidered and on August 31, 1850 the name was changed to McNair Twp. The Legislature changed the name to Penn Twp. in 1851.

It was the majority of the signers of the petition to erect Wilkins from Pitt that lived in this new township. The land area that was seceded amounted to 19 square miles.

The new township was rewarded with a post office named White Ash, which was established in the store of the first postmaster, Henry Morrow, September 10, 1850.

Port Perry, not in Wilkins, was awarded a post office and its first postmaster was William I. Morrison (June 17).

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, Luke B. Davison was appointed postmaster of Wilkins and served for three years.

The commissioners of the Pittsburgh and Braddocks Field Plank Road Company met in Turtle Creek on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Officers were Thomas H. Howe, James Ross, Henry Wood, William Eichbaum, Thomas Williams, Robert Palmer, James W. Buchanan, David Beeler, Daniel Kuhns, Jesse Carothers, Alexander Miller, Andrew Watson, Edward D. Gizzam, George W. Irwin, John Adams, John Arthur, Robert Robb, William M. Lyon, William M. Simpson, and John Lytle.

Subscriptions received to date by this company was \$20,500 or about half of the required amount.

1851

The new industrial era was born with the completion of the Pennsylvania Railroad from Pittsburgh to Brinton Station. On December 10, the first train left Pittsburgh and it was a gala event. Railroad depots that were listed in the township were about one mile apart and named: Brushton, Edgewood, Swissvale, Hawkins, Braddocks Field, McKinney's Station; and Brinton. It was single track.

A gap on the railroad line existed for about a year between the Brinton Station and Latrobe, and had to be traveled by stage. It was thirty miles long. The gap was completed on November 29, 1852.

William D. Campbell was appointed postmaster of Turtle Creek for one year.

Jacob Burhart's large tract of land was purchased by Judge William Wilkins.

1852

With the completion of the railroad line, the moving of coal and other freight traffic became less cumbersome, and the craftsmen on the Turnpike roads began to leave the settlements.

Notations on the very early time scheduling of trains on the railroads noted the following: Turtle Creek – 341 miles (from Philadelphia). This station is the first reached in Allegheny County. The settlement contains three churches, a public hall, two hotels, and a population of 200. Coal mines in the area employ about 600 men.

Brinton – 342 miles. Coal mines employ 75 men, no town, the population near the vicinity of the station, 250.

McKinney – 343 miles. Braddocks Field – 344 miles. Copeland – 344 miles. Hawkins – 345 miles. Swissvale – 346 miles.

Wilkinsburg – 347 miles – rich agricultural area. Gardening market extensive. Coal mining employs 300. 400,000 tons shipped annually. Population 1,100.

The Duncan Hamilton water-powered grist mill on Thompson Run was destroyed by fire. A steam mill was installed to replace it.

The Wilkinsburg & Troy Farm Plank Road Company was incorporated April 18<sup>th</sup>. The roadway was to commence at the corner of Hay and Main Street in Wilkinsburg and ending on lands owned by Samuel Denniston, known as the Troy Farm. The corporation

was dissolved by forfeit after two years. The incorporators were James Kelly, Thomas Dickson, Samuel Denniston, James Swisshelm, H.Z. Mitchell and H.W. Horbach.

On the same day, the Wilkinsburg and Green Spring Plank Road Company was incorporated and was to connect with the East Liberty and Penn Township Plank Road on the Green Springs Farm owned by James Kelly. The distance was one mile or more.

A number of tracts of land were transferred during this year.

The tract of Wm. Powell, surveyed October 23, 1769, now of 106 acres, 102 perches and also a 21 acre, 122 perches was re-surveyed, March 26, and patented to John Perchment, administrator of Mary Perchment (deceased).

Transferred was part of the Agnes Powell (widow) tract of 117 acres, warranted March 28, 1787 but patented to Allen Brown, June 24, 1853.

Transferred part of the William Powell tract, dated Oct. 23, 1769, but 69 acres, 112 perches resurveyed June 16<sup>th</sup> and patented to Allen Brown.

Transferred part of the Casper Michenselder tract surveyed June 5, 1770, but part of 125 acres resurveyed October 28, 1850 and patented to Thomas McMasters, et al, on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

1855

Henry Bailey appointed postmaster of Braddock Field for a two year term.

The number of schools in the immediate vicinity of Wilkins were Peebles Twp. with seven schools, six males and one female teacher. The enrollment consisted of 200 boys and 150 girls.

At Penn Twp. there were nine schools, eight male teachers and one female teacher. Males numbered 250, while 205 females were listed as pupils.

In the Pitt Twp. school system, the buildings were three but had two male teachers and three female teachers. Pupils were 201 boys and 151 girls.

The first complete report of the Wilkins Township School system was as follows: Number of schools – 8, Additional schools required – 1, months taught – 5, male instructors – 5, female teachers – 3. Average monthly salary of male teachers - \$25, average monthly salary of female teacher - \$20, Number of male students – 225, number of female pupils – 196, average number of students attending school – 262, cost of teaching each scholar per month \$2.41, tax levied for school purposed \$1,574.74. Tax collected for school purposed \$1,500, received from state appropriations \$140.70. Expense cost of the institutions - \$1,015.00; cost of fuel and contingencies - \$114.39, and cost of school houses, purchasing, rent and repairing - \$12.00.

The average cost for the county of teaching a pupil was seventy-one cents. The rate in Wilkins Township was the highest in the county and third highest in the commonwealth.

1856

The East Liberty and Penn Township Plank Road Company which was incorporated April 5, 1852 was authorized to borrow more money.

The Pittsburgh & Braddock's Field Plank Road Company was authorized to raise \$10,000 for repairing the road, and were granted permission to abandon the whole or any part between Six Mile Run and the eastern terminus. The portion abandoned would become a public road and thence within the control of public authorities.

A man was killed in a coal mine accident at the Dickson, Stewart & Co. mine, near Turtle Creek.

The following is a list of male students at the Wilkinsburg Academy for the 1856-1859 period. Wilkinsburg – J. Woodwell, G.K. Horner, James McKelvey, W.S. Reese, William Horner, J.H. Woodwell, S.M. Cline, William Turner, W.H. Jeffries. S. Thompson, John McWilliams, John McFarlane, East Liberty – William P. Miller, Swissvale – John W. Milligan, C.S. Haven, F.G. Craighead, Joseph Milligan, McKessport – William J. Snodgrass, J.B. Scott, Noblestown – L. Miller, West Alexander – J.M. Craig, Mercersburg – S. Dickey, Turtle Creek, J.T. Chalfant, George A. Chalfant, J.C. Carothers, Homewood – Dallas Sanders, New Texas – J. Boice, M.G. Euwer, Kittaning – J.B. Gates, Port Perry – J.S. Van Gorder, Albert G. Millers, Westmoreland County – F. Erwin Logan, J.G. Haymaker, J.G. Brown of Cottage Hill,

1856 – continued. On April 19, the Braddock'sfield and Turtle Creek Turnpike Company was chartered. Commissioners were John Parker, William G. Hawkins, Isaac Mills, John Black, John Adams, William Brown, Boyle Irwin, Robert Millegan, William L. Miller, Samuel Elder, A. Brown and John Robison.

This company was granted the right to construct a turnpike road from a point near Six Mile Ferry, near the Monongahela River to the Pittsburgh & Greensburg Turnpike. The company was authorized to occupy the site of portions of the Pittsburgh & Braddockfield Plank Road, if the stockholder of the Pittsburgh & Braddockfield Plank would give assent by a three-quarter vote of value of stockholders.

Capital stock set at 300 shares at \$25, and the incorporation was null and void if construction was not completed in five years.

Damage was extensive in the southern portion of the township when heavy flooding occurred along the Monongahela River.

1857 – Edwin Thompson appointed postmaster at Wilkinsburg and George M. Young at Braddockfield.

March 20, Duncan Hamilton was elected as justice of the peace.

1858 – July 20 – the county Commissioners appointed David Duff as tax collector for the community.

Elected officials of the township were:

Supervisors – D. Kuhns & J. McFarland; School Director – James Kelly; Assessor – John Perchment; Ass't. Assessor – H. Chalfant; Auditor – H. Chalfant; Treasurer – John Shaffer; Clerk – John McFee and Constable – J. Mitchell. Election was held at the home of John Schaffer on Greensburg Pike.

Justice of the peace in Braddockfield was McCleary.

Sept. The Turtle Creek Guards encamped at Brownstown with 38 men under Captain McMasters.

November – Brown's Exchange, a hotel, ten-pin bowling alley, of brick owned by Allen Brown is offered for sheriff sale. It is located on the west side of Thompson Run, Turtle Creek, village, in Wilkins.

Another panic has hit the area, and the opening of the railroad was attributed as the cause of some of the sheriff sales along this Pittsburgh & Greensburg Turnpike.

For the Fourth of July, the Penna. Railroad brought 15,000 people to Turtle Creek for a picnic.

1859 – March. The election results for this year indicated the possible division of the township. The southern portion, or Braddockfield ran an intensive campaign, on strictly a local question. Party lines were not an issue. Results of this election.

Election judge – James Kelly 95 – James Carothers 93

Election Inspectors – Daniel Kunts 51 – John Johnson 89 – John Shaffer 47.

Auditor – Duncan Hamilton – no opposition

Assessor – John Perchment – 95, David Duff 94

School directors – Matthew Henning 164, Isaac Mills 86, W.S. Haven 103.

Supervisors – Elijah McWilliams 184, John Merchment 87, Michael Linhart 102



Clerk – James McCleary 82, John McAfee 104.

Henry Chalfant was elected as Director of the Poor for the County of Allegheny.

Another list of sheriff sales of lands and homes in the township appeared in the Pittsburgh newspapers.

1860 – St. Thomas Roman Catholic parish of Braddockfield organized. The church was erected in 1867.

The electors of Wilkins met at the public school house in the village of Wilkinsburg for the general election of October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Results of the presidential election of November 6<sup>th</sup> in the Township was: Lincoln – 254 (national winner), Douglas, Democrat 43.

1861 – Three days (April 15) after the fall of Ft. Sumter, President Abraham Lincoln issued the First Proclamation for troops from each of the states in the “rebellion.”

A call was issued from the Secretary of War to Pennsylvania’s Governor Andrew Curtin, on April 15, requisitioning sixteen regiments, or roughly 16,000 men to the call.

Within a few days, Company I, like most all of the companies and regiments had filled their quotas. The company was recruited at the East Liberty recruiting station and five boys from Wilkins were able to enlist in the first call. Enlistment was for a period of three months.

The entire company and regiment were composed of independent guard units that had been formed prior to the outbreak of the war.

This was named the Third Regiment of Infantry of the Pennsylvania Volunteers.

The regiment was sent to Camp Curtin in Harrisburg, and mustered into service on April 20. Although excellently drilled, they received additional military training and were ordered to entrain for Washington, D.C. to protect the Capitol.

Enroute thru Baltimore, the crowds caused such a riot that the train was forced to return to York, Pa. Here the regiment spent their three-month enlistment protecting the supply station at Williamsport and the communication lines of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Enlistments ran out on July 29<sup>th</sup> but many of the boys re-enlisted in other regiments for longer service.

Roster of Wilkins recruits – Sgt. Joseph Anderson, Privates – Adam Bear, John W. Grist, William Prince, who re-enlisted in Co. B, 77<sup>th</sup> Inf. And was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. and John Reese.

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Immediately after the defeat of their comrades at Bull Run, July 22, 1861, the group of Wilkins men who had been attempting to enlist, organized as Company A of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, and the numbers were so great that the company overflowed into the B Company.

William Smith of Braddockfield was elected as 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. of the company, which went into training at Camp Wilkins. This camp was located at the site of the Allegheny County Fair Grounds, near 28<sup>th</sup> Street as was generally termed as the Lawrenceville area of Pittsburgh.

This group, the largest of the Wilkins groups, was sworn into the Army on August 1, 1861 for a three year term. One month's pay was \$11 in gold.

On August 26, they left for additional training near Washington, D.C., and became a part of the defense of the Capitol.

In March of 1862, the regiment had its first skirmish with "Johnny Reb." This was the initiation of the Peninsular campaign. On April 11, in front of Yorktown, it buried its first man killed in action.

At Fair Oaks, on May 31, Company A suffered the loss of two of their hometown buddies – Privates Frederick Shilling and Nathaniel Lowry. Both were killed in action.

Subsequently, this regiment had the honor of participating in every battle of the Army of the Potomac. Important engagements and battles include:

The Battle of Seven Pines, Nelsons Farm, Malvern Hill, Bristol Station, Second Battle of Bull Run, siege of Petersburg, Battle of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Auburn Mills, Wilderness campaign, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, and the fall of Petersburg.

The three year enlistment expired August 1, 1864.

During the battle of Chancellorsville, two members of Company A were cited for action beyond the call of duty. Isaac McKeag of Wilkins was one of the men.

Later these men were awarded the "General Kearney Cross" for their heroism.

The "A" company lost more men in killed, wounded and captured than any other company of the 63<sup>rd</sup>. Of the original unit of 150 recruits, only 22 returned to their homes

at the end of their three year term. Forty-eight of the original company re-enlisted in other regiments, especially the 105<sup>th</sup>.

Due to their heavy losses, the regiment had gradually been absorbed by the 105<sup>th</sup>, even prior to the final discharge of the company.

Roster of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment of Penna. Volunteers:

Captain William Smith of Company A. Wounded at Fair Oaks, promoted from 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. on June 26, '62. Killed at Chancellorsville on May 3, '62. Played a major role in organizing the "Kelly Guards," a home guard group many years prior to the war. Company A was a prominent part of that organization.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Isaac Mills, Jr. Co. A. Promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. on July 3, '63 and to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. on March 1, '64.

Sgt. J.W. Adams, Co. A. Promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Mar. 3, '62 and later became a member of the regimental band.

Sgt. Daniel Oskins, Co. A. Wounded at Fair Oaks. Promoted to Corp. Dec. 7, '62 and to Sgt., November 24, 1863.

Sgt. George House, Co. B. Promoted to color sergeant of regiment, May 3, 1863. Wounded at the Battle of Wilderness, while flying the colors.

Corp. Jacob R. Long, Co. A. Discharged on surgeon's certificate, December 18, 1862.

Sgt. James Paul, Co. A. Promoted to corporal and to sergeant. Wounded at Gettysburg. Re-enlisted at end of term and transferred to Co. I, 105<sup>th</sup> Inf. Reg.

Corp. James Miller, Co. A. Killed at the Battle of the Wilderness.

Musician William H. Morrow, Co. A. Promoted to fife-major on November 1, 1861. Discharged on surgeons certificate at Point Lookout Hospital, Md., December 26, 1863.

Wagoner John Harvey, Co. K.

Privates in Co. A: J.M. Anderson, discharged on surgeons certificate on October 8, 1862; William C. Beecher, killed in action, May 23, 1864; John Boyle, wounded at Fair Oaks, and at Chancellorsville. Transferred to Co. D, 105<sup>th</sup> Inf. Reg. And re-enlisted. Mustered out of service, July 11, 1864; William Davidson, discharged on surgeons certificate, December 24, '62; Thomas Davis, enlisted Feb. 22, '64 and transferred to Co. A, 99<sup>th</sup> Inf. And retransferred to 105<sup>th</sup> Reg; John H. Dempsey, enlisted Feb. 27, '64. Captured and died at Richmond of wounds received at the Wilderness. Previously

transferred to Co. D of 105<sup>th</sup> Reg.; Samuel Districh; Francis Dunbar, discharged Dec. 30, '62 from wounds received at Fair Oaks; Matt Eagleson, drafted July 11, '63. Transferred to 99<sup>th</sup> Reg. And re-transferred to Co. D, 105<sup>th</sup> Reg. Died at Poplar Grove, Feb. 19, '65; Lawson Green, discharged on surgeons certificate, Feb. 17, '64; James Hare, transferred to 99<sup>th</sup> Inf. Reg. And re-transferred to Co. D, 105<sup>th</sup>. Re-enlisted and promoted to corporal of Co. D, 105<sup>th</sup> on March 1, '65. Discharged July 11, '65; James Hutton, died of typhoid fever, Fair Oaks, June 7, 1862; Nathaniel Lowry, killed at Fair Oaks, May 31, 1862; Irwin McCutcheon, transferred to Co. A, 99<sup>th</sup>, retransferred to Co. D, 105<sup>th</sup>; Isaac McKeag, wounded at Chancellorsville and discharged for disability, November 24, 1863. Robert Scott, enlisted Feb. 10, '64, and transferred to Co. A, 99<sup>th</sup> Inf., and then re-transferred to Co. D, 105<sup>th</sup> Inf. Promoted to corporal, Dec. 31, '64 and mustered out July 11, '65; Frederick Shilling, killed at Fair Oaks, May 31, '62.

Privates in Co. B – William Baker, wounded and discharged on account of wounds; and John Soles, discharged in 1862 because of disability.

The recruiting of the 101<sup>st</sup> Infantry began during the month of August 1861. Members of Company A were principally recruited in Allegheny county and the townships. A rather large group were from the Wilkesburg-Turtle Creek districts, and many of the boys were neighbors.

The recruiting was started in August of 1861, and on September 10, at Camp Reynolds, near Pittsburgh, the organization was completed. Shortly afterwards the entire regiment was sent to Washington, and were assigned to service at forts to the north of the Capitol.

On September 28<sup>th</sup> the battery was sent to cover the construction camps that were engaged in opening the Manassa Gap Railroad. The reconstruction of this line was to assure supplies to Sheridan's Army in the Shenandoah Valley.

It was during this phase of the war that John S. Mosby of the Confederate Raiders kept a harassing interference to the railroad reconstruction. On October 8, 1864, a superior force of Mosby's command, consisting of cavalry and artillery, suddenly attacked the rear of the Federal defensive line. Deception and maneuverability in the mountains reached a new peak at this time.

Although Mosby's Raiders tore up much track, they were unable to capture any of the trains or supplies and battle on both sides was light. Neither army was able to take

any advantages of the other because of the strategy of both commanding officers of the time.

The roster –204<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Artillery: Private Albert Adams of Company E; Private John Carson of Company E, discharged on January 26, 1865 via surgeons certificate; Samuel Carson, Private of Company E; Corporal James Getty of Company C; Private Henry Hartman of Company G; First Lieutenant Curtis S. Haven of Company H; Private William Johnston of Company C; Private William G. Martin of Company L who transferred from the 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment; Private William McCombs of Company E who transferred from the 212<sup>th</sup> Regiment; Private William McDonnal of Company E and Sergeant John Shephar of Company L.

The 139<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was hurriedly organized immediately after the bloody second battle of Bull Run, August 27-September 2, 1862. The Union cause hung in gloom at this time.

The regiment was mustered into the service at Camp Howe, near Pittsburgh on September 1, 1862 and was immediately ordered to the front. Arms were procured at Harrisburg on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the regiment arrived in Washington on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Under a flag of truce, the new recruits were detailed to bury the dead of the disastrous battle of Bull Run. The dead had been lying on the battlefield since the 27<sup>th</sup> of August in the hot summer sun. Conditions were loathsome, and it took the entire regiment three full days to bury the 1,779 fallen Union soldiers.

On September 17<sup>th</sup> the recruits met the enemy for the first time in battle but were never allowed to fire a gun. Shot and shell dropped all around them but they were held as a reserve unit at Antietam and did not participate. A skirmish at Williamsport kept the regiment on the alert but no casualties were suffered.

Some of the major conflicts where casualties were high and where the boys from Wilkins suffered wounds were: Chancellorsville, Banks Ford where the regiment lost 123 killed, wounded and missing; Gettysburg and Rappahannock Station. The winter camp was located at Brandy Station.

At the Wilderness, the casualties included 196 killed and wounded. The regiment took an active part at Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor, Winchester, Fishers Hill and Cedar Creek. The assault on Petersburg was the last of the major conflicts. The regiment was discharged about two months after Lee's surrender – June 21, 1865.

Participants from Wilkins named in the roster: Corporal George W. Anderson of Company H wounded at Winchester; Corporal Robert Anderson of Company F, wounded at Spotsylvania Court House; Private James Brown of Company F discharged on surgeons certificate; Private John Guthrie of Company E wounded at Cold Harbor and again at Opequan and discharged on surgeons certificate three days after General Lee offered to surrender, April 12, 1865.

Others on the roster from Wilkins included: Private John Johnston of Company G who was wounded at the Wilderness; Private John Messersmith of Company K and discharged by General Order, May 30, 1865; Private Robert Stewart of Company E who was wounded at Spotsylvania Court House and was discharged on a surgeon certificate, February 10, 1865. Private Stewart had previously served as a private in Company D of the Twelfth Infantry Regiment.

The 64<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Cavalry was one of the early troops and was organized on September 4, 1861. Drilling and instruction was secured at Camp Curtin, but horses were lacking for proper training. At this phase of the war the Cavalry was not yet in favor.

Eventually horses were secured and this troop participated in the Peninsular campaign; Seven Days Battle; Malvern Hill and Gettysburg.

Wilkins boys included school teacher James Turner who became the regimental chaplain for about 18 months; private James Baker of Company B who enlisted in February 1865 after serving in the 136<sup>th</sup> and 160<sup>th</sup> Regiments; Sergeant James Duff of Company B who was captured and died at Andersonville, September 12, 1864; Corporal William Hanna of Company B, killed at Cold Harbor, Virginia, June 3, 1864; Private Hugh Stewart of Company G; and private John Welsh of Company G.

The 193<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Infantry was called on a special proclamation of Governor Andrew Curtin for a period of 100 days as a detail to halt the railroad raids of the rebel cavalymen. The raids became serious during July of 1864.

This short term service found a large group of Wilkins boys enlisting, some of which included: Private John Anderson of Company B, Corporal William Fisher of Company C, Private George Hunter of Company A, Quartermaster Sergeant William Jeffries, Private Calvin Longwell of Company I, Private Robert McCawley of Company K, Private Thomas McDonald of Company F, Sergeant William McDowell who enlisted in the 102<sup>nd</sup> Regiment and private Robert Stewart of Company D, 12<sup>th</sup> who re-enlisted in Company K of the 139<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

The One Hundred and Sixtieth Regiment of Cavalry was perhaps the most controversial of all the regiments of which Wilkins Township volunteers participated. It might also rate as the most publicized regiments of the entire war.

The publicity was mostly afforded by the southern newspapers.

The regiment was recruited from the Pittsburgh area in August 1862 and was sent to Carlisle for training.

The first problem was during the organization of the troop. A company was recruited from the regiment to be known as the "Anderson Troop." It was to serve as a

body guard to General Don Carlos Buell, and was named for General Robert Anderson, of Fort Sumter fame.

It was claimed that this troop was composed of the wealthiest and most influential families of the commonwealth. This “select” group caused bitterness among its own regiment as well as other regiments in the brigade.

Early in September of 1862, the regiment was ordered to the Cumberland Valley of Pennsylvania to guard against an invasion or raids by Confederate Calvary General “Stonewall” Jackson.

At Stone River, Virginia, before the battle, the regiment felt there was a lack of officers in its regiment, “stacked” its arms and refused to move forward to the front lines. The publicity on this action, especially from the southern newspapers, did the morale of the troop much undeserved harm. The newspapers claimed that this action was in protest to President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation. The refusal to move forward at Stone River did produce results from Army headquarters, and permanent officers were sent to the regiment.

Another event of the troop that caused some “eyebrow lifting” in official circles was the order to the regiment to capture the fleeing ill-fated Confederate President Jefferson Davis, and his Cabinet.

On May 8, 1865, the troop captured seven wagons that were fleeing southward and these contained the bulk of the wealth of the Confederacy. An inventory disclosed that the wagons contained \$188,000 in U.S. coin; \$1,588,000 in bank notes; \$4,000,000 in Confederate money; and the private baggage, maps and official papers of Confederate Generals Pierre G.T. Beauregard and Gideon Pillow.

Later Confederate General Braxton Bragg was captured by the troop. “Jeff” Davis kept eluding the pursuing cavalry troop, and there was a slight hint in the news of the time that the inventory slowed up the chase.

At the time of the mustering out services in Nashville, all the men of the regiment were highly complimented on their services to their country, and regrets were sent by Army authorities on the “undeserving reports” that cast reflection on some of the deeds of the troop.

The roster consisted of Private William Anderson of Company G, who had transferred from the 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Infantry; Private James Baker of Company D, who had previous service as a Private in the 136<sup>th</sup> Regiment and 64<sup>th</sup> Regiment; Private Zachariah Oskins of Company C; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant George Petty who first enlisted as a Private in Company G, to Corporal May 13, 1863 to Sergeant of Company C on June 5, 1863 to 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant on November 10, 1864 and commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on May 29, 1865; Private John Snowden of Company H, discharged on surgeons certificate, May 9,

1863; Private Hugh Turner of Company G; Corporal John Turner of Company M; and James S. Woodwell, a private in Company G and later transferred to Company F.

The 204<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Artillery was practically the last of the regiments to be recruited for the war from Pennsylvania. The 212<sup>th</sup> which was the final group was combined with this Regiment.

The roster of the 77<sup>th</sup> included three brothers, Daniel, George and John Baughman, all privates in Company D; Private John Cook of Company D; Private Francis Jamison of Company E and Private James B. Linhart of Company B who was discharged April 8, 1863 on a surgeons certificate.

Second Lieutenant James S. Negley, in charge of the Pennsylvania Militia at the start of the war was recruiting and organizing both of these regiments in Pittsburgh. General Negley was a resident of the East Liberty section of the City of Pittsburgh.

The Duquesne Grays and the Independent Blues, the oldest and claiming the best-drilled companies of Pittsburgh formed the basis of the Twelfth Regiment. The Thirteenth Regiment was originally known as the Washington Infantry and had a long and historical pre-civil war standing in the Pittsburgh area. It was another of the oldest guard units of the district.

The B and C companies of both regiments left Pittsburgh on April 24, 1861 only twelve days after the start of the bombardment of Ft. Sumter, arrived in Harrisburg and were mustered into the service on April 25.

This three-month regiment acted as guards to the Williamsport Supply warehouse and also protected the Harrisburg- Baltimore branch of the North Central Railroad lines.

The roster included Private William Anderson of Company D, 13<sup>th</sup> who later enlisted in the 160<sup>th</sup> Regiment; Private James Davidson of Company C, 12<sup>th</sup>; Corporal Henry B. Mitchell of Company B, 12<sup>th</sup> who enlist later in the 102<sup>nd</sup>, Private William Reams of Company B, 12<sup>th</sup>; Sergeant William Shaffer of Company C, 12<sup>th</sup>;

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The roster included private Joseph Bowers of Company C, who served the full three year term; Corporal Joseph Hamilton of Company I, who was discharged on a surgeons certificate, February 8, 1863; Marion Hartley, Private in Company C, who was mustered out at the end of the three year period; Private William B. Linhart of Company C, discharged on surgeons certificate, February 20, 1863 and Sergeant Thomas Wiseman of Company C, who was appointed as the regimental color bearer and died of wounds, December 13, 1862.



The 77<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Infantry was originally recruited in the Chambersburg area, but some companies were not filled, so a camp was set up at Camp Wilkins in the Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh, to aid enlistments. The companies were filled and were mustered into service on October 8, 1861. The men were drilled and trained at Camp Wilkins, but did not see action until April 7, 1862, at Shiloh (Pittsburgh Landing), Tennessee. It was here that Brig. Gen. U.S. Grant received his recognition as an able strategist.

Some of the major campaigns of this regiment included Shiloh, Chattanooga Creek (Tennessee), Corinth (Mississippi), Fern Creek and Clay Village (Kentucky), Stone River and Liberty Gap (Tennessee), Chickamauga, Tunnel Hill, Rock Face Ridge, Dalton, New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain, Smyrna Camp, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta (Georgia), and Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee.

The 77<sup>th</sup> Regiment was sent to Texas during the latter part of the war. Much bitterness among the men and officers are recorded in the regimental history. This was attributed somewhat to the heat; the extra long service; and the 'foreign' climate and land.

The regiment was formally discharged on January 16, 1866 being the last Pennsylvania regiment on the filed, and recorded a total of 3,500 miles of marching.

At the Fourth Presidential Proclamation for troops on August 4, 1862 a call was made for 300,000 volunteers from the States for a three year term. Although quotas for the Pennsylvania regiments filled rapidly, four close friends of the Turtle Creek Guard unit were able to enlist in Company C. Another neighbor enlisted in Company I on the same day. The regiment was the 155<sup>th</sup>.

Drilling and training was acquired by this regiment in the neighboring Camp Copeland – which was situated in the Braddocks Field suburbs. The regimental color guard - Sergeant Thomas Wiseman.

On September 3, 1862, the regiment was moved by rail to Harrisburg, where they became a part of Brigadier General A.A. Humphrey's command.

The regiment tasted the first blood of battle at Antietam on September 17<sup>th</sup>. This was only about six weeks after the call for enlistments.

At Fredericksburg, Virginia, an outpost protecting the approaches of the Confederate Capitol at Richmond, a very extensive defensive position had been set up by the enemy.

At the battle of Mary's Hills, at Fredericksburg, the regiment was called upon for one of the wars most bloody of the battles. With the enemy firmly entrenched, the regiment tried six times to assault the heights but to no avail. It was during one of these assaults that color guard Wiseman was mortally wounded.

Many drawings, sketches and paintings depict this assault on Mary's Heights and the falling of the color guard. Three additional color bearers attempting to carry the regimental flag were killed in this battle.

Sgt. Wiseman died of his wounds less than a week later in a Washington hospital. He is buried in the Military Cemetery in Washington.

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The runner "Armstrong" fearing grave complications if both Confederate and Federal prisoners were found aboard, dropped their charges at Conway, South Carolina on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Confederate guards, having suffered the same fate as ours, were not too enthused in our recapture. They wanted only to return to their homes or lines, so we surprised our guards and once more made our escape.

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, thirty days after leaving Florence, we were again recaptured only 8 miles from Clinton, where our lines were entrenched. Gilmore and Shaffer made a break near Warsaw and escaped. They reached camp on November 14, 1864, about seven months after capture at Plymouth.

Dunlap and Bumbaugh were returned to Florence, via Wilmington.

Bumbaugh continues his story – We had left the Andersonville Military Prison on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September and we returned to the Florence Military Prison after our recapture during the night of November 14<sup>th</sup>.

We were reduced to mere skeletons and we were clothed on the border of nakedness. Our condition evoked the sympathy of the commandant of the prison at Florence, and he being short of supplies made an appeal to the surrounding planters for provisions, temporarily, and it was not long, until their Negro slaves had prepared for us the most nourishing meal we had since we had been captives.

Having no guard of any consequence, the Major permitted us to roam pretty much as we pleased. I once heard the Major say: "No guard is needed. They are too weak to run away if they wished to do so."

For the record, the report for the month ending July 31, 1864 of the Andersonville Military Prison:

27 acres of ground, no buildings, and a 15 ft. fence all around

Inhabitants – 36,678                      Daily average of inhabitants 29,030

Died – 1,7412, which averages 56 1/5 per day

Reported by group leader of those requiring hospital care (no hospital) 1,680

Escaped – 20 and recaptured – 12

Prisoners received during this month – 7,064

Number escaped from stockade and not recaptured from April 1 to July 31 – 27

\*Deaths from Feb. to Sept. 21, 1864 was 9,479 or approximately 30%

\*Deaths from 101<sup>st</sup> Regiment during imprisonment – 158 or 40%

- indicates report from a later date.

The prison camp was in the form of an open stockade, with the 15 feet fence surmounted with a platform for guards. The only permanent wooden structures of the camp were headquarters and a few buildings for storage.

Prisoners were required to furnish their own shelters, bedding and eating utensils. No clothing was available.

Shelters were made by prisoners from anything at hand; leaves, saplings, clothes, holes, caves, etc.

Food consisted of one handful of mostly cornmeal with a sticky substance, a sort of molasses.

No hospital or medical men were at the camp. One captive was designated for every 450 prisoners, and he was to act as a first aid man. No drugs or medicine were ever in evidence.

The overtaking of the capacity of the prison in terms of statistics, allowed each prisoner an average of 6 ft. by 6 ft. area.

The camp was opened in February of 1864 and averaged over 1,100 deaths per month.

A group of Wilkins survivors of the camp were present for the dedication of the monument to their fallen comrades in 1908. Transportation was furnished by the Federal Government.

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About 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 17, the confederates under General R.F. Hoke made their appearance in front of the town. The Yankee pickets were driven back to the

town and a heavy concentrated fire was pinpointed on Fort Gray. The Confederate ram "Albemarle" had routed all the Federal vessels in the river, and the garrison protection on the north side was lost.

On Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the break of day, the 'rebels' force of 10,000 men opened a major offensive against all of the fortifications of the town. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, with only 2,000 men attempting to hold off 10,000 men, Gen. Wessell was forced to surrender the garrison. Four hundred and fifty men of the 101<sup>st</sup> Penna. Regiment were among the prisoners of war.

From Plymouth, the captives were marched to Tarboro, where the officers were entrained for Macon, and the regular troops were sent by rail to Andersonville, Ga. The prisoners arrived at the Andersonville Military Prison, April 30, 1864, about 600 miles from point of capture.

Roster soldiers and officers that were residents of the township of Wilkins:

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. James M. Johnston, mustered into service Sept. 25, '61, promoted from Sgt., July 1, '62 and discharged March 25, '63.

Sgt. Charles W. Coneby, Co. A. Wounded and captured –

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. James Gilmore, Co. A. Prisoner, and escapee from Andersonville Military prison. Entered Federal lines at New Bern, N.C. November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Corp. James W. Fletcher, Co. A. captured and paroled.

Corp. Charles Adams, Co. E. captured and died at Andersonville, Oct. 31, 1864.

Corp. John Shaffer, Co. A., prisoner, escaped and entered Federal lines at New Bern, N.C., Nov. 14, 1864.

Privates in Co. A that were captured and imprisoned at Andersonville: Samuel Creelman (paroled), John Mates and brother James C. Mates (both Paroled March 1, 1865), James Robinson (died in prison), Jerry Shaffer, William Sampson, James Davis (died at Andersonville), Robert H. Miller, Samuel Robinson, John Mitchell and Henry Shallenberger.

Other soldiers of Wilkins in this regiment included: James McClellan a private in the new company "A" mustered into service after the capture of the original A Company); Henry Shaffer, Private in Co. E, not captured, and released on surgeons certificate in June, 1865; William Davidson, re-enlisted into the new A Company, Feb. 17, '65 having previously served with Co. A of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Inf. Regiment. (Many of his buddies from home had been captured with this particular company and regiment); Curtis Bostide, Private in Co. A, died at Harrisburg, February 11, 1862; John B. Houpt, Private in Co. A, discharged Dec. 20, '62 from wounds received in action.

Alexander Miller, private in new company H, mustered in Feb. 19, 1865; James H. House, private of new company G, mustered in March 2, 1865; and George Smith, private in new company G, mustered into service Mar. 13, '65.

Private G.W. Bumbaugh of the 101<sup>st</sup> Inf. Regiment wrote of the escape from the Florence Military Prison of Sgt. James Gilmore, Corp. John Shaffer, Private Jerome Shaffer, Private James Dunlap, and Private G.W. Bumbaugh, Sept. 12 to Nov. 14, 1864.

“We left Andersonville prison the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September and arrived at Florence during the night of September 14<sup>th</sup>.

When we left the cars at Florence, many of the men were so sick as they got out of the cars that they lay down at the first comfortable spot they could find along the railroad.

The following day (15) after our arrival, Negroes began building a stockade which we knew was intended as our future prison.

The attention of the commandant of the camp was called to the condition of the sick, to which he replied, “What can I do? The only hospital we have here is now overcrowded with sick and wounded.”

Some unoccupied dilapidated stables were pointed out to him and he said with feeling, “Take any stable you find unoccupied and do what you can to make them comfortable, and I will render all the aid that I can.”

A barn, the property of a railroad engineer was selected and among those assisting in getting it ready and looking after the sick were Sgt. James Gilmore, Corp. John Shaffer, Priv. Jerome Shaffer and Priv. George W. Bumbaugh, all of Company A, 101<sup>st</sup> Inf. Reg. Pa. Vol. And Priv. James Dunlap of Co. G, 103<sup>rd</sup> Penna. Regiment.

A parole was signed but the men felt no obligation. On Oct. 5, the seven men piloted by a Negro, whose acquaintance we had made, and of whom we had a confidence for our purpose, left Florence.

He instructed us to use pine straw to rub on our feet and legs to kill the scent for bloodhounds who might follow for our capture. At one of the stopping places, Gilmore left his shoes and went shoeless thereafter.

Daylight and dusk marches, food from Negroes, off roads, Jerome ill, left with Negro family, and he was recaptured.

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, we mistook a Confederate blockade-runner for one of our cruisers. We hailed it and again we became prisoners who had escaped, but who as yet had not succeeded in reaching their own lines.

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Robert Scott, enlisted February 10, 1864, and transferred to Co. A, 99<sup>th</sup> Infantry, and then re-transferred to Co. D, 105<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Promoted to corporal, December 31, 1864, and mustered out July 11, 1865; Frederick Shilling, killed at Fair Oaks, May 31, 1862.

Privates in Co. B – William Baker, wounded and discharged on account of wounds; and John Soles, discharged in 1862 because of disability.

The recruiting of the 101<sup>st</sup> Infantry began during the month of August 1861. Members of Company A were principally recruited in Allegheny County and the townships. A rather large group were from Wilksburg-Turtle Creek districts, and many of the boys were neighbors.

The regiment was brought together at Camp Fremont. This was on the square in Oakland. From time to time, the various companies were sent to Camp Curtin in Harrisburg. Enlistments were a three-year “hitch.”

Each company represented about 100 men, and the regiment at one time totaled 950 men.

On September 17, 1861, a preliminary organization was made, and the officers of Company A were Captain David M. Armor, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant James Schaeffer, and Second Lieutenant Edgar Lee. Captain James Chalfant was elected an officer in Company E.

The ten companies spent the early part of November at Harrisburg being drilled, organized and perfecting maneuvers.

The regiment left Harrisburg for Baltimore on February 27, 1862, and took part in its first action against the “rebs” at Fort Magruder, at Williamsburg, Virginia on May 2, 1862.

Some of the most prominent of the engagements, marches and raids were march from Williamsburg to battle of the Seven Pines, May 4<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>; battle of Fair Oaks to the White Oak Swamp, May 21<sup>st</sup> to June 26<sup>th</sup>; the Seven Days battle to Harrison Landing, June 27<sup>th</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup> and the Peninsula campaign, August 16<sup>th</sup> to December 30, 1862.

The campaign from the North Carolina peninsula became a raiding enterprise into enemy territory. Raids that were effective against the southern cause included: Suffolk, Blackwater, Southwest Creek, Kinston and Goldsboro. These raids were all in North Carolina.

In the spring of 1863, the most notorious of the raids was known as the Hyde Country raid. A special citation was received by the regiment for the results of this raid.

The Spinola raid took place from April 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 1863 and others included during the early months of 1863 were Nicols Mills, Gardner Bridge and Williamston.

Early in 1864, as a result of a raid into enemy territory, the following official communiqué was released by the War Department:

“General Order No. 24, dated March 2, 1864 from major General Peck.....The commanding general is gratified at being enabled to announce another in the series of successful enterprises against the enemy, projected by Brig. Gen. (Henry W.) Wessells, commanding the sub-district of the Albemarle.

The Army gunboat “Foster,” Capt. McLaughlin commanding, with a detachment from the 101<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Lt. Helm in charge, was sent on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, on an expedition to Fairfield, N.C., where a band of guerillas under command of Captain Spencer was quartered. The camp was surprised, the arms and stores secured and the whole company taken as prisoners without a loss on our side.

The affair was conducted in a severe snowstorm, and reflected much credit upon the officers and men concerned. Signed Ben. B. Foster, Ass’t Adj. Gen.”

The company of Spencer’s Rangers numbered 28 and all were captured.

The headquarters for the 101<sup>st</sup> and the other regiments of the brigade was garrisoned at Plymouth, N.C. The Sound was on the north section of town, while three forts protected the other points of the compass.

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### **A REPORT OF THE MONONGAHELA NAVIGATION COMPANY IN REFERENCE TO THE NO. 2 DAM AND LOCKS AT BRADDOCKSFIELD**

The Monongahela Navigation Company was authorized by an Act of Assembly on March 31, 1836, with capital stock worth \$300,000.

The construction was let to Corey and Adams, for the No. 2 Dam and Locks, May 17, 1839. Although incomplete, it was first used October 18, 1841.

The exact area, navigational-wise, was called the Braddock’s Ripples, and the cost was estimated at \$79,175.50. The actual cost was \$69,645.

The No. 2 Pool was ten miles long, and would afford almost a year-around river traffic. Normally, there would be almost a three month delay because of low water in the drought period.

Shipment of coal was predominant at the #2 Pool, each barge held about 5,000 bushels of coal and required five deck hands per barge.

Typical coal shipments thru the No. 2 Locks are listed:

	1846	1851	1855	1865
January	201,173	44,300	319,300	505,100
February	115,885	755,089	120,608	173,400
March	272,385	482,380	1,303,559	3,150,700
April	345,015	847,556	1,700,952	2,277,000
May	386,177	819,230	591,700	3,150,500
June	7,500	126,000	2,790,940	1,606,900
July	290,839	67,500	287,506	523,700
August	138,484	504,601	177,326	261,700
September	-----	70,750	480,582	450,600
October	583,908	95,500	463,280	1,648,500
November	499,153	1,852,472	1,762,157	2,202,600
December	164,120	207,540	1,487,162	3,172,700
Totals:	3,004,639	5,845,918	11,485,072	19,123,400

All shipments were measured in bushels.

Floods recorded that damaged parts of the structure were listed as follows: 1843 – a flood; 1852-a more damaging flood; May, 1856 – dam damaged extensively by flood; May 1858 – great flood; and 1867-68 – greatly injured the dam.

The Shipments of coal since 1844 in bushels thru the #2 locks

1844	1,328,604	1858	15,143,868
1845	3,091,639	1859	15,732,845
1846	3,004,639	1860	20,861,200
1847	3,986,643	1861	11,495,900
1848	4,420,347	1862	10,094,100
1849	5,540,340	1863	14,182,600
1850	8,030,130	1864	18,415,700
1851	5,845,918	1865	19,132,400
1852	7,188,539	1866	23,064,500
1853	7,325,062	1867	16,075,200
1854	9,251,532	1868	23,802,700
1855	11,485,072	1869	29,129,800
1856	3,213,740	1870	32,132,000
1857	17,255,326	1871	27,348,700



The total shipments for these years amounted to 680,000,000 bushels of coal, and of this grand total, over 50% or 367,579,044 bushels were handled at the #2 Locks.

A special note regarding the 1852 flood is listed in the records: River closed by ice from Jan. 13 to Feb 2. Flood-March 3 to 10 and 17 to 24. Highest level since memorable flood of 1832. Required building of new lock.

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#### A BRIEF RESUME OF THE 1860 POPULATION CENSUS TOWNSHIP OF WILKINS

Number of inhabitants – 2,260	Males 1126	Females 1134
No. of homes – 372	Area – approximately 15 square miles	
Foreign born – 435	Irish – 187, Germans – 174, Scotch - 36	
	English – 26 French – 10 and Swiss – 2	

Occupations – total of 59 various. Laboring – 266 (100 aliens), Farming – 139, servants – 70 (20 aliens), 69 miners (35 aliens), seamstress – 25, carpenters 23, clerks 19, blacksmiths, shoemaker 10, butchers 6, bricklayers 5, etc.

Professions and occupations, etc. included the following list:

Inn Keepers – Daniel Weartz, Robert Steal (bartender George Brian) Ezekiel Reece, Harry Harbaugh, Joseph Alshouse, boarding house proprietor Samuel Elder, tavern keeper Henry Meyers

Teachers – Charles A. Dickey, William H. Morrow, James and Mary Turner.

Ticket agents for the railroad --- John Baldrige and T.N. Valentine.

Coal Merchants – G.W. G. Paine, I.G. McFarland, Wilson J. Parker, Matthew Harvey, William Redman and Alexander S. Milligan. Coal boss – James Carson, coke tender – David Kelly, tipplers – Jacob Linhart and Samuel Milligan, weigh master – Richard Potts, stationary aids – W.S. Haven.

Ministers – Oliver Katz, John M. Hastings, William H. Lock, and Joseph Hunter.

Cord winder – James Ashwood, cabinet maker – James S. Woodwell, iron merchant – Alex Gordon, surveyor – William B. McCrea, clerk of court – John Horner, cooper – John Adams, doctors – James Carothers and William Kelly, reporter – William Swisshelm, stove maker – Jacob Weber, weaver – Francis Cooper, attorney – Alex Miller and millers – Levi Ludwick and Matthew S. Hamilton.

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Private Alexander B. Smith of Company A, 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry, enlisted July 22, 1861 and died January 14, 1862 of wounds received at Dranesville, December 20, 1861.

Musician George W. Smith of New Company f, 78<sup>th</sup> Infantry, mustered into service on February 14, 1865 and mustered out on September 11, 1865.

Corporal Joseph Wagoner of Company B, 82<sup>nd</sup> Infantry.

Private Benjamin Wallace of Company K, 46<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Infantry. Re-enlisted as private of 152<sup>nd</sup> Artillery Regiment on August 3, 1864.

Private Lorenzo Wilges of Company A, 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry, mustered into service March 3, 1862.

Some neighboring states, set up recruiting offices in Allegheny County to help fill their lagging quota. The first company of troops recruited in Allegheny County for an out-of-state regiment was Company A of the 2<sup>nd</sup> West Virginia Infantry Regiment. Recruiting was started and completed for this company on the same day –May 25, 1861.

Company G. of the 1<sup>st</sup> W. Va. Horse Artillery was also recruited in Allegheny County, and the volunteers were mustered into service on June 16, 1861 at Wheeling.

Companies A, D and F of the 5<sup>th</sup> W. Va. Calvary were also recruited in Allegheny County.

The following is a partial list of Wilkins volunteers who joined out-of-state outfits:

Private George Black of Co. D, 5<sup>th</sup> W. Va. Calvary.

Private S.F. Boyd of Co. G, 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Calvary.

Private William Delaney of Co. B, 138<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry, enlisted May 2, 1864, discharged September 1, 1864; enlisted as private in Company D, 55<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Infantry, April 3, 1865, discharged September 19, 1865.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John Hunter of Company F, 5<sup>th</sup> W. Va. Calvary, promoted to Captain of Company A, 5<sup>th</sup> W. Va. Calvary.

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as a private in the new Company A of the 101<sup>st</sup> Regiment; private Robert Scott of Co. G – who re-enlisted on Feb. 10, 1864 as private in new Co. A of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regiment and later transferred to Co. D of the 99<sup>th</sup> and again transferred to Co. D of the 105<sup>th</sup>. Promoted to corporal in 105<sup>th</sup>, also served in the 62<sup>nd</sup> Regiment.

The 105<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Infantry was a part of the brigade that included the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regiment. The 63<sup>rd</sup> of which Co. A and B had many men from Wilkins lost most of its officers in heavy fighting and the men were subsequently transferred to the 105<sup>th</sup>.

The roster includes private John Boyle of Co. D – transferred from Co. A of 63<sup>rd</sup>; private Thomas Davis of Co. D – transferred from 63<sup>rd</sup> and also from the 99<sup>th</sup>; private Matt Eagleson of Co. D, died Feb. 19, 1865 and buried at Poplar Grove National Cemetery, Petersburg, Va. – transferred from 63<sup>rd</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup>; Corp. James Hare of Co. D - transferred to 99<sup>th</sup> after original service in 63<sup>rd</sup>; Sgt. James Paul of Co. D – transferred from 63<sup>rd</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup>; private John Dempsey killed in action Feb. 64 – transferred from 63<sup>rd</sup>; private Irwin McCutcheon – transferred from 63<sup>rd</sup>; and private Robert Scott who served in the 63<sup>rd</sup>, 62<sup>nd</sup>, and 136<sup>th</sup> Regiments.

The 123<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment was a nine-month regiment with a \$50 bounty added, and at Allegheny City, three entire companies were organized July 28, 1862.

On August 7, three Wilkins neighbors enlisted in Co. G as privates. They were Oliver B. Duff, John Fisher and David W. Gilmore.

The 159<sup>th</sup> Calvary was authorized August 18, 1862 and 12 companies were filled from Allegheny County. The entire regiment was mustered out of service on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 1865.

Roster: Sgt. Robert Elder of Co. C; priv. Robert Hamilton; priv. Alexander S. Milligan; priv. John Parker of Company A; priv. Oliver Parker of Co. C, Sgt. William Moore of Co. F, Priv. Joseph Patterson of Co. H, Priv. William Rice of Co. K, Priv. Henry Snyder of Co. C and Corp. John Robb of Co. K.

The 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Infantry is one of the earliest of the regiments enlisting boys from the Wilkins Township area. Company C has a registry date of April 17, 1861 or only five days after the official state of war declared with the attack on Ft. Sumter.

Although this regiment was originally called in service for use in their home state, but the need of volunteers in the U.S. Union Army was in great demand.

The roster included Corp. John Kinney of Co. C, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Alex McCune of Co. B, Priv. William Peters of Co. B, wounded at Gainesville, and John Strathern, private of Co. C who dies of wounds received at Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862 and buried at Alexandria Virginia.

The 212<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Artillery was practically the last to be organized for the Civil War. It was raised during the latter days of August and the first few days of September 1864.

Wilkins men included: Joseph Brown – private in Co. H; Artificer James Elder of Co. D; private Hugh Miller of Co. A; private George Mitchell of Co. F; private John McKelvey of Co. G, private William McKinney of Co. D; and Samuel Steel – a private in Co. B.

The 136<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Infantry was a nine-month group and was mustered into service on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August, 1862.

The roster included private James Baker of Co. C – who transferred to the 160<sup>th</sup> and to the 64<sup>th</sup> Regiment; private Hiram Baughman of Co. G; Sgt. Samuel Davidson of Co. G – wounded at Fredericksburg, Va. On December 13, 1862 but later re-enlisted in the 159<sup>th</sup>; Private Charles H. Harrison of Co. G; private James McClelland of Co. G who re-enlisted March 24, 1864

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