Living in Pittsburgh

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You Are Here
Topography
Zooming In
Zooming In More
CMU Area (Oakland)
A Bit of History

• Around 1750:
  ■ Area claimed by French from Canada and British from East Coast.
  ■ Pittsburgh holds strategic position: Key to interior river system.
  ■ Many traders, but just a few European settlers.

• 1753:
  ■ George Washington, age 21, takes message to French commander.
  ■ Notes Pittsburgh as excellent location for a fort.
  ■ Nearly drowns, shot at on trip back.

• 1754:
  ■ British, French race to build fort. British dither, French win.
  ■ Washington fails to take Fort Duquesne.
  ■ Kills Jumonville in skirmish. Defeated at Fort Necessity.
  ■ Start of Seven Years’ War between English and French (worldwide).
1750: England and France
More History

• 1755:
  ■ English troops under General Braddock march (and hack) from Virginia, bringing cannon and building a road as they go.
  ■ Surprised and routed near Turtle Creek, just after crossing the Monongahela.
  ■ Braddock fatally shot. Washington emerges as hero.
  ■ English troops withdraw to “winter” quarters.

• Next two years:
  ■ Indians attack isolated settlers all along frontier.
More History

• 1758:
  ■ William Pitt becomes English Prime Minister, tide of the global war turns in England’s favor worldwide.
  ■ Supplies to French dwindle.
  ■ British force under Forbes and Bouquet approach (cutting road) from Philadelphia.
  ■ French defeat Grant’s Highlanders, then abandon fort.
  ■ British establish larger Fort Pitt on site. Settlers pour in.
  ■ French control of Canada soon broken.

• 1763:
  ■ Indians defeated by Bouquet at battle of Bushy Run.
  ■ No further “Indian threat” in this area.
Preparing for Indian Attack, 1763
Still More History

• 1774:
  ■ Struggle between PA and VA for control of this area.
  ■ Virginia leaders lose favor when Revolution starts.

• 1791-1795:
  ■ Whiskey Rebellion quashed by Washington. First real test of Federal control over secessionist area.

• Circa 1800:
  ■ Iron, Glass, Ships being produced. Regular boat service to Cincinnati.
  ■ Steady growth as Ohio Valley is populated by Europeans.
Even More History

• 1861-1865:
  ■ Explosive growth of area during U.S. Civil War.

• 1864:
  ■ Andrew Carnegie enters the iron business.

• 1870:
  ■ Judge Thomas Mellon starts Mellon Bank.

• 1870-1900:
  ■ Age of the “Robber Barons”. Huge industrial fortunes built.
  ■ Waves of immigrants from many areas of Europe.
  ■ Labor unrest, riots, Homestead Strike of 1892.
  ■ Smoke. Lots of it...
Downtown Pittsburgh, 3pm, Winter of 1913
Somewhat More Recent History

• 1905:
  ■ Carnegie Tech founded.

• 1900-1950:
  ■ More prosperity, more growth, more smoke.
  ■ Huge growth in steel demand during both World Wars.
  ■ Flood of 1936. Flood control projects begun.

• 1950’s and 1960’s Renaissance:
  ■ Strict smoke controls, massive cleanup spearheaded by Mayor David Lawrence and Richard K. Mellon.
  ■ The Point rebuilt as the “Golden Triangle”.
  ■ Economy begins shifting to service sector.
Flood of March, 1936
Even More Recent History

• 1980’s “Renaissance II”:
  ■ More building of skyline.
  ■ Mills closing.
  ■ Medical complex and universities become largest employers.
  ■ Rated “Most Livable City” by Rand-McNally.

• 1990’s, 2000’s, and Beyond: Renaissance III?
  ■ Cultural District on Liberty Avenue.
  ■ New football and baseball stadiums on North Shore. Commercial development.
  ■ New “green” convention center.
  ■ Waterfront, Robinson: “Big Box” stores arrive.
  ■ Downtown condos becoming popular.
  ■ Growing hi-tech, especially Robotics and Biomed.
  ■ Much building on CMU campus. Gates-Hillman Center!
  ■ Better mass transit? (CMU and Pitt students ride free.)

• Pittsburgh faced a severe fiscal crisis in past few years. Improving, but slowly.
• Need for regional government: hundreds of municipalities.
Culture & Entertainment

- Carnegie Institute
  - Art museum
  - Natural History
  - Music Hall
  - Carnegie Library
  - Buhl Science Center
  - Andy Warhol Museum
- Frick Art Museum/Clayton
- Phipps Conservatory
- Pittsburgh Symphony
- Pittsburgh Public Theater
- Pittsburgh Ballet Theater
- Pittsburgh Opera
- Renaissance & Baroque Society

- Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium
- CMU Music and Drama events
- Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
- Duquesne Tamburitzans
- Pittsburgh Film Society
- River City Brass Band
- Pittsburgh Dance Council
- Broadway Series
- Civic Light Opera
- Star Lake Amphitheater
- Hartwood Acres

Look in Thursday Post-Gazette or online for events.
Festivals

• Fall
  ■ Fair in the Park  
    (Mellon Park, Sept 7-9)
  ■ Highland Games  
    (Ligonier, Sept 22)
  ■ Renaissance Festival (New Stanton)

• Winter
  ■ Light-up Night (downtown)
  ■ Hartwood Acres decorations
  ■ Many Christmas concerts
  ■ Skiing Nearby  
    (downhill and X-country)

• Spring
  ■ Folk Festival
  ■ Greek Food Festival (Oakland)
  ■ CMU Spring Carnival
  ■ Pittsburgh Marathon
  ■ Pittsburgh International Children’s Festival

• Summer
  ■ Three Rivers Arts Festival
  ■ Three Rivers Regatta
  ■ Vintage Grand Prix
  ■ Movies in Schenley Park
  ■ Many Ethnic fairs, food festivals
  ■ County Fairs
  ■ Shadyside Arts Festival  
    (Walnut Street, Aug 25-26)
Sports

• NFL Pittsburgh Steelers
• NHL Pittsburgh Penguins
• Baseball (NL) Pittsburgh Pirates
• No NBA Basketball…

• Pittsburgh (Pitt) Panthers – Basketball and Football
• Penn State Nittany Lions
• CMU Tartans (Division 3)
Pittsburgh Folklore

Check out the videos by Rick Sebak, who makes documentaries for WQED (local Public TV).

• Oakland
• The Strip
• Downtown
• Kennywood
• The Mon, the Al, and the O
• Things That Aren’t There Anymore
• Things That Are Still Here
• Things We’ve Made
• Holy Pittsburgh
Additional Info

• [www.post-gazette.com](http://www.post-gazette.com)
  Primary local newspaper. Event listings on Thursday.

• [www.pittsburghlive.com](http://www.pittsburghlive.com)
  Tribune-Review. Second local newspaper.

• [www.bobsmaps.com](http://www.bobsmaps.com)
  Useful maps of parking, trails, etc.

• [halley.exp.sis.pitt.edu/comet/](http://halley.exp.sis.pitt.edu/comet/) or [pittcomet.info](http://pittcomet.info)
  Listings of events, talks, lecture series at CMU & Pitt

• [eventur.us](http://eventur.us)
  Student-Oriented Events