

*The Peebles family had acquired quite a bit of land, including 75 acres of John Turner's Federal Hill property. Peebles Township included Squirrel Hill and Greenfield.*

*German immigrants were often referred to as Dutch. This comes from the fact that they referred to themselves by the German name for their people, Deutsch.*

The city of Pittsburgh, meanwhile, busily gobbled up the towns surrounding it. Its borders now extended past Lawrenceville, Peebles, Collins, Oakland and Liberty, as well as encompassing twenty-seven square miles in Birmingham on the southern bank of the Monongahela River. Though the city was still predominantly Scotch-Irish, a full third of the population was new immigrants, mostly Irish and Germans who had been recruited by local industries.

The memory of the fire that nearly destroyed downtown was still fresh in people's minds, and local fire companies sprang up. Most of the firehouses weren't much more than a shed, but every company had its own colors and a mascot. There was a city ordinance requiring every home to have a leather fire bucket so every able-bodied man could assist if a fire broke out, but no one ever needed to enforce the law since the mere hint of fire would bring every man running from a mile around. The police had more work on their hands stopping street fights between the rival fire companies.

Downtown Pittsburgh was expanding, and cut after cut was made to flatten Grant's Hill. Even the skating pond at the base of the hill was filled in. Horne's Department Store was joined by Rosenbaum's and Boggs & Buhl, and Kaufmann's moved their store from Carson Street to downtown. To compete, Horne's hired a man to deliver packages for shoppers every afternoon from his wheelbarrow.

Of course, some might say it was hard to see all these improvements through the factory smoke, but your average working man didn't want clear skies. Smoke meant the mills and factories were running full tilt and, when Friday came, he would have a paycheck in his pocket.

