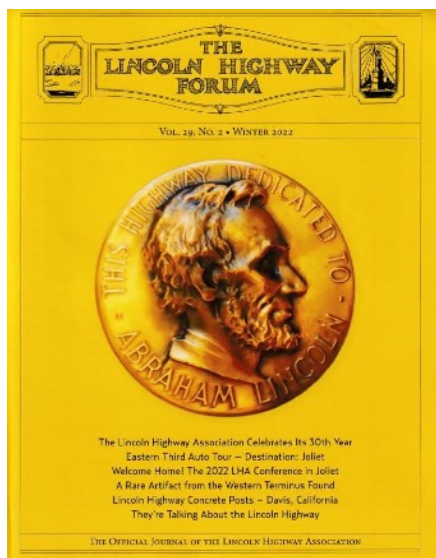




Archives

MARCH
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WILKINSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER VOLUME 28, ISSUE 1



The Lincoln Highway Forum is a nationally published magazine, and is the official journal of the Lincoln Highway Association. The original Lincoln Highway was opened in 1913, guiding travelers from New York City to San Francisco. By 1928 the highway itself was well established and hundreds of additional roads had been built throughout America. To formally honor Abraham Lincoln and the highway dedicated to him, the Boy Scouts of America placed 3000 concrete post markers along the road from coast to coast.

In 1992 a group of Lincoln Highway enthusiasts met to discuss the historical importance of America's first trans-continental road. Pittsburgh's own Brian Butko played a key role in re-establishing the national Lincoln Highway Association. Brian is a national expert on the LHA and has written numerous books about the Lincoln Hwy. Search "Brian Butko Lincoln Highway" to see or purchase any of Butko's fascinating and authoritative books.

In 2022 the new LHA is celebrating thirty years!

Reinstallation of Our 1928 Lincoln Highway Post

Our Department of Public Works made sure that it was installed the week of the Lincoln statue unveiling, since many people have no idea why we have a Lincoln statue in Wilkesburg. Had they read our historical society newsletter they would know that Lincoln was placed there in 1916 to celebrate that we were one of the lucky towns on the Lincoln Highway.

Our goal is to purchase an additional bronze plaque, much like the plaque that was placed on the railing, but pointing out that you are overlooking the Lincoln Highway. It's not possible to put something down on the actual Lincoln Highway due to the proximity of traffic.

The newly erected bronze Lincoln statue is in the exact same location as the previous statue. The original 1928 concrete road marker had been several hundred



feet further down Penn Avenue towards Swissvale Avenue. During the last century parts of Penn Avenue had been widened, the marker became a traffic hazard and the original concrete marker then disappeared. The Wilkesburg Historical Society was able to purchase an exact replica of the original.

In the photos, Jeff Stonesifer, Pennsylvania Chapter Director of the Lincoln Highway Association is with Wilkesburg Historical Society president Anne Elise Morris. The Lincoln Highway can be seen behind and below Stonesifer and Morris. Jeff attended the July 24, 2021 unveiling of the Lincoln statue and set up a table

with Lincoln Highway merchandise and information. He is always looking for ways to help to keep the Lincoln Highway relevant! *Anne Elise Morris*

L They're Talking About the Lincoln Highway

By Russell S. Rein

October:

Our Changing Lives featured the Archway Museum in Kearny, Nebraska. "Westward Bound - The Archway, 'Go west, young man, go west.' was a cry to push America's westward expansion. When Horace Greeley first said these words, in 1865, he saw the potential of the fertile lands beyond the Mississippi River. As emigrants began their westward bound travels, new 'roads' would spring up that led toward the setting sun. We love learning about the modes of transportation that pioneers and settlers used to traverse the continent." There are many great exhibits including the Lincoln Highway. The

museum was built over I-80. Read the entire article and check out the photos here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3mc7ezm7>

Leonard Hoover's Restaurant was located at 1020 Lincoln Way in 1926. Lenny, seen in the foreground,

ran a number of restaurants and taverns throughout his years in La Porte, Indiana. The building went on to become Hartmann's Tavern, then Kabelin's annex.



Courtesy What's New LaPorte - Moments in Time... in photographs



Photo Courtesy WDC and the Wilksburg Train Station Restoration Project

the LH at Hay Street, east of the overpasses. Go another block to Nancy's Revival restaurant for a home-cooked breakfast or lunch. Story by Michael Machosky." You can read the story here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yere9zfm>

Brian Butko shared a story about the restoration of the train station in Wilksburg, Pennsylvania, from Next Pittsburgh: "In 1916, when Wilksburg PA dedicated its President Lincoln statue along the LH, it was also celebrating the elevation of train tracks over the road (a major concern of the LHA then) and the opening of an adjacent train station. The station closed in 1965 and declined into terrible shape, but it has just been restored. It's one block off

Wilkinsburg's 1887 Centennial - Vision for the future

2022 marks 35 years since Wilkinsburg celebrated its Centennial in 1987. 1987 was a year of revitalization and it was part of a six-year designation as an Enterprise Zone where state, county and local contractual arrangements were made to improve Wilkinsburg's economy. The following is quoted from Bill Fontana, Enterprise Zone coordinator during 1987. These are Bill's thoughts and a final summary of those revitalization efforts.

"For the past 3 1/2 years, since August 1983, and for at least the next two years, Wilkinsburg has been and will continue to be the recipient of significant amounts of public funds, in an effort to revitalize the community's economy.

The fact is, public dollars and good intentions of community organizations can only do so much. Unless the Wilkinsburg community as a whole - its residents, its businesses, its government leaders, and its community groups - sincerely want a rejuvenated community, no amount of public investment and no amount of volunteer time or effort by well-intentioned individuals have much chance of success.

As in the case of a person, a community is a living, growing entity. It evolves and changes with time; sometimes it is healthy, sometimes it is not. There are occasions for it to celebrate and others for it to mourn. It can be made stronger by caring for itself or weakened by neglect, indifference, apathy, and abuse.

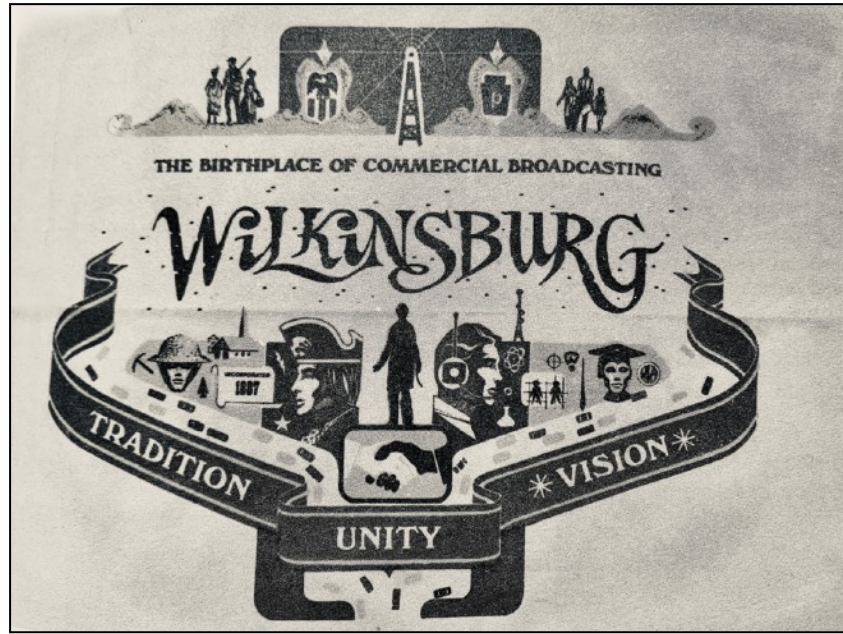
Each of you can make a difference. When you become involved, when you work for better community services, when you help your neighbor, you're making the community strong. When you tolerate vandalism, crime, unresponsiveness where there should be support, irresponsibility where there should be concern, you allow the entity, the body, to deteriorate.

Wilkinsburg's ultimate success or failure lies not in how much government money is pumped into its economy. Organizations, in conjunction with Borough groups can only do so much. The final result lies within each of you. Wilkinsburg will become as much or as little as you want to be.

The story goes that a wise old man once lived on a mountaintop. A young boy climbed the mountain one day intending to trick the old man. In his hands, the boy held a small bird. "Old man," the boy said, "This bird I hold, will it live or die?" The old man pondered the question for a moment, knowing that if he said the bird would live, the boy would crush the bird in his hands. On the other hand, if he said it would die, the boy would open his palms and the bird would fly free. Finally, the old man rubbed his chin and said, "The answer, my son, is in your hands."

How do you envision yourself in the future of Wilkinsburg? Some of the 1987 goals for Wilkinsburg were realized; others were a complete failure. Blight continues and while some parts of the business district are robust: others are abandoned. There are many opportunities to be involved and make a positive difference.

Wilkinsburg: A traditional town united for progress



During the 1987 100-year celebration, Wilkinsburg Council commissioned a new symbol for Wilkinsburg, a Centennial flag. This new symbol of Tradition, Unity and Vision was to fly each day under the Stars & Stripes at the Municipal Building. Across the top the Allegheny foothills represent its locale. Pioneer and modern figures depict the historic span of its residents. National and state symbols like the communication tower which represents the birth of commercial radio and the home of television.

Symbolic of the community's tradition are the churches; the Pioneer Minuteman and helmeted soldier are a tribute to the many who died in the service of this country.

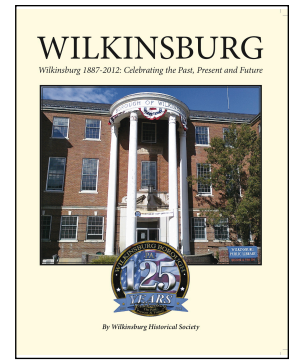
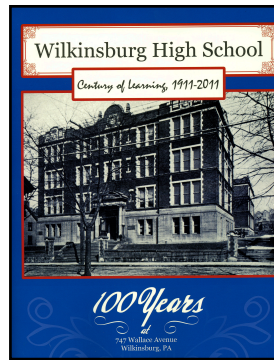
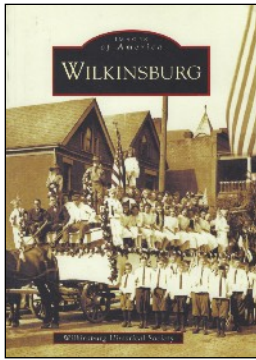
Unity is symbolized by the bi-racial hand clasp and the statue of Abraham Lincoln.

Vision is depicted through modern figures and symbols that stand for technology and education of the future. The concept could be summed up as "A traditional town united for progress."



The centennial theme was Tradition, Unity, Vision. Resident artist, Bill Hofscher designed the Centennial flag, the bronze medallion keychain and a set of three historic prints depicting Wilkinsburg life over the past hundred years.





These are the three books that the **Wilkinsburg Historical Society** wrote and published during the past twelve years. They help to promote and preserve the history of Wilkinsburg and raise funds for the various projects of the Society. All three books are still available to purchase from the Society. Another way to support the activities of the Historical Society.

On the far left is ***"Images of America - Wilkinsburg"***, a 128 page soft-bound book printed by the Arcadia Publishing Company. It includes over 220 black and white photos depicting the history of our town from the early land patents in the late 1700s up to the 75th celebration of Wilkinsburg in 1962. The book is available from the Wilkinsburg Historical Society for \$20.00, plus \$3.00 for shipping.

The middle book above is ***"Wilkinsburg High School - Century of Learning 1911-2011"***. This book chronicles the history of the local high school from its early start in the late 1880s, the creation of the magnificent structure in 1910, and each decade since with highlights of the events that were important in the lives of the students and the Wilkinsburg community. For over 100 years the Wilkinsburg High School served the Borough of Wilkinsburg students and this book has several hundred photos showing much of this important history. This *Century of Learning* book is available from the Wilkinsburg Historical Society for \$15.00, plus \$3.00 for shipping.

The book on the far right is ***"Wilkinsburg - 1887-2012, Celebrating the Past, Present and Future"***. This book was produced by the Historical Society in 2012 to recognize the 125th anniversary of Wilkinsburg's incorporation as a Borough. This soft-bound book has 196 pages and includes chapters on the history of Wilkinsburg, the celebrations from the past, information about Wilkinsburg's government, and all the events that occurred during the 125th celebration. There are several chapters about the clubs and organizations in Wilkinsburg as well as the churches and worship centers in the Borough. The "future of Wilkinsburg" section recognizes advertisers and sponsors who helped to fund the creation and printing of the book. This book, originally \$15.00, is now available for \$10.00, plus \$3.00 for shipping.

Make check or money order payable to: **Wilkinsburg Historical Society**

Orders can be mailed to: Wilkinsburg Historical Society, P.O.Box 17252, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Images of America - Wilkinsburg (\$20.00 + \$3.00) = \$23.00 Quantity_____ Total _____

Century of Learning 1911-2011 (\$15.00 + \$3.00) = \$18.00 Quantity_____ Total _____

Wilkinsburg 1887-2012 (\$10.00 + \$3.00) = \$13.00 Quantity_____ Total _____

Name_____ Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip _____



Don't miss out on **The Wilkinsburg Sun**, a free monthly community newsletter published by the volunteer Wilkinsburg Community Newsletter Board, with the support of the Wilkinsburg Borough, the Wilkinsburg School District, the Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce and the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation.

The Sun accepts submitted articles provided they are related to Wilkinsburg and are civic-minded.

<https://wilkinsburgsun.wordpress.com>

Sign up to receive The Sun by email at eeurl.com/v0iBP and friend The Sun on Facebook.

Wilkinsburg Historical Society has a website, to share more information about the history of Wilkinsburg. wilkinsburghistory.wordpress.com

Mailing address: **Wilkinsburg Historical Society, P.O. Box 17252, Pittsburgh, PA 15235**

The "Archives" Historical Society newsletter is published monthly, March through November.

Wilkinsburg Historical Society yearly dues for the Wilkinsburg Historical Society are:
 \$20.00 INDIVIDUAL Member, \$35.00 FAMILY Membership
 \$10.00 STUDENT or ASSOCIATE Members Please keep your membership dues up to date.

Wilkinsburg Historical Society - Membership application

Help promote the valuable history of Wilkinsburg.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail address _____

() \$20 Individual membership

() \$35 Family membership

() \$10 Student or associate membership

() \$_____ Additional donation

Please make check payable to: **Wilkinsburg Historical Society**
PO Box 17252, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Anytime is a good time to pay your dues for the Wilkinsburg Historical Society. We have many preservation projects going on, and providing displays for Wilkinsburg events. Many thanks to those of you who have already sent in your membership dues. Please use the address on the form, our PO box.