

Companion Guide of Additional Resources



Our Rivers: Yesterday and Today The MONONGAHELA RIVER

Content

The following resources have been provided by the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area as companion study sources for the educational video program *Our Rivers: Yesterday and Today, The Monongahela River* and the related *Student and Teachers Resource Guide*. This online educational package has been provided as a free scholarly and educational resource.

Our Rivers: Yesterday and Today, The Monongahela River Video Program and Resource Guides

Available at: <http://www.riversofsteel.com/for-educators/curriculum/mon-river>



The Monongahela River Buffs Association Dr. John K. Folmar I

Historic information in the accompanying video program regarding the early history of the Monongahela River was provided by Dr. John K. Folmar I, President of The Monongahela River Buffs Association and retired California University of PA Professor. The Monongahela River Buffs Association's website contains a variety of information on steamboats and the early history of the Monongahela River through this link: (<http://monongahelariverbuffs.blogspot.com/>).

The website also provides information on the Monongahela River Buffs Association Museum in Monongahela, PA.

During his tenure at California University, Dr. Folmar instituted a course on local Western Pennsylvania history and wrote student guidebooks for further exploration of the subject. He has written many books on the history of the Civil War and other related subjects. His following publications focus on the working river communities of the Monongahela River, shipbuilding and the history of steamboats and river transport.

- Folmar I, J.K. *Drifting Back in Time: Historical Sketches of Washington and Fayette Counties, Pennsylvania, including the Monongahela River Valley* Yohogania Press, 2006. Print.
- Folmar I, J.K. *California, Pa, 1849-1881: The History of a Boat Building Town* Yohogania Press, 2009. Print.
- Folmar I, J.K. *Gleanings: From Pittsburgh & W.Pa.: Newspaper &c, Views, 1786-1886* Yohogania Press, 2006. Print.
- Folmar I, J.K. *Centennial Anniversary of the Founding of Monongahela City, Pa.: celebrated August 27th, 1892.* Yohogania Press, 2004. Print

(Links and information provided by permission of Dr. John K. Folmar I)



Glenn Tunney

Mr. Tunney has taught American and local history for over thirty years at Brownsville Area High School. He is a past winner of the Fayette County "Educator of the Year" award and a newspaper columnist whose weekly articles appear in the Uniontown (PA) Herald-Standard.

His book, *Looking Back: The Best of Glenn Tunney*, is a compilation of articles written over the past decade for his popular column.

Glenn Tunney's Column

URL page link for Glenn Tunney's Column ® and Brownsville Time Capsule ©:
<http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~glenntunneycolumn/>

Glenn Tunney

American/Local History Teacher and Author

- **Excerpt from Article #145 – August 26, 2011**
Taming the Monongahela:
- *Brownsville's Locks and Dams:*

"Today's article begins a series about the three locks and dams that were in the Monongahela river near Brownsville over the past 120 years. Neither the original Lock 5 at Denbo nor Lock 5 at Brownsville still exists. Their replacement at Maxwell has been in operation since 1965.

How different our lives and those of our ancestors would have been if the Monongahela River had been too shallow to be navigated by westbound pioneers or barges heaped with coal. Construction of locks and dams on the Mon made year-round navigation possible, thereby dramatically altering the past two centuries' history in the Mon valley.

Many questions can be asked about the three local locks and dams, past and present, that have serviced the Brownsville area. Why were they located in three different places? When and how was each one built? What, if anything, is left of the locks and dams at Denbo and Brownsville? And just in passing, why isn't Maxwell Locks and Dam called "Lock 5" like its predecessors were? We expect to answer these questions and many others in the next few weeks.

Sources of information consulted for this series include records of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Pittsburgh District), J. Percy Hart's "History and Directory of the Three Towns," newspaper articles from the archives of the Brownsville Telegraph, historic photographs and post cards loaned by former and current area residents, information supplied by the staff at Maxwell Locks and Dam, and personal recollections shared by men and women who worked at or utilized the locks and dams.

To truly understand how the locks and dams changed the lives of generations of Mon valley residents, we need to envision what the Monongahela river looked like before those dams were built. One brief anecdote from America's past provides a glimpse of the Monongahela river as it looked two centuries ago.

To read more of this article and others on the Monongahela River area:

<http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~glenntunneycolumn/column145.htm>

(Excerpt and links provided by permission of Glenn Tunney.)

Guides, Publications and Images

Further information on many of the subjects explored in this video can be found through the following:

United States Coast Guard –

Photographs, Audio and Video Recordings and More Information

<http://www.uscg.mil/top/downloads/>

<http://cgvi.uscg.mil/media/main.php>

United States Coast Guard Auxillary –

<http://history.auxpa.org/collections/photographs/about-photographs.htm>

Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania – www.eswp.com .

- Their quarterly online publications are available at:
http://www.eswp.com/eswp/pittsburgh_engineer.htm
- Of special interest - Pittsburgh Engineer, Quarterly Publication of the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania, *Waterways*, Fall 2011:
<http://www.eswp.com/PDF/Fall%202011%20Pgh%20ENG%20WEB.pdf>

United States Steel Corporation – www.ussteel.com

The US Steel Mon Valley Works is an integrated steelmaking operation that includes four separate facilities: [Clairton Plant](#), [Edgar Thomson Plant](#), [Irvin Plant](#) and [Fairless Plant](#). For information on the Mon Valley Works:

<http://www.ussteel.com/uss/portal/home/aboutus/facilities>

- Clairton Plant, Clairton PA (Coke Production)
- Edgar Thomson Plant, Braddock, PA (Steelmaking)
- Irvin Plant, West Mifflin, PA (Finishing)

United States Army Corps of Engineers – A variety of historic publications, reference materials and imagery can be found at:

- Photographs and other materials on the USACE can be found at their Digital Visual Library,
<http://eportal.usace.army.mil/sites/DVL/default.aspx>
- DVIDS – Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System
www.dvidshub.net





Our Rivers: Yesterday and Today The Monongahela River Video

For more information on the services, companies and organizations along the Monongahela River featured in our video:

Brownsville Marine Products
www.brownvillemarine.com/

Gateway Clipper Fleet
www.gatewayclipper.com/

Monongahela River Buffs Association
<http://monongahelariverbuffs.blogspot.com/2010/04/transportation-history-follows-current.html>

RiverLift Industries
<http://www.riverliftindustries.com/index.php>

Pittsburgh River Rescue
http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/ems/html/river_rescue_unit.html

Port of Pittsburgh
www.port.pittsburgh.pa.us/

United States Army Corps of Engineers,
Pittsburgh District
<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/>

United States Army Corps of Engineers,
Headquarters
<http://www.usace.army.mil/>

United States Coast Guard
<http://www.uscg.mil/>

United States Coast Guard, Homeport,
Pittsburgh
<https://homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/ep/portDirectory.do?tabId=1&cotpld=1000003>

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
<http://www.cgaux.org/>

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**Port of Pittsburgh
Commission**



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