

A History of Westinghouse in Trafford

TWENTY-SEVEN years ago when George Westinghouse, the founder of the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company, decided to build the present Trafford foundry there was no such community as Trafford. Land was purchased at what was then Stewart Station and George Westinghouse renamed it Trafford City after Trafford Park, England, where his English works were located. The name has since been abbreviated to Trafford.

The same year work was started on the foundry buildings and tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad were leased for the purpose of transporting products between East Pittsburgh and Trafford and for the purpose of testing Westinghouse Electric locomotives and cars.

The first heat in the foundry was drawn on October 23, 1903. In 1916 the T. C. works were built. In 1922 the capacity of these works was doubled. Another addition was the high-voltage laboratories where for years Westinghouse engineers have created gigantic bolts of artificial lightning.

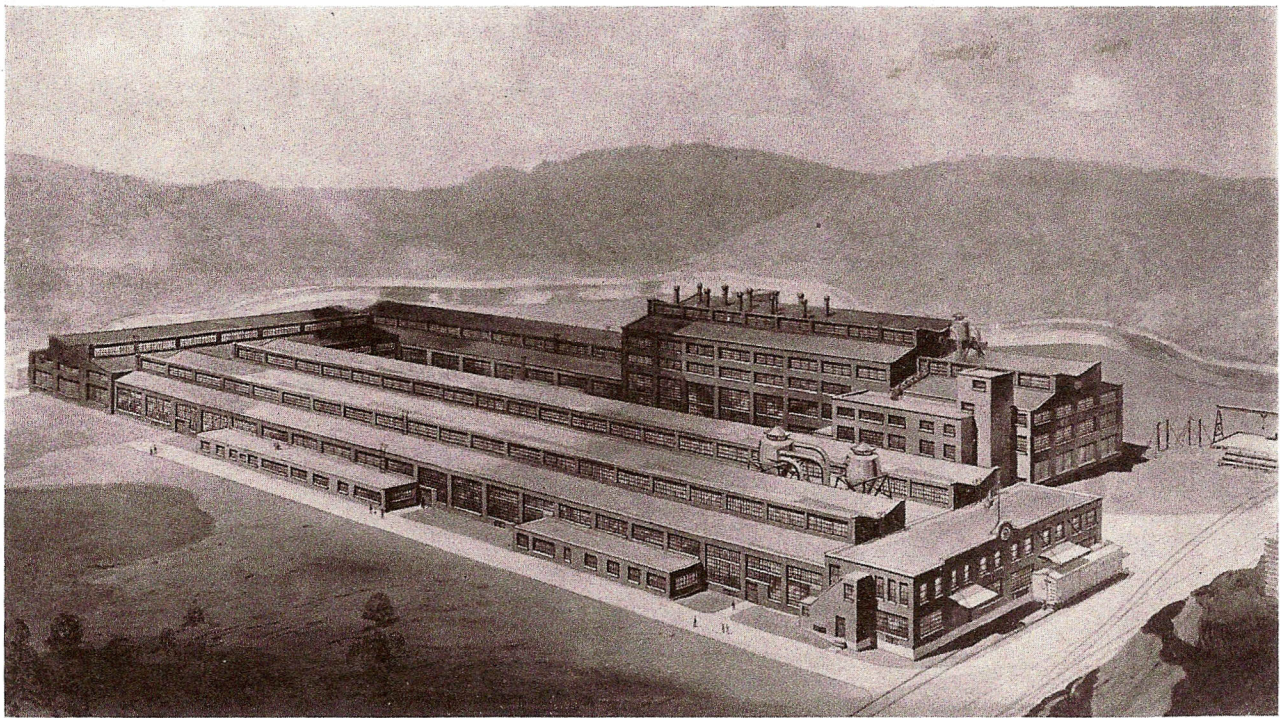
At the present time workmen are putting the finishing touches on the new moulded material plant. One of the interesting features of the new building is that in all the steel work there are no rivets. Welding is used throughout.

When the new plant is under full operation more than 1,000 employes will be added to the Trafford payroll. This will make the complete number of employes of the Westinghouse Company in Trafford more than 2,200.

The products that pour out of the Westinghouse works are widely varied. More than 1,250 tons of finished gray iron castings are turned out each month. The electric steel foundry has a capacity of 250 tons of steel castings a month. All necessary patterns are made in the Trafford works. Tanks and other pressed steel products are turned out here.

With the finishing of the moulded material plant many different articles will be made from Micarta, a light, strong compound material. Westinghouse engineers who developed the material are busy discovering new uses for it although thousands are already known. Micarta is used to make aeroplane propellers that will not shatter, aeroplane pulleys that won't flatten and make the plane hard to handle, silent street railway gear wheels, and to make many other products where a material of lightness and strength is needed.

In order to give the Micarta propellers the most strenuous test possible the Westinghouse Company has built a test building. Here propellers are rotated at high speeds by a 400-horsepower electric motor.



TRAFFORD MICARTA PLANT PARTLY COMPLETED, WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY

The propeller turns in a constant stream of artificial rain which severely tries the strength of the material. In addition the propeller is made to "flutter" as it would in actual use on an aeroplane in order to test its resistance to vibration. This test is carried on in a sound-proof building where the fierce blasts of air and the continued roar are effectively pocketed. Otherwise the sound would be heard miles in all directions.

Another interesting place is the high-voltage laboratory where Westinghouse engineers carry on experiments and test equipment. This is one of the show places of the entire Westinghouse works and visitors have come from all over the world to view the displays of million-volt surges of artificial lightning.

The first superintendent of the Trafford Foundry was Henry Henderson. The present superintendent is J. R. Thompson. Charles A. Smith is superintendent of the T. C. works; A. J. Bastian is superintendent of the Micarta division; H. H. Gallaher is in charge of the High-Voltage Laboratory, and J. C. Bair is superintendent of the Westinghouse Inter-Works Railway.

One of the major developments of the Westinghouse Company in the Trafford area is that of a housing plan for employes. By building homes and selling them to the employes both the men and their families and the community as a whole have been benefited. Fifty homes were built on Gilmore and Fairmont Avenues in 1902. Of these all but three were sold on easy terms to employes. The three were maintained by the company and rented to clergymen of Trafford.

In the same year 22 apartments were built and rented to employes. Twenty-eight additional apartments were built in 1917 which were rented. Eight cottages were built and sold that year. In 1918 sixteen four-room houses were built and in 1924 eight additional homes were constructed. More homes are to be built in the future by the company as the need arises.

Westinghouse, it may be seen, is carrying out a well-rounded program in the development of its Trafford enterprises. It is improving not only its own plants but also the community. Therefore it is easy to believe that the improvement will continue in the future as it has in the past. The present plants are expanding and the Micarta works will have a new field to develop. Trafford may confidently look forward upon the next 25 years as another era of advancement.

Wynn Brick Company

ONE of Trafford's pioneer industries is the Wynn Brick Company plant, which was founded in 1903. This plant has been in continuous operation since founding and employs on an average of 40 men. To meet an increased demand and a trend toward better quality, modern equipment has been installed from time to time, and today this plant ranks with the most up-to-date in the country.

The products include a rough matt texture Devonshire brick; a smooth face brick, and a mingled shade with a range of twenty-one colors. Quality, color and shading are all guaranteed and must pass rigid inspection before leaving for a job.

The market for these products is not limited to a radius centering around Pittsburgh. In many cases shipments are made where the freight rates are as high as the cost of the brick. Such was the case when the late Chas. Ebbetts, former President of the Brooklyn National League Baseball Club, built his winter home in Clearwater, Florida, using uniform red Devonshires. Full range mingled were shipped for a large business block in Avon Park, Florida. Shipments constantly go forward to New York and Detroit—quite a number go to Boston and New Bedford, Mass., and occasional shipments go to Rochester, Richmond, Minneapolis, Toledo, Norfolk, and points in many other cities and states. A constant stock of from one to one and a half million insures prompt delivery.

In conjunction with the brick plant this company also maintains a builders' supply and lumber yard, carrying in stock a complete line of rough and finish lumber, paints, window glass, and building hardware. They are also distributors for Westmoreland gas coal, with prompt service, quality and weight guaranteed. They are now in position to furnish everything required for the erection and completion of a building, regardless of size or style.

Pennsylvania Railroad Company

Trafford owes much of her advancement and achievements to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company as this great organization transports material for building our modern city and provides splendid facilities for shipping our products and transporting our people by rail, bus and airplane. More than this she furnishes employment to hundreds of our citizens.

The large Pitcairn Freight yards extend into and through Trafford. The Reclamation Plant and the Maintenance of Way Supervisor and department together with the North Trafford Passenger Yards are located here. In addition to this the Pennsylvania is the owner of considerable real estate and properties in our borough. This all indicates that the Pennsylvania Railroad believes in Trafford.

Being located at the Junction of the Main Line and the Turtle Creek Branch which connects with the Conemaugh Division at Saltsburg gives Trafford three Pennsylvania Railroad Stations: Trafford, North Trafford and Blackburn at which more than fifty passenger trains stop daily.

A History of Trafford Public Schools

By H. R. Leffler, President Board of Education

IN CELEBRATING our Twenty-Fifth Anniversary it is fitting that something should appear concerning our public schools of which we are justly proud.

In a survey of the first borough officials we find the following men constituting the first Board of Education: L. Y. Woodmansee, who is now in Phoenix, Ariz.; A. E. Graham, of Wilksburg, Pa.; F. H. Stouffer,



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Top—H. R. LEFFLER, A. H. YEAGERS *Bottom*—DR. C. L. MITCHELL, F. W. REED
Absent—L. D. BARDWELL

who is now located in Laramie, Wyo.; R. H. McCutcheon and A. B. Kerr, both deceased; Joseph Murray, of 431 Fairmont Avenue, who still takes an active interest in school, church and borough activities.

These men met in the Trafford Inn on the evening of September 21, 1904, and organized the first Board of Education. The oath of office was administered by Burgess W. W. Palmer. L. Y. Woodmansee was elected president; A. B. Kerr, secretary, and the First National Bank of Trafford City, treasurer.

Several years prior to the forming of the borough, North Huntington Township erected a two-roomed building and named it the Stewart School. This building was taken in with the borough, and the Trafford



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING No. 1

children went to this school, but with the rapid growth of the new borough it became necessary to make other arrangements. The old Brinton homestead which had been occupied by the Trafford Improvement Company was vacated and made into a school building consisting of two rooms. This building was located between Cavitt and Brinton Avenues and has since been razed. The present Martino Building marks the site.

The two rooms of this building were soon filled and the Board was obliged to use one of the rooms of the Stewart School. School opened October 31st, 1904, with three teachers—Sara Reese, Carrie Fisher and Francis Fischer. R. J. Fulton was elected principal. Through the efforts of our good friend Joseph Murray (who is the only surviving member of the board now living in Trafford) the present site of the Edgewood Avenue School was donated by the Westinghouse Machine Company and in 1905 a bond issue was voted for \$15,000 for the erection and equipping of four rooms. Rigger & Currier, of 314 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh, were elected as architects. School was opened in the new building in the fall of 1905 and much to the amazement of the Board it was found they needed additional room to take care of the children and a room in the basement was used for the eighth grade.

In 1909 another bond issue was voted for \$20,000 and eight additional rooms were added to the original four. This apparently was not enough as in 1910 an additional \$10,000 bond issue was enacted for the purpose of furnishing and equipping the entire building.

In 1917 five additional lots on Edgewood Avenue were purchased and a temporary four-roomed frame building was erected and equipped at a cost of about \$11,000. At this time a three-year high school course was instituted.

In 1922 it was seen that the growth of Trafford was such that it would be necessary to provide for future expansion and 16 lots on Fair-

mont Avenue, between Third and Fourth Streets, were purchased. At the same time an \$80,000 bond issue was voted and the eight-roomed junior and senior high school building was erected. The new building which is complete in itself was so designed that four class rooms can be built on either end without any remodeling except to continue the hallways through the present end walls and increasing the heating and ventilating system in the space already provided.

In 1928 an additional room was added to the Edgewood Avenue building by removing the old stage in the auditorium which is no longer used as an auditorium. The cost was very nominal and provided an additional room which was badly needed.

This year (1929) a new addition is being added to the north end of the High School building, providing four class rooms and two laboratory rooms, which will be ready for occupancy this fall. The laboratories which are now located in the Edgewood Avenue building will be moved into the new building. This will make the High School complete with laboratories, gymnasium, showers and dressing rooms.

When this building is completed the entire schools will consist of 30 class rooms, two laboratories, gymnasium and showers for both boys and girls.

In 1904 the assessed valuation of the borough was a little over five hundred thousand dollars, on which was laid a tax levy of seven mills for school purposes and three mills for building purposes. Today the assessed valuation is about two million with 28 mills levied for school purposes and six and one-half mills for building purposes.

No figures are available showing the school population at the inception of the borough but more than 1,200 pupils will be enrolled this fall.

Our High School is recognized as a first-class school and its graduates are entering advanced schools of learning. The four year course was inaugurated in 1924.

Thrift is taught and encouraged in all the grades, there being 982 depositors in the school savings fund last year. Weekly deposits are made, some of which exceed \$1,000 per week.

Prof. H. E. Seville, who has been the Supervising Principal for the past five years, has planned and put into operation a modern course of study whereby each room of any particular grade receives the same instructions. Prof. Seville has also established a system whereby permanent records are kept of every pupil throughout his entire grade and high school life.

Thirty-eight teachers are now employed, as follows: 23 grade teachers, 9 high school teachers, 1 physical education teacher, 1 music teacher, 1 supervising principal, 2 part time teachers for mechanical drawing, sewing and penmanship. Penmanship being supervised by Mr. P. O. Peterson.

Following is the personnel of the Board of Education: H. R. Leffler, president; F. W. Reed, vice president; L. D. Bardwell, secretary; A. H. Yeagers, director; Dr. C. L. Mitchell, director; B. W. Carlson, treasurer; R. W. Carson, solicitor, and H. E. Seville, supervising principal.

St. Regis Catholic Church



ST. REGIS CATHOLIC CHURCH, Trafford, was organized December, 1903. Prior to this time attendance was at Pitcairn or Wilmerding. There were then about twelve families. Rev. M. A. McGarey, who is now the pastor at St. Aloysius Church, Wilmerding, said the first Mass on Christmas Day, 1903. Services were then being held on the second floor of the building, corner Brinton Avenue and Third Street.

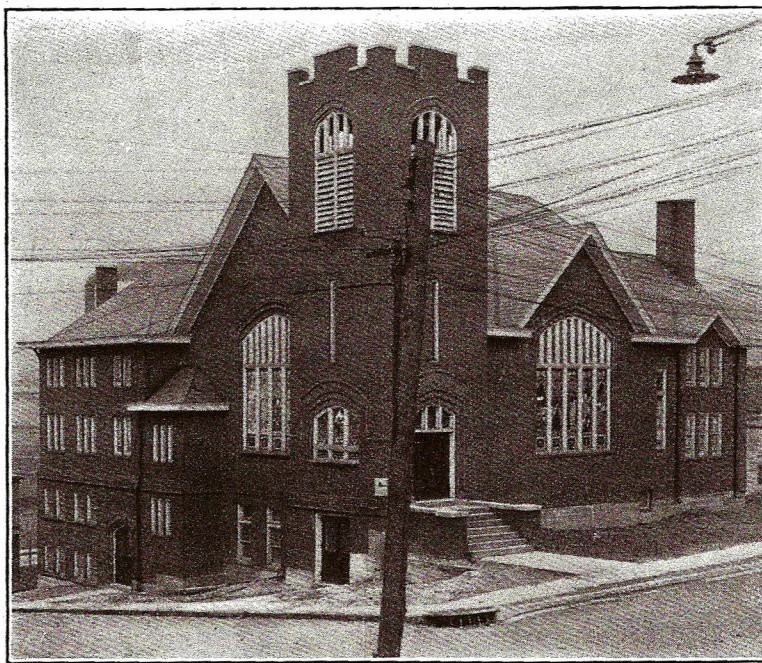
Shortly after this the second floor of the building, corner Cavitt and Third Street, above what is now the A. & P. grocery store, was secured and services were held here regularly. Among the pioneers of the parish were Joseph Murray, August Slusser, E. D. Seitz, Michael Lynch, John Dougherty, J. P. Gorman, J. J. Gallery, and J. L. Sheedy and through the efforts of these men a church building was erected on Homewood Avenue. E. E. Peduzzi was the contractor.

Up until this time this was a Mission Parish, being looked after by a priest from Pitcairn or Wilmerding. Shortly after the new church was erected a resident pastor, Rev. P. O'Neil, was sent to Trafford.

In February, 1910, this church was destroyed by fire. Plans were immediately made for a new building and Mass was first said in it on Christmas Day, 1910.

About 1915 Rev. O'Neil was succeeded by Rev. P. F. Quinn, followed by Rev. Thomas Welsh. After six years Rev. Welsh was transferred to St. Richards Church, Pittsburgh, and was succeeded by Rev. Walsh who was with us until his sudden death. He was followed by the present pastor, Rev. T. McCabe. Present membership, 1100.

First Methodist Episcopal Church

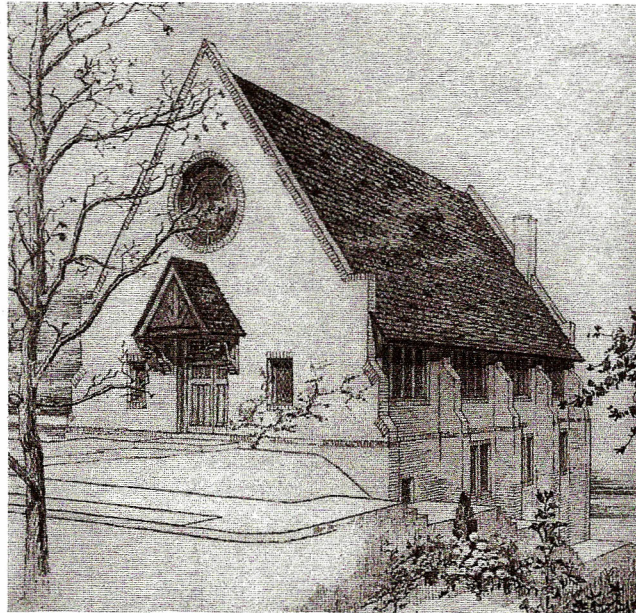


THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH of Trafford was organized January 7, 1904, in Euwer's Hall, corner of Brinton and Third Streets, Rev. G. Meade Dougherty, pastor. Previous to that time the members had met in a house at Cavittsville owned by a Mr. Kurtz. Soon after organization the society moved to Cameron's Hall, corner of Cavitt Avenue and Third Street. Here the society felt the need of a permanent church building, and lots were secured on Duquesne Avenue and Second Street where a frame church was erected in 1907 with Rev. J. C. Brown as pastor. This building served the purpose for about 13 years, when lots were secured on Duquesne Avenue and Fourth Street where the present beautiful church now stands. At a cost of \$75,000 it is one of the finest structures in the Valley and was dedicated June 15, 1924. With this splendid equipment the Sunday school grew and is organized throughout rendering splendid service to all classes.

Mr. L. F. Carson is the efficient superintendent. The membership of the church and Sunday school are about equal, numbering about 265. The present board of trustees are H. T. Wynn, president; L. F. Carson, H. S. Miller, Thomas Mainey, H. R. Leffler, J. M. Leffler, Dr. F. M. Pogue, Albert Yeagers and John Himes.

Rev. Samuel Hill has been the pastor for the last six years.

First Presbyterian Church



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, of Trafford, was organized June 9, 1907. Rev. George S. Hackett, D.D., serving the Presbyterian Church of Murrysville, Pa., was appointed first "stated supply;" preaching services being held Sunday afternoon in Cameron's Hall. The first elders were George D. Dible and George J. Brethauer. Services were later held in the Reformed Church and then in the Odd Fellows Hall until the present church building was erected in 1919.

The following ministers have served the congregation: Rev. George S. Hackett, June, 1907, to May, 1911; Rev. S. R. Frazier, December, 1911, to December, 1912; Rev. Stewart, December, 1912, to November, 1913; Rev. J. C. Gourley, November, 1913, to June, 1917; Rev. M. M. Allison, June, 1917, to August, 1920; Rev. A. H. Jolly, D.D., December, 1920, to April, 1922; Rev. R. L. Gaut, November, 1922, to July, 1924. Rev. B. James Long from April, 1925, to the present time. C. J. Lukehart is the Sunday school superintendent.

The present church membership is 155, and the Sunday school enrollment is 140.

The Church of the United Brethren in Christ



THE Church of the United Brethren in Christ was founded in Trafford in 1910, it being the sixth and last Protestant Church to be organized in our city.

The United Brethren in Christ is purely American, being the first religious denomination to originate upon American soil. All of the other denominations up to this time, being instituted from across the sea.

The local church is located on the corner of Edgewood Avenue and Fourth Street. Nineteen years ago the church was organized with thirteen members in a sectional chapel, which served the congregation for three years. In 1913, the chapel, becoming too small, the growing congregation erected the commodious Sunday school room which they now occupy. It is 35 x 45 feet with balcony divided into individual class rooms. With the basement, it accommodates a Sunday school of over 300.

The church membership is now beyond the 300 mark, and in the near future, an auditorium will be added to the present building, which will give the congregation one of the best buildings in the city.

The congregation owns an eight-room brick parsonage located at No. 523 Duquesne Avenue, which is the home of the very efficient pastor, Rev. L. T. Culp.

United Presbyterian Church



THE United Presbyterian Church was organized in the year 1868. A church was built by the congregation in the same year.

The first pastor was the Rev. D. A. Duff, who served from 1869 until 1878. He was followed by Rev. William S. Fulton, who served from 1879 until 1881. Rev. A. D. McCarrell was the third pastor, serving from the year 1883 until 1911. The fourth pastor was the Rev. J. C. Marshall. He served the congregation for 17 years, from 1911 until 1928. The Rev. H. S. Corns succeeded Rev. Marshall as the pastor and is serving at the present time.

The church enrollment is 175 and the Sunday School membership is 195.

The elders are A. S. Barbor, G. S. Grosby, C. V. Lloyd, O. C. Jones, W. W. Johnson, Chas. Loutsenhizer and Thomas Taylor.

The board of trustees are Daniel Fundis, Fred W. Reed, T. E. Gamble, Otta Miller, Thomas Taylor and N. G. Naser.

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

ST. MARK'S Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized with eleven members, April 23, 1911, the first officers being L. O. Pearch, Charles Ebert, and Thomas Murphy.

A Sunday school of thirty members was organized January 8, 1911, with L. O. Pearch as superintendent.

For twelve years the congregation was without a home, worshipping first in the United Brethren Church, then in the Odd Fellows Hall, and later in the Reformed Church. All the services were held in the afternoon and was supplied by the Lutheran pastors of Pitcairn.

When the new St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Pitcairn was erected, St. Mark's was permitted to use the Pitcairn portable chapel. A good location was secured on Duquesne Avenue and here the chapel was rebuilt on a good foundation at a cost of \$2,500.

The chapel is not large enough for the congregation and Sunday school and the members are looking forward for a new and larger church building.

On January 1, 1929, Rev. H. H. Flick, of Homestead, Pa., took charge of the congregation as the first regular pastor.

Sunday School Officers

Joseph Foster	Superintendent
Charles Richardson	Assistant Superintendent
Mildred Noll	Secretary
Mrs. D. K. Cooper	Treasurer
Mrs. Joseph Leonard	Cradel Roll Supt.
Robert Kirschner and Russell Richardson.....	Librarians

Church Council

Rev. H. H. Flick, President

Joseph Foster, Secretary	Robert Kirschner
Joseph Leonard, Treasurer	Albert Schneider
Mina Foster	George Dunham
Mrs. Jos. Foster, Financial Secretary	