



The Borough of Sharpsburg is a quiet, spirited community located along the Allegheny River just over 5 miles outside of Downtown Pittsburgh. Sharpsburg has a rich history dating back to the 1700s when the Seneca Indians settled into the area. One Seneca in particular, Guyasuta, has a special connection to the community.

On the Cover: “The House Where We Began” in the process of being moved from its original location in Sharpsburg, Pennsylvania, to the H.J. Heinz Company main plant in Allegheny City, currently Pittsburgh’s North Side neighborhood. The structure was transported five miles down the Allegheny River during a flood and placed next to the Covode Building, a settlement house named in honor of Jacob Covode, who helped H.J. Heinz during financial difficulties in 1875 and 1876. H.J. Heinz helped his father build this house and lived in it from the age of ten until his marriage there at age twenty-five. He and his partner Noble started the business at the house in 1869 where they grated and bottled his horseradish in the kitchen. H.J. Heinz decided to move the house to the main plant so that it can serve as a museum and memorial where visitors could read about the evolution of the company. H.J. Heinz was unwilling to have the house razed and reconstructed, so he hired Kress-Hanlon Company to move the structure down the Allegheny River. Kress-Hanlon Company jacked up the house on blocking timbers, trussed it with cables and rolled it 800 feet from Main Street in Sharpsburg to the right bank of the Allegheny River on March 1. In 1952 the house was dismantled and rebuilt in Greenfield Village, Michigan.

A little more history via Wikipedia:

Sharpsburg is a borough in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, 5 miles (8 km) northeast of Pittsburgh, along the Allegheny River. In the past, it had a rolling mill, foundries, machine shops, and manufacturers of varnish, brick, glass, lumber products, wire, hair, felt, and lubricating oil. In 1900, 6,842 people lived here; by 1940, 8,202 people lived in Sharpsburg. The population was 3,446 at the 2010 census.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the borough has a total area of 0.6 square miles, of which 26.15% is water.

History of Kennedy Park

Less than a century ago, Sharpsburg was divided into two sections because of a railroad track that went through the location where Kennedy Park currently sits. There were two fire departments, one on each side of the tracks. There were two schools on each side of the track as well, one “up street” and one “down street”. Once the railroad tracks weren’t used anymore, the railcars sat vacant on the tracks. The Junior Chamber of Commerce in Sharpsburg went to the railroad company as well as the Heinz family to try and change something about this. The Heinz family said they would help build a park if it was used for recreation purposes only. The park was built around the time when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, and that is why the area was named Kennedy Park.

Guyasuta was a strong warrior and skilled hunter. He was chosen by George Washington to be a hunter guide with his party in 1753. When the two met again in Ohio 17 years later, General Washington greeted him with warmth and affection. In 1758, Guyasuta was involved in a bitter battle at Grant’s Hill, where the Allegheny County Courthouse stands today. In the early 1760s, Guyasuta sought after peace with the British Army. Guyasuta’s peace efforts culminated into a peace treaty in which the government received a tract of land in what is now Western Pennsylvania. James O’Hara, who had purchased a portion of the river land, donated a small portion of it, where Sharpsburg is today, to Guyasuta.

In 1826, a man named James Sharp rode into this area and became enchanted by the beauty of the territory. He purchased 200 acres of the land and built a log cabin for his wife, envisioning it as the beginning of a town that would be rich in the values Sharp felt were important to the quality of life in a community. Opening the land to settlers, Sharp became invested in the town, building a school and church while continuing to donate his land for the growing needs of the community. On December 14, 1841, the borough applied for incorporation, and received its charter March 14, 1842. Sharpsburg was born!

Since its incorporation, Sharpsburg became an industrial town, manufacturing iron, brick and glass while goods were transported through the canal that bisected the borough, along with the Allegheny River. When railroads became the preferred mode of transportation for that time, Sharpsburg continued to thrive as thousands came for the plethora



Sharpsburg

