# Allegheny Arsenal Explosion & the Creation of Public Memory

*Visit the online exhibit at* [*https://www.archives.gov/philadelphia/exhibits/allegheny-arsenal*](https://www.archives.gov/philadelphia/exhibits/allegheny-arsenal) *and answer the following questions.*

**Slide 1: September 17, 1862**

What events happened on September 17, 1862?

**Slide 2: Allegheny Arsenal**

Describe the size and location of the Arsenal?

What was safety like at the Arsenal?

**Slide 3: John Symington**

What doubts exist about Col. Symington’s fitness for duty?

**Slide 4: Alexander McBride**

What did McBride dedicate his life to after the events of September 1862?

**Slide 5: The Workers**

Describe the people that worked at the Arsenal.

**Slide 6: Come Investigate**

Examine the sources linked on this page; using the rest of the space provided answers the following two questions in essay form cite specific evidence from the primary sources .

1. Given all of the evidence you have examined, what do you think caused the explosion at Allegheny Arsenal?
2. If you could travel back in time and ask one questions of the men and women at the Allegheny Arsenal on the day of the explosion, what would it be?