



# Foundations

A Periodic Publication of News and Historical Interest  
For Members of The Beaver Area Heritage Foundation

[www.beaverheritage.org](http://www.beaverheritage.org)

Spring-Summer 2009

## 'Early Days on the Farm' On Display At Heritage Museum



*Corn shredder used to separate grain from the cob, with kernels used to make animal feed or corn bread. The item in the background is a corn fodder cutter, used to cut off the corn's silage, or shocks*

The Heritage Museum's 2009 exhibit, "Early Days on the Farm," celebrates a lifestyle virtually lost to today's factory farms. The display, which will run from March through December, depicts the lifestyle, equipment and values of local farms in the 1940s.

Visitors will enjoy a rare opportunity to view a varied, impressive lot of artifacts that provide a vivid picture of farm life during the World War II era. Outdoor activities will take place throughout the year to augment the exhibit.

An aerial map of present-day Brighton Township -- provided by the Daniel C. Baker Associates, Inc., engineering firm -- provides local historical context, identifying 1940s farms by location, with corresponding photos. In addition, the exhibit showcases historic photos of farms on what is now Heritage Valley Medical Center and Friendship Ridge property, as well as photos and information

about cattle rancher Harriet Ward, the only female farmer in Pennsylvania in her day.

The exhibit contains a comprehensive assortment of farming tools, including a plow with horse collar and bridle, a cobblers' bench, and a grinding wheel (for sharpening knives and tools). Also shown are barn building tools, cattle tools (including branding irons, and special metal-studded halters for use in weaning calves from cows) and hay-making and metalworking tools.



*Replica of a hog butchering setup*

## 'Life on the Farm' Exhibit Opens (continued)



*Display of homemade quilts – this one fashioned by “M. Reed.”*

Exhibit curator John McLaughlin points out that all of the farm work was done by hand -- machines did not come into widespread use in farming until after the war. Most farming tools are starkly utilitarian in nature and style. The exception is a ceramic field jug, decorated with vines, used to bring refreshment to field workers. The jug's original owner, Hugh McLaughlin, a well driller, used to tell stories about carrying a jug of tea spiked with brandy to re-energize workers near the end of their long workday.

The most visible item conveys the importance of pork as the primary meat source on early American farms: Hogs were cheaper and easier to raise than other animals, and could be processed with minimal skill and equipment. The display contains most of the equipment needed to feed, butcher and cure pigs -- as well as a life-size replica (complete with parts labeled to show what cuts come from where).



*Replica of kitchen stove and dining table*

Another aspect of farm craftsmanship and beauty is the period quilt display and a replica of a cozy farm kitchen, complete with a kerosene

stove of the type still used by the Amish today. The kitchen table is replete with period food and kitchen items. Additional items on display include a complete set of implements and instructions for making sauerkraut. Also featured are elements of the life of early farm children: antique metal toys, quilt patch animals and a child's embroidery and "fancywork" from the 1940s. Not to be missed, a colorful wildlife display underscores the importance of hunting to early farm life.



*Tools and hardware for at-home repair*

*-- text and photos by Paula Soto*

## c3controls Recruit Becomes Heritage Museum's 20,000th Visitor



*Officials from the museum and c3controls celebrate the milestone 20,000th visitor, L-R: Bob Mitchell, Trudy Gladwell, Carolyn Taylor Renninger, Ed McLaughlin, Geoff Taylor and Chuck Snitger*

During a recent tour of the Heritage Museum, sales team recruits from Vanport's c3controls were surprised to learn that one of their ranks had just become the museum's 20,000th visitor. Since the precise guest could not be identified from among them, the c3controls group collectively has been recognized by museum officials as achieving this milestone goal. Of the 16 candidates on the career fair tour, seven have been hired as sales representatives.

Organized by c3control's Trudi Gradwell and Bill Connelly, the tour not only included the museum but also

Beaver's historic neighborhoods using the Heritage Museum's CD audio guide. One candidate commented that she "did not realize that a gem like Beaver still existed in Western Pennsylvania."

c3controls president Geoff Taylor said that the museum provides him with "insight into the cultural and historical significance that our one-of-a-kind town has had locally and nationally. Part of our success in recruiting candidates is to show them how wonderful a place Beaver is -- the proud heritage, roots, and values of the people who founded and now work at c3controls."

History enthusiasts from all 50 states and 20 foreign countries -- including Australia, New Zealand, Venezuela and South Africa -- have toured the museum during its first decade of existence. While some come while visiting local loved ones, others have sought out the museum and its restored 1802 log house because of their far-reaching reputations. Regardless of how far visitors have traveled, the comments they leave behind echo similar refrains: They are impressed with the presentation of local history and with the town of Beaver itself -- its clean streets and neighborhoods, business district, parks, and courthouse.

*--by Paula Soto*



# Officials Re-Dedicate World War II Memorial in Beaver

## Some Who Never Came Back Home to Beaver



L-R: Steven Anzio, Wilbert Black, Donald Boyde, William Carver



L-R: Ralph Franke, Frank Gredenich, Ernest Hogue, William Lovell



L-R: Richard McClure, Frank Moravec, John Roth



L-R: brothers John and Vincent Sosnowski, Charles Wilson



On Memorial Day 2009, the World War II memorial in Beaver's Irvine Park was re-dedicated, with a new bronze plaque naming the 27 known servicemen from Beaver, Bridgewater, Brighton Township and Vanport who gave their lives in the full measure of sacrifice to our nation. To learn the long-forgotten stories about some of these men, culled from their senior-year entries in the Beaver High School *Shingas* yearbooks, visit our website at [www.beaverheritage.org/wiicasuallties.htm](http://www.beaverheritage.org/wiicasuallties.htm)



## Donations to the Museum: January-March 2009

**Lee Bell** - plaque about the Quota Club of Beaver.

**Sarah Foster** - red banner used to promote Beaver-Rochester Santa parade (1969).

**Jack Goddard** - eight news articles about the Beaver Bullet racing car; Jack Goddard's story re. Beaver Bullet; handwritten & typed article about Junction Park Track; information page about Keene as researched by Alice Kern; copy of official program cover circa 1972 with list of past winners; copy of patents of George W. McKenzie; copy of patents for curtain fixture, car brake and calculating machine; voting machine; spinning top; sash lock; vending apparatus; and check-controlled game apparatus.

**Bob Hramika** - flat iron axe head found at the Fort McIntosh site.

**Paula Kanapesky** - six World War II ration books; application card for war ration book; V-mail envelopes/letters (blank); and letter-envelope-photo regarding Richard Robinson.

**Jerry & LaRue Lewis** - *Beaver County Times* tabloid re Bruster's Ice Cream (2002); booklet;

*The Specialty Shops in Historic Beaver Valley Pennsylvania welcome you!*; leaflet, "Beaver County Calendar of Events" from the Beaver County Tourist Promotion Agency (1986); program; "A New Beginning" celebrating 200 years; advertisement and newspaper of The Martha Todd House and Gourmet Supper Club (ca. 1976); Beaver High School newspaper *The Echo* (1955) and *The Bobcat's Echo* (1976).

**Jeff Lloyd** - album containing letters 1897-1899 from Dr. Fred Wilson written from W & J College; album containing Wilson genealogy; letters to Dr. Ruth Wilson; promissory notes; receipt from Grove Bros; news article by Marie McClure

**Richard Pontillo and Mark & Elizabeth Miner** - box of Harry Phillips materials including original manuscripts for Heritage Foundation publications, legal documents; letters, and programs.

**Charlotte Rodwell** - black and white photo and blue and red satin ribbons from the opening of Bridgewater/Rochester Bridge

**Mildred Sefton** - color photos from Charter Day events in 2001 and 2002; Fourth of July

2002; Bicentennial Weekend at museum log house in 2002.

**Charles R. Snitger, Jr.** - color photos featuring Memorial Day Programs at Beaver Cemetery; Fourth of July celebration at Irvine Square Gazebo (1996); construction of the museum (1997 and 1998); museum celebration/picnic at the McLaughlin farm (1998); log house construction (2002); Heritage Foundation walking tour at Beaver Cemetery (2002) and 35mm slides of the Richmond Little Red Schoolhouse.

**Paul T. Underiner** - booklets featuring *Popular Home Ideas* by Cook-Anderson Co.; *Perfect Home* magazine by the Bob Garvin Agency; *Decorating Ideas* by Renner's Decorating; and *Your County Government Cost for 1967*.

**Priit J. Vesilind** - signed copy of his 2008 book; *The Singing Revolution*

**Joan D. Wilson** - booklets of regulations and rates of pay for trainmen by the Pennsylvania Railroad and *Golden Memories* by the Beaver High School Class of 1956 Reunion (2006)

For more on our permanent collection, visit: [www.beaverheritage.org/collections\\_mgt.htm](http://www.beaverheritage.org/collections_mgt.htm)



Beaver Area Heritage Foundation  
P.O. Box 147  
Beaver, PA 15009

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BEAVER, PA.  
Permit No. 109

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Corporate Members

ALLAN JEWELERS  
BOVARD ANDERSON REAL ESTATE  
C3CONTROLS  
DANIEL C. BAKER ASSOCIATES, INC.  
DENTISTRY FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS, INC.  
GALLINA AND SONS INSURANCE  
MARK MINER COMMUNICATIONS, LLC  
MICHAEL BAKER CORPORATION  
SPANOS GROUP OF MERRILL LYNCH  
BRUCE E. WOODSKE – ATTORNEY AT LAW



### *Museum Hosts Farm Fun Fest*

To help celebrate the museum's 2009 exhibit, "Early Days on the Farm," the museum hosted a "Farm Fun Festival" on Sat., July 18. This was an excellent opportunity for families to enjoy the museum campus on an activity-filled, educational day. With our gardens in full bloom, our activities and special displays included:

**Children's Games and Crafts**  
**Antique Tractors and Equipment**  
**Quilting Display**  
**Live Farm Animals**  
**Flower Arrangements**  
**Food & Music**  
**Tours of the Museum and Log House**

## *New Corporate Member Spotlight*

### **Daniel C. Baker Associates, Inc.**

In continuous service for 119 years, since its founding by the late Michael Baker, Sr. in 1890, Daniel C. Baker Associates, Inc., is a professional consulting firm of engineers, surveyors, Pennsylvania DEP certified sewage enforcement officers and technicians who provide engineering, surveying, planning and sewage enforcement services to municipalities, county government, heavy industry and individuals in the Tri-State area.

### **Gallina & Sons Insurance**

Established as a Farm Bureau Agency in 1948, the company today is a full service independent insurance agency with more than 150 years of combined insurance experience. The firm services the personal insurance needs of thousands of individuals and families in Beaver, Allegheny and other counties. It also helps hundreds of businesses with well designed commercial insurance programs.

*Editor:* Mark Miner Communications, LLC