



Foundations

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

www.beaverheritage.org

Summer-Fall 2007

Heritage Foundation Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Charter Day Dinner Features Special Video and VIP Guests



Left to right: Heritage Foundation president Art Cornell, Museum Chairman Ed McLaughlin, and special guests Dr. Phil Phillips and Nympe Phillips Kefal

The Heritage Foundation capped its 40th anniversary year celebration with its Charter Day Banquet at Seven Oaks Country Club on Oct. 19, 2007. VIP guests included Nympe Phillips Kefal and Dr. Phil Phillips, children of Heritage Foundation founder Harry Phillips; as well as Beaver Mayor Tom Hamilton and several Beaver Borough Council members.

President Art Cornell provided a cheery welcome, and gave a state of the union address spelling out significant strides the Heritage Foundation and Historical Museum have made in 2007.

Art unveiled a letter written by General Lachlan McIntosh, builder of the Revolutionary War era fort located in Beaver, and recently acquired by the museum. (See more on page 3.)

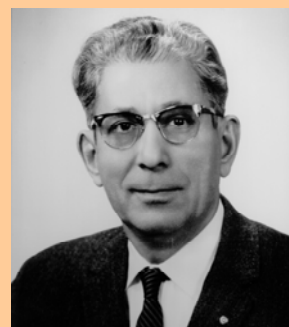
Art also announced that the museum had obtained the extraordinary "Scott Collection" of documents and artifacts, spanning more than 150 years of Brighton Township history, and providing insights into the lives of 18th century Western Pennsylvanians. (See page 2 for more.)

(continued on page 2)

Harry Phillips: Visionary Founder

By Robert A. Smith

Reprinted from *Beaver Town 2002*



The hands were gentle but firm as they grasped my lapel. It was 1967 and the voice was strong and insistent: "You people don't realize what you have here. I studied hard to earn my U.S. Citizenship, and what I learned about this land and this town was absolutely amazing to me," he said, "and yet nobody seems to give it any thought. You people must find some way to tell this story."

When no one else seemed ready to "do something" about it, Harry Phillips, a Greek immigrant and local restaurant owner, took the bull by the horns himself and formed a historical society. This was how the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation came into being. From this humble beginning has grown a community organization of some 450 members that has had an enormous impact on the image of Beaver."

Don't Miss Seeing Extraordinary Scott Collection

Display to Highlight Nov. 15 Membership Meeting



Museum volunteer Ken Weyand, who with Nan Oliver organized and catalogued more than 150 years of family and community history.

The museum has received a remarkable donation by Leila (Lee) McDonald Fouts known as the Scott Collection. Items will be displayed at the general membership meeting on Thurs., Nov. 15, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Trinity Episcopal Church.

The collection is the sprawling history and story of the Scott and McKee families – specifically, William Scott who married Nancy McKee and owned a farm in

Brighton Township. Some of the items include:

- approximately 1,000 letters from 1786 to 1953
- 18th century letter addressed to “James Scott at Fort Pitt”
- hundreds of Civil War-era letters
- hand written receipts from 1822
- ledger started in 1709
- Brighton Township tax records
- 1850 list of families living in Brighton Township
- teaching contracts and certificates
- poems, photographs, calling cards, invitations, wills, death notices and much more.

William and Nancy’s eldest son David served in the 140th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. He was wounded in the jaw at the Battle of Gettysburg. Artifacts from his military service and injury are a fascinating part of the collection.

Donor Lee Fouts grew up in Beaver and was a 1955 graduate of Beaver High School. In 1954, her mother, antique dealer Mary McDonald Robbins, acquired the collection after seeing it at the home of Scott family descendant Jane Scott. In 2005, while on a tour of our museum as part of her 50th class reunion, Lee told classmate Art Cornell about the items, and remarked that these articles belong at the museum.

The Heritage Foundation and museum expresses its deep gratitude to Lee for this generous donation.

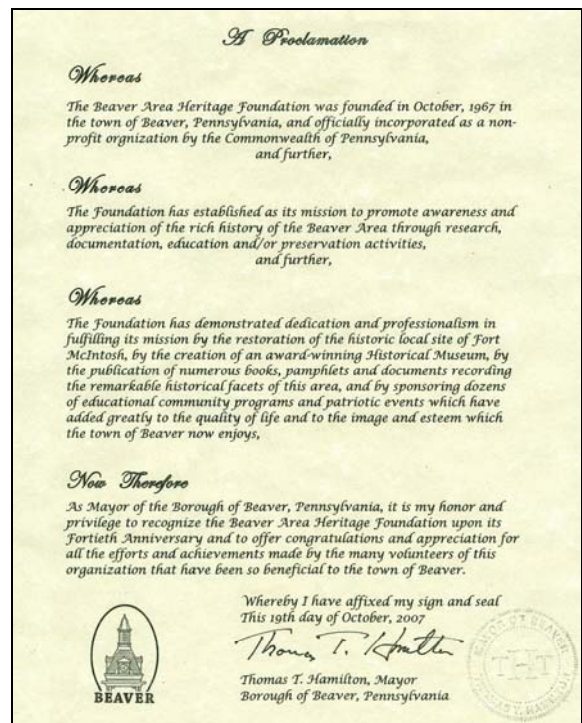
Heritage Foundation Celebrates Four Decades (continued)

The celebration concluded with a multi-media DVD presentation directed by David O’Leary and produced by Tom Dowlin. The DVD featured Nympe Kefal sharing warm memories of her father, and of growing up in Beaver. The DVD also highlighted interviews with key officers, volunteers and long time members.

Everyone attending received a copy of a proclamation from Mayor Hamilton congratulating the Heritage Foundation on its 40 years of "promoting awareness and appreciation of the rich history of the Beaver Area." A miniature of the proclamation is seen at right.

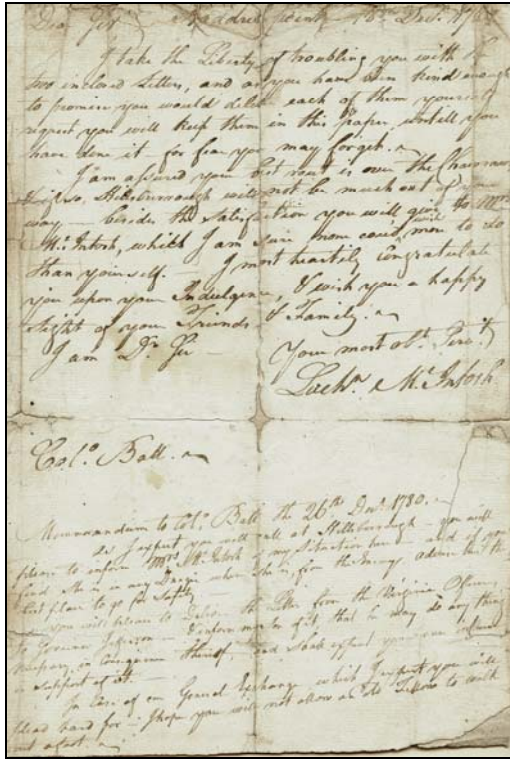
John McLaughlin, Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced that the slate of officers and board members for 2008 was full and would be voted upon at the general membership meeting on Nov. 15, 2007. Charles Snitger presented proposed changes to the by-laws covering changes to the number of board director seats, and endowment fund terminology.

Keyboard music was performed by Beth Case, assistant music director at First Presbyterian Church.



Museum Obtains Rare Letter By Fort Builder Lachlan McIntosh

Group of Private Investors Secure Item At Auction for Donation to Museum Collection



River City Brass Band Entertains at Gazebo to Celebrate Fourth of July



Sponsored in part by the Heritage Foundation, the River City Brass Band again entertained a Fourth of July crowd at the Beaver gazebo, with appearances by Lady Liberty (Sally Foster) and Uncle Sam (Ed McLaughlin).

County Chamber Hosts Log House Event



The Beaver County Chamber of Commerce hosted a networking event in June at our log house, sponsored by Cottrill Arbutina Professional Services, and attended by 60 business VIPs.



The museum recently obtained an original letter, dated 1780, penned by Gen. Lachlan McIntosh, builder of the Beaver fort that bore his name. It was written while he was a POW of the British Army during the Revolutionary War. It may be the only letter of his that still exists. Thanks to Adam Fitz, the letter was won at auction at a price of

\$2,750, and donated to the museum. Adam recruited a group of private investors who to date have contributed \$2,000. The Heritage Foundation is seeking additional donors who will cover the \$750 balance.

Donations to the Museum: April-June, 2007

Robert Alonso – DVD of Public Broadcasting System TV program, “Adaptive Reuse of Pennsylvania Train Stations”

Sandra Andrews - photo of W.E. “Clyde” Todd headstone located in Sarverville Cemetery, Sarver, Butler County, PA.

Lewis “Mel” Bundy - Cook-Anderson coal chute door from 1600 Corporation Street

Gloria Cheshier – book, *Young American Patriots WWII Pennsylvania*

George “Joe” Churm - color photographs of Beaver JROTC Award recipients of the Fort McIntosh Citizenship Awards and Heritage Foundation Citizenship Award

Edy Ealy - small block of wood with photo of Saint James Lodge located on Third and Insurance Streets

Sarah M. Foster – two black & white photos of P&LE Railroad bridge

construction looking east and west on linen canvas dated 1908

Graule Studios - black and white photos taken from negatives - P&LE Railroad by Fogg; sailboat; unknown waterfall; park; and Beaver Fairground

Ruth Hahn & Family - items from the home at 558 Fourth Street

Katherine Walton Heimann - items from the Walton building

L. Melvin Hogsett - Beaver High School Annual Yearbook (1921)

Laurence G. Holt – eight glass slide negatives of schools and a family

Joseph R. Houk - thermometer/calendar from Roth’s Market in Beaver

Jeff & Jean Lloyd - 18 diaries once having belonged to Dr. Ruth Wilson; program

booklets from 1960, 1971 and 1927; three photographs

Barbara Madish – photo of Lucy Mae Stewart & Chorus; Beaver (1940)

Richard Miller – items from the house at 789 Second Street

Mark and Elizabeth Miner – 1890s political flyer, *The City Against the Country Hog Combine*, featuring M.S. Quay

Robert Mitchell - letter from Sara Twiford to her daughter, Jane Twiford on Probation Office letterhead (1924); refrigerator magnet from the P&LE Railroad; 15-year service money clip from Beaver Trust Co.; Beaver Area School District Class ring (1966); memento and handbill explaining rewards for Beaver County Crime Solvers.

Merabeth N. Moore - Kodak Carousel 760H Projector and Transview 80 Slide Tray

Dolores Morrison – two boxes of items related to the BAHF presidency of her late husband, John Morrison

Shirley Pow – *History by Trolley* booklet; World War II Navy uniform worn by her father-in-law Richard B. Pow in the early 1940s; *Life Magazine* dated September 1943

Lee Smith – 8” x 10” photo of Beaver House Apartments

Robert A. Smith - *The Saints At Rest* booklet plus 20 original black and white photographs used in the booklet

Richard Temple – Three books: *History of the Scott Family of Hopewell & Brighton Township; McKee Family in PA;* and *McKee Family in Wythe County, Virginia*

Joan D. Wilson - Revolutionary War reenactment uniform and equipment

John Wolbert – newspaper, *The New York Industrial Recorder* (1905)



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News Notes

Slate of Officers – The following slate of officers has been proposed by the Nominating Committee and will be voted upon at Nov. 15 membership meeting –

- *President* – Art Cornell
- *Vice President* – David O’Leary
- *Secretary* – Joanna Ashburn
- *Treasurer* – Pam Ronczka
- *Directors* – Robert Rice, Mark O’Leary, Robert Smith, Laurence Holt, Richard Pontillo, John McLaughlin

Heritage Foundation Receives “Young Preservationists” Award



At a meeting of the Young Preservationists Society of Pittsburgh last spring, the Heritage Foundation received an award for efforts to preserve the former P&LE Railroad station. L-R: Art Cornell, Chuck Copeland, Midge Sefton, Ed McLaughlin

Corporate Member Spotlight

Noll Funeral Home

Founded by Mark Eli and Melanie Noll in 1998, the Noll Funeral Home of Beaver is committed to providing a high level of personalized service and comfort to families during what can be the most difficult time in their lives.

Homer Nine & Sons, Inc.

A customer focused heating and air-conditioning company that was founded in 1943. Located in Bridgewater, the company specializes in designing, engineering, and installing complete comfort systems for owners of existing homes and buildings.

Chick-fil-A

Chick-fil-A at the Beaver Valley Mall is owned by Diane and Larry Brosius of Beaver. For 40 years, its chicken sandwich has been made with 100 percent natural chicken breast, hand-breaded, and cooked in cholesterol free and trans fat free peanut oil. Closed Sundays.