



Foundations

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

Winter 2006

Museum, Log House Aglow at the Holidays

Antique Christmas Ornaments, House Tour Highlight the Season of Joy



Antique German Christmas tree featuring rare, old ornaments from the collection of Larue and Jerry Lewis

The Beaver Area Historical Museum was alive with the colors, sights and sounds of the holiday season in December. During the final weeks of our 2005 season, the museum was adorned with a rich variety of antique Christmas ornaments and decorations from the collection of Beaver residents Larue and Jerry Lewis.

The Lewis display featured a wide range of ornaments, mostly German, collected over a 20 year time period. The tree itself, a "German Feather Tree," was made of goose feathers, and dates to about 1900. The glass ornaments largely were made from 1900 to the 1940s, and the belsnickle Santa figures and candy containers from 1900 to the '30s. The oldest items were



The log house aglow during the Christmas house tour

colored glass ornaments made in Germany in the 1860s, while the rarest featured blue grapes, and also the belsnickles, with outstanding workmanship in *papier mâché*. The Lewises began collecting in 1983 when they joined the Golden Glow of Christmas Past group at the invitation of their son Jay.

As well, more than 400 guests visited the museum and log house on Dec. 4, 2005, as part of the Saints Peter and Paul Church annual Christmas house tour. Most of the visitors had never been to our museum before, and thus the event provided wonderful public exposure. The church has asked if our museum and log house could be included in the Christmas 2006 tour.



Antique German holiday decorations

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Museum and Log House Light Up for the Holidays

(continued from page 1)



Larry Holt, left, in costume and character as the medical officer at Fort McIntosh, greets tour guests



Antique Father Christmas, from the collection of John and Nicki McLaughlin



More of the Lewis collection of antique ornaments



Musical performers sing vintage holiday carols using authentic mandolin instruments

Just a Few of Our Many Great Volunteers



The aroma of a warm stew expertly stirred over the open hearth by Nicki McLaughlin

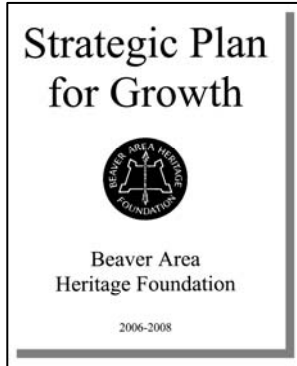


Shirley Pow, left and Jean Lloyd



Dan Martone (left) and Larry Holt

Board Focuses on Long-Range Strategic Plan for Growth



Strategic planning is a worthwhile exercise for any organization to foster a shared sense of mission and purpose and develop long-range direction. Your board of directors has spent the past 15 months developing a plan to help the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation to chart a general course for growth in the future. The plan is based on the needs of the organization and its individual specialty areas.

The plan is a type of road map that guides the board in its planning and decision-making. It is designed to be flexible so that the board can respond as new opportunities arise, as well as pursue projects that have been considered for some time.

The value of this process was demonstrated through the work that Shirley Pow and her strategic planning committee conducted for the museum in 2002, once the log house had been constructed, and a consensus was needed on the mission for the structure. The plan is expected to be finalized at our April board of directors meeting.

The specific areas covered in this plan include:

- Museum Facility
- Fort McIntosh Site
- Historic Preservation
- Educational Outreach
- Human Resources
- Fundraising/Donor Relationships
- Membership
- Finance
- Public Relations/Marketing
- Public Events
- Board of Directors

To obtain a copy, please contact President Mark Miner at 412-370-5302 (cell) or via email at mark@markminer.com.

Log House to Host Horticulture Tour

Our log house will host more than 500 gardening enthusiasts during the Botanic Garden of Western Pennsylvania's "Open Gardens Day Tour" on Sun., June 11, 2006. The event, labeled "the premiere garden tour of Pittsburgh" by the *Post-Gazette* newspaper, will provide regional gardeners with excellent examples of the horticulture in our museum grounds.



Fort McIntosh Garrison Seeks Troops

Attention! Volunteer military reenactors are needed for active service with the Fort McIntosh Garrison. Contact Commander Joe Churm at 724-774-6537 if interested.

Donations to the Museum: Oct.-Dec., 2005

Clara Brozich Climo: Miscellaneous papers.

Field Gathered: Postcard ticket for the 19th Annual SS Peter and Paul Candlelight House Tour (Dec. 4, 2005).

Adam Fitz: Oval portraits of Senator and Mrs. M. S. Quay; framed Quay button; Quay button.

Ann Firestone: 46 items collected by her late husband, Robert: 33 books, two booklets, five magazines, one postcard, eight musket balls.

Jim and Sally Foster: P&L& Railroad Co. 20-trip ticket; scarf; P&LE RR logo, polyester, in its original holder.

Katherine Walton Hiemann: Bill storage cabinet from Walton's Hardware.

Pennie Johnson: *Log of the Betsy Ann* book authored by her uncle; *Reflections of the Past* book presented by the *Beaver County Times*.

Jeff Lloyd: Certificate of Dr. Fred Wilson for the practice of internal medicine, dated 1937.

John R. McClintock: sets of shelving, six magazine racks.

John R. McLaughlin, Jr.: newspaper tabloid re: Beaver Methodist Church's 125th anniversary in 1955; framed photo of the office and residence of Col. Jacob Weyand.

Mark and Elizabeth Z. Miner: *Puck* political cartoons featuring M.S. Quay, showing Republicans attempting to cross the Potomac (1888), Democrats marching into battle against the GOP (date unknown) and Democrats Chandler, Quay & Dorsey abusing franking privilege (1888); *Rotary Club Annual Report* 2004-2005.

Bob Mitchell: computer monitor; computer stand; printer stand; typewriter stand; power-pak.

Mildred Sefton: "Hamilton for Mayor" sign and pin; program and four color photographs from the 2005 Ben Franklin Awards luncheon.

Keith and Stephanie Sevy: 12 department 56 glass ornaments.

Jack Watterson: Death certificate for Beaver Fire Chief Daniel A. Moore (1965); black and white photo of the Lewistown State Fire School (1956); newspaper photo of the hand pumper and fire-police officers.

Roger Weaver: German stative pencil Christmas tree.

"Snapshot of Beaver" Exhibit Opens

Our new museum exhibit, "A Snapshot of Beaver" features our local history through the unique perspective of antique cameras and equipment and vintage photography. Hours are Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sun., 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Beaver Area Heritage Foundation
 P.O. Box 147
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Mark Your Calendar:

Membership Meetings - Trinity Episcopal Church, 7:30 p.m.:

- **Thurs., March 23** – “Our Memories of Beaver” – round-table featuring John McLaughlin, Ralph “Buss” Morton, Dick Shaw and Bob Smith who will share reminiscences of a long-ago era in Beaver.
- **Thurs., April 20** – Scott Buffington, a Beaver native who trained soldier-actors for WQED Multimedia’s nationally televised program, *The War That Made America*.

Memorial Day - Mon., May 29 – Annual parade on Beaver’s Third Street, followed by a commemoration ceremony at 11 a.m. at Beaver Cemetery. Guest speaker to be announced.

Garrison Day - Sat., June 10 – In Beaver’s central parks starting at 9 a.m., rain or shine, with hundreds of dealers in crafts, antiques, collectibles and food.

Fourth of July: Sun., July 2 – an evening concert of patriotic music at the Gazebo in Beaver.

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***Heritage Foundation Partners with
 Heinz History Center “Book Fair”***



Seated, James “Whitey” Nelson, left, and Bob Hines with book-buyers at the Heinz History Center’s book fair.

In our ongoing effort to partner with other local and regional museums, volunteers James “Whitey” Nelson and Bob Hines managed a Heritage Foundation table at a Book Fair held at the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center. Several other museums and history organizations participated as well, providing an outstanding opportunity for visibility and sharing of resources. Photo courtesy of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.