



A Periodic Publication of News and Historical Interest For Members of The Beaver Area Heritage Foundation www.beaverheritage.org

Winter 2011

'Bricks, Mortar & Charm' Exhibit Documents Beaver's Rich Architectural Styles Over Two Centuries

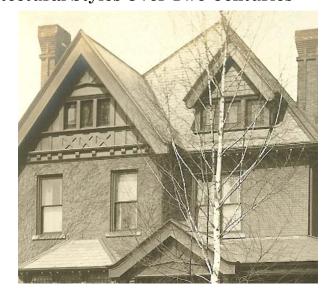
he Heritage Museum's summer/fall 2010 exhibit, "Bricks, Mortar & Charm," drew enthusiastic crowds and was featured in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Beaver County Times* and on the website of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

The display explored the fascinating range of rich architectural styles found in Beaver. Different design styles and the time frames of their construction since the early 19th century were highlighted. Photographs of Beaver homes, researched via tax records to ascertain the dates they were built, illustrated the various architectural features of each time period.



Addresses were noted, and a map on display, to encouraged folks to walk around town to see these and other homes firsthand.

A detailed scale model of the ill-fated 1877 Beaver County Courthouse (burned in a 1932 fire) greeted visitors when first entering the museum. This model, built by Robert Smith, was the basis for the clock tower that highlights Beaver's streetscape.

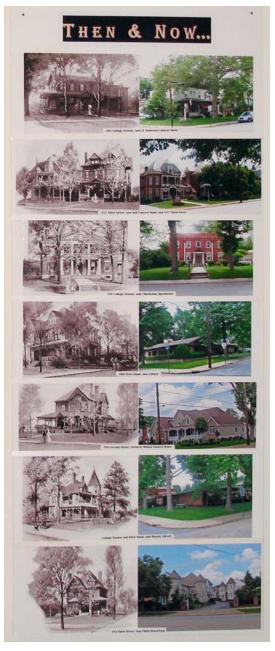


The exhibit otherwise was limited to residences due to space limitations. Exhibits chair John McLaughlin, along with Mr. Smith, Richard Pontillo and other volunteers, had the immense task of gathering, organizing, and setting up the exhibit. Museum chair Ed McLaughlin expressed the hope that the exhibit will inspire visitors to explore Beaver and neighboring towns to view firsthand the variety and richness of the architecture in Beaver County. "Fine examples of this architecture are found in any one of our river town communities," he said.

The photograph display of homes, divided into four quadrants, covered a half century. Early 1800s homes were characterized by Federal, Georgian and Greek styles, typically wood, and due to limited resources, were simpler in design than the Victorian homes soon to come. Prosperity due to industrial growth in the late 1800s led to higher quality craftsmanship and ornate detailing of the Victorian, Queen Anne, Italianate and Romanesque styles of homes built in this time period, when Beaver was emerging as a choice community for train commuters to Pittsburgh.

'Bricks, Mortar & Charm' Exhibit Highlights (continued)





Above: scores of photographs taken the past year document Beaver home styles. Left: a panel of "Then and Now" images of local residences, using contemporary sketches made a century ago by local realtors.

The booming growth of communities in the early 1900's led to the mass production of homes in the 20th Century, Period Revival and Beaux Arts Classic styles. Retailers such as Sears and Roebuck sold "kit homes" that were ordered from a catalogue, delivered, and then put together like a kit.

Local architects were sometimes hired to build three or four "sister homes" by an owner who purchased several adjacent properties; the row of nearly identical homes on the 500 block of Corporation Street, and homes on Market Street and Taylor Avenue offer examples.

Growth continued in the post-World War II era, with Renaissance, Classic Revival and Modern styles taking precedence in homes constructed from 1950 to present day. Selected photographs educate visitors about the architectural features associated with each style.

A collection of architectural artifacts complemented the display: doorknobs and decorative wood cornices were just some of the items rescued from older homes, some no longer standing.

The craftsmanship evident in older architecture has the power to bring one back in time, to feel the lifestyle of a slower, perhaps more authentic, time of neighborhood strolls and sitting the porch with family and friends, just passing the time as the rain pours down.

Here in Beaver, we are fortunate to still have the charming elements that are rarely built into communities today, rare items that artfully enhance the our town's character.

Heritage Foundation Throws Birthday Bash for Bridge



ver the Labor Day weekend, the Heritage Foundation threw a birthday party for 170 guests celebrating the 100th anniversary of the completion of the former P&LE (now CSX) Ohio River Railroad Bridge. Several guests were first timers at the Museum, and were impressed with the current architectural exhibit, as well as the wonderful food and entertainment.

Val Brkich, author of a book about the bridge, presented a brief history of this marvel of engineering. Music was provided by Donna Groom of the Skyliners. Patty Colavincenzo and Lynn Clayton provided a festive German meal featuring brats and beer. Commented an attendee, "I thought it was one of the best social events I attended this year. It was a beautiful night...a very relaxed atmosphere...the tent gave the whole place a carnival look."

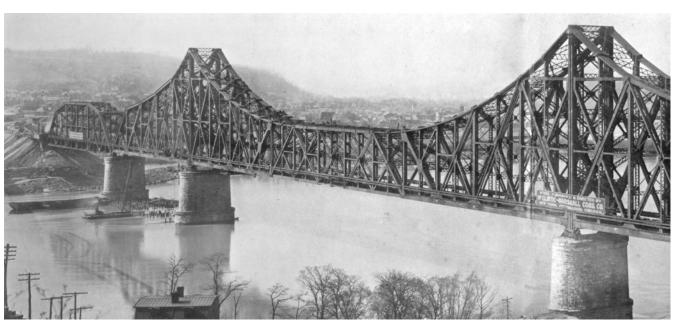
Heritage Foundation president David O'Leary, who spearheaded the event, said "This was a new event for us and we were very pleased with the large turnout and the many compliments. This encourages us to plan other social events in the future."

The Social Committee, consisting of Tommi Wagner, Mary Anne Peluso, Jack Bechdel, Mark O'Leary, had a stated objective for the event "to showcase our facilities and serve as a bridge between BAHF and the larger community" – a goal achieved. Guests representing every age decade from twenties to the nineties gathered

to socialize and enjoy the grounds. Said Mary Anne Peluso: "I think the event was popular because of the location, the price, and the simplicity...it was fun, classy, relaxing, engaging, and it accomplished what we hoped...lots of people exposed to the museum!"

-by Paula Soto; photos by Robert Rice





Summertime Activities Fascinate, Educate

Living History Portrayals on July 4th



he Heritage Foundation's Fourth of July performance of Living History: A Visit from Some Remarkable People in Beaver's Amazing Past, gave an authentic glimpse into the lives of noteworthy Beaver citizens. Written by Robert Smith, the stories featured photographer John Ubalto and edu-

cation official Cora Blackledge. Said Smith: "We are dedicated to the mission of promoting awareness and appreciation of the rich history of our townspeople through research, documentation, education and preservation."

At upper left, Hugh Harper portrayed John Ubalto, a survivor of the Charge of the Light Brigade who changed his name, possibly to gain the favor of the father of a countess. No one knows why his romance with the countess was unsuccessful, nor why this brave adventurer traveled from Europe to settle in Beaver and become a photographer.



At right, Melissa Schneiderman brought to life the notorious probation officer, Cora Blackledge, whose legendary "tough love" shaped the lives of juvenile wards. Miss Cora, who could knock out a grown man with a single right hook, was equivalent of the boogie man for parents



who wished to scare their children into good behavior.

At lower left, Cassidy Soto, who played one of Cora Blackledge's juvenile wards, enjoys a postshow treat. Soto was one of six children who learned about local history by taking part in the reenactment.

50 Years' of the 'Times of Our Lives'

o explore an attic and find a forgotten heirloom or antique is thrilling. Thanks to Beaver County Jail Warden Bill Schoupe, who made an astonishing find in the attic of the former jail annex in Beaver, the museum has obtained 245 bound copies of the *Beaver County Times* from 1935 to 1985. In a small permanent display, the museum will exhibit select volumes from that day's date 50 years ago.

Daily newspapers were available to jail inmates to keep them educated during incarceration. Some forwardthinking individual preserved them by binding them into quarterly volumes, resulting in a comprehensive record of local news and culture that spans a half century.

To open the cover of one of these massive books is to step back in time. An October 1942 newspaper features stories, announcements and advertisements that paint a picture of life here during World War II: news about rationing; job advertisements for factory workers; announcements of local girls getting married to soldiers, and of local soldiers returning from war. The entertainment pages list movies showing at a host of local theaters – beautiful buildings like the Oriental and the Majestic, most of which are no longer standing. Ads promote the virtues of war bonds, while human interest stories tout the latest in child-rearing advice, and the sports pages document developments with local football teams. Paging through these volumes, one is instantly transported into our community's past.

Upon discovering the books, Warden Schoupe and the Heritage Foundation arranged for them to be stored temporarily in the basement of the Carnegie Free Library in Beaver Falls. The County Commissioners then agreed to donate the volumes to the museum to be properly stored, preserved, catalogued and shared with the community.

'Beaver Tales' Thrill Kids



n Septenber, story lovers of all ages were treated to a second year of "Beaver Tales" – a unique storytelling event, the Heritage Foundation's gift to the community from the Blanche E. Shaw Memorial Fund to promote education.

Four spectacular storytellers shared their craft and delighted audiences. The tellers were Michael Reno Harrell, Kim Weitkamp, Andy Offutt Irwin and Charlotte Blake Alston. At the Beaver Area Middle School and Dutch Ridge Elementary School, they visited classrooms to relate on a personal level with their young



audiences. The big event — Ghost Tales — was held at Irvine Park, with the gazebo adorned with ghostly décor.

A New Sign for Fort McIntosh



F or the past two years, a serene walk along River Road in Beaver may not have been quite as quiet and peaceful as one might wish. Thomas Bryan, President of Tri-State River Products, contracted by the Army Corps of Engineers to maintain the width and depth of the Ohio River between the CSX railroad bridge and the Vanport Bridge, knows that while dredging of the Ohio River is necessary to maintain navigable waterways, it has also been a nuisance to local residents.

His company set out to do something to extend goodwill to the residents of Beaver who have been inconvenienced by the dredging. Explains Bryan, "We always take into consideration the communities in which we work and make every effort to give back something as an expression of our appreciation." Bryan communicated his wish to Borough officials, who connected him with the Heritage Foundation.

Two or three suggestions were explored, and the ideal project was identified. Located at the corner of River Road and Market Street, Fort McIntosh's original sign was erected when the archeological dig was completed, for the dedication in October 1978 – a ceremony that took place almost two years from the day of the fort's completion in 1778. Over time, the sign began to show its age as it exhibited the wear and tear that can be expected after three decades exposed to the elements.

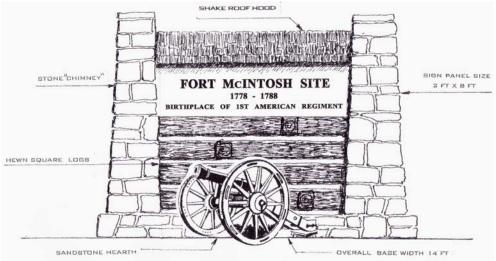
Additionally, the sign's information was outdated, as it referenced the 1978 owners of the house across the street, no longer living there. Replacement of the sign was put on a long-term wish list and set aside in favor of more immediate needs – until now. For Thomas and Tri-State River Products, replacement of the Fort McIntosh sign was the perfect project: it benefits the location that is directly affected by the dredging; and, as dredged river gravel and sand are used in making construction products, the project fits in well with what Tri-State River Products' business. The company offered to build and pay for a new entrance plaza and sign.

The teamwork began: Heritage Foundation official Robert Smith produced a design for a new plaza and sign; then Thomas Bryan hired stonemasons and artisans to bring the design to fruition. The sign is displayed on a concrete plaza in the shape of the fort. This design educates visitors about the fort's construction: most notably, the use of angles, or "bastions" that enabled soldiers to store artillery and fire in all directions from each corner of the fort. All of the sand and gravel used in the construction of the plaza's foundation slab was obtained from the Ohio River in Beaver.

The sign itself is also educational, as it is constructed from the same antique materials believed to have been used in the original fort. Sandstone of the same type used in the fort's construction is used for the sign's base and columns: The base resembles a period hearth, while the columns represent chimneys – both features of the original fort.

The sign is topped by a canopy shed roof with cedar shake shingles – the same type as used for the fort's roof. Topping the hearth, and supporting the granite slab with its emphatic lettering, are hand-hewn logs thought to have been salvaged from the fort when it was de-commissioned by the Army, and used by settlers in building their homes.

— by Paula Soto



Donations to Museum, Jan.-Sept., 2010

First Quarter: (Jan-March):

Roger Applegate – copy of *New York Times* article regarding Senator M.S. Quay, "A Republican Embezzler."

Betty Baker - newspaper ad for Beaver Trust Co. with a photo from 1902.

Robert Balint – newspaper tabloid insert "The Beaver Area" (1973); Comprehensive Plan-Beaver Borough by Beaver County Planning Commission; books *It Happened Right Here 1748-1788* and *Beaver Town 1776-1976*; brochure re: log house exhibit; booklets *A Do It Yourself Walking Tour of Beaver, The Feet at the Three Rivers, Captain Sam Brady, Indian Scout* and *Beaver, Pa., Sesquicentennial; Beaver County Times* insert "Birth of a County."

Caroline "Bonnie" Beyer - newspaper clipping re. Beaver Junior Women's Club; photo of Light-Up Night (2006); photo of the donor and friends (1933); instruction pamphlet re. Methodist Church Sunday School (1930s); copy of an *SAE Magazine* advertising book authorized by William Wertman regarding Chrysler engines.

Scott Buffington - *Bridgewater* booklet (original BAHF publication).

Lewis (Mel) Bundy - Patriotic brass electrical switches (single switch and double outlet plate).

Mary K. Clever - vinyl coasters with box and match books from Beaver Trust Co.; postcards with Beaver scenes; telephone directories from Beaver Trust (1955-56); memorial cards from Sts. Peter & Paul honoring Pope John XXIII and President John F. Kennedy.

Ruth Davis – black and white photos of the Westinghouse Plant in Vanport.

Gertrude Barrett Society, by Fran Hicks - records of Gertrude Barrett Auxiliary.

Betty & Carl Gussenhofen - brass Information plaque on wood stand from College Avenue High School; wooden ruler from Beaver 5 & 10 store; copper plate negative of Bridgewater Elementary School; brass plaque reading "Class of 1948" from the College Avenue High School.

Brenda Kreuscher - notebook re: Beaver Trust Co.

Edwards McLaughlin - Bovard-Anderson Co. map advertising Beaver; Dollar Savings & Loan map of Beaver.

Mark & Elizabeth Z. Miner - Puck political cartoon featuring Senator M.S. Quay (1899); book *History of Ohio* mentioning the treaty of Fort McIntosh; *Pittsburgh Quar*- *terly* magazines featuring wine articles by Alex Sebastian.

Nancy Hoopes Morris - scrapbook re. Hoopes family.

Robert A. Quay - U. S. Army Drill manuals for infantry, World War II.

Sara (Shaw) Wright - brass letter opener re: Beaver County Commissioners Meeting (1936); receipt card from Ricky Tires, Pittsburgh; series of *Beaver County Times* news articles re. Beaver Library (1967); color slides taken by George B. Shaw, Jr. of the former and current Beaver Library building, including groundbreaking and dedication; color slides taken by George B. Shaw, Jr. of the First Presbyterian Church dedication (1955).

Second Quarter (April-June):

Geoffrey W. Anderson - two-volume set of *History of Beaver County* (Bausman, 1904); *Boss Rule in the Golden Age* (Kehl, 1981); *Up Front* (Mauldin, 1991).

Robert & Betty Balint - Beaver County Times, miscellaneous issues (1963, 1974, 1980, 2009); other issues of the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, The Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh Tribune Review, The Times (London), The Hartford Covenant, Time, Life, Look and Newsweek; miscellaneous Heritage Foundation booklets.

Bob Bauder - microfilm copies of newspaper articles regarding construction of the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad Bridge in 1910 -- "Work of Moving Beaver Station of the P&LE ..." - "Completed P&LE Bridge Between..." - "New Bridge Across the Ohio Described" - "Beaver Bridge in Service Saturday" - "Beaver Station to Be Moved Shortly" - "Let Contract for a Freight Station" - "Pulling Twenty Freight Cars Loaded with Iron Ore ... " -. "Gigantic Task on the Ohio" - "Rushing Work on the Beaver Freight Depot" - "A Fatal Accident at Beaver Bridge" - "Witness Tells of Plan to Dynamite P&LE Bridge..." - P&LE map; photos of Stone Point, stone house and stone replacement house.

Beaver County Genealogy Center via Bill Irion - diary of Matt Haber written from Iraq (2009); *Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society Quarterly* article re. "Molly Maguire Trials and Pardon Board Hearing."

Shirley M. Belle - *It Happened Right Here* book; *History of Post 19*; 1920-1930.

Jim & Judith Curry - framed print of early Beaver with article; taken from 1843 wood engraving. **Fort McIntosh Club** via Ruth Roll, Treasurer - 48 star flag.

Sarah Foster – J.T. Anderson's certificates from the Pittsburgh School of Anatomy (1901) and Champion College of Embalming (1898); diploma from the Barnes School of Anatomy (1903).

Philip & Carol Gillespie - photocopies of newspaper articles re. Merchant tailoring firm; Miller Brother's Store in Bridgewater and history of the Miller Store in Bridgewater and Beaver.

Katherine Walton Heimann - Deeds for Beaver properties (1905, 1908, 1909, 1921, 1925, 1934 and 1937); mortgage (1927); bond (1927); stock certificates (1913, 1927, 1938); black and white photo from Beaver High School; black and white photo of the Beaver Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. store (1954); color postcard of Third Street; unused postcards from G. W. Walton Hardware Co.; bottle opener advertising Beaver Area Chamber of Commerce; metal rulers advertising Strayer Coin Bag Company.

William Hurtt – reprint of Caldwell's Atlas of Beaver County (1972); Shingas yearbooks (1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1956); vol. II of Bausman's History of Beaver County; program booklets from the Marion Gordon Auxiliary Children's Home Benefit Ball (1973 and 1974) and Medical Center Auxiliary "Carousel Magic" (1993), St. James Lodge No. 457; 1870 - 2005; Park United Presbyterian Church In His Service" (1966); account ledger books (1963, 1969), 50-year recognition certificate (1976) and letter re. The Imperial Council, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine; membership booklet for Beaver Junior Women's Club (1954-1963, 1963-1969); newspaper photos and articles.

Sue Kaufman - *History By Trolley* booklet (2010); *Beaver's History* trifolds by students Olivia, Michael and Evelyn and by Grace D, Claire G. and Peter A. (2010).

Jean Lloyd - copies of *The Echo* (1953, 1954); certificate re. the Peterson System of writing (1944-45).

Rory Morgan - record albums by the Beaver Bop-Cats (*Mid-East Champs* and *Hit the Road*); photo album of various newspaper clippings and memorabilia.

Dolores W. Morrison - World War II US Army uniform and accessories; color photos of Henry Hinzeman at the gazebo (Fourth of July 1989).

Ralph E. Morton - framed color photograph of World War II Memorial and Gazebo in McIntosh Square. Mark & Elizabeth Z. Miner – Dr. N. William Hurtt items including license to practice dentistry, Bureau of Occupational Affairs certificate, special tax stamp from IRS, caricature drawing and certificate of honor celebrating the 50th year of service (2004). *Pittsburgh Business Times* "Profiles of Western Pennsylvania Schools" (2010); *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* guest column authored by Rep. Jim Christiana ("My First Year in Harrisburg"); Michael Baker Corporation *Signature* magazine (2010); original movie poster from *Wonder Boys* (Paramount Pictures, 1999).

Caryl Schmersal - artifacts found underground at 510 Bank Street, including railroad spikes, bones, shoe last and jar.

Dr. Scroggs Estate - 207 photographs; ledgers; scores of newspaper articles; World War II items; 18 yearbooks (Shingas and New Horizon), books, certificates, programs, University of Pittsburgh letter of admission (1938); clipboard from Dollar Savings and Loan; many others.

Mildred Sefton - *Beaver County Times* articles related to Beaver events; program from Police Memorial at County Courthouse (2010).

Mike Shovlin and Jim Foster - DVDs re: 2010 "100 Years of Scouting" exhibit at Heritage Museum and 1920s scrapbook re: Troop 406; Allegheny Trails Council Flag for Fort McIntosh District (1973); Troop 406 flag.

Robert A. Smith - Beaver Centennial poster; copy of article re. Cora Blackledge (1992).

Charles R. Snitger Jr. – copy of Memorial Day address given by Matt Haber and color photos and program from Memorial Day (2010).

Paula Soto - Beaver Tales: A Story Telling Event book (2009).

Charles Townsend - copies of blueprints re: P&LE RR Passenger Station (1910-1917).

Robert E. Wolfe - Bible belonging to James L. Douds (1873); copies of certificates and handwritten birth/death dates re: Barclay family.

Third Quarter (July-Sept):

Gwendolyn M. Arbutina - copy of deed to 322 Bridge Street, Bridgewater; sliding yardstick from Koebel's Store, Beaver.

Betty Stout Burk - Beaver Bobcats High School football program featuring the class of 2010-2011. Margaret H. Carroll - World War II ration book.

Beaver County Commissioners (Tony Amadeo, Joe Spanik, Charles Camp) -255 bound volumes of the *Beaver County Times* (1935-1985).

Kevin Crawford - dash plaque from Beaver Chamber of Commerce Car Cruise (2010).

Patricia Duffy - black and white photos re: Beaver Grays Champions (1931); photo re: Midland Crucible coke plant baseball team (1929); color street maps of the Beaver area; Wm. Reich newspaper clippings and certificate of release from the Cawlridge Baseball Club; colorful Beaver County plates; Beaver High School drawing by Robert A. Smith.

James Foster – Programs from Beaver High School (1922) and Quay Chapel dedication; Judge J. J. Wickham obituary; Beaver Theater handbill; *Beaver Times* supplement (1969).

Sarah Foster – T-shirt and cheesecloth dusting cloth re. Anderson's Furniture Polish; boxes of J. T. Anderson Co. furniture and gifts; glass bottle with Rowse Drugs label; color photos of National Hotel at Commerce & 3rd Streets, McIntosh Square markers, county courthouse and residence (1974).

Katherine Walton Heimann - Brighton Township May Day Program (1955); commencement invitation from Beaver High School (1885); Beaver High diploma for Roberta Greenlee Walton (1936); photo of a play in the Beaver Junior High Auditorium titled "Full House"; newspaper clippings re: Walton Hardware "Going out of Business"; original Argus and Radical newspaper page (1884); program re: Beaver Civic Club Little Theatre of Beaver in "Kiss and Tell" (1947); program presented by Triangle Class and the Epworth League of Beaver at Methodist Episcopal Church, "Adam and Eva," (1928); minute book from the Beaver Little Theater Group.

Judy Knaul - color photos and news article from *I Am Number IV* filming on Second Street; black and white circus parade photos; photos of the Brown Building fire (1932);

Richard Liposchok - volunteer fire-fighter's badge (1925).

Mark & Elizabeth Z. Miner - Pittsburgh Christian Advocate newspaper featuring Beaver Methodist Church activity (1912).

Robert A. Quay - Basic Military Training book (1925) used by Joseph Knox Stone at Lehigh University in 1933. Judith H. Reiners – program from 2009 River Regatta; booklet from the Beaver High School Class of 1964 20th Anniversary Reunion; *Beaver County Magazine* titled "The Bridge" (2009); Beaver school district calendar (1995–1996); newspaper supplement; "The Beaver Area" (1973).

Keith Sevy - photo of A&P Store at the corner of Third Street and College Avenue (1940s).

Virginia Steel - deed transfer; property from Eliza Reed to Thomas Reed (1863).

A. Anthony Tappe - blueprints and pencil sketch re: 494 Second Street; Revolutionary War record of James Johnston (1908); D.A.R. membership application (1900-1909); letter from A. Anthony Tappe.



Will You Help Us Reach Future Generations of Our Kids?

You can become a deeper part of the Heritage Foundation and Museum by helping sustain our mission of celebrating the people, places and events of the Beaver Area for generations to come, with a special focus on educating our schoolchildren that history is right in their own backyard.

In your estate plan, please consider a bequest or planned gift to help sustain the Heritage Foundation's financial base now and in the future. If you already have named the Heritage Foundation in your estate plan, we simply say, "Thank you" for your investment.

The official registration and financial information of the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. (Act 202)



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

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

Museum Receives \$20,000 Bequest

Heritage Foundation member and Beaver resident Hazel H. Carver passed away June 26, 2010. From her estate, we received a donation in the amount of \$20,000 for the continued maintenance and operation of the Heritage Museum. The museum trustees are considering future uses for the funds that will properly reflect Mrs. Carver's longtime support of the Heritage Foundation.

A Special Cyber-Thanks

semonik::creative

The Heritage Foundation wishes to extend its thanks to graphic

designer Johanna Semonik, founder of Semonik Creative of Brighton Township, for her ongoing design consultation for our website BeaverHeritage.org, and for graciously providing hosting for the website since 2004 at no cost.

Dues Now Due

Don't forget to remit your membership dues for 2011—just \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families–checks payable to BAHF, P.O. Box 147, Beaver, PA 15009.

Corporate Member Spotlight

Heritage Valley Health System Heritage Valley Health System is a progressive community-based healthcare system located in southwestern Pennsylvania. In partnership with more than 400 physicians and nearly 4,000 employees, it offers a broad range of medical, surgical and diagnostic services at its hospitals in Beaver and Sewickley, community satellite facilities and in physician offices.

Allan Jewelers

Allan Jewelers, with store locations at 500 Third Street in Beaver and 755 Shenango Road in Chippewa, is committed to style and value in all of its offerings. The variation in style and remarkable value of its jewelry comes from every corner of the world. Allan is pleased to offer breath-taking diamonds which offer great brilliance, fire and scintillation.

Edited by:

