



# The P.O.S.T. POST

Newsletter from the Board of Pittsburgh's Old Stone Tavern Friends Trust  
Winter, 2016

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## Board of Directors

Paul Sentner, President  
Anup Aryal, Vice-Pres.  
Norene Beatty, Sec.  
Cris Mooney, Treas.  
John McNulty  
Francie Brentzel

## Active Honorable Directors

Gretchen Haller  
Rich Forster  
Lorraine Forster  
Janet Wood

## Our mission

To acquire, restore,  
and re-use the  
Old Stone Tavern.

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



## We made the list

Pittsburgh's Young Preservationists know historic value when they see it. The group picked the Old Stone Tavern to be number two on this year's "Top Ten List" of properties worth saving.

As noted in their brochure, the tavern has "served and was built on the foundation of what is Pittsburgh. It is a value to the culture of the Pittsburgh Community and can continue to be so if given a chance."



Old Stone Tavern

## Highlights of 2015

**P**OST Board members have campaigned vigorously throughout the past year to accomplish our goal of saving and restoring the Old Stone Tavern.

January—Board members Cris Mooney and Secretary Norene Beatty met with Cara Halderman of CTAC (Community Technical Assistance Center) about our goals and our need for help in writing grant proposals and promoting the Tavern.

February—On a “field trip” to Wigle Whiskey in the Strip District, POST members talked with Meredith Grelli and her father and partner, Mark Meyer, about the possibility of a fundraiser there for the Tavern.

March—POST members Richard Forster, John McNulty and Norene Beatty appeared on MCA-TV (Moon Community Access Television) on behalf of the Tavern.

March—Board members met with Richard Butler, the head of the West End Alliance Community Development Corporation, about funding for purchase of the Tavern.

March—Several POST Board members championed the Tavern’s cause at a community meeting attended by Mayor Bill Peduto and West End City Council representative Theresa Kail-Smith.

May—POST members John McNulty and Richard Foster spoke about the Tavern on WESA’s *Essential Pittsburgh* radio show.

July—Board members manned an information booth at the West End’s Community Days celebration. Board member John McNulty dressed in period costume and entertained visitors with demonstrations of pioneer activities.

August—Pittsburgh’s Old Stone Tavern Friends Trust holds its Annual Public Meeting. Secretary Beatty spoke about the Whiskey Rebellion and its connection to the Tavern. She noted

that 72 of the insurgents were patrons of the Tavern.

September—Norene Beatty gave a presentation about the Tavern to the Ingram Historical Society whose members rewarded her with a generous donation to the cause.

September—Norene Beatty and John McNulty appeared on the CBS morning television show *Pittsburgh Today Live*. They talked about the Tavern, its important role in Western Pennsylvania history, and plans for its future.

October—Secretary Norene Beatty spoke about the Tavern to members of the Historical Glass Club of Pittsburgh. Her speech netted POST ten enthusiastic new members.

November—Board members attended an all-day event hosted by Sarah Quinn, City of Pittsburgh Historic Preservation Planner. Entitled *Preserving the Past by Planning for the Future*, the seminar provided stimulating speakers and gave the seventy attendees a chance to network with other like-minded people.

November—Secretary Norene Beatty gave a presentation on the Tavern to the Jacob Ferree chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Norene emphasized that, so far, she has identified over 66 Old Stone Tavern customers who served in the American Revolution.

November—President Paul Sentner presented our case at an Urban Redevelopment Authority meeting chaired by Mayor Peduto’s Chief of Staff Kevin Acklin.

Ongoing—  
The Board continues to solicit Letters of Support from sympathetic government officials and historical groups. You can view some of these testimonials on our website: [postfit.org](http://postfit.org).



## Elections are coming!

Plan to attend the POST general meeting on March 19, 2016 when you can nominate a member for the new Board. We will inform you of the meeting's time and place at a later date. Voting takes place on April 2, 2016. Send in your ballot either by email or regular postal service.

## Dues

POST memberships expired on December 31, 2015, no matter in what month you joined. Please send in your dues of \$ 5.00 for calendar year 2016. Make checks payable to POSTFT, Inc. and mail to:

POST Friends Trust  
PO Box 8563  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220-9998

## Norene Beatty to speak in Mt. Lebanon

Secretary Norene Beatty will give a presentation about the Old Stone Tavern at the Mt. Lebanon Historical Society's March meeting.

Date: March 18<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 11:00 a.m.  
Address: Mt. Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 355 Washington Road

## About Membership...and an Update

By Paul Sentner  
President, POST

When we had concluded what was our origin meeting in July 2013, it was considered that we should form a trust to protect the Old Stone Tavern. That meeting for folks potentially interested in saving the Old Stone Tavern was convened by Theresa Kail-Smith, our District 2 Pittsburgh City Council Representative, and was hosted by the West End Branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. The ca. 1782 Tavern is located not far from the

Library in the West End community on Greentree Road at Woodville Avenue.

Some of us began meeting biweekly at the Library until it closed for renovation in the fall. We had whittled down to a core group by then and were welcomed to meet at Corbett, Inc. in the former St. George Episcopal Church at Greentree Road-Wabash-McCartney St. (McGann's corner) near the 'Tavern.



Effective December 31, 2013, we are a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation: "Pittsburgh's Old Stone Tavern Friends Trust, Inc.", but we are not a "trust". To use the word "Trust" in our name we had to

obtain permission from the Pennsylvania Banking Department that recognizes us as a preservation-oriented non-profit.

We had no members yet, and proceeded to form the First Board of Directors from the core group that included the temporary organizing officers. The First Board chose the first Board Chairperson and Officers. The Board officers are also the corporate officers.

By Spring 2014 the Board passed the bylaws that had been developed by the core group (not an easy task, especially when done by committee, so to speak - ha!) Some of the core group had decided to become (voluntary) Honorary Advisory Board members.

In September 2014 our 501(c)(3) status was approved, we hosted our first (required) public meeting, acquired a few new members and also some unsolicited donations without yet having any membership or funding drives.

This Spring, 2016, we will have our first Board of Directors election by the membership, and to accomplish this we want to increase the membership to participate in the voting and to become nominees.

The membership fee is \$5 per year. You can see we will not build much of a treasury from these fees, but members are important to do the voting and are eligible for nomination to the elections for the Board of Directors. Furthermore,

new folks may be the source of new ideas and so on. The Membership roll also reveals interest and at least moral support for the effort to acquire, repair, preserve and to educate the public about the historical significance of Pittsburgh's Old Stone Tavern.

A "Nomination Kit" has been developed for anyone interested in becoming a Board member, or just to understand the process and responsibilities. We are a membership corporation, so the Board members are elected by the membership, not appointed. The Nomination Kit is available as a pdf file on our website: [www.POSTFT.org](http://www.POSTFT.org). The Nomination Kit is hopefully self-explanatory, but if there are any questions, feel free to direct them to [info@www.POSTFT.org](mailto:info@www.POSTFT.org) and you will get prompt replies.

### Update

We are still in the dilemma of trying to engineer a 5-parcel purchase of the Harris Masonry property that includes the Tavern and the adjoining two vacant parcels we want. Mr. Harris holds fast to his need to sell all parcels as a whole so he can relocate his business should a sale materialize. To this end, since 2014 we have met, to no avail, with Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, Bridgeway Investment and one of the Mayor Peduto's advisors. In September 2015 we were able to meet with and present an idea for purchase to the Pittsburgh Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA). Two delegates from that meeting have met with Mr. Harris and we have not yet heard what may or may not be transpiring.

That's all for now. If you're not a member, consider joining in. If you are a member, consider becoming a nominee in the Board of Directors election.



*Old Stone Tavern Ledger found in the Special Collection's Room at the Carnegie Library, Main Branch*

## Research of Tavern Ledger reveals a wealth of history

By Norene Beatty

**T**he ledger of the Old Stone Tavern that begins in 1793 and goes into 1797 is a Rosetta stone that deciphers Western Pennsylvania history. The men who had accounts at the tavern are like a Who's Who of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in Western Pennsylvania. To date research has uncovered that sixty-six of the men were veterans of the American Revolution, seventy-two took part in the Whiskey Rebellion on one side or the other of the conflict, and sixteen would serve in the War of 1812.

During the period of the ledger, ledger n/p of the tavern records the sale of cloth, clothing articles, shoes, bacon, flour, and other essential items to the settlers. There are, of course, the charges for food and beverage and lodging.

One of the interesting accounts in the ledger is that of "The United States of America". Charges to this account were for ferry fees on Daniel Elliott's ferry for ferrying soldiers. During this period General Anthony Wayne was on the north side of the Ohio River at Legionville training his soldiers to put down the Indians who were attacking Western Pennsylvania.

There is some question as to if the ledger had been rebound at some time; it was number P rather than N. Also, there are some balances carried forward from Ledger M and as far back as Ledger H, but none from a Ledger N.

Research continues on who these men were and their contribution to the growth of Western Pennsylvania and the United States.

## Cornerstone of the West End of Pittsburgh

By Norene Beatty

Daniel Elliott, born 1752 first came to the frontier from Lancaster, Pennsylvania in the employ of Alexander Lowry, as an Indian trader. The Lowry family began trading with the Indians as early as 1744 as far down the Ohio to the Mississippi River. The French would put a bounty on Alexander Lowry's brother James. Daniel Elliott would go on to become a licensed Indian trader on his own.

Prior to the signing of the Fort Stanwix treaty with the Indians in November of 1768 no one could own land west of the Susquehanna River. Five short months later Daniel Elliott would receive a patent from Virginia in April of 1769 for the land on which the tavern stands. The patent was for six hundred and forty and half acres he named Elliott's Delight. He also received another patent in 1769 for the land above Elliott's Delight that he called "Elliott's Design."

When he received his patent for "Elliott's Delight," there was already a British saw mill at the mouth of Saw Mill Run that had been used in the building of Fort Pitt. With the use of this saw mill he built boats to be used on the rivers. He also built a gristmill, a large farm and still.

But most of all he built the tavern. The tavern was where he traded and sold a wide variety of items as well as selling meals, beverages and lodging. The tavern as the many of the eighteenth century taverns consisted of two main

rooms each having their own entrance from the outside with a porch stretching the length of the building. The upper rooms would house the tavern owner and rooms for guest. One room on the bottom floor would be the store or trading room, and the other the tavern room. This is the exact floor plan of the first floor of the tavern. Unfortunately sometime in the late 1920's the original porch was removed.

The location was very important in that it sits where two Indian Trails met. The Catfish Indian Trail coming from Delaware Indian Chief Catfish's hunting camp in what we now know as

Washington, Pennsylvania. The Cherokee Indian Trail branched off the Nemaquin Indian trail just west of Redstone, near Brownsville today. The Indian trails were the not only traveled by the Indians but by the traders, settlers and soldiers who came to the frontier.



In 1784 Daniel Elliott would receive permission to operate a ferry from the mouth of Saw Mill Run to the north shore of the Ohio River. The Ohio River landing would be near where Cardello Electric is today where Daniel Elliott had acquired another large tract of land. In 1788 he would receive permission to take his ferry also up to Pittsburgh. In the ledger of 1793 into 1797 are recorded the charges for ferry passages.

The tavern was the hub of Daniel Elliott's ventures and the heart of what we now know as the West End.

## Who is the real McCoy?

By Lorraine Forster

In our effort to save the Old Stone Tavern, we are looking into the stories of the many people whose footsteps have crossed its threshold. The ledger of this Tavern for the years 1793 - 1797 has been located. Our thanks go out to the forward-thinking person who saw fit to place this one particular ledger (one of many) into safekeeping. This article will address John McCoy who

appears in the ledger of the Old Stone Tavern on pages 136 and 149.

There is a church high on the crest of a hill called Union Presbyterian Church. It is located at 6165 Steubenville Pike, a/k/a Route 60, in Robinson Township (mailing address McKees Rocks). The land surrounding Union Church was consecrated as the resting place of the deceased of the congregation and community.

Pvt. John McCoy's grave is one of 24 Revolutionary War gravesites in Union Cemetery. Of those 24, including John McCoy, at least ten of those names also appear in the Tavern ledger: John Hall, William McCoy, Hugh McCurdy, John McFadden, John Nickel/Nickle, John Phillips, Jonathan Phillips, Andrew Spear, Gabriel Walker and Isaac Walker.



In order to pay tribute to a patriot and an early settler, Robinson Township Historical Society decided to protect the valuable ledger stone that was above the gravesite of Pvt. John McCoy. Over time, these stones deteriorate cracking and crumbling. Popular in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries these stone slabs have become a rare sight. If a stone from this era remains intact, many times the inscription becomes difficult to read. John's ledger stone is 7 feet by 3 feet, flat and rectangular and estimated to weigh 800 lbs.

Relatives were contacted for permission to remove John's ledger stone and replace it with new matching markers for him and his wife, Sarah. Arrangements were made and a ceremony was held to coincide with the observance of Veterans Day. Sarah McCoy (12-17-1765 - 3-17-1831) died at 65 years of age on St. Patrick's Day. After weathering the elements for nearly 200 years, the original ledger stone was moved indoors (for protection and historic display) to the lobby of the Robinson Township municipal building, which houses the historical society. The epitaph as written on the tablet that reads: "We shall slumber beneath the ground until the last trumpets Joyfull sound then shall we burst the bands of sweet surprise and in our Saviours image rise."

The ceremony was held at the church cemetery on November 13, 2015, honoring John McCoy for his service in both the militia and the Revolutionary War. Despite it being Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, everything went according to plan.

Present were representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution, the American Legion Post 862 honor guards and re-enactors from Washington County Historical Society. Additionally, a 21-gun salute, taps, flag presentations, awards and prayers were said.

In attendance were representatives from: Pittsburgh's Old Stone Tavern Friends, the Pioneers West Historical Society from the Walker-Ewing Log House on Noblestown Road, the Walker-Ewing-Glass Log Cabin located in the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, Heinz History Center and state and various representatives of Robinson Township.

John McCoy was born on Monday, June 1, 1761. In 1781, when he was around 19 or 20 years of age, he enlisted and served as a private in Captain Cunningham's Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Washington County battalion and was discharged in 1782, (note: Allegheny County was not formed until 1788). John also appears in the Warrantee Atlas of Allegheny County, Pa for land in Stowe Township. His farm was located in the area bordering Kennedy and Stowe Townships and is where McCoy Road got its name.

John was in the Tavern five times in January and February of 1795 and on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February purchased supper (with 2 others) along with a whiskey and toddy. That whiskey was most likely a Monongahela rye for which this area of the country was so famous. On February 19<sup>th</sup>, he paid his balance with 2 crowns. Mr. McCoy also showed up at the Old Stone Tavern on April 11, 1795, and March 17, 1796. John McCoy died on Tuesday, December 5, 1820. A William McCoy appears on page 54 of the Tavern's ledger. A William McCoy also shows up in the Warrantee Atlas for Allegheny County for Stowe and Crescent (Robinson). The atlas depicts the original land grants that settlers of

present-day Allegheny County received from the Commonwealth after William Penn and his descendants vested the land to the legislature.

For more in-depth understanding of the Warrantee Atlas see:  
[http://images.library.pitt.edu/w/warrantee/historical\\_sketch.html](http://images.library.pitt.edu/w/warrantee/historical_sketch.html)

On page 1066 of *Genealogical and Personal History of Western Pennsylvania, Vol. 2* by John W. Jordan it states, "William was the brother of John McCoy. He owned a large tract of land on Chartiers Creek near Steubenville Pike where he died about 1835."

*Union Presbyterian Church 1794 - 1994 - Bicentennial History (1993)* lists the burials in their churchyard for no less than four William McCoys as follows:

Name	died	age
McCoy, William	1820	62
McCoy, William	1842	
McCoy, William	1882	85
McCoy, William	1961	84

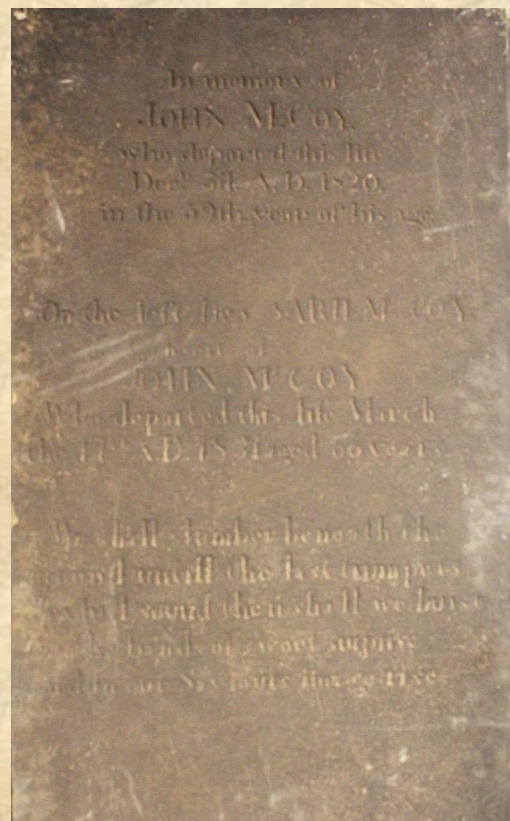
Also shown are three John McCoys as follows:

McCoy, John	1861	40
McCoy, John, Jr.	1846	18
McCoy, John, Sr.	1820	59

John McCoy owned 700 acres in Robinson Township and died from a kick he received from a horse in 1818. This information was found in the *Genealogical and Personal History of Western Pennsylvania, Vol. 1* by John W. Jordan at page 523.



Another note on a John McCoy was found in the *History of Beaver County, Pennsylvania, Vol. 1* by J. Fraise Richard on page 486. It states, "John McCoy served in the War of 1812 as a sergeant in Captain Robert Imbrie's Company at Erie."



ledger

Perhaps you can help us determine who was the real McCoy, the one for which the ceremony was just held. Which William and which John were brothers? Let us know your thoughts.

## Same Old Stone Tavern, different faces

By Francie Brentzel

Although no photographs of the Old Stone Tavern exist from when it was first built, the pictures on the next page document some of the changes in the Tavern through the years.

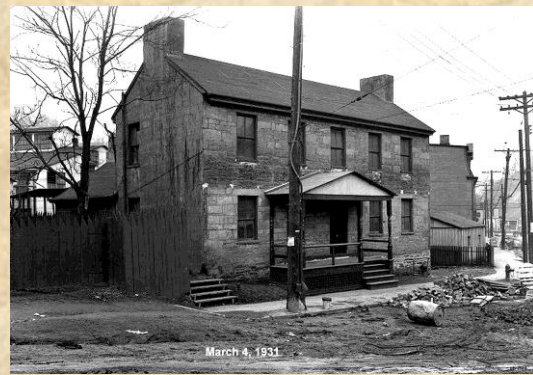
Around 1930, the Old Stone Tavern apparently shed its long porch. Did it have a porch originally? According to Architect Michael Shealey, who has studied the building, the Tavern almost certainly had a full-length porch, although it may not have looked the same as in later years. He wrote in an email: "I don't think that the porch shown in the early 20th century photos to be even a fragment of the original

porch. The original porch would have likely had a shed roof rather than a gabled roof as shown in the early photos.”

“It is also very possible,” he continued, “that the Old Stone Tavern had both first and second floor porches in the back. There are some signs of a possible second floor porch in the attic of the present building.

Did the Tavern have shutters like so many other historic taverns? Shealey wrote, “Shutters are a really good question. Eighteenth and nineteenth century shutters required a good bit of metal, and metal at the time in Pittsburgh was precious. Every piece of metal that Daniel Elliott owned, [the original owner], I believe, was included in the inventory of his personal effects following his death. These effects included locks, and from memory, hinges which may have been door hinges. There is no indication of shutters that I saw in any of the original window jambs. However shutters would have been very useful and shutters certainly were desirable to the original builders. Checking Elliott’s inventory for metal building components may prove very useful.”

The original tavern was the natural gray color of its stone. Later in the 1900s, however, an owner applied red stucco material that still remains today.



*The Tavern in 1931. Judging from the clean-looking stones on the first floor, it appears that the porch has recently been removed.*



*Undated photo of the Old Stone Tavern*



*Above, Tavern as it appears today. Left, Tavern decorated for a patriotic holiday—from the early 1900s.*