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DESCENDANT OF GENERAL JOHN FORBES SLATED TO APPEAR AT DEDICATION CEREMONY



LIGONIER, PA – The commemoration of Ligonier’s 250th anniversary continues this week with the dedication of a specially-designed Forbes Trail Marker at the Fort Ligonier Museum on Wednesday, October 8, 2008, at 5:30 PM. Remarks by a direct descendant of General John Forbes will highlight this signature event. Dr. Lawrence John Forbes Keppie, a distinguished historian and retired professor of Roman archaeology at the Hunterian Museum at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, will unveil the marker and discuss his famous ancestor. Ligonier resident, Laura Fisher, Director, French and Indian War 250, Inc., and Senior Vice President, Allegheny Conference on Community Development, will also participate in the program.

“The Ligonier 250 Committee is delighted to have a visitor whose ancestor was instrumental in bringing the famous road across the Pennsylvania mountains through what became our Ligonier Valley,” stated Charles A. Fagan, III, Chairman, Ligonier 250 Committee. “Interestingly, Professor Keppie’s great-grandfather represented his family at the Pittsburgh sesquicentennial in 1908. Professor Keppie has visited Fort Ligonier previously and we are pleased to welcome him back.”

The dedication ceremony at Fort Ligonier is scheduled in collaboration with Pittsburgh’s 250 anniversary celebration, as permanent bronze markers will also be unveiled at other key French and Indian War sites throughout the week to commemorate the 1758 expedition of British

General John Forbes across Pennsylvania. These locations include Pittsburgh, Bedford, Carlisle and Philadelphia, and at a later date in Dunfermline, Scotland, birthplace of Forbes. Funding for the markers and limited-edition Forbes medallions was provided by the Colcom Foundation. “These markers commemorate General John Forbes’s valor and ingenuity as a leader, and his fortitude under harsh conditions and while in failing health,” said John F. Rohe, Vice President of Philanthropy and Secretary of Colcom Foundation.

Measuring 30 inches in diameter and weighing 80 lbs., the markers were specially created by Landesberg Design to depict visually the truly daunting task faced by General Forbes and his army as they crossed rugged terrain, faced harsh weather, and withstood enemy attack. Matthews International Corporation, the oldest known business in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, cast the marker in bronze using an innovative new process known as ImageCast, which combines the art of casting with the use of photography or, in this case, a typographic model. The markers and medallions were produced at Matthews’ foundry in Pittsburgh.

While in the region, Professor Keppie will participate in various Ligonier 250 activities including the opening and closing ceremonies of Fort Ligonier Days, October 10-12, 2008, reviewing the troops during Fort Ligonier’s battle reenactments on Saturday and Sunday, and appearing in Saturday’s spectacular parade.

Wednesday’s dedication ceremony is open to the public with the program scheduled to begin promptly at 5:30 PM.



Photo of bronze Forbes marker which will be set in granite.