STANTON BELFOUR
July 6, 1906 — November 29, 1969

Educator, Author, Historian, Churchman,
Foundation Executive, Naval Officer,
Civic Leader, and Staunch Pittsburgher
A TRIBUTE GIVEN AT THE MEETING OF
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA,
DECEMBER 3, 1969

It is difficult, even now, to believe that Stanton Belfour has really left us. He has been with us so intimately for so long; he was here only last month — last week. His funeral was only yesterday.

Tonight is one of very few occasions since Dr. Belfour assumed the presidency of this Society when he will not be ringing his country school bell, smiling at us from the front of the center aisle, presenting our speaker, and inviting us to the light collation after the meeting.

And so I have been asked to speak tonight of what Stan has meant to this Society.

I could speak of our grief at the loss of this warm and kindly man who has touched the life of this city and this region in every aspect — education, philanthropy, civic affairs, and history — for the past forty years. But you all know what I would say, for you have already said it — each in his own heart.

We could review his public services and his accomplishments, but they are listed in detail in his obituary in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, which you have read and which is recorded here in our own magazine.

That list is the saga of one who has been called “The Complete Civic Man.”

Born sixty-three years ago in Crafton in Western Pennsylvania, Campbell Stanton Belfour graduated from Schenley High School, received the B.A. and M.Litt. degrees from the University of Pittsburgh, served the University as an administrator, the United States Navy as a lieutenant commander in World War II, the Pittsburgh Foundation as its director since its inception in 1945, and was affiliated with the Howard Heinz Endowment, the Pitcairn-Crabbe Foundation, and the Heinz-Given Foundation. He served on the board of the Pittsburgh Symphony Society, the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education, and a dozen other civic institutions, local and national.

The scope of his activities in behalf of his fellow citizens over the past four decades was almost incredible, as was the list of honors and degrees he received in recognition of his services.

It is for us who have so long enjoyed our association with this warm-hearted, generous, tireless friend to remember how close this Society was to his heart; to recall how he planned for it, worked for it, expanded its membership, its endowment and its program.

He was a very gallant gentle man;
We shall not see his like again.

C. V. STARRETT
TRIBUTES TO DR. BELFOUR FROM PITTSBURGH NEWSPAPERS

Obituary, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, December 1, 1969

Funeral services for Dr. Stanton Belfour, director and secretary of the Pittsburgh Foundation since 1945 and president of The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, will be held at 11 a.m. tomorrow at Shadyside Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Belfour, 63, died of a heart attack at 1 p.m. Saturday (November 29) at his home, 438 Sulgrave Road, Chatham Village.

Throughout his lifetime and his career as an administrator at the University of Pittsburgh and later, one of his principal interests was the history of Western Pennsylvania and he was in wide demand as a speaker. He once said of the Historical Society:

"We're not a group of antiquarians looking up our ancestors, but a group involved with bringing our heritage to life."

Dr. Belfour had lectured at the University of Pittsburgh in American and Pennsylvania History and was an authority on this area from the time of the Indians to the "Renaissance."

He strongly supported the historical accuracy of Pittsburgh as the Gateway to the West over other claimants, including Cincinnati and St. Louis.

As director and secretary of the Pittsburgh Foundation, Dr. Belfour headed a community foundation offering an opportunity for persons of varied means to bequeath or establish living trusts for charitable purposes.

Foundation funds have gone to the arts, child care, family and social welfare, the aging, group work, education, religion, hospitals, nursing, health and rehabilitation and community planning.

He believed in encouraging a local spirit of philanthropy in persons of lesser means than the nation's wealthiest families and urged persons with gifts of "$50 or $500 or $5 million" to leave it for public purposes through the Pittsburgh Foundation.

Dr. Belfour was on the staff at Pitt as assistant registrar and assistant director of the extension division, summer sessions, and evening classes. He served with the Navy in World War II, attaining the rank of lieutenant commander.

He was past national president of Omicron Delta Kappa, national collegiate leadership fraternity, which awarded him its distinguished service award.

He also was a past national president of Phi Alpha Theta,
honorary historical fraternity. He was a member of Pi Sigma Alpha and Phi Delta Kappa fraternities.

He was a member of numerous other societies and civic groups, including the National Council on Community Foundations and Governor's Conference on Children and Youth. He was an elder of Shadyside Presbyterian Church.

In addition to his numerous speaking engagements on historical subjects, his articles were published in several historical and educational magazines.

Dr. Belfour is survived by his wife, Hilda Haskett Belfour; two daughters, Mrs. Jane Belfour Abbott, of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Joan Belfour, of Ithaca, New York; and a granddaughter, Alison Abbott.


Pittsburgh has lost a devoted friend and advocate in the death of Stanton Belfour, who throughout his life was active in many civic, educational and charitable activities.

Dr. Belfour was a scholar, historian and teacher, whose talents were made available to the people of this area in many ways. He was perhaps best known as director and secretary of the Pittsburgh Foundation.

The Foundation administers a large number of individual bequests, large and small, many of them dating back to the last century. As director, Dr. Belfour's task was to apply the money in accordance with the wishes of the donors and in a way which would benefit mankind.

He was tireless in searching out the places where a small amount of money could accomplish a great amount of good. And in that endeavor, he multiplied the value of the amounts that were applied to ease the difficulties of life and enhance its prospects.

The Foundation Dr. Belfour administered made it possible for even people in modest circumstances to be philanthropists, and to leave behind them something of value to others. And his perceptive understanding was an important part of the process.

Dr. Belfour compiled a distinguished career, in education, in his chosen field of history and in philanthropy. He touched, and enriched, the lives of many thousands of his fellow citizens.
IN COMMEMORATION

GIFTS

IN MEMORY OF

STANTON BELFOUR

FROM

MRS. S. J. ANATHAN
DR. J. CUTLER ANDREWS
MRS. PAUL J. BAUM
MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM W. BOOTH
MISS JOSEPHINE DENNY
MRS. RICHARD E. DUVALL
MISS EVELYN EVANS
MISS LAURA FRUCHS
MRS. JAY GOLDSTEIN
MR. JOHN W. HARPSTER
MRS. HELEN DENNY HOWARD
MR. AND MRS. OLIVER M. KAUFMANN
MR. AND MRS. CARLTON G. KETCHUM
DR. AND MRS. D. D. LESSENBERRY
THE REV. DONALD W. McILVANE
MR. ROBERT B. MCKEE
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE
MR. AND MRS. THOMAS W. POMEROY
MRS. FRANK E. RICHARDSON, JR.
IN COMMEMORATION
GIFT
FROM
MRS. JOHN W. ECKELBERRY
IN MEMORY OF
MISS ROBERTA T. JOHNS