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THE FORT PITT MUSEUM

The Story of Western Pennsylvania Before 1800 As Portrayed in the Museum Exhibits

CHARLES MORSE STOTZ

SOMEWHAT before 1750 the headwaters of the Ohio emerged from obscurity to become within a few years the stage for events that made news across the ocean. The French and the British fought for possession of the Forks of the Ohio through four bitter years. The native Indian, whose natural rights of ownership were largely ignored, looked on with growing resentment. He chose the side which at the time appeared to serve his interests best. But when the French had been defeated and the settlers rushed in to occupy the land, the Indian unleashed the full fury of his frustration, bringing terror to the frontier until his utter defeat in 1794.

The settlement about Fort Pitt grew slowly because of the restrictions of continual conflict and unrest. But the very geographical circumstances that made the Forks of the Ohio a coveted military prize likewise destined the little village of Pittsburgh soon to assert its importance as the head of river travel to the inland basin of America. By 1800 the seeds of a great city had taken root. The highlights of these fifty momentous years are presented in the sixty exhibits of the Fort Pitt Museum. By the very nature of the events with which it deals, this is primarily a military museum.

The most dependable knowledge of the stirring drama that transpired in what is now western Pennsylvania is to be found in the source material of American and European archives. These records were carefully examined in the preparation of the exhibits. Of first importance are the *Bouquet Papers,* a mine of information comprised of British military correspondence which reveals the true nature of wilderness warfare and the colorful personalities involved. The *Contrecoeur Papers* deal with the invasion of the Ohio country by the French and the building of their forts from Lake Erie to the Point. Research also involved study of the Indian and his relations with the European invaders as well as archaeological studies of the Indians who lived near the Point 3,000 years ago. To portray the arms and armament, uniforms and everyday articles of the soldiers of the armies involved extensive research. The acquisition of genuine artifacts was made possible through a grant by the Richard King Mellon Foundation and the building of a model of Fort Pitt by a grant from the Buhl Foundation. The costs of designing and building the exhibits were covered by appropriations of the General State Authority.

From these materials the panorama of our place in history is presented in as definitive a manner as could be managed, utilizing modern museum techniques rather than methods more suitable to books. Exhibits include a mixture of full-scale rooms with mannequins, interpretive displays of artifacts, small-scale lifelike dioramas, models and drawings of the forts, film presentations and spoken narratives.

The exhibits are arranged in chronological sequence with variety of character to maintain freshness and interest. The cases are set to accommodate the very irregular floor plan of the bastion and provide ever-changing vistas, yet maintain comfortable clearance for visitor circulation. At the half-way point a generous open space contains a bench for relaxation. The captions provide a consecutive historical narrative intended for the adolescent or adult who comes with an awareness of the general historical background and who, it is hoped, will be stimulated to learn for himself more about the local history.

The building, cases and exhibits were conceived, designed and built in Pittsburgh by Pittsburghers devoted to the task of providing our city with a kind of museum it has so long neglected. The Fort Pitt Museum may be regarded as a supplement and conclusion to the story told in the Fort Ligonier Museum with its unrivaled collection of French and Indian War artifacts taken from the ground there. This booklet and its illustrations form a condensed summary of the story

told in the Fort Pitt Museum. A plan showing the arrangement and titles of the exhibits is given in the illustration on pages 328 and 329.

1. Contest for Empire — The French and British at the Forks

The first exhibit seen on leaving the William Pitt Memorial Hall is the theme of the museum. Flag bearers of the British and French armies are ranged on each side of a center panel within which is seen the prize they sought, the Forks of the Ohio. In contrast with their colorful uniforms and flags and the symbols of their old cultures, St. Paul's in London and Notre Dame in Paris, the half-naked Indian stands within his native forest, musket menacingly raised. The panel in the foreground of the case contains a caption which sums up the fortunes of these three figures in the drama that was enacted in mid-eighteenth century. This caption reads:

> *From their seats of power in Paris and London two foreign nations contested for the land beyond the mountains in the New World. The native owner of this land, the Indian, was now an ally, now an enemy, but always the tragic figure in the unequal struggle. All three were victors in their time, all three losers in the end.*

2. The View West—The Mysterious Country Beyond the Mountains

A relief map extending westward to the Forks of the Ohio shows how the country seemed to the English and French colonists in mid-eighteenth century from the eastern seaboard. A narration is heard through earphones. The possessions of the two countries are illuminated in separate colors by "black light" while the army routes light up as the narration proceeds.

The Ohio River and the country about it are quite familiar to us today but this river was practically unknown in the early 1700's. It was almost mid-century before the Ohio River was located and recognized as the natural highway to the inland basin of America. When at last the French and British grasped the strategic importance of this key to the ownership of the continent, both nations claimed the Ohio Valley and sought to establish possession of its headwaters at the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers.

Maps are almost always shown with the north at the top. But this map is turned toward the west, on its side so to speak, to show better the approach from the English and French settlements east of the Appalachian ranges. The frontiersmen called these "the endless moun-

tains." To help you orient yourself, modern Pennsylvania is shown in outline.

The English colonies, shown in red, stretched in a thin line along the Atlantic Coast; the French possessions, shown in blue, extended from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, through the lakes and the Illinois country to the Gulf of Mexico. The land of the dominant Indians, the Iroquois, shown in green, formed a barrier as formidable as the mountains. Remaining in shadow is the no-man's-land at the Forks of the Ohio, the prize in this contest for empire.

The French reached the Ohio by a natural water route which extended from Montreal, through the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, French Creek and the Allegheny River. While the French had a great advantage in this water route, it was over 700 miles long and was often closed by ice in the winter. There were also difficult portages around Niagara Falls and from Lake Erie to French Creek. However, the French successfully occupied the Forks of the Ohio in 1754.

The English routes were shorter but required slow, arduous travel by land over rough military paths cut through dense forests and obstructed by many mountains. The first route extended from Williamsburg, Virginia, to the Potomac River. From here the path had led over the mountains for 125 miles and then paralleled the Youghiogheny and Monongahela Rivers to the Point. This route was followed by Braddock in 1755. His defeat left the Forks in French hands for another three years.

The second English route extended from Philadelphia to the Susquehanna River and from there about 200 miles over the Allegheny Mountains to the Forks of the Ohio. This route was followed by Forbes's Army which seized Fort Duquesne in 1758. With the conquest of Canada a few years later, an English-speaking civilization was permanently established in America.

3A. The Neglected Ohio Becomes a World-Famous River

Historically and geographically the Ohio River is one of the most important rivers in America. It is 987 miles long and is fed by a basin of 203,900 square miles. The river remained unknown for almost 200 years after the discovery of America. The three maps in this case show the emergence of the Ohio River from obscurity to international prominence.

Although the French knew of the Ohio River as early as the

17th century, the Wabash River was their principal access from the Mississippi to the Lakes and Montreal. The British, on the other hand, had little knowledge of or concern for the Ohio River until their first conflicts with the French in 1754. The French found the Ohio River strategically important in supplying Fort Duquesne and the other upper Ohio posts with flour and meat from Illinois, the "bread basket of New France."

By this time the British belatedly realized that the French possession of the Forks of the Ohio blocked off access to the great western country. The Ohio River now became a prize of international importance. Because of its strategic position as a military highway, the development of dependable maps became a critical necessity.

The case contains three maps: *Carte de la Louisiane,* 1685, an anonymous map from the Service Hydrographique in Paris; *Karte von Louisiana,* 1744, an original print from the map by the famous French geographer, Jacques Nicholas Bellin; *A Map of the Ohio Country,* 1752, by John Patten, made from information gained while held captive by the Indians in 1750-51. The original is in the Library of Congress. At first greatest emphasis was placed on the Wabash River, the principal access of the French from Canada to Louisiana. The Allegheny and Ohio were treated as a single river. The Forks of the Ohio were difficult to identify because the Monongahela River, if shown at all, appeared as a minor tributary.

3B. The Lifeline of New France Was Long and Difficult to Maintain

This case contains a decorative map of French possessions, the principal towns and settlements, grazing lands, hunting districts of the fur trade, mines and the like. In mid-eighteenth century France resolved to unite her far-flung American possessions which extended almost 3,000 miles from the St. Lawrence River to the Gulf of Mexico. The routes through the Great Lakes and the Ottawa River had been used since the 17th century. But it now became clear that the Ohio River, the shortest and most navigable route, was destined to form the most vital link between Canada and Louisiana, neither of which was self-supporting in food supply. From the fine farming and grazing lands of the Illinois, then called the "Granary of New France," products were to be shipped north and south and especially to the headwaters of the Ohio River where Fort Duquesne stood as defense against any British effort to sever this lifeline of New France.

4A. The Indian's Life Was Changed by the Trader's Goods

This case contains important artifacts of the periods both before and after the advent of the white man, such as stone implements, clay pots, beads and arrow points as well as trade goods including rifles, metal tomahawks, iron pots, knives, jew's harps and manufactured beads. There is a portrait of Lap-pa-win-soe, a Delaware chief, representative of the 18th century Pennsylvania Indian. His hair is worn long and there is no feathered headdress.

Before the arrival of Europeans, the Indians of western Pennsylvania followed a way of life that had changed little over several thousand years. The Indian obtained food by farming, hunting, fishing, and gathering seeds, berries and the like. Villages consisted of circular bark huts surrounded by a stockade wall. Tools and clothing were made from wood, stone, clay, and hides.

As tribal society broke down under European influence and domination, native crafts declined and disappeared. The bow and arrow was abandoned for the flintlock musket, clay pots for brass kettles, stone tools for metal ones, and animal skins for English cloth. These new goods were obtained by barter and by alliances that always worked to the disadvantage of the Indian. The deadly effects of liquor and disease played a major role in disrupting and destroying the native communities.

From 1747 to 1753 Logstown (shown in a small inset diorama) was the most important local Indian village. Located 18 miles below the Forks of the Ohio the settlement contained some 40 log cabins built for the Indians, mostly by the French. Before Logstown was destroyed by fire in 1754, it provided the setting for important treaties and negotiations.

4B. Kuskuski, Early Delaware Village, Revealed by Archaeology

The several Kuskuski village sites, located near present-day New Castle, were occupied in succession from about 1730 to 1790 by Indians (mainly Delawares) displaced by the white man's westward movement. Although the number of Indian warriors in the upper Ohio country was probably less than 800, the allegiance of those Indians was eagerly sought by both the British and the French during the French and Indian War. Like Logstown, the Kuskuskies were centers for trade and negotiation with the white man. With the continuing displacement of the Indians westward, however, the

Kuskuski towns were gradually abandoned, and by 1800 all physical traces of them had disappeared (see ill., Exhibit 4B).

This case contains a rare collection recently excavated by archaeologists of the Carnegie Museum from the site of the last Kuskuski village, shown by a map and a photograph of the actual site. The study of these artifacts, supplemented by military correspondence and the journals of missionaries and travelers, provides the only reliable knowledge of the last Indian settlements in the upper Ohio Valley and of the white man's influence on the Indian way of life.

5. The Céloron Expedition — France Claims the Ohio Valley

Alarmed by growing English trade and influence among Indians of the Upper Ohio where Virginia planned a fort, the Governor of Canada in 1749 sent Captain Céloron de Blainville with 250 French and Indians on a journey shown on the map, warning away traders and seeking Indian allegiance.

At the mouths of six tributaries of the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers, marked on the map by *fleur-de-lis* insignia, Céloron conducted ceremonies in the name of King Louis XV, nailing the royal arms to trees and planting lead plates to claim French ownership of the territory. This ceremony is depicted in a small painting. Finding conditions even more grave than expected, the French resolved to occupy the territory and to fortify the Forks of the Ohio.

A copy of the lead plate left by Céloron at the confluence of the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers is exhibited in the case. The original was discovered in 1848 by a boy playing on the banks of the Kanawha and is now owned by the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, Virginia, through whose courtesy this copy was made. A translation of the text of the plate reads:

> "The year 1749, in the reign of Louis XV, King of France, We, Céloron, commandant of a detachment sent by Monsier the M[arquis] de La Galissoniere, commander in chief of New France, to restore tranquility in some Indian villages of these districts have buried this plate AT THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER CHINODAHICHETHA THE 18 AUGUST, near the river Ohio, otherwise Beautiful river, as a monument of the renewal of possession which we have taken of the said river Ohio and of all those which fall into it, of all lands on both sides of it as far as the sources of said streams, as enjoyed or ought to be, by the preceding Kings of France and as they have maintained them-

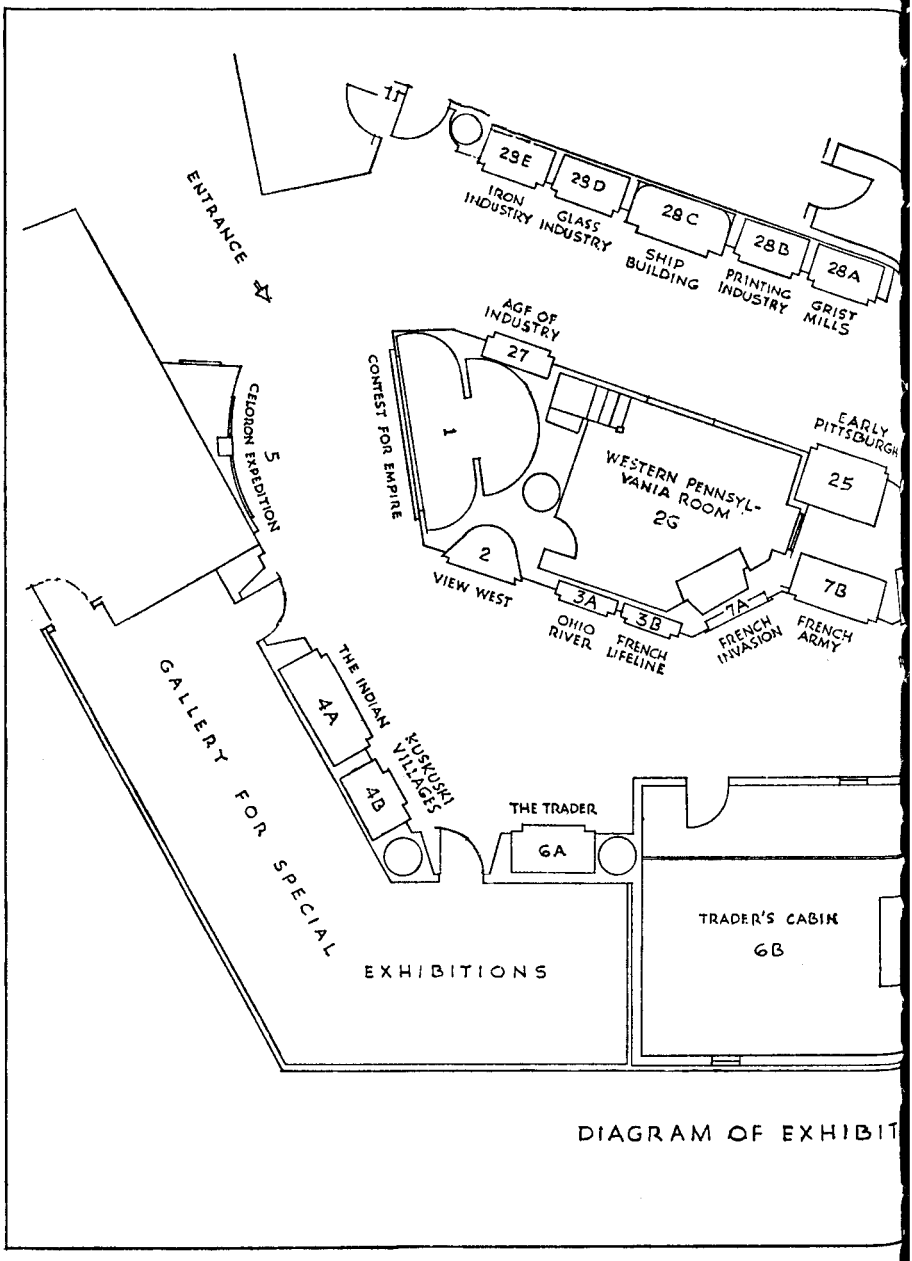
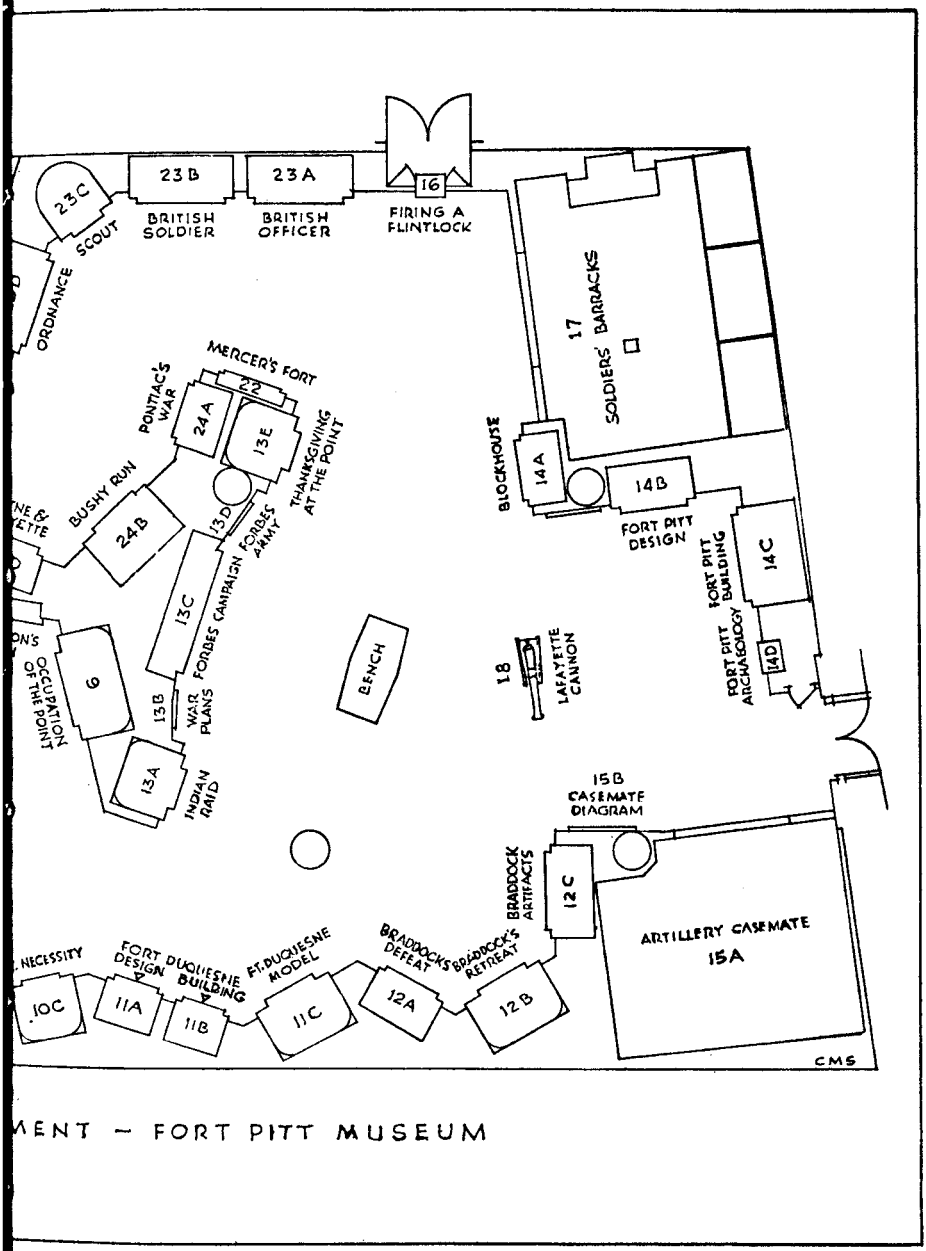


DIAGRAM OF EXHIBIT



MENT – FORT PITT MUSEUM

selves by arms and treaties, especially by those of Ryswick, Utrecht and Aix La Chapelle."

6A. The Trader Led the Way to the Wilderness (see ill., Exhibit 6A)

The Indian trader was the forerunner of the white man's civilization. For the Indian's furs and skins, he bartered utensils and tools, clothing and trinkets, guns and ammunition and also rum and brandy. These caused profound changes in the native's way of life, making him dependent on the men who sought to take his land. Because of the trader's familiarity with the Indian's life and language, he was often influential in governmental relations with them. The French and British contended bitterly for domination of this trade, not only for its profit but also to bind the Indians to them as allies. This case contains a lifelike model of the trader and his pack train as well as genuine artifacts pertaining to his trade.

There is an original trader's license, issued by Sir William Johnson, New York Indian agent, and signed by his Western Deputy, George Croghan, at Fort Pitt in 1762 (loaned by the Darlington Library of the University of Pittsburgh).

An original and rare smooth-bore flintlock musket of the 1750-1760 period is displayed. This was the forerunner of the Pennsylvania rifle. The accuracy of fire of the smooth-bore musket was greatly increased by the introduction of spiral grooves or "rifling" which distinguished the Pennsylvania rifle, extensively used by the frontiersmen and often by American militiamen.

After furs had been packed in bales for transportation, they were fastened with official lead seals to prevent tampering en route. Reproductions of French seals recovered from the site of Fort LeBoeuf (modern Waterford, Erie County) are displayed in the case.

Next to his rifle, the frontiersman prized his hatchet and knife. This remarkable kit, preserved from frontier days, is one of the precious possessions of the museum. The frontiersman was ingenious in the use of animal horn from which were made the salt horn and horn cup shown in the case.

6B. The Trader's Cabin Was the Center of Wilderness Commerce

Throughout his travels (nearly 5,000 miles) in conducting the Western Pennsylvania Architectural Survey (1932-36), the writer observed hundreds of log houses but found no true frontier log cabin. He therefore resorted to early descriptions and drawings in designing

this building and used for its construction the group of experienced lumbermen he employed in the reconstruction of Fort Ligonier. The cabin was first assembled in Westmoreland County then disassembled and re-erected in the Museum. The following narration is heard by the visitor as he stands in the cabin.

"You are standing in a true frontier log cabin, as distinguished from a log house. Notice that the logs are unhewn and still have their bark on. The floor is of beaten earth. Lacking glass and iron, the trader covered his windows with animal skin and made his door and window hinges of wood. His furniture is fashioned with puncheons, or halved logs with the flat sides up.

"In such cabins the traders carried on a profitable commerce with the Indian as early as the 1730's and 40's, before the arrival of the soldier and settler. The trader was a welcome visitor to the Indian whose changed way of life depended on the white man's goods.

"Here you see an Indian bargaining with the trader, offering his deer, beaver, fox and raccoon furs for the blankets he holds. Above all he is interested in obtaining the indispensable musket with a supply of ammunition, as well as steel knives and tomahawks. His squaw will want kettles and both are enamored of vermilion, mirrors, beads, and, among other curious things, a jew's harp. The trader usually ignored the restriction placed by the authorities on the sale of rum or brandy to the Indian as these liquors were a great asset to the trader in his bargaining. Unaccustomed to strong drink, the Indian paid a tragic penalty for his over-indulgence.

"Most trade goods were made in Europe and transmitted to the traders through agents in the eastern cities. Large fortunes were made and lost in this fickle business where credit was loosely enforced. Conflict between the French and English was a constant threat to the owners. The trader led a hard and precarious existence. His intimate knowledge of the Indian was of use to the military and civil authorities and the trader sometimes played a leading role in treaty negotiations."

7A. The French Invade Western Pennsylvania

The French invasion of what is now western Pennsylvania in 1753 and 1754 achieved its purpose in joining Canada and Louisiana and in forestalling, for a while, the westward expansion of the English colonies. The existence of the newly built Fort Duquesne depended on supplies brought from Canada by the route shown on this panel. This vital lifeline was guarded by the four French forts pictured here

by drawings made by the writer from 18th century military plans obtained in European archives.

Fort Niagara, built in 1720 and later enlarged (see ill., Exhibit 7A), guarded the Great Lakes route. Goods brought from Montreal were laboriously carried over the steep portage around the Falls and from there by boat to Fort Presque Isle, built in 1753 on the site of modern Erie (see ill., Exhibit 7A). The swampy portage from here to Fort LeBoeuf, also built in 1753 on the site of present-day Waterford (see ill., Exhibit 7A), was almost impassable in wet weather. French Creek, except in low water, carried the canoes and pirogues to Fort Machault, built in 1754 on the site of modern Franklin (see ill., Exhibit 7A). From here the Allegheny River provided an excellent water route to Fort Duquesne at the Forks of the Ohio.

7B. The Army of New France Was Well Equipped

Troops on the frontier were militia forces conscripted from various parishes of Canada. Officers were generally chosen from regiments sent from the mother country. The French, to a far greater extent than the British, made use of Indian allies in military engagements, and it was not uncommon for French officers to lead bands of Indian warriors. Among the many distinguished original artifacts purchased for the museum, this case contains some of the most interesting.

The Charleville musket, a type of smooth-bore flintlock musket carried by the French foot soldier, was named for one of the Royal Armories in France where this weapon was made. It was lighter than its British counterpart, the Brown Bess. Both weapons were inferior to the rifles used by some Colonial troops. Also shown is a type of military sword with its original scabbard. It was carried by French officers. Another sword with an attractive shell design on the hilt is characteristic of the period. The shorter sword was better suited for forest warfare.

The spontoon, a type of pole-arm or spear, was carried at the head of a company of troops, usually by its sergeant. The spontoon served as a rallying point for troops and as a means of communicating orders over the din of battle to advance or retreat. Officers carried pistols as well as swords. The embossed silver fittings and carved wooden stocks of the pair of matching flintlock pistols made them elegant for their time. Difference in color of cloth and detail of trim distinguished uniforms of various regiments brought from France and also identified

rank. Pictures are included of an officer, a non-commissioned officer, and a private soldier.

8A. McKee's Rocks Hill Has a Long Record of Human Occupation

None of the countless hills of Pittsburgh carries such a long record of human occupation or such prominence in the annals of the 18th century as the bare whale-shaped eminence that stands on the Ohio River shore just below the mouth of Chartier's Creek. The relief map in the bottom of the case extends from the Point to this hill, known in the early days as Indian Hill or Fort Hill, and later as McKee's Rocks Hill.

McKee's Rocks Hill was a favorite Indian site from as early as 3,000 B.C. The first two layers of the mound which stood at the tip of the hill, now largely quarried away, were placed by the *Adena* or *Moundbuilder* Indians about 600 B.C. The burial ceremony shown in the painting on the panel to the left of the case is based upon archaeological knowledge gained in the excavation of this mound and others in the Ohio Valley. A third layer was placed on the mound about the time of Christ by Indians of the *Hopewell* culture, thus making its height 16 feet and its diameter 85 feet. About 1500 A.D. the *Monongahela People* built elsewhere on the hill a village within a circular stockade. Ditches remaining from an Indian fort were described by visitors in 1753.

The first proposal in historic times to use this hill as a site for a fort was made by the Ohio Company of Virginia for whom their agent, George Mercer, made the drawing in 1753, that is displayed on the right panel of the case. Mercer describes the McKee's Rocks site (shown enlarged in the insert) thus: "Where the Company proposes to erect a Town. It is a Plain [now known as "The Bottoms"] about ¾ of a Mile in Length and ½ a Mile in Breadth, bounded on the North by a very high Hill, where the Fort is to be built, on the Southward and East by Shurtee's [old spelling for Chartier's] Creek, on the Eastward and West by the Ohio River which runs around the Hill."

He describes the cliff, from which McKee's Rocks later took its name, thus: ". . . the East End which is inaccessible, being near 100 feet high and large Rocks jutting one over the other to the Top . . ." These cliffs, which once bore the carved initials of soldiers who visited here from Fort Pitt, have been cut back some 200 feet in modern times. This drawing is reproduced from the original in the Public Record Office in London.

On his expedition to Fort LeBoeuf in 1753, George Washington had been requested by the Ohio Company of Virginia to visit McKee's Rocks and assess the value of this site for the fort and town which the Company proposed to build here. In comparison with the Point at the Forks of the Ohio, which he had examined the day before, Washington reported that the McKee's Rocks site was ". . . greatly inferior, either for Defence or Advantages . . ." In the diorama in the center of the case Washington is being greeted by Shingiss, King of the Delaware settlement here, as he lands at McKee's Rocks. The ancient Indian mound may be seen above.

Largely on the advice of George Washington, the Virginians built Fort Prince George at the Point in 1754, instead of using the "Fort Hill" at McKee's Rocks. After the fall of Fort Duquesne, also built at the Point, the use of this site for the proposed Fort Pitt raised controversy among the British for eight more years. Colonel Hugh Mercer and his engineer reported to Colonel Bouquet in April 1759 that they favored McKee's Rocks as a site for Fort Pitt, as did the fort's designer, Captain Harry Gordon. However, General John Stanwix ordered the fort built at The Point, regardless of the flood hazard, as this site had absolute command of both rivers.

Fort Pitt suffered a disastrous flood in 1762 and Colonel William Eyre reported to General Amherst his amazement the French had not used the McKee's Rocks site ". . . but it's still as Amazing that we repeated the Mistake . . ." However, the die had been cast and the hill at McKee's Rocks was denied this dramatic climax to its nearly 5,000 years of human occupation. It may be added that George Washington was largely responsible for "locating" Pittsburgh.

8B. Washington Carries the Challenge to Fort LeBoeuf

No task in George Washington's long and active career demanded more fortitude and courage than his mission to Fort LeBoeuf, from October 31, 1753, to January 16, 1754. Upon the shoulders of this 21-year-old youth was placed the grave responsibility of confronting seasoned and hostile French officers, face to face, with the first formal challenge to their invasion of territory claimed by Virginia. Though primarily concerned with private land ownership, this mission proved to be an opening maneuver of the French and Indian War, in which the young Washington was soon to become deeply involved.

This journey of more than 600 miles is described by Washington in his *Diary*. ". . . as fatiguing a Journey as it is Possible to conceive,

rendered so by excessive bad Weather; From the first Day of December to the 15th there was but one Day but it rained or snowed incessantly; and throughout the whole Journey we met with nothing but one continued Series of cold wet Weather, which occasioned very uncomfortable Lodgings, especially after we had left our Tent, which was some Screen from the Inclemency of it." Added to this was the ever present peril from hostile Indians and from the French who were committed to driving away the English.

The quotations under the six dioramas in the case are taken from *The Journal of Major George Washington,* published in Williamsburg in 1754. The authorship of the contemporary map of the journey, reproduced below the dioramas, is attributed to George Washington himself. The subjects of the dioramas and the quotations from the *Journal* that describe them are as follows:

1. Williamsburg: October 31. "I was commissioned and appointed by the Honourable Robert Dinwiddie, Esq; Governor, etc. of Virginia, to visit and deliver a Letter to the Commandant of the French Forces on the Ohio, and set out on the intended Journey the same day; . . ." At Winchester he "engaged Mr. Gist to pilot us out, and also hired four others as Servitors, . . ." as well as Jacob Vanbraam as his French interpreter.

2. Forks of the Ohio: November 22. ". . . , I spent some Time in viewing the Rivers, and the Land in the Fork, which I think extremely well situated for a Fort, as it has the absolute Command of both Rivers . . . a considerable Bottom of flat, well-timbered Land, . . . very convenient for Building."

3. Logstown: November 25 to 30. Here Washington stopped to confer with the local representatives of the Six Nations and to seek their aid in carrying out his mission. The Seneca chief, Half-King, told of his rebuff by the French officers at LeBoeuf when he had warned them off the land. After aggravating delays the Half-King with three other Indians set off with Washington's party.

4. Fort LeBoeuf: December 11 to 16. En route to LeBoeuf Washington had stopped at Venango (modern Franklin) where he received an abrupt retort from Chabert Joncaire, the French half-breed, "That it was their absolute Design to take Possession of the Ohio, and by God they would do it . . ." At LeBoeuf Washington received a more gracious reception but no less firm reply from the commandant, Legardeur de St. Pierre, who disdained Dinwiddie's summons to retire and stated that ". . . the country belonged to them."

5. Connoquenessing Creek: December 27. On the return from Venango when Washington and Gist set out alone on foot ". . . we fell in with a Party of French Indians, who had laid in Wait for us; one of them fired at Mr. Gist or me, not 15 steps, but fortunately missed."

6. Allegheny River Crossing: December 29. Finding the river running with ice, they improvised a raft. Halfway over, the raft jammed in the ice and began to sink. In trying to free the raft with his pole, Washington was thrown into ten feet of water. He regained the raft but, being enable to make either shore, decided ". . . , as we were near an Island [Wainwright's Island, since dredged away], to quit our Raft and make to it." The next morning they reached the mainland on new ice.

9. The French Occupied the Forks of the Ohio from 1754 to 1758

This diorama shows the occupation of the Point in April of 1754. The flotilla of 60 bateaux and 300 canoes had just arrived from Canada by way of the Allegheny River. The force of 500 French and Indians landed without resistance, set up two of their 18 cannon, and demanded the surrender of the little English garrison of 41 workmen and soldiers. After a brief parley the French graciously agreed to permit the men to leave with their tools and arms. This little fort which consisted of nothing more than a log house in which to store Indian trade goods surrounded by a stockade wall bore the impressive name of Fort Prince George. It had been built on order of the Ohio Company, a group of Virginia gentlemen and land speculators who had hoped to establish possession of the Forks of the Ohio before the French arrived. The French proceeded to build Fort Duquesne and to maintain control of the Ohio Valley until 1758.

10A. The French and Indian War Began on Chestnut Ridge

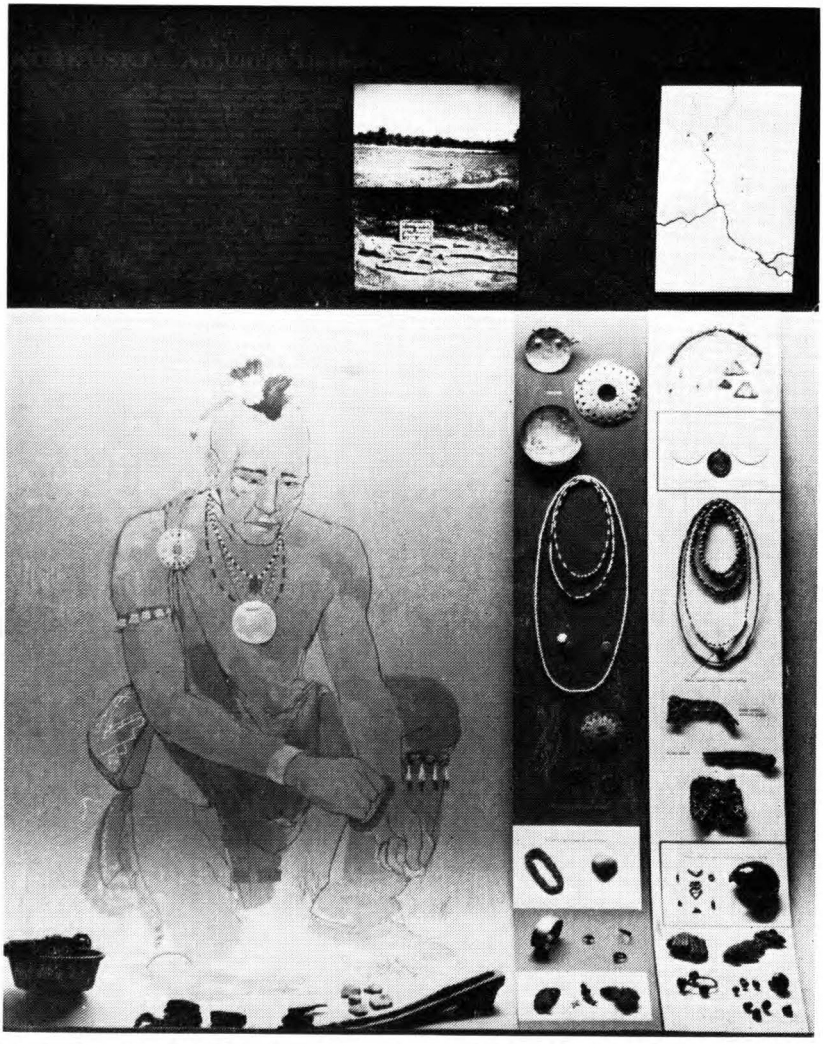
The drawing on this panel shows a portion of Chestnut Ridge and the path which extended from Fort Necessity across the Ridge to the glen where the skirmish took place between George Washington's forces and those of Jumonville. The panel also contains descriptions of the Jumonville Affair and the Surrender of Fort Necessity.

Both the French and the British were determined to possess the Forks of the Ohio. War was not declared until 1756, but the first blood was shed in 1754.

Photo by H. S. Coughanour

AERIAL VIEW OF POINT STATE PARK IN SEPTEMBER 1969

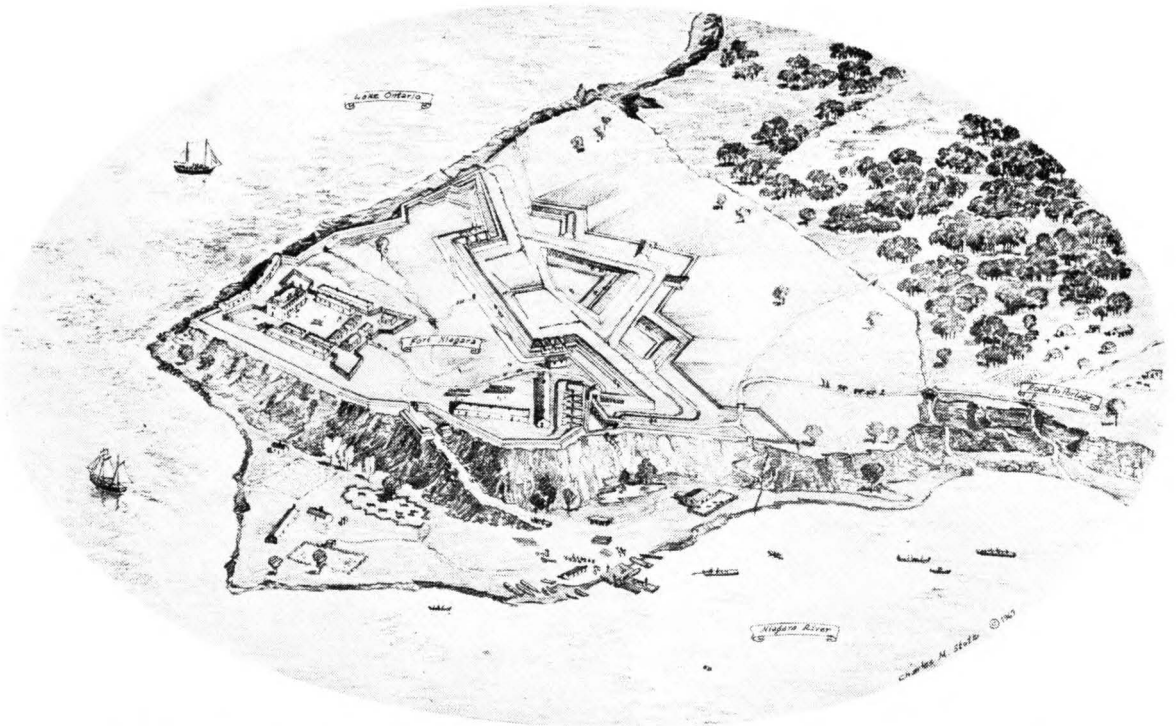
The Monongahela Bastion which contains the Fort Pitt Museum is near the Blockhouse and to the upper right of the highway interchange.



Kuskuski: An Early Delaware Village is revealed by Archaeology—Exhibit 4B

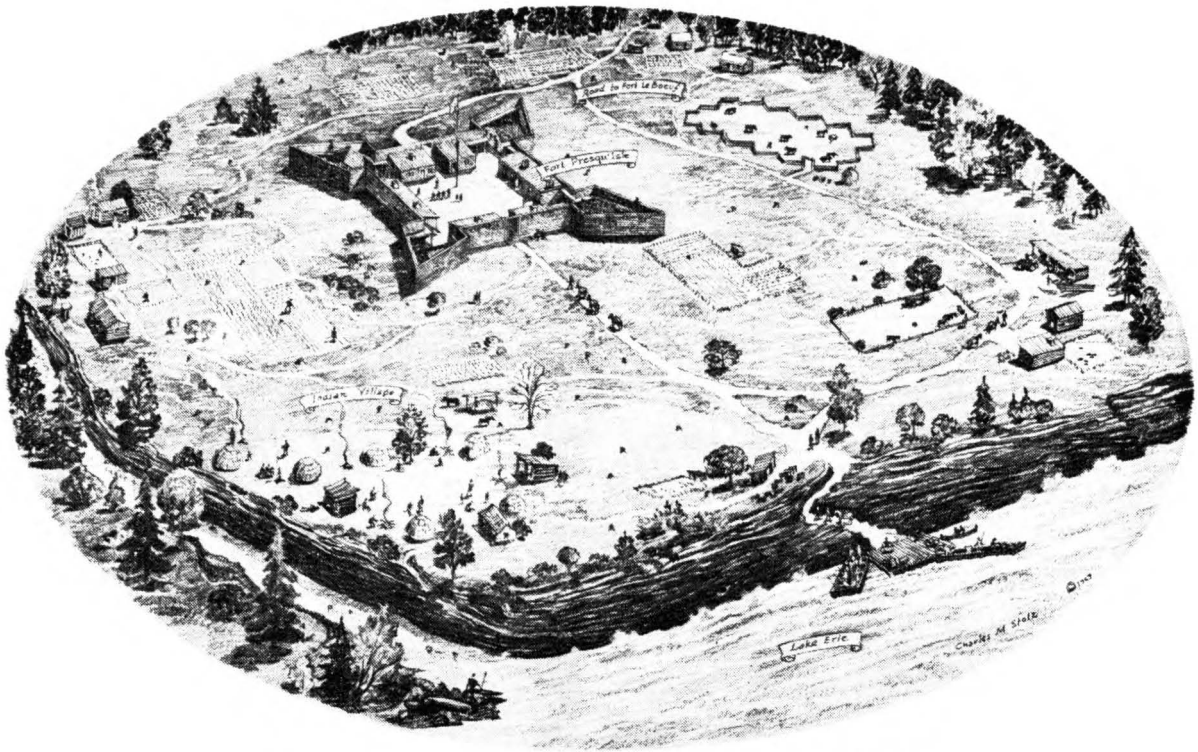
The Trader led the Way to the Wilderness — Exhibit 6A

The Point was the site of a French village from 1754 to 1758;
this model of Fort Duquesne is Exhibit 11C



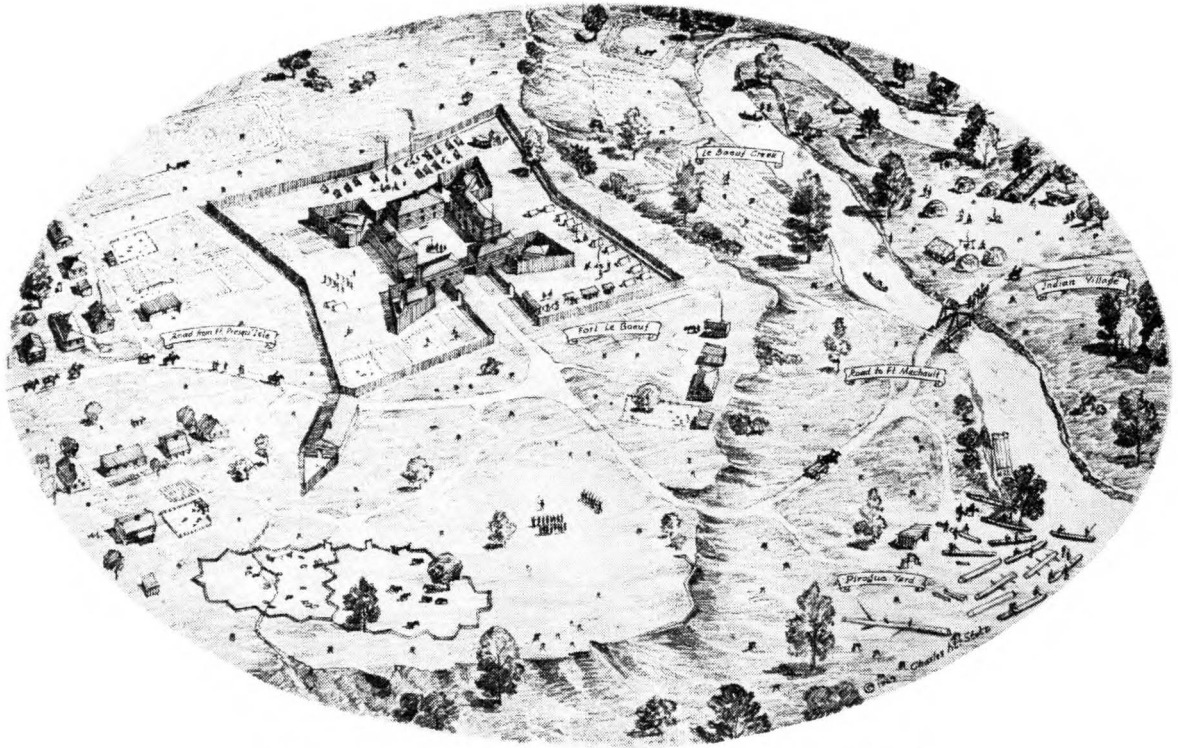
Fort Niagara, 1720-1759, on Lake Ontario at the mouth of the Niagara River — Exhibit 7A

Conjectural view drawn by Charles M. Stotz



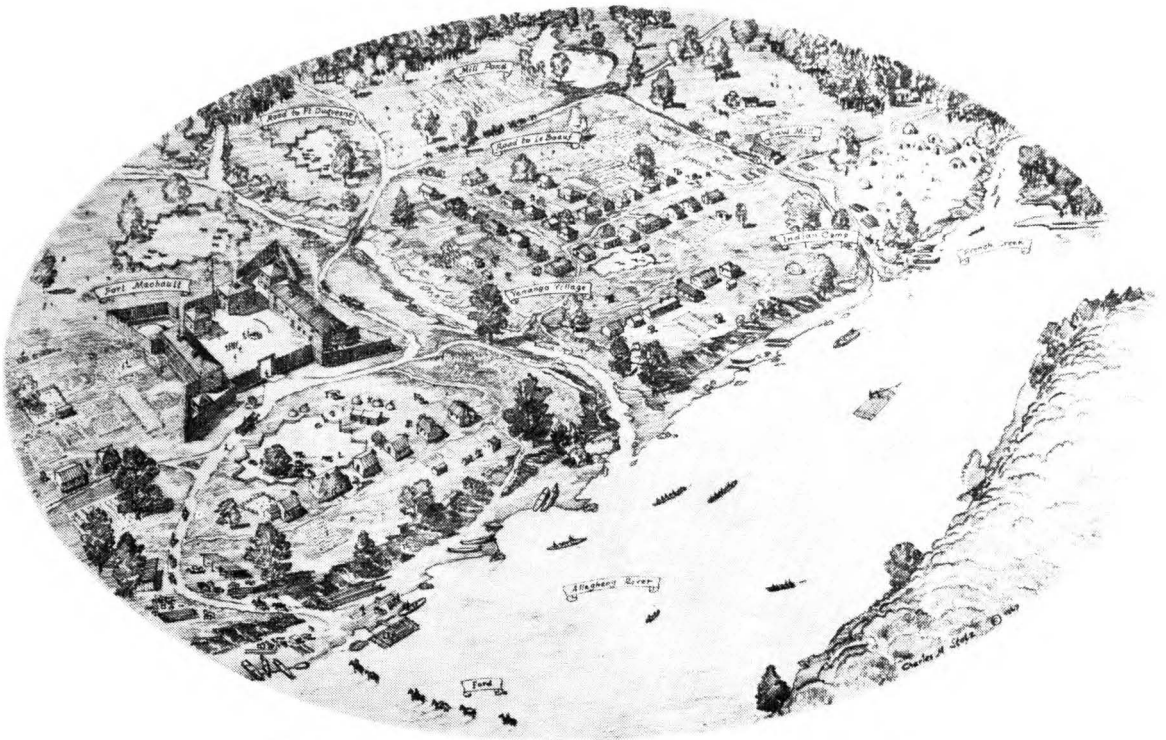
Fort Presque Isle near the site of present-day Erie — Exhibit 7A

Conjectural view drawn by Charles M. Stotz



Fort LeBoeuf at the site of present-day Waterford — Exhibit 7A

Conjectural view drawn by Charles M. Stotz



Fort Machault at the site of present-day Franklin — Exhibit 7A

Conjectural view drawn by Charles M. Stotz

10B. Washington Wins His First Battle

This diorama shows the rocky ravine near Chestnut Ridge where an encampment of French soldiers from Fort Duquesne was surprised at daybreak on May 27, 1754, by a small Colonial force under George Washington. In this battle, Washington's first, ten Frenchmen were killed, including their leader, Coulon de Jumonville. The French called this an unprovoked act of war in time of peace and labeled Washington an assassin. The British countered that the French had concealed themselves with intent to ambush their camp. About a month later, Coulon de Villiers, brother of Jumonville, set out from Fort Duquesne to avenge his brother's "murder."

10C. Washington Surrenders to the French at Fort Necessity

The diorama on the left shows the little stockaded enclosure, aptly named Fort Necessity, where Washington, with 360 Colonials, resisted the attack of 900 French and Indians. Rain fell steadily through the two-day battle, filling the defensive ditches around the fort. With both sides short of ammunition, the French, faced with the defection of their Indian allies, and the British, getting the worst of it, a parley was held on July 4. The English capitulated with the honors of war. Having lost almost all of their horses and oxen, supplies and wounded had to be carried on foot. The French could not completely restrain their Indian allies who feigned attack, causing panic among the retreating troops. After destroying the fort, and any other vestiges of English settlement that could be found, the French returned to the stronghold of their new inland empire, Fort Duquesne.

11A. Plans of Fort Duquesne Were Recorded by the British

Fort Duquesne, like most of the frontier forts, was square in plan with bastions projecting from each corner. The purpose of the bastion was to provide a flanking fire in front of the neighboring bastions and along the curtain wall connecting them. In short, there was no cover for an attacker.

The 18th century army engineer had rule-of-thumb guidelines for laying out a fort in the field. Fort Duquesne conforms to one such formula, as illustrated by a model of the north wall.

This case contains two famous contemporary plans of Fort Duquesne and a model explaining the nature of an 18th century frontier fort.

The drawing at the top of the case shows Fort Duquesne and its

auxiliary fort on the banks of the Allegheny River as they appeared to Forbes's troops. The French had burned, mined and demolished these structures as completely as possible before leaving. The absence of buildings from the drawing would indicate that they had been effectually destroyed. This drawing, reproduced from the original in the Map Room of the British Museum, was drawn by a leading military engineer with the British Army, J. C. Pleydell. He likewise made drawings of Fort Ligonier and Fort Bedford which are preserved in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle.

The drawing at the bottom of the case attracted worldwide attention in the 18th century when it was published with the account of the remarkable exploits of its author, Major Robert Stobo. Stobo was a hostage given the French after the battle of Fort Necessity. He made this drawing secretly while confined in Fort Duquesne. On the back of the drawing he wrote a full description of the fort and its armament. This drawing was smuggled to Virginia by a friendly Indian. When the same drawing was retrieved from the effects of General Edward Braddock after his defeat in 1755, Stobo was revealed as a spy and tried for his life. The drawing and letter were used in evidence, as the notations and signatures in French on the drawing indicate. The information thus supplied was substantially correct but never used. Stobo escaped to England and later returned to America. The original is in the Canadian Archives in Ottawa. As the original drawing is almost illegible, a modern transcription of the drawing and its lettering is also displayed.

11B. Fort Duquesne Was Small and Poorly Built

The two plans displayed in this case provide the most complete and authentic information about the design and construction of Fort Duquesne. They were drawn by French military engineers while those in case 11A were made by Englishmen.

Upon learning early in 1755 that the British were assembling an army in Virginia for an attack on Fort Duquesne, the commandant, Sieur de Contrecoeur, recognized the immediate necessity of repairing and strengthening Fort Duquesne which had been badly damaged by floods. He therefore summoned the one man in Canada experienced in this field, Lieutenant Chaussegros de Léry, who prepared this plan and report in April of 1755. De Léry warned that the fort, because of its "many capital defects," could not be defended before an army and that the French "must engage the enemy before the formation of a siege." This is exactly the way it happened in July of 1755. The French and

Indians under Captain Beaujeu sallied from Fort Duquesne and routed Braddock's Army when only three miles from the Point, thus avoiding the almost certain destruction of the little French fort.

The other plan is unsigned. It is the only existing contemporary drawing of Fort Duquesne which provides a complete plan of the fort and a legend giving the use of all the buildings in it. The original of this drawing is in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris. The horizontal log walls and stockade walls are clearly shown, as are the cannon platforms and even the bunks in the barracks. The "platform for barbette," shown in the southeast bastion, was an elevated platform which enabled the cannon to fire over the parapet. All the other cannon fired through embrasures or openings in the parapet.

Such frontier forts built of earth and timber were subject to rapid deterioration from erosion, rust and rot and required continuous maintenance or replacement. They were usually built in haste when the enemy was near at hand and abandoned when the emergency had passed.

The demi-lunes, or V-shaped islands on the eastern and southern sides of the fort, contain buildings instead of the usual ramparts, indicating the drastic need for space in this little fort.

On the platform between the two maps there are two models, one showing the method of constructing a stockade wall and the other the building of a horizontal log wall. These models are supplemented by two cut-away drawings.

The eastern and southern sides of the fort were built of a double wall of horizontal logs about 10 feet apart connected by bonding logs. This structure formed a sort of basketwork which was filled with earth and stones. This type of construction is shown in the cut-away drawing and in the model below. Such a rampart provided substantial resistance to artillery fire. To build this kind of wall required a great deal of time and material. Therefore it was used only on the sides of the fort most subject to attack. In the case of Fort Duquesne these were the sides facing the land.

The sides of Fort Duquesne that faced the river were palisade walls, composed of vertical logs or pickets, a foot thick and 12 feet high, with an elevated firing platform. The sectional drawing and model show the nature and method of constructing a palisade wall.

11C. Fort Duquesne Is Re-created by a Model

From April of 1754 until November of 1758 France held undisputed control of the land west of the mountains. Fort Duquesne and

its little French village, commanding the headwaters of the Ohio, secured the river route uniting Canada and Louisiana.

The first fort, constructed of earthwork and timber between 1754 and 1756, was much too small to house the garrison and its munitions and supplies. The "Second Fort," built between 1757 and 1758, was a simple stockaded enclosure.

The French recognized the weakness and inadequacy of the fort but were unable to take any corrective measures before the war was over.

The research, preparation of scale drawings and the construction of this model required more time and effort than any other exhibit in the Museum. Research began in 1955 with the fortunate discovery in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris of the only definitive plan of Fort Duquesne, without which an authentic model could not have been built. However, this drawing gave only the plan layout and use of the various buildings and nothing of their appearance above ground, which had to be worked out from fragmentary references in French and British military archives, through military correspondence and occasional sketches of other forts. Visits were therefore made to the principal archives and fort sites in North America. These supplementary sources shed some light on the "Second Fort" along the Allegheny River, outbuildings and work areas, topography, landing sites, gardens and the extensive Indian Camp, as well as the nature of the French bateaux, pirogues, rafts and flatboats and the cargo they carried. In making the model drawings at a scale of one inch equals twenty feet, the elements of conjecture were supplied by a general knowledge of the building methods and living conditions common to most French forts. The scope of this account is too limited to provide detailed descriptions of the fort which is presented in *Drums in the Forest* and will be more fully presented in a forthcoming work by the writer. The actual fabrication of the model is a masterpiece of craftsmanship by Harold and Raymond Yoest of Holiday Displays, the contractor for the exhibits.

12A. Braddock's Tragic Defeat Made News in Europe

This diorama shows a relief map of the battle site with an overlay explaining the successive actions in the engagement. Six original prints of the Orme engravings, described below, are mounted on the case wall.

The total defeat of Braddock's well-equipped army of 1,469 men by 200 French soldiers and 400 Indians on July 9, 1755, made sensa-

tional news in Europe. This incredible disaster was all the more tragic because Braddock, after cutting 125 miles of military roads through densely wooded mountainous country, lost everything when only six miles from Fort Duquesne. How could this have happened? Who was responsible? At the time the blame was largely placed on Braddock, who lost his life in the battle. Later research has restored much of his tarnished reputation.

The army twice crossed the Monongahela River to avoid the danger of ambush in the deep Turtle Creek Valley. The second crossing was accomplished by mid-afternoon. When only a half mile from the river Braddock's advance party, which was moving along a 12-foot road in narrow formation, surprised the approaching French forces. The French forces are clearly designated on Plan V. This plan was used in making the diagrammatic model (within the case) showing the terrain of the battle site and the formation of the opposing forces as they met.

The British immediately formed and delivered a heavy fire, killing Captain Daniel Beaujeu, the commander. Captain Jean Dumas took his place and promptly deployed his men as so many ants surrounding a giant caterpillar. The Indians took cover behind trees and in ravines and also seized the commanding hill to the right which the British had foolishly neglected to occupy. This tactical error was followed by another. The advance party was ordered to retreat but was prevented from doing so by the advancing vanguard which in turn could not fall back because of the baggage train behind it which had not halted as it was ordered to do. In the resulting confusion all semblance of discipline and order was lost.

After repeated efforts to rally his troops, in which Braddock played a conspicuous and brave part until he was mortally wounded, the army fled in panic, leaving cannon, baggage, cattle, and the wounded for the Indians to ravage. Critics praised George Washington for his heroic role in the battle. The most severe losses were suffered by Washington's Virginian troops. In their location as flanking scouts they received the fire not only of the outlying Indians but also the British regulars in the center. The site of the battle lay in present-day Braddock and is largely covered by the Edgar Thomson Works of the United States Steel Corporation.

Descriptions of the battle action and also sketches of the site and disposition of the troops have been left for us by a few participants, including Captain Robert Orme, aide-de-camp to General Edward Braddock. Original engravings made from the Orme sketches are dis-

played in this case. The titles of these engravings and descriptions beneath them provide authentic information of the march from Will's Creek and the engagement itself.

The Orme drawings show the detailed disposition of the troops and the deployment of the Advance Party to guard against surprise while the road was being cut. By road is meant a path through the forest just wide enough to admit wagons and wheeled artillery. Rock outcrops and trees were removed with great difficulty and mountain grades posed tremendous problems. The drawing of the army encampments en route is most interesting. On George Washington's advice General Braddock advanced from his last encampment with about 1200 of the best troops and a minimum of artillery and baggage, the best remaining with Colonel Dunbar. A detailed review of the Orme plans is not feasible in this review.

12B. Braddock's Retreat Became a Disorganized Flight

This diorama shows the retreat across the Monongahela near the mouth of Turtle Creek. After three agonizing hours of devastating fire by the French and Indians from their forest cover, the British troops lost all semblance of discipline. General Braddock gave up any hope of reorganizing his men and ordered a retreat, at which point he was mortally wounded. Washington, and the few remaining officers who had not been killed, tried to control the troops but they fled in panic across the Monongahela River, leaving the wounded and the baggage to the mercy of the Indians.

12C. Artifacts Retrieved from Braddock's Road Tell a Story

The routes and encampments of armies provide productive sites for the recovery of artifacts. At Fort Ligonier, for instance, some 35,000 artifacts of the 1758-63 period of occupation were recovered from the grounding including horse and wagon hardware, gun parts, bullets, building ironwork, tools, and personal articles. The Fort Ligonier archaeologists in recent years have also accumulated a collection of artifacts from "digs" on the route of Braddock's army. This case contains a selection of artifacts from that collection, mostly found at the encampment site at the Great Crossings of the Youghiogheny River and a few artifacts from Dunbar's Camp, from which Braddock staged his advance on Fort Duquesne. These artifacts have been loaned by the Fort Ligonier Museum. Among these 200-year-old objects, note the well preserved leather shoes, shell fragment, building hard-

ware, uniform buttons and the jew's harp, a popular trade item with the Indians.

The picture shows the dying Braddock as he was conveyed from the battlefield. He died two days later. He was buried in the middle of the road to conceal his grave and thus prevent the Indians from digging up and mutilating his remains. Among his last words were these: "Who would have thought it?"

(*This article will be continued in the January issue.*)