

## 1979 HISTORICAL TOUR

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The Society's 1979 summer tour took place on Thursday, July 26. In a departure from recent trips, which were boat tours of Pittsburgh's three rivers, the Society took its members and guests by bus to reconstructed Fort Ligonier and its adjacent museum. Interestingly, this was a repeat of the 1909 Society tour to the Fort Ligonier site.

A few minutes before 1:00 P.M., the group boarded the bus in front of the Society building. The bus followed Route 30 most of the way to the banks of the Loyahanna, passing near the site of Colonel Henry Bouquet's victory at Bushy Run in 1763 and generally retracing (albeit in reverse) General John Forbes's triumphant march from Fort Ligonier to the Forks of the Ohio in 1758. Debarking from the bus at about 2:25, the tour group was greeted by the Fort Ligonier Museum's associate curator, Mrs. Catharine Hawks, who provided a brief introduction to the museum, fort, and exhibits. The museum was especially impressive, having been recently enlarged and including new displays, some of which featured artifacts from the Society's collections. The Boyar desk, old samplers, brass eagle andirons, and Pittsburgh glass stood out dramatically in the displays.

Our group filed out of the museum and ascended the walk to the fort. Really a monument to architect Charles M. Stotz, former Society trustee and vice-president, Fort Ligonier is the result of years of research, archeological excavation, and careful rebuilding by a team of skilled artisans assembled by Mr. Stotz. Lifelike displays and informative tape narrations give the visitor a "feel" for eighteenth-century military life. Ligonier itself is typical of the temporary log fortifications on the Western Pennsylvania frontier.

About 4:15, the 64 tour members made their way individually and in small groups to the Town House restaurant in Ligonier for refreshments and a superb dinner. By 6:45 the group had reboarded the bus for the return journey. Arrival at the Society building around dusk brought to a close another annual Society tour.