

By Natalie Taylor, Donor Relations Manager

Harry Goldby honors blacksmith grandfather with planned gift



Harry Goldby.
Photo courtesy University of Pittsburgh.

Harry Goldby was a longtime friend to the Heinz History Center and supported it in a variety of ways: he was a member for nearly twenty years; bought a tile that is displayed in the Great Hall; and established a planned gift in honor of his grandfather, Charles Goldby. Harry was a French professor at the University of Pittsburgh, his alma mater, and an accomplished pianist.

As a scholar, Harry possessed an avid curiosity for the world around him and wrote a memoir of growing up in Pittsburgh. He was very interested in his family's history, and it was this pursuit that first drew him to the History Center's Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village. Among the historic buildings to be found at Meadowcroft is a blacksmith's shop and Harry's beloved grandfather, whom he and all of the grandchildren affectionately called "Pup," was a blacksmith.

In Harry's words:

"Charles Edmund Knight was born June 15, 1869 and married Elizabeth Catherine Rogers Knight. Charles Edmund and Elizabeth Catherine moved to Pittsburgh and lived at 2801 Charters Ave at Corliss Station. Two blocks away, at the intersection of Charters Ave. at Municipal Street, Charles built his blacksmith shop and plied his trade. They were to raise seven children.

Charles lived at the time of horses, horseshoes, and wagon wheels. He was an accomplished blacksmith and would often take refuge in his smithy from the

bustle of his home filled with children. Harry Goldby visited his grandfather's smithy as often as he could and once stayed to watch him shoe a horse. All of Charles' grandchildren were in awe of his skills and shop although Charles certainly did not like children underfoot.

Charles was not the robust brawny type of a blacksmith, although sufficient for his trade, but a kind, gentle reserved somewhat pensive and taciturn sort. When at home, he could be found stok-



Blacksmith shop and plaque at Meadowcroft.
HHC Development Division

ing the fire from time to time, renewing the coal, emptying the drilling pan under the old-fashioned icebox, wooden, of course, and taking personal care of the Sunday breakfast. That was his specialty, making breakfast for everyone. His skill at the anvil was transmuted to a skill with a frying pan or iron skillet."

Harry believed that his grandfather would have been proud to know that his name was to be prominently displayed on a blacksmith shop in a rural setting in Western Pennsylvania. Harry established a life income gift, which is a gift that pays income for the donor, or his or her designee, for life, with the proceeds going to the History Center after death, and requested that the History Center name the Meadowcroft Blacksmith shop for his grandfather. He

described Meadowcroft as "a site to be visited, seen, examined, and appreciated by all those who are curious about our past. May this curiosity prevail and endure for the many years to come and this grandfather, called Pup by all, rest in peace."

The History Center remembers Harry Goldby fondly and is deeply grateful for his generous support. For more information about creating a bequest or life income gift to benefit the History Center, please contact Natalie Taylor at (412) 454-6325 or ngtaylor@heinzhistorycenter.org.

