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Fort Pitt Museum to Host Seminar on Powder Horns in Early America
- The full-day seminar will feature presentations by museum curators and private collectors -

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 10, 2018 – The Fort Pitt Museum, part of the Smithsonian-affiliated Senator John Heinz History Center museum system, will host a **Powder Horns in Early America Seminar** on **Saturday, Oct. 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

The seminar will explore the art and history of carved powder horns in conjunction with the museum's award-winning *From Maps to Mermaids: Carved Powder Horns in Early America* exhibition, which will be on display through Dec. 31, 2018.

Used by soldiers on the American frontier to keep gunpowder dry, powder horns served as a blank canvas on which they could leave their mark. Soldiers etched names, dates, maps, war records, and whimsical figures into the objects. Surviving in large numbers, carved powder horns represent early American folk art in its purest form.

The Fort Pitt Museum recently added a dozen new artifacts to the exhibit from the collection of Jay Hopkins that represent powder horns made by professional horners, combmakers, and turners in a common style used in the mid- to late-18th century from Pennsylvania to the Carolinas.

Special presentations will take place throughout the seminar:

- **10-11 a.m. Michael Burke, Fort Pitt Museum Exhibit Specialist**
"Made at Philadelphia, & sent from thence...": Powder Horns of the Forbes Road and Fort Pitt
- **11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Art DeCamp, Master Horner**
Lancaster County Powder Horns: The First Horn Brand
- **1:15-2:15 p.m. Alan Gutchess, Fort Pitt Museum Director**
"Brass Tacks & Curious Figures": 18th-Century American Indian Powder Horns
- **2:30 p.m. Jay Hopkins, private collector and author of "Bone Tipped & Banded Horns: Regional Characteristics of Professionally Made Powder Horns, Vol. 1"**
Bone Tipped & Banded Horns: A Fifty-Year Journey

- **4-4:45 p.m.** Guided tour of *From Maps to Mermaids: Carved Powder Horns in Early America* exhibit (optional)

Tickets for the seminar are \$10 for adults and \$5 for Heinz History Center members and students with a valid ID and include full museum admission. Register online at www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events.

The **Fort Pitt Museum**, built in a recreated bastion of the British fort originally constructed in 1759, focuses on the critical role that Western Pennsylvania played during the French & Indian War, the American Revolution, and the founding of Pittsburgh. The Fort Pitt Museum is located in Point State Park in downtown Pittsburgh. The Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, operates the Fort Pitt Museum in partnership with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). For more information, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org/fort-pitt.



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