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## **Fort Pitt Museum to Launch New “Speaker Saturday” Series**

***-The museum will welcome various authors and historians for insightful discussions on 18<sup>th</sup> century history-***

PITTSBURGH, April 1, 2025 – The Fort Pitt Museum – part of the Smithsonian-affiliated Senator John Heinz History Center’s family of museums – will welcome several authors and historians from April through October to discuss 18<sup>th</sup> century American history topics and themes as part of the museum’s new “Speaker Saturday” series.

From exploring the history of French & Indian War-era powder horns to examining the Point’s strategic importance to military forces, visitors will learn more about our region’s past from engaging experts who will share their scholarship.

Visitors to the “Speaker Saturday” series can also experience the Fort Pitt Museum’s featured exhibition, ***Homelands: Native Nations of Allegheny***.

Created in collaboration with federally recognized Delaware, Seneca, Seneca-Cayuga, and Shawnee communities, this groundbreaking exhibition features dozens of objects on loan from American Indian tribes – including domestic objects, decorated moccasins, pouches, and contemporary arts and crafts – along with artifacts and imagery from the collections of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and Heinz History Center.

All “Speaker Saturday” programs, which will take place at 1 p.m. in the Fort Pitt Auditorium on the first floor, are included with regular museum admission.

### **Speaker Saturday Series**

**C. Prentiss Orr, “The Surveyor and the Silversmith: Land Speculation on the Frontier of Western Pennsylvania”  
Saturday, April 12**

Inside “The Surveyor and the Silversmith,” Orr offers a deep dive into the complex world of land speculation and surveying in the Ohio Country. Readers will learn how early surveyors and investors shaped the frontier, fueling expansion and conflict in the region.

**Mike Burke, “Made at Philadelphia & Sent from Thence”: Powder Horns of the Forbes Road and Fort Pitt  
Saturday, May 10**

Mike Burke, assistant director of the Fort Pitt Museum, will lead an engaging discussion of powder horns associated with the Forbes Road and early Pittsburgh. Valuable as historical documents, these humble containers for gunpowder also represent some of the region’s earliest examples of folk art.

**Steven W. Hill, Battle Flags of the Wars for North America  
Saturday, June 14**

Historian Steven W. Hill will discuss the British and French regimental colors carried during the French & Indian War. This lecture will delve into the design, construction, and use in battle, offering insight into these iconic military banners and their significance on the battlefield.

**Jonathan Lady, “Natural History on the American Frontier”  
Saturday, July 12**

The Age of Enlightenment’s philosophical and intellectual movement of reason and scientific knowledge that occurred in Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries spurred a growing interest in the natural world. In Jonathan Lady’s lecture, learn how naturalists such as father and son John and William Bartram, George Morgan, and others studied the environment of early America.

**David Ervine, Every Son a Soldier: Military Service on the Upper Ohio Frontier  
Saturday, Aug. 9**

David Ervine will examine the variety of military organizations in which frontier inhabitants served, including the militia, state troops, and the Continental Army. It will further explore the wartime political, military and economic conditions of the region that shaped these organizations.

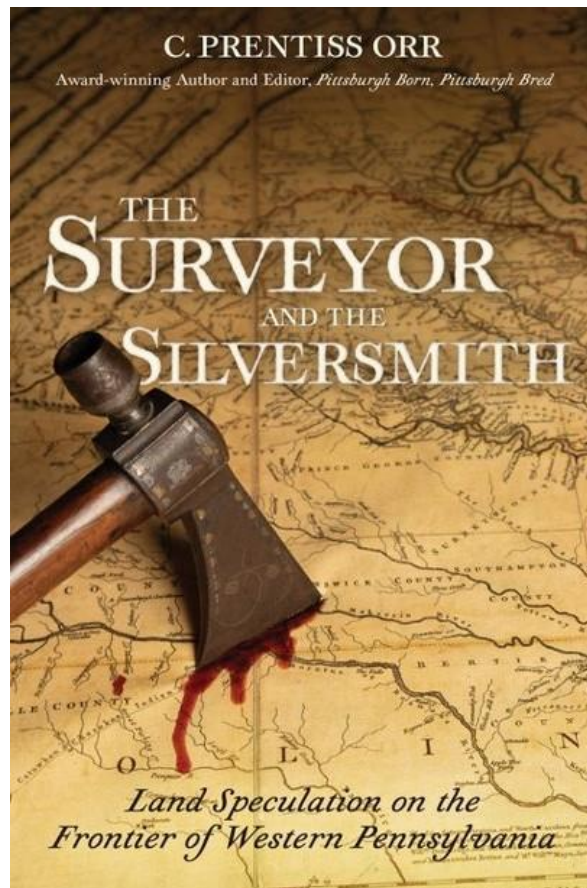
**Kelly Linn, Pittsburgh’s Many Points  
Saturday, Sept. 13**

In Kelly Linn’s discussion, visitors will learn about the rich history of the Point – the birthplace of Pittsburgh – and its many transformations over time, from its early strategic significance to its evolution into the landmark it is today.

**Peter Gilmore, Overshadowed by These Occult Influences  
Saturday, Oct. 11**

Peter Gilmore, ruling elder at Sixth Presbyterian Church, will explore the superstitions and occult practices of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Irish Presbyterians in the Ohio Valley.

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 [heinzhistorycenter.org/fort-pitt](http://heinzhistorycenter.org/fort-pitt).



As part of the Fort Pitt Museum's "Speaker Saturday" series, author C. Prentiss Orr will discuss his book, "The Surveyor and the Silversmith," which offers a deep dive into the complex world of land speculation and surveying in the Ohio Country, on Saturday, April 12.

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