**NATIVE AMERICAN EXHIBIT ROOM**

The Native American exhibit room, located on the second floor of the McCain House, the home of the Armstrong County Historical Museum, focuses on the history and heritage of the Native Americans that resided in the county in the 1700s and earlier.

Larry Smail, a local artist, historian, and author, has been curating the Native American exhibit since 2007. Smail turned his childhood fascination for Native American history, specifically the 1700s during and after the French and Indian War, into a lifetime of research and accepted the opportunity to create this exhibit.

Many of the items depicting Native American life and culture in the exhibit were either collected from past and current collectors or were hand-made by Smail to represent items used by the Lenni-Lenape or Delaware tribe that lived in the county during the 1700s. One of the display items made by Smail is a hoe made from the shoulder bone of a bear. Stone implements and other various stone artifacts are found throughout the exhibit.

Several framed prints of Larry Smail’s paintings hang on the exhibit walls. One entitled ‘Home to Kit-Han-Ne’ depicts a Delaware raiding party returning to its village. Another entitled ‘Evening Smoke - Delaware 1755’ shows a typical Eastern Native warrior.

Included in the exhibit are images painted by Larry Smail on the upper part of the walls in the room. These images depict actual petroglyphs (rock carvings) discovered north of Kittanning near Parker, Armstrong County. The actual carvings are found along the Allegheny River and were believed to have been created by an Algonquian speaking people related to the Monongahela tribe. Most of the carvings were believed to have been carved between 1000 B.C. to 1500 A.D.

The exhibit houses an extensive collection of Native American artifacts donated to the Armstrong County Historical Museum and Genealogical Society by Bernard C. and Ferne Snyder. Snyder was born in Wayne Township, Armstrong County, and spent much of his life enjoying archeology as a hobby. He and his wife gathered the large collection of arrowheads and other items throughout Armstrong County.

Larry Smail’s mural of the Allegheny River is located on one wall. The river is shown from the upper regions of Armstrong County to its confluence with the Monongahela River where they form the Ohio River in present-day Pittsburgh. The tributaries of the Allegheny River, along with the name and locations of various historic Native American events/battles, are shown.

Several photos taken by Ruthie Wolfe hang on the walls. One is a photo of two Eastern Warrior reenactors clothed in native attire and another is of a typical small wigwam used as a seasonal hunting abode.

The exhibit includes an older oil painting done by Esther Crum from Kittanning, Armstrong County. The painting shows an Armstrong County scene that includes John Baker’s Map of Kittanning.