

## **Pathway to Community Harmony Concerning the Tom Quick Monument**

In 1889, a memorial monument was placed over the remains of Tom Quick, Jr., on Sarah Street in Milford Borough, Pennsylvania. The monument celebrated Quick as a prolific killer of Indians. For over 100 years the monument stood until it was destroyed by unknown persons in 1997. The monument was repaired in 1999, but was not re-erected due to opposition from the American Indian community and is presently in storage. The remains of Tom Quick, Jr. lie undisturbed under the monument base. A resolution on the disposition of the monument is needed to bring about community harmony as evidenced by recent events.

These recent events demonstrate that the problem will not go away:

- (1) A book, *Forgotten Americans*, published in 1998, contained a chapter on Tom Quick and sarcastically mentioned his memorial in Milford.
- (2) After its repair, the monument was listed in a tourist map published in 2000 by the Milford Borough Council.
- (3) Noel Paul Stookey (a member of Peter, Paul and Mary) released the song, "Tom Quick", in 2001 as derogatory to Milford and Pike County for a monument to such a person.
- (4) The press reported that the fate of the monument was questioned at a Milford Borough Council meeting in 2002.
- (5) The Pike County Historical Society co-sponsored a public event on June 25, 2003 to discuss the issues.

Tri-State Unity Coalition (TSUC) is a non-political, non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to celebrating diversity, promoting human rights, creating a moral barrier to hate, and enhancing community harmony. In this capacity, the TSUC has become involved in the Tom Quick Monument issue.

TSUC has been researching the issue since 2001 and has made this information available on its web site. In May, 2003, the TSUC held a widely advertised, open, public meeting at the Dingman Township Branch of the Pike Public Library. At the meeting, TSUC reported on its research and invited public comment on how the problem can be resolved. TSUC also announced that it intended to state its position in writing and planned to form a committee to make recommendations to the Milford Borough Council.

TSUC acknowledges the jurisdiction of Milford Borough over the monument and of the Milford Borough Council in deciding the fate of the monument. But, TSUC strongly affirms the right of the full community to have a voice in the process of decision, and for the American Indian people to be fully empowered to participate in that process. The "Pathway to Community Healing" that will be instituted by TSUC will provide that empowerment. When the anticipated outcomes are community harmony, inter-group understanding, and respect for diversity, the process must be one compatible with human relations.

The fact is that the key players are known and have been known for some time. Resolution of the issues has not come about because there has been no suggested formal process for involving all the key players, for analysis of the information, and for recommendation of and implementation of a solution. The Milford Borough Council has jurisdiction over the monument and over the manner in which an endorsed history is presented within the Borough. The American Indian community has a say in how its history is presented as well as a current interest

in removing barriers to full societal participation of its members. The descendants of Tom Quick have a say in the disposition of the remains of their ancestor. Historians and researchers, libraries, historical societies, and schools have an interest in encouraging research on our history. The general community in the region has an interest in how Milford and Pike County are seen by the outside world – as well as how we perceive ourselves. The tourism and business sectors have an interest in promoting Milford and Pike County as a place that is welcoming to all. And, TSUC has a commitment to promote and enhance community harmony.

TSUC proposes to form a committee to address the following concerns:

Disposition of the Tom Quick Monument  
Disposition of the Remains of Tom Quick, Jr.  
Process for Community Healing

The specifications for the TSUC committee are as follows:

**Committee Membership:**

TSUC will select two individuals to co-chair the committee. One of these individuals will be a representative from the American Indian community.

The co-chairs will then select the remaining members of the committee which will include at least one Milford Borough resident and two Pike County residents who are not residents of the Borough.

The size of the committee shall be determined by the co-chairs with a suggested range of from 7 to 12 members.

The committee shall not include any members of the TSUC Board of Directors or the Milford Borough Council (MBC).

All members of the committee shall sign a non-discrimination statement or unity pledge as a demonstration of their willingness to work toward a universally inclusive solution.

**Operational Considerations:**

The committee shall determine its own rules of procedure and decision making.

All meetings of the full committee shall be open to the public and be held at an appropriate facility (i.e., handicapped accessible). Public comment at committee meetings may be allowed at the discretion of the committee.

Committee members shall serve without remuneration, except approved expenses may be reimbursed in consultation with TSUC.

The committee shall present a report to the MBC and to the public no later than three months from its formal creation.

## **Role of TSUC**

TSUC will monitor and facilitate the efforts of the committee.

As a 501(c)3 organization, TSUC will accept donations which may be specifically designated for the work of the committee and any approved expenses incurred by members of the committee. Likewise, TSUC will assist the committee and MBC by cooperating or partnering in applying for available, appropriate grants – either to facilitate the work of the committee, or to achieve any of the committee recommendations.

TSUC will assist the committee with identification of resources, publicity, meeting locations, compilation of reports, event insurance, etc.

## **Role of the MBC**

It is hoped that the MBC will agree to postpone any decisions on these issues until after the committee submits its report.

Any member of the MBC is welcome [and encouraged](#) to attend any committee meetings, identify key players, provide any input to the committee, and consult with the committee regarding the feasibility of any possible solutions.

The MBC is not expected to provide any financial support to the committee.

As stated above, TSUC will partner with MBC in applying for grants that will be needed to implement the recommendations of the committee.

## **Role of the Community**

In addition to the MBC, there are other interests involved in this decision-making process. Not all these interests will have a specific representative on the committee. However, the committee is charged with being inclusive and should seek diverse opinions and attempt to include these in its information-gathering and decision-making processes.

Any individual or organization in the community may make a tax-deductible contribution to this project through TSUC, a 501(c)3 organization.

The committee shall address the following:

### **Issues to be Resolved**

**Disposition of the Monument.** The committee shall consider the various options for disposition of the monument. A recommendation shall be made. A rationale shall be provided for the recommendation.

**Disposition of the remains of Tom Quick, Jr.** The committee shall consider the various options for the remains. A recommendation shall be made. A rationale shall be provided for the recommendation.

**Process for Community Healing.** The committee shall consider the various options for bringing about community healing. One or more recommendations shall be made. Rationale(s) shall be provided for the recommendation(s).

### **Criteria for the recommendations:**

**Inclusive.** The recommendations must consider the various interests, groups, individuals, etc. who are affected by the issues.

**Achievable.** The recommendations must be achievable, i.e., socially, politically, economically, etc.

**Comprehensive.** The recommendations must take into consideration all of the issues to be resolved.

**Enduring.** The recommendations should aim to propose a lasting solution to the issues.

**Renewable.** The recommendations should include a process for an annual renewing of any solutions achieved.

### **Other Considerations**

TSUC recognizes that a community presents an official or endorsed history through its monuments and markers and through its tourist information. The committee may wish to include in its recommendations a specific statement regarding the interaction of the cultures of Indians and the European settlers and how that statement should guide decisions regarding the presentation of an endorsed history through monuments and markers and through tourist information.

TSUC also recognizes that the process of research and writing is free and open and is protected by the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment and guided by traditions, principles of academic freedom, literary license, critical thinking, etc.. As such, the committee may wish to include in its recommendations a specific statement encouraging schools, libraries, historical societies, individual researchers, etc., to be open and inclusive regarding various cultural perspectives and to encourage ongoing research and writing in the area of the cultures of the Indians and the European settlers, the interaction of those cultures, and how subsequent events have shaped our present understanding of each other.

The overriding objective in recommending a comprehensive solution should be to promote and achieve healing in the community.

When the committee's work is completed and the recommendations are made, TSUC will work to obtain approval and implementation.