

FORT RECOVERY STATE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 2010

Museum Renovation Update

Changes Continue - The final "OK" has been given for all the text and picture and artifact panels that will be installed. It took much research and writing by OHS (David Simmons, Connie Bodner, and crew) to make sure the "stories" contained the correct information and that they were written in an appealing manner. The demanding criteria necessitated several rewrites. Representatives of our museum were involved throughout: reading, questioning, suggesting, rereading and giving approval. These panels are now in professional production and will be installed in the upcoming weeks.

The Grand Reopening – PATRONS - a Special Invitation

July 11 – Mark your calendars for that Sunday afternoon. Plans are being made cooperatively between members of the Ohio and the Fort Recovery Historical Societies to appropriately recognize the significance of the Grand Reopening! **If you are a 2010 patron, you shall receive, from the Ohio Historical Society, a written invitation to this special event.** Watch for that invitation to come soon in the mail.

Who Should Stand for Ohio? Vote at the Museum!

An 1864 act of Congress allowed each state in the Union two statues in the US Capitol. These statues are to be historical people who have lived in the state and distinguished themselves through their civic or military service. President James Garfield and Governor William Allen have represented Ohio in the Statuary Hall in Washington since the 1880's. Legislators have decided it is time to replace Allen. They want to know what people around Ohio think, so they are gathering input of historians, students and any Ohioan who is interested. In February, the committee presented 10 candidates: *James Ashley, Thomas Edison, Ulysses S. Grant, Jesse Owens, William McCulloch, Judith Resnik, Albert Sabin, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet Taylor Upton, and the Wright Brothers?* Who would you choose? You can get a ballot at the museum and vote there. Voting ends June 12.

Fort Recovery – A *BLUE STAR* Museum!

In conjunction with a state-wide initiative, the Fort Recovery State Museum will admit, free of charge, all active US Military Servicemen and their families from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Certainly we consider it an honor to recognize in some small way the contributions these men and women make to our country!

And the "Thanks!" Continue - To:

Ken Lamm, President of the local VFW for singlehandedly spearheading and coordinating the effort to replace the 9 large wooden frames holding the bronze plaques lining Franke Walkway!

The Franke Family – Linda/Richard Smith, Steve/Catherine Franke (all patrons!) for paying all expenses for the Franke Walkway renovations!

Members of the VFW for lending their brawn to the walkway replacement work!

Tom LeFevre – for bringing his tractor and posthole digger and patiently drilling the 18 holes!

Michael Gower and his FRHS students for constructing the frames!

ST. Clair Run! July 17! 8:30

Sign up now for the Mercer Health 5K Challenge which will begin with a cannon blast at 8:30 on Saturday morning, July 17 right in front of the museum! The run will cover a scenic course, and

fans will be present along the way to cheer participants on! Registration forms can be picked up from the museum or downloaded from the <http://www.mercerhealth5kchallenge.com> website.

\$15.00 pre-registration includes St. Clair 5K T-Shirt

\$ 8.00 pre-registration – no T-Shirt

\$10.00 registration on race day – no T-Shirt

14 - under, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60+. Walkers Welcome

A New Attraction – A Children’s Center

The new *Pioneer Children’s Center* in the downstairs of our museum is a big hit! Children love the period dress-up clothes, Lincoln logs, military action figures, animal skins, “guns,” turtle shells, headdresses, etc. The center was donated in memory of Theresa LeFevre, a teacher and New Orleans museum docent, who passed away recently. Thank you to the thoughtful, creative and generous donors.

We’re also sorry to hear

of the February 12, 2010 passing of **Dr. John Lies**, a well known veterinarian in the Cincinnati area, a *Distinguished Fort Recovery Alumni*, and a faithful and generous museum patron. We will miss his friendly and frequent summertime visits to the museum. Our sympathies to the family. John’s wife, Pat, continues the patron support. Thanks Pat!

Thank You Patrons!

I honestly get choked up as I type up the patron lists for our museum bulletin board. YOUR consistent and generous support of the Fort Recovery Museum is really overwhelming! Not only do we have the ongoing support of our Fort Recovery individuals and businesses, but also faithful former citizens, and people from near and far who just care about history and the survival of our museum. How wonderful is that?! “Thank You” just doesn’t seem sufficient. Please know you are appreciated!

(Included is the list of the 2010 Patrons so far. Please check to make sure we have not accidentally overlooked your membership form. Email [fortnancy@bright.net], or reply to this email, or call me at 419-375-4384. We certainly do not want to miss anyone!)

Do you know? Colonel Robert Patterson?

If you know Dayton, Ohio, no doubt you know about Patterson Boulevard and maybe even the Patterson House at 1815 Brown Street. But did you know both are connected to Robert Patterson who played an important role in St. Clair’s Battle?

Supposedly no other pioneer of the 1700’s saw more Indian fighting than Robert Patterson. Ten engagements and ten wounds sum up the action. Included in the action was Colonel Patterson’s service as a regimental officer in St. Clair’s Army. At the Battle of the Wabash here in 1791, after frantic resistance, and after it became clear that there was almost no hope for survival, let alone success, St. Clair ordered the retreat back to Fort Jefferson.

Given the most difficult and challenging assignment of the retreat, and ultimately responsible for the remnant of survivors was Colonel Patterson. It was *his* assignment to command his remaining regiment as the rear guard, and *their* responsibility to fight off the pursuing attackers. The 300-400 survivors of the defeat (massacre) may indeed have owed their chances for survival to Patterson!

Patterson is also remembered as the outstanding officer leading the advance in the George Rogers Clark Illinois expedition, including the successful attack on Kaskaskia. He was a co-founder of Losantiville, a village that was soon renamed “Cincinnati” by Arthur St. Clair. In 1802, Patterson moved to the present location of Dayton, and established a farm and sawmill. He called his estate “Rubicon” in reference to Julius Caesar who crossed the Rubicon River and could never go back. Patterson died in 1827 of wounds suffered during the St. Clair Defeat 40 years earlier! (*See this and other stories of lesser known battle participants in the downstairs meeting room of the museum!*)

2010 is a great year at the museum. Join us! *Nk* (Museum #'s =1-419-375-4649 OR 1-800-283-8920)