

**Fort Recovery State Museum News**  
**May, 2011**



**Museum Opens! May 1! Alan Gaff Speaks! 3:00! No Charge!**

It is with great pride that we open our museum season and our Summer 2011 Speaker Series with Alan Gaff.

Gaff is considered the ultimate authority on the Anthony Wayne period in American history. His talk on Sunday will be based on his book, *Bayonets In the Wilderness* – the story of Anthony Wayne, his army and its actions.

Gaff and his wife Maureen have written and edited nine books. Two of their books were selections of the History Book Club. *Bayonets in the Wilderness* is widely acknowledged as the definitive history of Anthony Wayne's conquest of the Northwest Territory. Another book, *On Many a Bloody Field*, was a university press national best-seller.

Another two of their books, *Brave Men's Tears* and *The Second Wisconsin Infantry* were included in David J. Eicher's Bibliography of the Civil War, a list of the best 100 books written on the war. The couple has received two Awards of Merit from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin for *Our Boys: A Civil War Photograph Album* and *If This is War*.

(This presentation is brought to the Fort Recovery State Museum by a grant from the **Ohio Humanities Council**)

**Speaker for June – David Simmons**

Mark your calendar for June 5. On that date, David Simmons of the Ohio Historical Society, Editor of Timeline Magazine, and author of the book, *The Forts of Anthony Wayne* will make a presentation on the Wayne Forts, and Fort Recovery in particular!

**Keeping up with the Archaeologists in FR**

"Hey what's up with the flags in Monument Park?" That's a question heard dozens of times around Fort Recovery last week. The answer? Only the Ball State Archaeologists knew for sure! ☺...." - "The flags and ropes are part of the archaeology surveys taking place around town using several different types of geophysical methods."

If you'd like to keep up with what's going on with the archaeologists/Battlefield Grant, check [www.fortrecoverymuseum.com](http://www.fortrecoverymuseum.com) on a regular basis! Also check <http://ohio-archaeology.blogspot.com/2010/01/proposed-work-at-fort-recovery-may.html> This second website belongs to the Ohio Historical Society and they report that this Fort Recovery connected BlogSpot is the most heavily "hit" of all their blogspots. Here is one of the comments posted to the blog – "[franceshunter](#) said..."

Terrific post. I am very excited to see work being done to recover the history of St. Clair's Defeat and Fort Recovery. I have a novel coming out next month in which [Anthony](#) Wayne is a major character, and it was difficult to find sources more recent than the 1920s with good information about the fort's location, description, etc.

This is a great part of our national (not just Ohio) history that should be much better known. Hope the project is a big success and helps raise people's awareness of this major battle and what it led to."

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**April 7 and 10** There was good, interesting response to the request for local collectors to share their experiences in finding military artifacts in and around the Fort Recovery Battlefields. The Ball State Representatives were appreciative of all the information and ideas that were shared with them. Amazing what people have found close around here! Now if someone could just find an indication of the original fort, how exciting would that be?

An archaeology field school for Ball State Students will be held here starting on May 17 and continuing through June. We have a number of field trips from area schools scheduled for that time. So this year visiting students will not only learn about our battles here, they will get to learn about and observe real archaeologists in action.

**The Ohio Historical Society at Work Again in Fort Recovery**

Some majorly needed work has been done, is being done and will be done for some basic maintenance at our museum. In April, Frank Sutter submitted the lowest bid for the sewer work that was desperately needed. The OHS

representatives that oversaw the work couldn't have been more complimentary of the work Frank did – fast, efficient, neat, cooperative and even going above and beyond what was bid. We were proud once again of the impression created of Fort Recovery businesses. Thank YOU Frank!

OHS also had some specialized slate roofing repair personnel come from Columbus to work on the museum roof. Hopefully, leaks will be alleviated and the life of the building has been extended.

OHS is also finalizing the bid process for a new furnace for the museum. That is a big expenditure for them, and we sure do appreciate the replacement that will include the AC as well. Hopefully, our heating problems are in the past!

### **Check out the New Cabinets in the Community Room**

Home Idea Center was commissioned to design and build new display cabinets for the Fort Recovery Battlefield artifacts that are housed in our museum community room. They were sorely needed, are beautiful and functional, and provide very secure storage in addition to the displays. Grant requests have been submitted to the Fort Recovery Community Foundation and to the Cooper Foundation to help defray the costs. We are so fortunate to have such possibilities for support in our Fort Recovery Community!

### **Congratulations to –**

**Nick Dues** for being named Fort Recovery Citizen of the Year 2011! Nick has been a leader with the Ambassador Organization and did yeoman's work in organizing and facilitating the Civil War Re-enactment at FR this past fall.

**Jerry Kaup** for being named to the Fort Recovery Hall of Fame. Jerry has been involved in so many community projects over so many years. He has been, and continues to be, a real leader and champion of all things Fort Recovery! We are proud that he and his wife Lorrie have been faithful and generous museum patrons since the beginning!

Congratulations and "Thank You" to these winners! Because of them, our community and museum are the real winners!

### **A Great Loss**

We were saddened by the death of Bertha Sanderell on November 18. Bertha was our most generous patron over the last years and enthusiastically supported the work done at the museum. Even though she was confined to a wheelchair, her brother Tom brought her down to the museum for our grand re-opening this past July. We were so happy to see them and appreciated Tom's seeing to it that Bertha was one of the first to see the new renovations. She deserved that! We certainly shall miss her. We are deeply grateful to Tom for not only carrying on, but increasing that annual patron contribution.

### **Thanks to Helen and Kathy**

Kathy Thobe and Helen LeFevre took it upon themselves to vacuum, dust and shine our museum from stem to stern in the past couple of weeks. So many people give in so many ways to our museum. Thanks Helen and Kathy.

### **One New Sign and One Freshened-Up Sign**

Notice the new sign to the right-front of the museum which proclaims our status as a site on the National Register of Historic Places! Thanks to Michael Gower for overseeing the construction of the sign, Dan Schoen for contributing the Corian for the sign, and to Norm Leugers for completing the engraving of the sign. Also, thanks to Ken Lamm and Neil Diller for putting it up and to Chris Keller for conducting the archaeological oversight needed. Finally, Thanks to Helen LeFevre for coordinating the whole project.

Also Notice that the Admission Sign has been completely repainted and reprinted with the essential info. A big Thank You to Pat and Buzz Hull for taking care of that entire project.

### **Patrons for 2011 – We need you!**

We were so pleased to have the greatest number of patrons ever in 2010. What a difference that financial support makes in the upkeep of our museum and in the educational programs we can offer to the public. *We look forward to your support and involvement again in 2011.* We hope you think it is a good investment, and that you, your family and this museum receive a good return on your investment. We know the cost of living is rising, so more than ever we appreciate your sacrifice for the museum!!

**Note!** Museum admission costs have increased from \$3.00 to \$5.00 for adults and from \$1.00 to \$2.00 for children 6-12. At this rate becoming a patron becomes an even better deal! ☺ (Also note that most state museum charge \$7.00 and \$3.00, so ours is still a bargain, especially considering the renovations and the extensive displays.) Because of this increase in admission costs, after May 8, \$10 patron tickets will be available only for single patrons. Couple and Family patronships will begin at \$25.00...

***It's going to be a great Museum Season 2011! Be part of it!***

*Nancy Knapke, Manager*