

Fort Recovery State Museum Newsletter
July 2011



**David Heckaman – “The Aftermath of the Battle of Fort Recovery “
July 17, 3:00**

A speaker you won't want to miss, Heckaman will share recent information found while researching for a book: ***The Northwest Territory Indian Wars, 1784-1796***. He will emphasize the importance of the Battle of Fort Recovery in forging the U.S. Army as a regular, standing army. The Battle was a major factor in bringing about the end of forty years of warfare in the Ohio River Valley and revealed tribal splits which weakened the Western Indian Confederacy.

In addition to the aforementioned book, Heckaman was also a co-author of the ***St. Clair's Defeat*** book sold in the FR museum!

St. Clair 5K Walk-Run – July 16. Start! = Cannon Blast! 8:30 A.M.

Early registration ends soon - July 5th. However, you can register as late as the morning of the race. Be aware though that limited quantities of shirts will be ordered, so if you do want a shirt, it's best to register early!!! If you don't want to run/walk, you can still order just the shirt. The cost is \$10 for a regular shirt, or \$15 for a special tech (sweat-wicking) shirt.

Registration forms can be picked up at the museum, local banks, post office, or down-loaded from the museum website at www.fortrecoverymuseum.com

Call Kathy Gonzalez 419-375-2123 or Kim Niekamp 419-375-2065 to volunteer or to order a shirt! All proceeds benefit the museum.



Yeah for the Archaeology Successes at Fort Recovery! Making Informed Decisions!

Most of you know that the Ball State University Archaeologists and the students who participated in the Ball State Archaeology Field School made some exciting discoveries. They are quite certain they uncovered a good section of the original fort wall running East-West.

The intention of the Historical Society is to mark that site in some way that visitors can get a good idea of what was found and where!. What a great event this was for us. We appreciate the excellent coverage by the local newspapers: The Daily Standard, The Commercial Review and the Mercer County Chronicle, and radio station – WPGW of Portland. We had over 200 visitors who responded to the invitation to see the discoveries for themselves.

A special Thank You to archaeologist, Chris Keller and two Ball State University students, Tyler Wolford and Dane Rowles. who made themselves available to the public long after the regular work day was over! Also, realize that none of this would have happened had it not been for the American Battlefield Preservation Grant. What a great “find” as a result of that, and what better way to demonstrate the importance of informed decision-making when it comes to use of the battlefield grounds. Thank goodness this particular area had never been made into a parking lot. And now we know! ☺

Pie Auction – A Success! Thank YOU Bakers and Buyers! And Judges!

Nineteen Pie-Bakers brought their best (24 total pies) for the Jubilee Pie Auction, with the result that over \$1000 was generated from generous buyers! Thank You to bakers - **Hilda Alig, James Carpenter, Pat Diller, Joan Kaiser, Nancy Knapke, Helen LeFevre, *Linda Lennartz, Sharon Link, Karlie Niekamp, Judy Post, *Carol Ranly, Lisa Roessner, Sharon Scott, Ann Staugler, Irene Stone, Madison Valentine, Denise Weitzel, Sharon Zehringer, and Judge *Mary Pat Zitter. *Winners!**

AND to the Pie Buyers: **Carl Link, Neil Diller, Cy LeFevre, Jim Zehringer, Glenn Florence, Jan Lamm, Mary Niekamp, Jan Hickerson, Carl Koesters! Thank YOU!**

AND to the Pie Judges: **Jim Coons (WCSM), Virginia Cline (Commercial Review), and Roger Broerman (FR Mayor) Thank YOU.** A tough job but someone has to do it! ☺

Thank YOU Fort Recovery Foundation

In its disbursements for 2011, the Fort Recovery Foundation has given the museum \$1000 to help offset the expense of the new display cabinets in the museum basement. These attractive cabinets (made by Home Idea Center) house the battle/fort artifacts found here! Thank you to the FR Foundation and all who support it!

October One-Of-A-Kind Auction

The October Auction Committee is busy planning for the fall event. The theme is “**Jungle Fever!**” If you have any items you would like to contribute to the auction (new/antique/gently used) please call the museum (375-4649), or just drop it off there. The auction booklet is put together in advance, so the auction/ raffle items are welcome asap. *Also if you would like to help with the auction, just call! You would be so welcome! ☺*

2011 Patrons – The Museum Couldn’t Survive Without YOU

Words can’t express the appreciation the Museum Trustees, the Historical Society and really the whole community of Fort Recovery have for those of you who have become Patrons of the museum. Because of you, we can not only keep open the doors of the museum, we can offer educational speakers and family events, and keep improving displays and exhibits.

We are also proud that the visitors who come here ask about the restaurants, the shops and other places to go here. We’re glad the museum is good for Fort Recovery. Therefore this is really a win-win-win situation for all of us. But **you patrons are the catalyst** that allows this to happen.

The sheet of 2011 patrons is attached. If your name should be on it, and it is not, please let us know asap. We are not perfect (and we hate that), and we do want to publicly acknowledge ALL patrons so let me know if we have overlooked anyone on the 2011 list!

And speaking of patrons, from last year to this year, we have been saddened by the loss of Bertha Sanderell, George Bihn, Jim Bulp and Richard Meiring. What good people! Some of their spirit lives on through their support to our museum, and that is passed on each day to those who visit here and partake in the special events which their contributions helped fund.

Burial/Monument Crypt/Samuel McDowell

In 1851, boys playing along the Wabash river bank found some human bones and reported their findings. The people of Fort Recovery started a search and found many of the skeletons of the people that died in the bloody battle of 1791 and the Battle of Fort Recovery in 1794. Many of the bones were found to be well preserved and showed where tomahawks and scalping knives had been used.

After meeting with people from many neighboring states, a memorial celebration was planned for September 10, 1851. At that time Fort Recovery was a very small town of only 200 citizens. On the day of the celebration, called Bone Burying Day, an estimated 5,000 visitors attended! **Thirteen caskets were used to carry the bones; one casket to represent each state in the union at that time.** An additional large chest was needed to hold the remaining skeletons. The burial took place in one large grave at *Milligan Cemetery*, (the oldest cemetery in Mercer Co. and now called *Pioneer Cemetery*). The spot was marked by a low circular mound of earth and stones. Nearby was the grave of a 1791 and 1794 comrade (and local hero), Samuel McDowell (whose descendents still live in this area.)

The remains of these soldiers stayed in Pioneer Cemetery until 1891 when, to commemorate the centennial of the St. Clair Battle, they were removed to Memorial Park. They lay in state for three days and were then buried on that site. When the The Fort Recovery Monument, a national memorial, was erected in 1912, the remains of the slain soldiers were, once and for all time, laid to rest in a crypt in the foundation of the monument.

Great Things are Happening at the Fort - Thanks for Being Part of It! nk

2011 Museum Patrons!!

\$1,000 TECUMSEH - 1

Bertha Sanderell (in memoriam)
Tom Sanderell

\$500 LITTLE TURTLE - 2

Jill Bowling
Nancy Knapke

\$250 BLUE JACKET - 7

Neil & Pat Diller
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Richard & Norvita Hildbold
Pat & Buzz Hull
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Cy & Helen LeFevre
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\$100 PRESIDENTIAL - 31

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Ron & Elly Boeckman
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Cooper Farms
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Bruce & Sharon Scott
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\$50 ST. CLAIR - 50

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Joe & Donna Whitacre
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\$25 ANTHONY WAYNE - 45

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Larry Brunk
Mark & Marylene Brunswick
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