

## Fort Recovery State Museum Newsletter March/April 2012

### Reflections and Recapitulations

Last year was such a memorable year for the Fort Recovery State Museum: many supportive patrons; visitors from all over the world; Ball State University archaeologists finding an original fort wall; outstanding speakers with large audiences; The Third Annual Archaeology Day; student field trips and adult and scout tours; generous donations from the *Cooper and Ft. Recovery Foundations*; the Peter Dennis donation of *Wabash 1791* original water color paintings; the purchase/donation of those paintings to the museum by the VFW/VFW Men's Auxiliary; and the release HERE of that John Winkler book– *Wabash 1791: St. Clair's Defeat!*

AND we are happy to report that nearly 400 of those books have been sold at the museum and at Kaup's Pharmacy! Just Amazing! Congrats John Winkler!!! Yeah for Fort Recovery!

### Not all News is Good- Bob Van Trees Passes Away – January 23, 2012

What a loss! This man was certainly "Mr. Fort Recovery." Bob had such an active, successful and colorful life. After an illustrious Air Force career, Bob dedicated his life to researching, writing and painting the history of the Northwest Territory and of Fort Recovery in particular. He is the author of two books which we carry at the museum, *Sometimes the Dragon Wins*, and *Banks of the Wabash*. And many homes around Fort Recovery proudly display his paintings – most featuring the fort! Bob was just short of his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday when he passed, but in December, he had still driven himself to Fort Recovery to see friends and the Dennis paintings.

NO ONE will ever fill his shoes. He will be greatly missed. His wife and lifelong blessing, Marge, continues to live in their home in Fairborn. Our thoughts are with her and their son Robert. (See the calendar on the back for our planned tribute to Bob.)

### Good News Notes!

**1. Wendel Poultry** has donated a mega printer/copier to the museum. Thank you Pam and all!

**2. Brad and Brian Bulp** have made a very generous donation to the museum in memory of their dad and mom, Jim and Charlene Bulp, who were not only faithful patrons of the museum, but had a keen interest in their Native American connections and in history in general. A committee has met with Brad and Brian and is in the process now of making plans for an appropriate memorial to be constructed in the upstairs (prehistoric section) of our museum. How exciting! And what a wonderful gift and memorial.

**3. Terry Wellman**, patron/scout leader, took his scouts on a St. Clair adventure following the mapped out locations and events as detailed in the *Wabash 1791* book. Each boy had an assigned name - one of the Kentucky militia officers. At the end of the battle adventure, Terry told them which of the militia officers survived! What a way to capture the interest of young people! The group with their leader and other parent helpers ended the evening with a marshmallow roast in the blockhouse. If only St. Clair's troops had been so fortunate huh? ☺ What a great, great endeavor Terry! A tip of the officer's hat to you!!

### Mark Your Calendars!! Events and Sunday Speakers for 2012 – Details Next Month

Saturday	May 5	6:30-8:00	<u>A private Van Trees Painting Exhibition Reception</u> for 2012 patrons
Sunday	May 6	12:00-5:00	<u>Bob Van Trees Paintings on Display</u> in Museum
Sunday	May 6	1:00, 3:00	<u>*Battlefield Walks with John Winkler</u> – limit 15 per tour, patrons free. Others - \$20.00, registration required. (*in response to numerous requests.)

### Observing the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the War of 1812 – a Series of Four Expert Speakers

Sunday	June 10	3:00 (also 1:00?)	<u>Adam Jortner</u> ; Auburn University; author – <i>Gods of Prophetstown</i> ; "The Battle of Tippacanoe and the Holy War for the American Frontier"
Sunday	July 8	3:00	<u>Ashley Phlipot</u> ; Historical Interpreter for Fort Meigs; "The Role of Fort Meigs in the 1812 War"
Sunday	Aug. 5	3:00	<u>Frank Kuron</u> , author: <i>Thus Fell Tecumseh</i> , "Tecumseh's Fight and Death in the War of 1812"
Sunday	Sept. 16	3:00	<u>Harold Youman</u> ; contributor: 6-Volume <i>Encyclopedia of the War of 1812</i> ; "Cause & Effect! Northwest Frontier History and the War of 1812"

Saturday	July 21	8:30	St. Clair 5-K Run
Sunday	Oct. 14	5:30	Fort Recovery Historical Society <i>One of a Kind Auction</i>

## Patron Form 2012

We are very appreciative of the patron and community support of the Fort Recovery Historical Museum over the past years. Your support has been absolutely vital to its continuation and success. Words cannot easily express the appreciation we have for past sacrifices and generous contributions. Even though the economic times are challenging, we are hoping and praying that that support will be forthcoming once again. As everyone is aware, state support for public entities is decreasing and in many cases, being discontinued. So it falls to local communities and the people who support their endeavors to keep them going!

Following are the patron categories (and number of patrons we had in 2011.) If you are willing to help, **please check your level** of support. All levels \$25 and above are immediate family memberships. The \$10 level is an individual membership. (Admission to the museum is regularly \$5.00 per adult and \$2.00 for students 7-12.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Tecumseh	\$1000	_1_ (\$2000)	<input type="checkbox"/> St. Clair	\$50	_49_
<input type="checkbox"/> Little Turtle	\$500	_2_	<input type="checkbox"/> Anthony Wayne	\$25	_30_
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jacket	\$250	_8_	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Butler	\$10	_8_
			<i>This is a membership for individuals</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Presidential	\$100	_42_			
			<b>Total =</b>	<b>140 Patrons in 2011</b>	

In return for your donation, **you receive:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) Satisfaction - knowing you contributed in an important way to museum daily operations, upkeep, renovations, educational presentations and community promotion and support | 3) Free or reduced rates for special events, |
| 2) Free admission to the museum/special events   | 5) Informative April-November newsletters    |
| 4) 10% discount on any gift/book shop purchases  |  |

Donation of *time or services* is also appreciated. Please indicate if you can help with any of the following:

- Serve on the advisory board or board of trustees
- Volunteer to take in admissions and/or sell souvenirs on Special Speaker Sundays (see newsletter)
- Help with school/scout/adult tours. (sell souvenirs/take admissions)
- Work on Special Events
  - Civil War Reenactment Events
  - October Archaeology Family Fun Festival (even bigger and better this year)
  - The Annual Historical Society Auction (lots of fun)
  - the 5-K run (exciting – lots of out-of-town visitors/runners)
    - Plan ahead of time, lay out route, buy prizes etc.
    - Help that morning – hand out water/prizes, man checkpoints

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**(If at all possible, please let us send the monthly newsletters by email. It saves the museum significant time and money.)**

Please make checks payable to the **Fort Recovery Historical Society**. Include this form with your check and mail to treasurer:  
**Nancy Abels, 1708 Watkins Road, Fort Recovery, 45846** Thanks so much!

*Looking Forward to a Fantastic Season 2012 at the Fort Recovery Museum! nk*