

Fort Recovery State Museum
April 2014 Newsletter

In Memory
Hal Sherman



It is with tears in my eyes that I share with you the passing of our dear, dear friend Hal Sherman. A heart attack took his life suddenly and unexpectedly on Thursday, April 3. Here was a true "gentle" man who possessed unbelievable talent and knowledge and had an insatiable appetite to learn more and to share his knowledge and ideas with friends. At least once a week he sent emails with information he found about Fort Recovery history, Native Americans, early Ohio history, books he was reading/recommending, potential speakers, etc. He shared emails of his latest paintings, and was always a willing resource. As any of you who regularly read the museum newsletter know, nearly every issue had some piece of information, picture or painting that Hal contributed. He was a very private man, but shared what he knew in such meaningful ways.

Hal was so excited about his upcoming exhibit (May 4) at our museum, but not any more excited than we were to host that exhibit. The idea of having so many paintings of this remarkable and popular artist in OUR museum was both humbling and thrilling. His memory will live on through his art, the ideas he has shared and the people he has touched in so many ways, but there is no doubt he will be sorely missed.

Rest in peace, dear Hal. You will not be forgotten. Truly, *your* memory lives on in history.

(Instead of the May 4 exhibit of his paintings, there will now be a *Hal Sherman Memorial Exhibit* NEXT year on opening Sunday, May 3, 2015.)

Grand Opening - Season 2014 - Fort Recovery State Museum

Plan to attend Opening Sunday, May 4, 12:00-4:00, for four (4!!) exciting and interesting events!

1. Huge Artifact Show - Prehistoric Artifacts, Battle Artifacts, Van Trees Rifles!



Over 20 collectors from 5 Archaeological Society of Ohio* organizations (*Blue Jacket Chapter, Miami Rivers Chapter, Stillwater Chapter, Mercer County Indian Relic Collectors, and Mowkon Chapter ASO*) will have their collections on display on the lawn behind the museum. A big tent and a shelter house, as well as big trees, will provide a perfect setting for these exhibits on what is, hopefully, a beautiful spring day. Even rain won't stop this event.

Prizes will be given for outstanding collections and pieces. This year there will also be a "People's Choice Award," so visitors can pick up a ballot in the museum and vote for *their* favorite!

* These five chapters are also co-sponsoring this entire event. "Thank You," to them.

2. Ball State Archaeologists and Graduate Students' Presentation!

Want to know: Where and how one original wall of **Fort** Recovery was found? Where the original fort stood? Exactly on what ground, whose farms, the battles of 1791 and 1794 were fought? From where the Indians came in their attack? How archaeologists and researchers plan to discover the actual layout of the battlefield? What kind of sophisticated instruments and GPS data the archaeologists use to figure this all out?

On May 4, the staff of Ball State University Applied Anthropology Laboratories will set up "camp" on the museum's front porch. They not only can address your questions like those above, they will demonstrate and explain the archaeological work and National Parks Services Grant projects that have been undertaken in Fort Recovery over the past several years. They will also share the plans that have been developed in conjunction with Fort Recovery Museum/Historical Society for future investigations of the battlegrounds. Here's a great opportunity, provided by Chris Thompson, BSU archaeologist, and her graduate student crew, to get some fascinating information! Tables of literature will be available. (Hmm - a great time to entice your kids/grandkids to consider a career in archaeology?)



3. The Showing of the Fort Recovery Documentary - *Forgotten Histories* -1:00 and 3:00

If you don't know the story of the battles that took place here on the banks of the Wabash River, this documentary will present that to you in a clear, concise interesting fashion. If you DO know the history, watch this video and see it through the eyes not only of local folks but of a well known, well respected Native American of the Miami tribe - George Ironstrack. His comments certainly give one "food for thought!" Stop in at the community room downstairs in the museum at 1:00 and/or again at 3:00 to watch this 26 minute documentary, "Forgotten Histories: The Battles of the Wabash and Fort Recovery.". This documentary was filmed, edited and produced by Ball State University students and funded by a BSU Provost's Immersive Learning Grant. In the film you will hear the "voices" of those leaders, soldiers, tribal members and warriors of long ago. The film delivers real impact. See it Sunday May 4,- no charge.

4. Hal Sherman Paintings/Illustrations on Screen!

A show of Hal Sherman paintings and illustrations will be running continuously from 12:00 to 4:00 on the screen in the Community Room! (Except for 1:00 and 3:00 when the documentary is shown.) In addition to honoring Hal in a small way, this will be some compensation for visitors who may come for the exhibit not knowing of his passing and the exhibit cancelation. (Thanks to Chris Thompson, not only an archaeologist, but also a tech guru, for conceiving this idea and creating the program.)

A special "Thank You" to: **Ken Soward** for organizing the artifact show; the **five ASO chapters** for Co-sponsorship; Ball State University's Applied Anthropology Laboratories for donating time/materials; the **Jubilee Committee** for use of their tables; the **VFW** for offers of help and tables, and our **PATRONS** for making our very existence possible!

With a heart filled with sadness and gratitude, nancy knapke, director