

Fort Recovery State Museum May 2016 Newsletter

Sunday, May 1 12:00-5:00 - Grand Re- Opening for 2016 - JOIN US

Bill Kennedy



Dayton Society of Natural History,



Bill Kennedy

Sunwatch Village

Museum Meeting Room 3:00 Free

As the Curator of Anthropology for the Dayton Society of Natural History, Bill's duties include the reconstruction of prehistoric architecture at SunWatch Village near Dayton, and also at Fort Ancient.

Kennedy says, "Although we do not yet have many of the answers we seek, we now understand these remains well enough to describe them in meaningful ways and ask answerable questions!"

Find out how Sunwatch Village was discovered and how it almost did not survive. After hearing the story, no doubt you will want to make the short trip there!

Patrons - Thank YOU

Once again our faithful patrons are coming to the support of our museum and its programs and educational efforts. We could not begin to accomplish what we do without YOU! The ongoing running of the museum - electricity, maintenance, speaker fees, presentations to groups at the museum, in schools, for other organizations etc. all take a constant toll on our funds. In addition we try to keep up with special needs like a new printer and public address systems. We are in need of a new computer but may put off that purchase until next year since we have other more immediate expenses coming up (the symposium in November for example.) The museum also contributed \$10,000 to the mural fund. That money will go toward the battle scenes mural which will be completed later this summer. We are so anxious to see the final results. We hope you will be impressed and pleased! Hopefully, I will have space in an upcoming newsletter to go into detail about the murals!

Fort Recovery High School Student Council



Thank you to the members of the Fort Recovery High School Student Council (and their advisor, Chelsea Rogers) for their fantastic efforts in cleaning all the state museum and historical society buildings and parks. As a group, we couldn't manage to do in a month what this group of hard working high school students did in one day. In addition to being good workers they were so cooperative and friendly. What a great day we had. Thank you also to our members who volunteered to be team leaders: Kathy Thobe, Helen LeFevre, Irene Stone, Linda Schoenherr, Louie Diller and Don Lennartz, and Jerry Kramer. It does indeed take a village to "raise" a museum! (Pictured: Tanner Koch & Wes Wenning re-laying stepping stones!)

A Note from Author, William Heath - William Wells - Winner of TWO! Spur Awards

"I wanted to let ...know that my most recent book, William Wells and the Struggle for the Old Northwest, has just won two Spur Awards from the Western Writers of America for first Nonfiction History book and best first Nonfiction History book. Many thanks for your support. For more on the award and my work, see my website. <http://www.williamheathbooks.com> Best wishes, Bill.

Author, Heath has spoken at our museum twice over the past 5-6 years. We do have his new award-winning non-fiction book plus his original historical narrative of William Wells, *Blacksnake's Path*, in our museum bookstore!! Remember patrons get a 10% discount.

An Army Lost by Stephen Paper

Recently, a notice was sent to patrons that Stephen Paper's book based on the Battle of 1791 was now released and available to Kindle readers. **An Army Lost** is an historical narrative which means it is based on history but liberty is taken to create interest and readability. Events and conversation are created to make it more "lightweight" enjoyable reading for everyone - not just those who want to read history.

I enjoyed the book, and though I have read a ton about the battles that took place here, I still learned - my usual gauge for time well spent. For example, I often wondered how the army removed the huge stumps as they created the road from Fort Washington north (SR 127/SR 49.) Paper describes how the trees had to be sawed off at the height of the wagon axels so they could pass OVER the stumps. I know - Duh! but for me it was a question answered. Among others: how much grief St. Clair endured because of his humiliating loss at Ticonderoga during the Revolutionary War. Ultimately this is a book probably most enjoyed by those who do NOT have deep historical factual knowledge of the Wabash Battle as they might be constantly looking for deviation from fact. If you just read it for its own merit, I think you will find it interesting and compelling! And any and all books that focus on our battles accentuate our history!

That being said, the California author called and said he was recalling the books and rewriting the segments of the story where he identifies Blue Jacket as Marmaduke VanSwearingen who allegedly killed his brother, Charlie, in the battle of 1791. As most of our readers know, that was an old "story" proven false by Bob Van Trees through DNA testing he had commissioned. Although this book was never intended to be non-fiction, Stephen said he didn't want to be responsible for continuing the Blue Jacket myth even if he might have had some "creative license" to do so. Therefore at his own expense, he is rewriting the book and re-releasing it. Kudos for Stephen Paper. Fort Recovery appreciates that!

So! if you get version I of **Army Lost**, it will have the fictional account of Blue Jacket, but be assured the author does know that Blue Jacket was Shawnee, not Marmaduke. (Bob VanTrees, from his heavenly post, will no doubt rest easier now! :-)) **An Army Lost** is Paper's first book in *The Fallen Timber Series*.

Are YOU Following the Fort Recovery State Museum FaceBook Page?

Chris Thompson is adding quite a following to our FaceBook page by her "ON THIS DATE, 225 YEARS AGO, (1791)" addition. She has uncovered so many interesting facts leading up to the Wabash Battle which is considered the beginning of the history of the community of Fort Recovery - exactly 225 years ago. Check it out! Thanks for the research and contributions, Chris! www.facebook.com/FortRecoveryMuseum/

Field School - May 16 to June 17 - Ball State University Archaeologists

BSU archaeologists, instructors and students will be participating in a field school on Ohio Historical Connection's grounds on the green space across from the fort. Archaeologists first will use ground penetrating radar (GPR) to locate the best places for a dig that might uncover more of the original fort and more artifacts such as those found in the field school five years ago. Visitors can observe at any time, but special Open Houses will be held on Tuesday, May 31 and again on June 13 and 14. On those days, there will be opportunities for questions/answers, participation, and viewing of research results and exhibits.

We are especially pleased that we have school field trips coming from Coldwater, Parkway, Franklin Monroe, Home School Groups and third and sixth grades from Fort Recovery. What a rare opportunity to see REAL archaeologists in action right in Fort Recovery.

The Field School is made possible in part by a grant from the Ohio History Connection's History Fund. The History Fund is supported exclusively by voluntary donations of Ohio income tax refunds and designated gifts to the Ohio History Connection. www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund.

Thank You Donor!

To the FR Museum, in memory of Bill Franck, FR Class of 1961.

Planning a road trip? Check out OHC's more than 50 historic sites at the new mobile-friendly ohiohistory.org.

Keep Up with the Fort Recovery Community **225 Year Celebration Plans/Events:**

www.fr225.com

Fr225 on Facebook

@225Fort on Twitter

225 Headquarters, downtown FR open 11-5:30, May 6 - May 31. Saturdays 9-12. Closed Sundays.

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