

## Fort Recovery State Museum Newsletter November, 2018

### **Exciting Things Happening at the Museum/Battlegrounds**

The museum may be closed for the season, but guess what is happening on the battlefield? the Wayside Exhibits are being installed. After so much time spent planning for this day, the 15 signs are arriving.

Thanks so much to Don Lennartz, Louis Diller, Ken Romer and Butch Acheson for working with Chris Tompson a couple of weeks ago to install the concrete pads in preparation for those signs. They are being installed this week in preparation for a big weekend at the museum and a big weekend in Fort Recovery! Yeah. Life just continues on the path of good things happening around us on these historic battlefields.



### **Visitors are Welcomed to the Museum this Sunday - No Charge**

Visitors to Fort Recovery on November 11 are invited to attend some special events to be held at the Fort Recovery State Museum. The museum, fort and log cabins will be open free of charge from 11:00 to 5:00 that day! Three special events will be featured.

#### **Mural Signing/Recognition - 2:00**

Patrons and Museum Supporters, plan to attend the Ceremonial Artist's Signing of the just-completed 1791 Battle Mural. In addition to the signing, artist Dan Keyes will give a brief overview of the thought and research that went into this most recent mural. (You have to see it up close to pick up on the details - like whose unique flag is that shown laying on the ground?) Also in attendance and introduced will be folks who have been instrumental in the completion of the five murals the town proudly exhibits.

#### **Mini Tours of the Wayside Exhibits and Interactive Story Map Demonstrations 11:00-5:00**

Visitors to the museum on the 11th are invited to take mini-tours of the 15 new Wayside Exhibits which are being installed, culminating four years of grant writing, research, design and manufacturing. Chris Thompson, Ball State University Archaeologist and leading grant writer and project facilitator, will be present to guide these tours. She will be assisted by Ball State University Department of Anthropology students. This will be a great chance to interact with those who were instrumental in this whole project.

(Funding for the Wayside Exhibits was provided by the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program and Ohio Facilities Construction Commission grants.)

From 11:00 to 5:00, the Ball State personnel will be available to demonstrate the new on-line Battlefield Story Map. From the fingertips to the computer/i-pad/i-phone *anyone, anywhere* can take a tour of Fort Recovery and see/read about the significant history that happened there on the banks of the Wabash. Interested museum visitors will be shown how to access and peruse that informative and innovative Battlefield Story Map site. Parents and teachers may find this especially interesting as they then can teach their children/students how to use this great tool.

(Funding for the on-line Story Map was provided by a Ohio Humanities Council grant.)

### **And Visit the Rest of the Fort Recovery Community on the 11th - Take a Carriage Ride!**

Everyone is invited to Join the Fort Recovery Community as it celebrates its holiday open-houses that day. One of the special features of the town celebration is horse and carriage rides around town with the local and military history being narrated by a member of the Fort Recovery Historical Society. What a fun way to learn pertinent history!

### **Post Auction Report**

We are happy to report that the auction this year was financially and socially quite successful. That is such good news for everyone who worked so hard and for those who donated so generously. We don't have the exact figures yet, but it appears that both the historical society and Project Recovery will receive over \$12,000 each from the proceeds. This money is vital in maintaining the many historic sites and properties around town. It would be impossible to list all of those who deserve so much appreciation. They are treasures for sure!

### **Danny Bracy Complete his Eagle Scout Project**



Danny Bracy, a senior at Jay County (IN) High School recently completed his Eagle Scout Project which was to mark the presumed wall of the original 1793 Fort of Recovery. We appreciate the actual work he did plus all of the help he recruited and the funds he raised to complete the project. This will be such an asset to the museum as a number of visitors inquire about the location of the original fort. This project will make it so efficient and effective to explain the location which was discovered in a Ball State University

Department of Archaeology Field School several years ago. Thanks to Chris Thompson and representatives of the Ohio History Connection for their guidance and advice on the project, and to Louie Diller and Don Lennartz for their assistance and advice on the work itself. Hats off to the local boy scout troop and their advisors for supporting such worthwhile endeavors!

Look for an official introduction to this new addition on Opening Sunday next spring!

Happy Fall! Happy Holidays! Next Newsletter - March 2018. "And they all laid down for a long winter's nap!" ☺ Nk