



Fort Recovery State Museum  
Box 533, 1 Fort Site Street  
Fort Recovery, OH 45846

May, 2021 Newsletter

Lots of events at the museum during the upcoming month! Mark your calendars for these dates:

1. Sunday, May 2. **Dr. Tim Barman**, Antique Tool Display. 3:00 - 5:00 Front Porch  
**Mr. Bob Hart**, Fine Woodworking Art. 3:00 – 5:00 Downstairs of the Museum
2. Friday, May 7. **Car Show** -Wayne Street, Museum Open 6-8. Car Club donation enables free entrance for visitors to the museum.
3. Friday, May 28. The Fort Recovery **Memorial Day** Observance and The **Lighting of the Fort Recovery Monument**. 7:30
4. Monday, May 31. Museum Open Memorial Day. And thereafter, every day 12:00-5:00 until September 1.

### Lighting of the Monument Program – Friday May 28 – 7:30

YOU are invited to attend the Once-in-a-Lifetime event of the first lighting of the Fort Recovery Monument.

This will be a joint ceremony of the American Legion Post \_\_\_\_, The VFW Post \_\_\_\_ and the Fort Recovery Museum/Historical Society. The program will include remarks by the commanders of the Legion and VFW, their chaplain, district representative and Honor Guard and Site Manager.



Those who have contributed to make this “Lighting” a reality whether by contributing financial aid, expertise or work effort will be recognized. The Fort Recovery Band will play, the switch will be thrown to light the monument and there will be a 21 gun salute. Adding to the drama of the event will be 1000 crosses (covering the south lawn) honoring those veterans whose remains lie in a crypt under the 105 ft. obelisk. Having the honor of pushing the button will be the oldest veteran in the Fort Recovery Veterans’ organizations; Lester Huelskamp, a veteran of WWII who will be 98 years old by the end of May. (Bring your children to this memorable event. P.S. You are welcome to bring lawn chairs.)

### Student Council Lends a Big Hand

Once again this year, the Fort Recovery Schools Student Councils (over 40 students) contributed several hours of work each and accomplished a whale of a lot of work in one morning for the Museum, Log Houses, Walk By Museum, VanTrees Park, Krenning Park and the Opera House. Thank you to Chelsea Kahlig, student council advisor for getting this lined up! Thanks also to the Historical Society members who took on the responsibility of each location getting cleaned – Kim Rammel, Helen LeFevre, Don and Linda Lennartz, Kathy Thobe, Ken Lamm, Carol Ranly, Bob and Karen Meiring, Lorri Kaup and Judy Wood. What great volunteers they are to give their time and to work so hard in the process too. It’s one thing to “belong” to an organization, and quite another to help when needed.

### Field Trips, The Schools and the Volunteers Who Make The Experience Possible

Students have come to the museum for guided tours starting in mid-April. On the calendar are/of have been **Coldwater Schools** (2 days), **Celina Schools** (5 days), A large **Auglaize County** Home School Group, **Miami Valley School of Dayton**, **New Bremen**, and **Fort Recovery** both 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Many of these schools/groups choose to do the all day trip. For those, students are divided into groups and rotate stations including the two Log Cabins, The Souvenir Shop, and the Prehistoric vs. Historic Artifacts (weapons, tools, jewelry). For these stations we depend on volunteers to share their knowledge and expertise. These volunteers include Helen LeFevre, Sharon Ontrop, Dr. Tim Barman, John Ranly, Dan Kaiser, Dian Kaiser, Debbie Zumstein, Mary Lou Kramer, Mike and Jill Walter, Carol Ranly, Kim Rammel, and Linda Lennartz. Hats off to them!

### **Coming this Summer – Digital Exhibit of Fort Recovery Historical Prehistoric Collection**

Archaeologists and the students from the Applied Anthropology Laboratories of Ball State University have almost completed an **online StoryMap** that highlights the Fort Recovery Historical Society's large collection of projectile points and other stone and shell artifacts. These artifacts date from the Paleoindian (14,000 B.C) to Protohistoric (post A.D. 1400) periods. The new online StoryMap will be available via computer, mobile phone or tablet. The StoryMap will include additional information about the artifacts and the cultural periods, photos and 3-D images of artifacts, videos, maps and more. This Story Map will provide more exhibit content to visitors, provide a way for visitors will accessibility challenge to enjoy this extensive exhibit, and will make this collection digitally available for those who cannot visit the museum.

This project is made possible in part by the **Ohio History Fund**, a grant program of the Ohio History Connection. This fund comes from voluntary donations of Ohio Income Tax refunds, sales of Ohio History 'Mastodon' license plates, and other donations. *The laptop computer which will be kept at the museum for visitors who can't maneuver the stairs to the prehistoric room is being bought for the museum from Museum Paton Donations! Thank you Patrons! And thank you to Chris Thompson for writing and implementing this grant!*

### **Another Look Back at the Building of the Monument**

Already at the original "Bone Burying Day" (1851), the importance of permanently marking the scene of the two important battles (Wabash-1791, Fort Recovery-1794) with an appropriate monument was recognized and publicized. Already at that time a committee for that purpose was organized. Continuously that committee and its successors wrote resolutions and pleas to their representatives in congress to see that a monument would be approved and funded.

At one point the Monument Committee even created a model obelisk monument made of wood but painted to look like sandstone. It was 35 feet tall with a flag at the top and a pipe going all the way up to carry fuel to keep a fire lit there. It was erected at the center of Wayne and Butler Streets and was indeed quite an attraction. Their efforts and enthusiasm should have been kept in mind as we worked patiently (or maybe not so patiently) for 8 -10 years for our project of lighting the monument to become a reality. Imagine the patience and efforts it took for these original monument promoters to actually get to the passing of the bill by congress in 1908! At that time congress approved the monument and provided the funding of \$25,000. No doubt it did not hurt the effort that the president at that time was William Taft of Ohio, and it of course, met with his approval and he signed the bill!

Although the Amringe Company of Boston, was in charge of the undertaking, the Emil Wagner and Sons Company (Charles and Clarence) became the local contractors. Construction began in early 1912, and completed and accepted by the government in late 1912. It was dedicated in 1913. The 101 foot obelisk is made of North Carolina gray granite. A large square opening was left in the base of the monument to contain a crypt which would hold the remains of the nearly 1000 soldiers who died in those early battles. On the front of the monument is the sculpture of the frontiersman who served a valuable role for the armies as they made their way west. This frontiersman sculpture was symbolically placed on the west side of the monument facing the "highway west" which was the Wabash River. The Fort Recovery Monument proudly stands in the center of the square dedicated in many ways to the Veterans of those battles as well as all those veterans who have since served this country.

Site Manager, Nancy Knapke