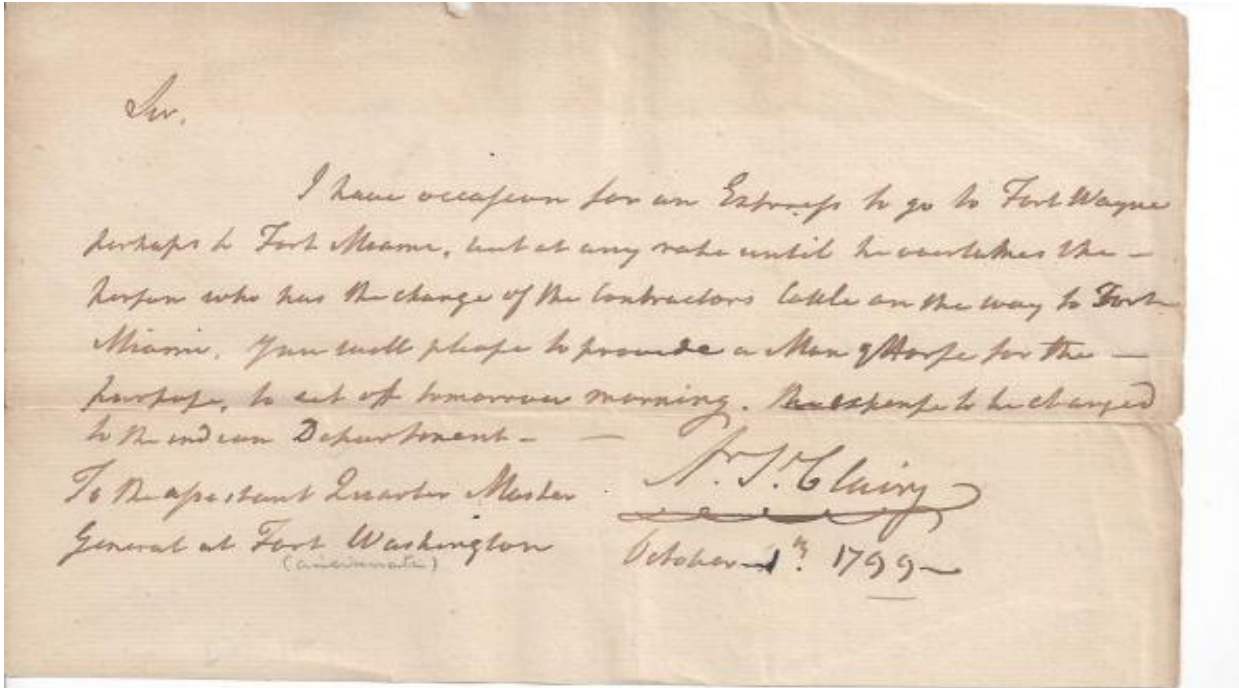


**Fort Recovery State Museum**  
**April, 2020 Newsletter**

**1. A Treasure Discovered!**

When FR Historical Society member and Museum Trustee, **Helen LeFevre** decided to go way, way back and clean-out and organize the many files of the society stored away, she discovered the note below. This is an original document from 1799. The first challenge she put out to fellow members was to help decipher it. Can you figure out all of the words? Actually read it?



Thanks to the work of a couple of members, especially **Joe Cain**, it was “translated” as follows:

Sir,

I have occasion for an Exchange to go to Fort Wayne perhaps to Fort Miami, but at any rate until he overtakes this. Inform who has the charge of the contractors ---- on the way to Fort Miami. You will please to provide a Main March for this purpose, to set off tomorrow morning. New expenses to be charged to the Indian Department.

To New assistant Quarter Master at Fort Washington

Arthur St. Clair (signature) October 1, 1799

*Joe's helpful note: Old English 18th century writing included a soft, or lower case "s" written as what looks to us like an "f". This would be a cause for confusion in deciphering manuscripts, as seen in the case of the word "occasion". Joe also compared the signature of the note to another known St. Clair signature. (see St. Clair Signature - Wikipedia.*

To help put this 1799 communication into meaningful context, **Chris Thompson** searched the files to see where this particular note “fit in.” And of course, she found it! From Chris: *Papers can be found on-line here <https://archive.org/details/stclairpaperslif02smituoft/page/462/mode/2up> This should take you right to an October 6, 1799 letter which puts our letter into its historical context. You can use the little right and left arrows on the bottom right to flip pages, which scrolls you through St. Clair's correspondence in chronological order. (Fascinating just to read the regular communications of St. Clair's Command at Fort Washington in the waning years of the 1700's.)*

*So now what happens to this precious document? Stay tuned as we figure that out. One thing we do know is that we want it to be available for YOU to see for yourself! For the time being, we are all so grateful for Helen's work in discovering this long lost, but preserved, treasure!*

## Red Haired Nance



Most patrons of the museum are familiar with the story of this legendary woman who took an active part in the St. Clair Defeat, using her frying pan as a weapon. Recently, author, Richard M. Lytle (*Soldiers of America's First Army*; 2004) contacted the museum for information about Red Haired Nance, especially her last name. (Miller) So now he shares his newfound facts:

"Karen Miller was married to Private Horace Miller, a member of an as yet unknown company of the 1<sup>st</sup> US Infantry Regiment." (*not the militia*). Lytle confirmed the unit identity from sources obtained from the National Archives. "She was in St. Clair's camp while her husband actually was marching with Hamtramck twenty some miles to the south." He added that he has acquired other/new information since his book of 2004. He noted that, "The biggest changes have been with the number and percentages, "But that only clarifies the magnitude of the defeat." It's exciting to add new/more detailed information to our "story" which we share with visitors.

## Window Replacement

We took advantage of the museum off-season to replace the huge industrial window on the museum's main floor, west side. It had a large spider crack with an actual hole in the middle which, Moeller Door determined, had been created by a well-placed forceful projectile (rock probably.) The displays in front and partially covering the window had to be sawed and disassembled by OHC personnel before the window could be removed and replaced. While replacing that window the repairmen cautioned that the other two windows would probably need replacement in the next couple of years. They are old and gradually losing their seal. As you homeowners know, "It's always something." All displays/exhibits will be reassembled when the museum opens later this spring. Thank you, patrons. Your support is always there.



## Added Lights Brighten Timeline



The pictorial timeline on our third floor Bubp Prehistoric Experience Exhibit Area is a great teaching tool and used for every extended day school field trip. It is also of great interest to regular museum visitors. The only negative has been the lack of lighting on cloudy days and especially during evening tours like the recent Fort Recovery Industries visit. Well that problem has been alleviated with the addition of a special ceiling mounted frame with LED string lights designed by Dan Schoen/Home Idea Center. What a difference this makes. (It was the FR Industries tour and the associated discussion with FRI employee, Dave Gray, that motivated this positive change! Thanks Dave. And once again, thank you patrons for your support!

## Patron Letters and Support

My heart fairly bursts with appreciation as the patron support comes in following last month's mailing. In these VERY uncertain times, I really thought it would affect our efforts. I admit, I personally paused before I wrote my check of support. Just know that your donation is appreciated more than we museum trustees can say. You are just the best most loyal and generous people anywhere. (Thanks to Pat Diller and Helen LeFevre who created a new brochure for Fort Recovery and arranged to have it and the museum letter sent to ALL people in the FR zip code. The museum now has a number of new patrons! Thank You!)

Thank you special friend who left this rock to be discovered by an unsuspecting leaf-raker. Found this in the corner of the steps. Hiding under leaves. If it was put there to put a smile on a face, it served the purpose! 😊



The Museum will continue to be closed until Governor DeWine's order changes, or OHC makes different arrangements. So, for certain we are closed until May 1.

Deeply Grateful, NK, Site Manager