

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

**Museum Remains Closed**

Per the guidelines of Governor DeWine and Dr. Acton, and the Ohio History Connection's guidance, the Fort Recovery State Museum will remain closed until the end of May. Ohio is in Phase I of the state's re-opening schedule. Time will tell if the site will reopen in Phase II. In the meantime, there are many OUTDOOR historic attractions in and around Fort Recovery: 15 Wayside Exhibits on the Battlefield; reconstructed fort; the monument; two log cabins; five murals; Krenning Park; Pioneer Cemetery; Indian Point; the visitors center, etc. (Enjoy the battlefield tour even more and view additional information for each wayside stop by using your iphone or computer: [www.fortrecoverymuseum.com](http://www.fortrecoverymuseum.com) )

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**Ball State University Applied Anthropology Laboratories**  
**Research Update**  
**by Archaeologist Christine Thompson**

- **Invited to Present at *Fields of Conflict Conference* – **Edinburgh, Scotland!****  
“We were thrilled to receive notice in January that our presentation “A Decade of Research at St. Clair’s Defeat, A New View of the Conflict” submitted to the *2020 Fields of Conflict Conference* in Edinburgh, Scotland had been accepted! This conference, focuses specifically on the archaeology of battles, wars, and conflicts, and was scheduled for September. Our presentation gives an overview of how we are using (1) our archaeological research results and (2) a humanities focus (guided by Tribal Humanities Scholars) to produce exhibits and interpretation of the battle. The goal audience is the public in the Midwest, Oklahoma, and beyond. Of course, we were sad to receive the news last week that due to COVID-19, this conference is canceled for 2020. However; it likely will be rescheduled for September 2021.”
  - **Work on Traveling Tribal Exhibit/NEH Grant Application**  
As a part of our research, we continue to develop a traveling exhibit designed by our 13 Tribal Humanities Scholars, who are members of descendant tribes from St. Clair’s Defeat / Battle of the Wabash. We submitted a large National Endowment for the Humanities grant in January to fund the implementation of this traveling exhibit. If the grant is awarded, the traveling exhibit will be on display at the Ohio History Center in Columbus for the first 6 months of 2022 and at the Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, Oklahoma for the remainder of 2022. Watch for updates on NEH grant success and progress on this one-of-a-kind project.
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**Fort Recovery Museum Speakers/Presentations**  
**for May and June Postponed Until 2021**

May 3 - **Dr. Tim Barman and Robert Hart** were scheduled presenters for the museum’s May 3rd Opening Sunday. Dr. Barman has a vast collection of antique tools, and Bob has a great collection of photographs of past Fort Recovery individuals, businesses and events. Both are knowledgeable in their areas, and both had already spent time in preparation. Hopefully, we can reschedule them for Opening Sunday, 2021. Thank you to these long-time, generous patrons for their work and support.

June 7 – **Diane Hunter and Chris Thompson** were scheduled to present *Native American Collaboration in the Design of the St. Clair Traveling Exhibit*. This presentation too, has been canceled and has already been rescheduled for June 2021.

The following events are on hold. Stay tuned (newsletters, website, Facebook, email) for updates.  
Sunday, July 12 - *The Saga of Ohio's Moravian Indians.* Seth Angel, Schoenbrunn OHC Site

Sunday, August 2 - *Interrupted Odyssey: Ulysses S. Grant and the American Indians.*  
Mary Stockwell

Sunday, September 6 - *Fort Jefferson, Past, Present, Future.* Joe Beatty, Houston TX,

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### **One-of-a-Kind Auction 2020 Canceled**

Although this fundraising event for the FR Historical Society and Project Recovery is held in October, work begins in May, so an early cancellation decision was made. Reasons for cancelling:

- I. We did not want to solicit items/funds from area small businesses, already hard hit by the statewide shutdown.
- II. The event is held in the school, and the availability of these facilities might change.
- III. The auction attendees/committee members/volunteers include many *at-risk* people.
- IV. If plans went ahead as usual (including food preparation by the Psi Iota Xi) and then had to be canceled at the last minute, it could be a very challenging situation.

So, mark your calendars for October 2021 – the of the One-of-a-Kind Auction's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

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### **Thank You Wabash Communications**

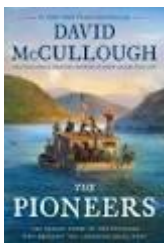
It's not every business that will respond to a call for help after 5:30 on a Friday evening. Wabash Communications did that for the museum. OHC called to say they had received an alarm (in Columbus) that FR's fire alarm system had lost connections. Since our fire alarm runs through our phone lines, the carrier, Wabash Communications/Bright Net Internet provider was called. Not only did they come out to fix the problem, they added some new connections/wires to make the whole system better and more reliable. All this on a late Friday evening. How great is that? They provide our internet/phone services at no cost. We are so grateful to have another great local company like them that generously supports our efforts. *Thank you, Wabash Communications.*

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### **Patrons Keep the Museum Operating – Thank YOU!**

To date we have received over 135 patron donations. Words can't express our appreciation for the generosity of those individuals, families and companies. We will try to rise to your expectations by doing the best we can to preserve and promote the significant history of Fort Recovery and the two battles that were fought here on the banks of the Wabash River. Thank you for supporting these goals of the Fort Recovery State Museum and the Fort Recovery Historical Society. As the author. John Winkler, often has said, "These were watershed moments in American History." (Note: I would also like to acknowledge the help of Pat Diller in sending out letters and membership cards to the patrons upon receipt of their donations.)

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This is Amazon's description of **Pioneers**: *Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David McCullough rediscovers an important and dramatic chapter in the American story—the settling of the Northwest Territory by dauntless pioneers who overcame incredible hardships to build a community based on ideals that would come to define our country.* Having just finished this book, I would add that if you have any interest in Ohio History, this book certainly paints a clear and interesting picture of the settling of Ohio. It will make you want to "discover" Marietta, Chilllicothe, Camp Martius, Blennerhasset Island, etc. For most people who read this newsletter, these places would be just a good day's drive. I intend to take that drive when no

longer confined to my home! And the characters, like all those portrayed by McCullough are interesting and unforgettable. What a great vicarious meeting with these people who settled Ohio and beyond. A good read anytime, not just when looking for something to do during Covid time! 😊 Nancy Knapke, Site Manager