

Fort Recovery State Museum Newsletter
August, 2020

Happy to Make These Two Announcements!

1. It's a Go! Sunday, September 6. *Fort Jefferson, Past, Present, Future!* Presenter: **Joe Beatty**, Houston TX, has spoken here in the past and has been very well received. He is a fountain of information and delivers it in an interesting and humorous way. Past attendees/followers may recall that Joe had two ancestors who fought in the St. Clair Battle here on the Banks of the Wabash: Capt. Erkuries Beatty - 1st Regiment and Ensign, Samuel Beatty - 2nd Regiment of Levies.

The venue for this presentation will be changed from the downstairs meeting room to the town park pavilion/shelter house. It is large enough and has more 'outdoor exposure' to allow for distancing and more healthful conditions. More information will come, but in the meantime, save this Sunday – September 6 – 3:00 , Labor Day Weekend for this special event. As always, this presentation is free and the public is invited. Expenses are paid from patron support! Thank you Patrons. (See new sheet)

2. The Addition of Another Important Artifact! 1794 Newspaper

What a treasure - An August, 1794 Newspaper detailing the accounts of the Battle of Fort Recovery, June 30, July 1, 1794. Thank you to patron and history enthusiast, Terry Wellman for alerting us to this artifact which he discovered to be for sale on Ebay. With abated breath, we took part in the bidding process and achieved success at a cost of just less than \$100 (including shipping and a preservation folder.) It is the whole front page of the newspaper, so it includes other items of interest in addition to the 1794 battle.

In the article, in addition to the battle description itself, is listed the names of the officers killed there/then. It's interesting to read the article and realize that about the time the newspaper was published, the Battle of Fallen Timbers had not yet taken place! Fascinating to put oneself back in that time in history.

The Museum season may have gotten off to a late start, but many things are happening around the Fort!

Lighting of the Monument

Several trustees of the museum and village administrator, Randy Diller, met with OHC architect, Fred Smith, and with Ryan Heitkamp and Chad Schroer, engineers for Garmann Miller & Asso., Minster, to delineate details of what is needed to light the monument. A contract has been written and after it is agreed upon and signed, Garmann Miller will be responding with official engineering, electrical and equipment details and of course the projected cost. Lighting the monument has been a goal of the Historical Society (and others) for 10 plus years.

Concurrently with this project, Diller is also working to replace the ground lighting of Monument Park. The village of Fort Recovery pays the monthly bills for the lighting/electricity for these sidewalk lights, so it is imperative for the village to replace those lights with more efficient/effective lighting. What an improvement this will be.

The village, historical society, and OHS have a great working relationship, and together, much is accomplished!

Replacement/Repair of Sidewalk at Monument Park

The sidewalk to the south of the monument has been in poor condition for several years. We now have the estimate from Stachler Concrete and will be replacing that soon.

Two Trees Removed

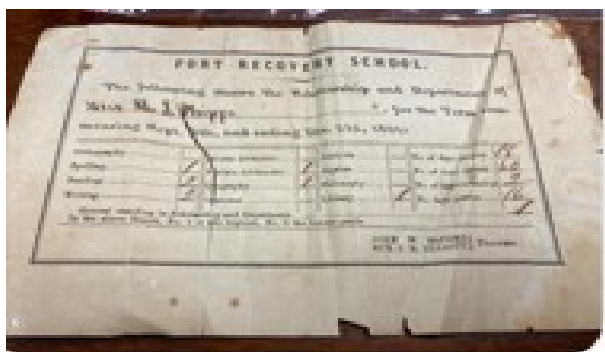
OHC has approved the estimate of Clearall Tree Services (Tyler Sudhoff) to remove the enormous dead tree north of the monument. (According to Ohio History Connection environmental protocol, the stump must be ground out and the chips left in the hole.) We have lost several trees in Monument park. **Old** pictures show tree-lined sidewalks and other big shady trees. Another project for the future. ☺

On July 5, **village workers removed a dead elm** tree from in front of the fort. If you didn't know there had been a tree there you would not notice where it was removed. Amazing work **by Jerry Guggenbiller and his summer helpers, Jake Bechtol and Jon Wendel**. Another example of community work/support and cooperation! Thank you Randy, Jerry, Jon and Jake!

Repairs and Renovation of the Museum's Exterior

Visitors to our museum have no doubt noticed that our wonderful WPA building of 1938 has been looking a bit shabby – needing repairs, repainting and re-caulking. This work, which is quite extensive (read expensive), will be done yet this fall. A local contractor, Dean Zehringer – Ace of Trades, will be doing the work. We're very happy that OHC is not only willing, but happy to work with local contractors. Dean does local restorations and is pleased to be involved in bringing our museum back to its former attractive state.

Fort Recovery Report Card – 1864! Donated to FRHS



Imagine a Fort Recovery School student's report card from a year before the Civil War was over! **Sandy Bridges** of Bryant, Indiana stopped by the museum on July 28th to donate this to the Fort Recovery Historical Society. She said she had it for a number of years and that it probably came in a box of "stuff" she bought at an auction. She wanted it to be back home in Fort Recovery – thus her gift! How thoughtful!

The text of the card:

"FORT RECOVERY SCHOOL

The following shows the scholarship and deportment of: Miss J.L. Phipps for the term commencing Sept. 5 and ending December 23, 1864: Orthography __, spelling 1; Reading 2; Writing 2; Mental Arithmetic __; Written Arithmetic 1; Geography 1; Grammar __; Analysis __; Philosophy __; Literacy 1; No of days present 18; No of days absent 60; No of days commu"ed 2; No. days perfect 16; General standing in Scholarship and Deportment 1; In the above Report, No. 1 is the highest, No. 5 the lowest grade.

JOHN W. DeFORD & SUE J.R. ELLIOTT, TEACHERS"

Wondering if readers have information regarding any of the names on this card – **Phipps? DeFord? Elliott?**

Opera House Update - Want to Help? Would you Donate \$20 in '20 to Start Opera House Fund?

After first-hand tours of other opera houses, committee members are confident that the local opera house is possibly even more impressive overall than others that have been restored. See for yourself: register for a tour either Sunday – **August 9 or 23rd**. (419-852-2618) Special surprises are included in the tours. AND, if you are so inclined, you can help the opera house effort get off the ground by contributing to their fundraising effort - **\$20 in 2020!** Mail to: Opera House, Box 691, Fort Recovery, 45846 or use VENMO (FRM Opera House)

Do you know Charles Vinton Snyder ? Died WWI email received - requesting help/information

From: anthony.le-brazidec@wanadoo.fr **Date:** July 29, 2020 at 8:18:36 AM EDT

Hello,

I'm history teacher in France and I am working on the WWI in Morbihan (Brittany, France). I'm looking for information about US army in this place. I am working on the Americans soldiers and civilians who died in Morbihan (Brittany) during the WWI. One of them came from Ohio, Mercer county, Fort Recovery. I would like to have more informations about him:

Charles Vinton Snyder, serial number 2,895,169, died on 29/09/1918

Is there a memorial with his name ? Best regards, Anthony

If you have information on Charles Vinton Snyder, email a response to this newsletter please!