

REMEMBER THE RAISIN

October-November-December 2009 Issue No. 8 www.riverraisinbattlefield.org

River Raisin Battlefield Visitor Center
1403 E. Elm Ave., Monroe, MI 48162

MONROE
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
MUSEUM
TELEPHONE
(734) 240-7780

VISITOR
CENTER HOURS
MAY-SEPT-OCT
SAT & SUN 10AM--5PM
JUNE-JULY-AUG
FRI-TUE 10AM-5PM

In this issue:
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Roundtable & Friends Events

MEETING SCHEDULE

Friends of the River Raisin Battlefield generally meet on the third Sunday of the month at 2:00PM at the River Raisin Battlefield Visitor Center. Upcoming meeting schedule: Oct. 18, Nov 15, and Dec 20.

SEPTEMBER 20TH FRIENDS MEETING

Discussion was held and dates set for coming events through the spring of 2010. If you need to buy coat wool, call the museum at 734-240-7780 and make appointments with both Chris (for payment) and Lynn (for issuing the wool.) Letters of thanks were received from the Monroe County Historical Commission for our efforts at the Open House in May and the Eby Cabin in August. Floreine Mentel expressed thanks to members who supported the successful pig roast and fundraising auction on August 29.

NAVARRE-ANDERSON TRADING POST RENOVATION

The biggest project of the summer has been the cleaning, sanding, and (hopefully) painting of the NATP. Director Gibney has spent much time there, assisted by Isaac and Mitch, who both have put in long hours cutting wood, digging holes, planting crops, moving fence rails, watering gardens, putting up wigwams, and cleaning floors while battling mountains of dust. Another tree was lost at the Country Store, and the Woodchuck guys agreed to donate the wood chips to the Museum.

- WAR OF 1812 ROUNDTABLE -

THAT GALLANT AFFAIR:

THE BATTLE OF SANDY CREEK

NOVEMBER 7, 2009 AT 7:00 PM

AT RIVER RAISIN BATTLEFIELD VISITOR CENTER
1403 E. ELM AVE. • MONROE, MICHIGAN 48161



Mike Waskul & Dave Washburn will present an intriguing session on another hidden aspect of the war. This roundtable will be on the Battle of the Sandy Creek (New York) where a British attempt to capture a supply flotilla was foiled by American soldiers & Oneida Indians on May 30, 1814. Friends members are invited to bring light refreshments to share.

LACROIX PAGE

LA COMPAGNIE DE HUBERT LACROIX, 2ND MICHIGAN TERRITORIAL MILITIA REGIMENT & MICHIGAN LEGIONARY CORPS

PUT-IN-BAY, OHIO

Members Dick & Jeanne Micka, Ken & Jean Roberts, Cathy Taylor, Dave & Sue Grassley, & Ralph Naveaux represented the Lacroix company at the annual Battle of Lake Erie Historic Weekend where they participated in demonstrations and a parade, as well as exploring some sites & wineries on their own.

EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2009

A *grand merci* to all the Lacroix legionnaires & Friends who supported 2 PR events on Saturday, Sept. 19th, at the unveiling of the Listening Post at the Navarre-Anderson Trading Post in the morning and for the National Anthem to open the Timberwolves football game at Navarre Field in the evening.

The unveiling was organized by Chris Kull and attended by Cathy, Chuck, Sue, Dave, Alisha, Judy and other Friends in modern attire who came to make speeches or mingle with the various dignitaries, including Mark Worrell, the Mayor of Monroe, County Commissioner Floreine Mentel, Historical Commissioner Hobby Nels, and Museum Director John Gibney. Sherri & Jeanne came in period dress. The musket salute was rendered by Ken, Jeff, Steve, Dick, Pat, & Ralph. The Jefferson ROTC formed an honor guard, & Matt Switlik fired a cannon. Musket shooters will receive replacement powder.

The ranks were swelled in the evening with the addition of Chuck and Megan to the line. Photos at both events were taken by the Grassleys. The Toledo Blade Newspaper covered the morning event.

MCCC SEPTEMBER 27TH

At the suggestion of President Braunlich of the Monroe County Historical Society, la compagnie de Hubert Lacroix set up a small 1812 camp at the MCCC's Antiques & Auto show. Dick, Ralph, Ken, & Megan fired Matt's 18th century Spanish 3-pounder cannon, while Sherri, Sue, Jeanne, & Cathy occupied the little encampment next to the pond and demonstrated cooking, foods, and herbal remedies to an appreciative audience.

RE-ENACTOR TIPS FROM RALPH NAVEAUX

I just finished cleaning my musket from the Sept. 19th activities, along with one of the museum guns, and thought I would invite members to send me their ideas for what to have in your cleaning kit.

Personally, I carry the following items in a pouch or in the bottom of my cartridge box for cleaning in the field or in camp at events: cleaning jags that attach to my ramrod, worm, extra flints, screw driver or musket tool, cleaning patches, oiled patches, & round toothpicks. In addition, in camp or sometimes in my haversack, I have oil, gunpowder solvent, collapsible cleaning rod, needle-nose pliers, spring vice, spare frizzen cover, spare flints, polishing material, scotch brite pad, & spare flash guard.

Start looking for more Lacroix information on our Friends of the River Raisin Battlefield website at www.riverraisinbattlefield.com.



Down the Crooked Road of Anarchy 2009 Lantern Tours

The 2009 Monroe County Historical Museum Lantern Tours will be held on October 16, 17 & 23, 24 at the Navarre-Anderson Trading Post. This year's theme is "***Down the Crooked Road of Anarchy.***" Step back in time 200 years to an autumn eve in 1809 Frenchtown, where you are invited to a Harvest Soiree in honor of Michigan Territorial Governor William Hull. Discontent permeates the air and spies lurk everywhere. Tensions are mounting and you could easily be drawn into the conspiracy.

We are very grateful to all of you who volunteered to participate in this year's program in whatever capacity and if you haven't signed up yet, and would like to participate, it's not too late! Call the museum at 734-240-7780 and ask for Shawna or Dave. The success of Lantern Tours depends upon your generosity. Tickets for the public go on sale October 1st and can be purchased by calling the Monroe County Historical Museum at (734) 240-7780.

FRENCHTOWN DIARIES: WAR OF 1812 IN MICHIGAN

7:30 A.M., Thursday, July 2, 1812, Col. John Anderson's house at the River Raisin;

It started out as a fair, but very windy day, later turning to clouds with a little rain. Hearing the hoof beats of a galloping horse, Colonel John Anderson looked out his window to see the figure of Captain Fowler approaching at full speed. He carried an urgent dispatch from General Hull, warning Col. Anderson that war had been declared. Anderson told him that his adjutant was already busy calling out the militia, but this message would hasten their efforts to assemble the men.

Still visibly agitated, Fowler then asked for help in determining the whereabouts of the Cuyahoga, which would now be considered fair game for the British to capture. Along with a considerable amount of supplies, correspondence, musicians, and sick, there were a number of women, including his "lady." He feared she would do herself in, rather than be taken by the British. Could a boat be sent out to intercept the Cuyahoga?

Anderson responded that the vessel could already have reached Detroit by now. With the fair winds which blew yesterday and last night, a sailing ship could have made the trip in about 12 hours. Hopefully, the British would not have heard about the declaration of war; but they might try to detain the vessel on some sort of pretext, anyway.

Back at Frenchtown, the sound of a column of men was heard approaching. Captain LaCroix had collected about 150 men and several teams of oxen and was heading towards the road to continue their work. Anderson ran off to get his ax. He would work alongside the militiamen and encourage them as much as possible.

Hull's army was making its way through a relatively open countryside, interspersed with thin groves of oak and scattered French settlements. At the first settlement they were met by 25 Ottawas, who appeared very friendly and asked permission to march along with the troops.

Ohio Volunteer James Foster was surprised to see some elderly women with them. He described one as so short, fat, and wrinkled that he guessed she must have seen at least a hundred winters. He also noticed she wore a necklace strung with innumerable rows of beads and a silver cross suspended between her wrinkled breasts.

When the lead elements of Hull's army arrived at the River Raisin, after having marched through so many miles of wilderness, they found a comparatively "handsome" village, contrary to what Lucas had reported.

It was wisely decided to camp the main force about 3 miles south of the River Raisin, between it and Otter Creek. As usual, they camped in a square formation, with the tents facing outward, baggage in the center. Trees and brush were cut to make a breastwork around the camp.

The army would remain at the River Raisin the rest of the day of July 2, where General Hull organized a grand review of the army to impress the local citizenry. At sunset, as was customary, Hull had a cannon fired. It was heard plainly by the British at Fort Malden that night, and every night thereafter, until the army reached Detroit.

Upcoming Events

Winter/Spring 2010

2009

- October 16-17: Navarre-Anderson Trading Post Lantern Tours
- October 23-24: Navarre-Anderson Trading Post Lantern Tours
- October 23-24: Garrison Ghost Walk, Fort Meigs, Ohio
- October 24-25: 5-Medals' Village, Goshen/Elkhart, Indiana
- October 30-31: Garrison Ghost Walk, Fort Meigs, Ohio

2010

- January 22: Dancing thru Time, Monroe County Community College
- January 23: Battle of the River Raisin Annual Commemoration, River Raisin Battlefield Visitor Center
- March 16: Algonquin Dinner, Monroe Boat Club
- March 18: 1812 Symposium, Monroe County Community College
- May 7: Michigan Week Ag Day, Monroe County Fair Grounds
- May 15-16: River Raisin Battlefield Visitor Center Open House
- June 5-6: 1812 Militia Muster, Navarre-Anderson Trading Post
- June 11-12: Fife & Drum Muster, Downtown Monroe

ARE YOU A MEMBER?

Dues for a one year membership with the Friends of the River Raisin Battlefield are \$10.00 USD per individual or \$15.00 USD per family. An application is available on-line at www.riverraisinbattlefield.org. Mail dues with contact information (address, e-mail) to: **FRRB c/o Monroe County Historical Museum, 126 S. Monroe St., Monroe, MI 48161**

2009-2011

FRRB OFFICERS

President: Ken Howard
Vice-President: Floreine Mentel
Secretary: Cathy Taylor
Treasurer: Chris Kull

SUBMISSIONS

This e-newsletter will be sent quarterly: January-March, April-June, July-September, & October-December. Submissions are invited and should be sent to Ralph at ralphnaveaux@att.net a month in advance of each issue. Space is limited to 4 pages. In some cases, updates & extra communications may be e-mailed on their own, separate from the newsletter.

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THANK YOU

FROM MUSEUM ARCHIVIST CHRIS KULL

Thank you & LaCroix for firing volleys at the listening post unveiling, made possible by an Access to Recreation Grant administered by the Community Foundation. I certainly appreciate the fact that you & your "corps" came out & helped us with a bang...or 3. Please extend my thanks to those who were with you.

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