



THE OLD FORT PALISADE

SUMMER 2016

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings!

It's hard to believe that after two years of work our Indiana Bicentennial event is over. I certainly hope that you were all able to attend as it was spectacular! The cannon salutes and rolling thunder demonstrations were incredible and the infantry drills were something to behold. For the first time since the new workshops were completed all the rooms were filled with craftspeople and we've never had as many vendors as were present. Music and laughter filled the air as entertainers performed their magic for the crowds.

"Major Whistler created very detailed diagrams and plans of the fort he built. Once the fort was completed here in 1816, he sent those plans off to the War Department in Washington where they would be forgotten and left to lie in those archives."

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I want to send out a thank you to all the living historians who traveled to the Fort and braved the heat on Saturday to show what they do best. A special thank you goes out to all the Fort volunteers that helped make this a special memory for a lot of people.

Speaking of volunteers - We Need You!

When I read those words I think of a stern looking Uncle Sam poster pointing a finger at me, making me feel guilty for not doing my part. But when it comes to the Old Fort, what's my part supposed to be? We ask for volunteers all the

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President's message, continued

time and we get excited people signing up at our events only to never see them again. Our lives today are busy and complex so the idea of starting a new hobby or volunteering somewhere new must be considered carefully. How much time/money do I really have? What are they going to expect of me? I do/don't want to be a Living Historian dressed in period clothing. The answer is simple: you can be involved as much or however you want to be.

Too often we overwhelm people by trying to get them to do too much too quickly or they have expectations that are too grand for a beginner. The people you see at our events that are Living Historians have spent years perfecting their craft and are more than happy to share and teach the next generation the skills they have obtained. However, it doesn't happen overnight. Our goal is to help and nurture new Living Historians through teaching skills and loaning clothing so they can "try before they buy".

What if you love the Old Fort but don't have any desire to "dress up"? That's fine! We'll sit down with you and find out what your life skills and passions are. Often people approach us at our events when we're busy and tired and they fall through the cracks. We may need the exact skill set you have and don't even realize it. Just recently we found a volunteer who is answering the Fort phone for us. She is directing callers' inquiries that she can't answer to a person who can, via email. This is freeing up a lot of time and stress on Bob! It's a perfect example of finding and fulfilling a need!

Ruth Swearingen has come on board to help with coordinating our volunteers and we believe this will help you to find your niche at the Fort. Please be patient. If you haven't heard from us in a while or this sparks a renewed interest, contact us. We really do need you, but more than that we want you to join us.

Norm Gable
President Historic Fort Wayne

A Picture Perfect Donation



*Anthony
Wayne*



*Evelyn Brame with Board
President, Norm Gable*

Earlier this year Bob Jones answered the Fort's phone and was astonished to find out the caller was a direct decedent of Anthony Wayne. After a lot of work on Bob's part arrangements were made for Evelyn Brame to visit Fort Wayne.

During her visit she presented a painting of Anthony Wayne by Felix de Weldon to Historic Fort Wayne. This painting is an exact copy of the original painted by Charles Wilson Peale in 1783. The frame, which was damaged during shipping, is believed to be the frame that was on the original portrait and we are looking into restoration.



In the Garden: What's Growing?

Rick Ritter Jr.

First I want to say that it is a pleasure for me to be the gardener at the Fort. I am making an effort to grow true to the time period of the Fort's existence as much as I can and I am open to receiving and propagating seeds from that era. I am fortunate to be growing all that has been planted in my own greenhouse (pictures if you wish). I am also endeavoring to bring fruit from that period to plantings at the Fort. As time goes on, look for plantings along the riverbanks adjacent to the Fort much like what existed in the early days of the Fort.

Some of the plantings this season are: beets, carrots, lettuce, kale, leeks, horseradish, salsify, peas, chives, cushaw squash, red cabbage, cauliflower, kohlrabi, Bloody Butcher corn, rutabaga, spinach, radish, green bean, Schoon Hardshell melon, Musque de Provence squash, Grandmother squash (Potawatomi), Rabbit bean (Potawatomi), Bidwell Casaba melon, Broom corn (brown and colored), Buttercup squash, Sweet pie pumpkin, Rouge Vif D'Etampes squash. These are just small samples of what might have been grown at the Fort.

Additionally I am propagating on other plots native corns and beans and squash for introduction at a later time. The seeds that I have obtained thus far have been from a variety of sources including J. Sherck in Bristol who propagates Old World grains and beans. Seeds he and I have gathered have in some cases come from different tribal sources from around the country.

I am a Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, beekeeper, orchard grower, fruit grower on a total (this year) of approximately 17 acres (just to be clear I couldn't do all that by myself, I have solicited the help of volunteer growers to help me plant and harvest). I grow food to give away to less fortunate persons as well as grow plants for organizations that are growing food for less fortunate. I am a retired trauma therapist, author, grandpa, cofounder at the Center for Nonviolence, cofounder of the Three Rivers Fruit Growers Club as well as a disabled vet for the last 46 years.



Volunteer Profile: Towpath Players

Meet Beverly Williams and Jeanne Bornefeld. Or, as you may know them, the Towpath Players. Bev and Jeanne are regulars at the Old Fort, providing music for events and many, many of our visiting school groups.

Bev (who plays the hammered dulcimer) was born and raised here in Fort Wayne. She is a graduate of Concordia High School and Indiana University. She worked at GE on Broadway for almost 10 years, and after raising her children she became a private organ and piano teacher. She lives along the old Wabash-Erie Canal and often walks the towpath along the farm fields, which is where the suggestion of the group's name came from! The towpath was an important transportation line that ran through Fort Wayne where boats loaded with people, animals, goods - anything that needed to be taken from one place to another - were pulled through the canals. Bev loves talking with the visitors to the Fort, especially the children. In addition to the hammered dulcimer, she also plays folk harp, auto harp, guitar and mountain dulcimer!



Jeanne grew up in Evansville on the Ohio River where she attended Catholic schools taught by Benedictine Nuns and Priests. After marriage, she relocated to the Washington, D.C. area of Lanham, Maryland. When Jeanne was quite young, her mother often talked about her relatives out in Posey County - just west of Evansville. She says, "As a child, I had trouble keeping all these people organized in my mind. Thus, I began my life's quest to know them better. I made notes. Then I developed a system of organization that I still use today. This system has served me well and I have used it in the volumes I have written about my family, under the title "Once a Hoosier". You can find them in the Allen County Library.

When Jeanne moved to Fort Wayne, she joined the group The Hearthstone Trio along with Beverly. The two of them wished to play more Irish music and formed the Towpath Players. Together they play music that is historically significant in and to Indiana. Next time you hear some music wafting through the Fort - stop by. It'll probably be Bev and Jeanne, waiting to say "hi".

2016 SCHEDULE

Public hours as listed below. If you're interested in participating as a reenactor or vendor, please contact events@oldfortwayne.org for registration forms.

August 27-28: Post Miamies: 1754-1763

Sat. 10am - 6pm, Sun. 10am - 4pm

September 11: Be A Tourist in Your Own Hometown

Sun. noon - 5pm

October 15: Fright Night Lantern Tours

Sat. 6pm - 10pm,
\$3.00, under 12 free

November 26: Christmas Open House

Sat. 11am - 5pm

Preserving the Fort for Future Generations to Enjoy!

Tom Grant, HFW Inc. Treasurer

With the help of its friends and supporters, Historic Fort Wayne, Inc. has established a Permanent Endowment Fund. This Fund will never be depleted, only the earnings on these funds will be utilized and then only for the maintenance of the facility and educational programming. When not required, the earnings on these funds will be added back to the principle of the Endowment upon their release by the Board of Directors. Historic Fort Wayne, Inc.'s plan is to always accept contributions to this Endowment, conservatively invest the principle, and ultimately have this Fund guarantee the Fort's existence in perpetuity.

In 2015, we began working with the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne, which has a unique program enabling small endowments to take advantage of professional money managers at an almost incidental cost. In addition, as part of their commitment to foster the growth of Not-For-Profit endowments, the Community Foundation adds a 20% Match to the funds deposited during the year. The Old Fort's endowment had grown to \$20,000.00. The Community Foundation then added \$4,000.00 (20%) and our endowment grew to \$24,000.00. Currently we have raised another \$2,500 in 2016 and hope to grow that amount to \$5,000.00 by the end of this year. The Community Foundation will match any additional deposit made into our Agency Endowment during 2016 by 20%. That gives the Old Fort the opportunity to have a \$30,000.00 endowment by the end of this year.

We are grateful to everyone whose support is helping guarantee the future of the Fort in Fort Wayne! The Endowment has received contributions from the following:

Amazon Smile (2016)	Kalamazoo Living History (2011)
Anonymous Friends of the Fort (2012, 2013)	Ryan and Melanie Laurent (2011-16)
Benevity (2015-16)	LCPA Group LTS (2014)
Bethlehem Summer ClubHouse (2014)	Lincoln National Foundation (2011-12)
Mr. William Bowser, Jr. (2012)	Margaret Miller Memorial (2012)
Carroll High School (2015)	Mississinewa Battle Field Society (2011)
Clement Library, University of Michigan (2011)	Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Nichols (2012)
Community Foundation of Fort Wayne (2012, 2015)	Sylvia Noll (2011)
Coventry Tae Kwon Do (2013)	North Central Co-op (2011)
William & Nancy Critell (2014)	Rex Patterson Memorial (2011)
Daughters of the American Revolution (2015)	PayPal (2016)
Mr. Glen Dohner (2011)	River City Rat Race (2013-15)
Eagles #3264 (2011)	William and Ruth Scheil Memorial (2013)
Randy & Angela Elliot (2015)	Steel Dynamics (2014)
G. William Fishing (2013)	Robert Tyson (2012)
Fort4Fitness (2011, 2013-15)	Veteran's Marathon (2013-14)
Good Shop (2014-15)	Wal-Mart Foundation (2012)
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Erlandson (2012)	Wayne Lodge #25 (2012)
Federation of Genealogical Societies (2013)	Carol Winans (2012-13)
Grant Family (2011)	Curt and Rebecca Witcher (2013)
John and Jane Higgins (2011)	Wojcinski Family (2013)
Interactive Heritage History Association (2012-13)	Woodlan Chapter FFA (2011)
Johnson & Johnson (2011-16)	

Thank You!

SPRING AT THE OLD FORT

Education Day



13th Pennsylvania
Drill Weekend



Early Modern
Muster of Arms



Muster
on the St.
Mary's:
Timeline
event



Fort Wayne
Radio Club



1816: State
Bicentennial



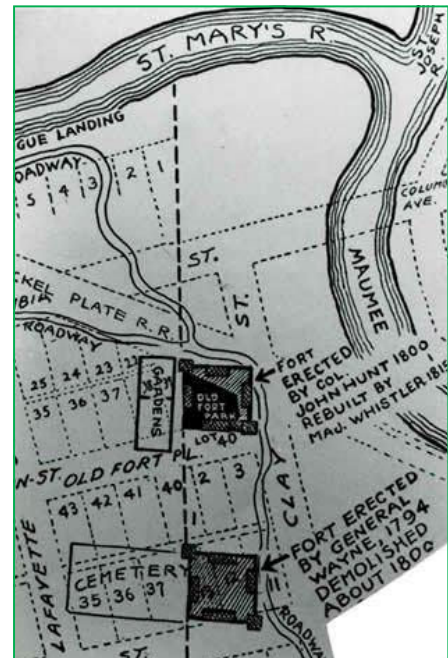
Little Known Fort Tales

By Keith Layman

History is more than just facts and dates. Too often, we forget the human side. There are a number of stories associated with the history of Fort Wayne that give us glimpses into the personalities and daily lives of the names and events that we study.

Our first historical anecdote could be the plot for a modern day soap opera/drama. Love can be a powerful thing and in this situation it was used to capture a fort! In 1763 what became known as Pontiac's Rebellion was starting to unfold. Ensign Holmes, the commandant at the then British fort, had a Miami mistress he cared for greatly. On May 27th, a young Native American girl who lived with the commandant came to him to say that his Miami love lay very sick just outside of the fort. Without a second thought he left the fort and approached a group of wiccums that were located in the present Lakeside neighborhood, just out of the fort's view. As the ensign approached the place where his supposedly sick love lay in, two shots rang out. The ensign was cut down where he stood. His lifeless body was seized and scalped right where he fell. The sergeant who was second in command at the fort heard the shots ring out and walked out of the fort to see what was going on. He was quickly seized by Native Americans who let out loud cries as they rushed forward to grab him. With the sergeant captured and the ensign's freshly taken scalp on display, the garrison of only 8 was given an ultimatum. If they surrendered, they would be spared. Fearing that the ensign's fate would be theirs as well if they held out, the garrison surrendered to the group of Native Americans.

Our next tale occurred during the building of the first American fort. This was the fort named after its builder, General "Mad" Anthony Wayne, and is the one which gives our city its name. On the first day of building, a detail of soldiers went out to the edge of the clearing to cut down trees to build the fort. As this detail began to fell a large oak tree they had selected, they heard unusual noises. They discovered a Miami, hiding in the top of the tree. Once they dropped the tree - with the Miami still in it - they found that he was well stocked with dried corn and meat in his pouch. It was believed he had been sent to spy on the Americans. and he was arrested and held for weeks until he somehow escaped.



As you can see from the map, our current fort is located close to the original sites of the 1794 and 1816 forts, but not in the exact spot. Many of our re-enactors and docents are often asked, "what once stood on the spot where the replica fort stands today?" There are a few different answers to that question. In some of my research as historian, I have found some who theorize that the exact spot may have been used as torture grounds for the

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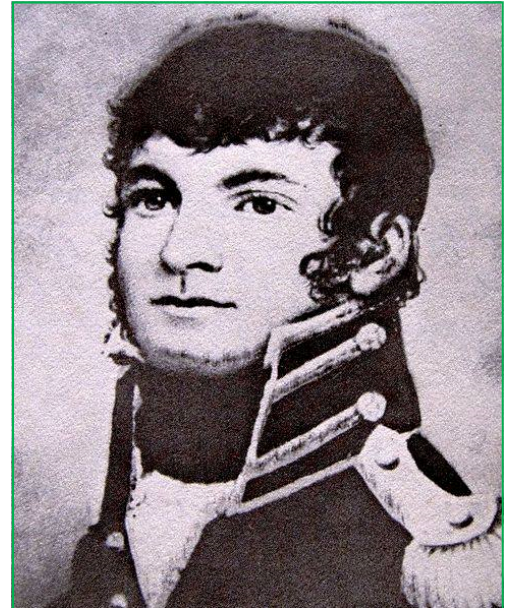
captives from battle brought back to Kekionga. Typically, the captives would have to run a literal gauntlet. Members of the entire tribe lined up in two lines and the captives were forced to run in-between those lines while tribe members hit them with branches, pans, whatever they could find. Then, if the captives lived through that, they would be burned at the stake at a large celebration commemorating the tribe's victory over their enemy.

We do know William Wells' reserve was located in this area and before that, over in today's Lakeside area (the neighborhood around today's replica), there were burial grounds for the Native American people of Kekionga. These two are both involved in a historical fact involving people of our city's past.

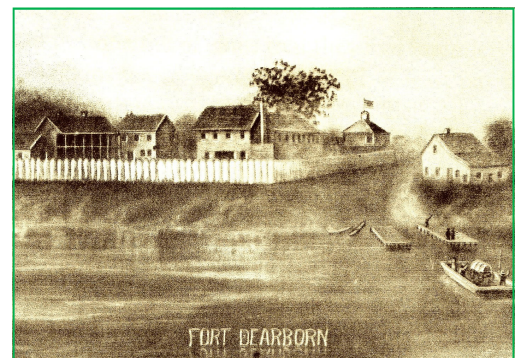
On July 14, 1812 the great Miami Chief Little Turtle passed away. His son-in-law and one time adopted Miami brother William Wells buried Little Turtle on his reserve. A few weeks after that, Wells would meet his end trying to evacuate Fort Dearborn and joined Little Turtle in the afterlife. Not long after word of Wells' death reached fort Wayne, the fort was under siege. During that time, all the buildings in the vicinity of the fort, including all the buildings on Wells' reserve were burned down.

After the war, many would forget about what had been in the area of today's fort and that the great chief was buried there. The land would be sold, houses would begin to be built, and the City would begin to change forever from frontier outpost to the city it has become today. During that early building period, on July 4, 1912 almost 100 years to the day of his burial, Little Turtle's grave would be discovered while men began to dig a basement for a house on what is today Lawton Place (5 blocks north of the present site). The workers would take most of the items they found (like the ceremonial sword the Chief received from President George Washington), but thankfully over time about 80% of the items have come into the possession of and are on display at the History Center.

Speaking of lost history, our next story involves Major John Whistler, the commandant who built the third American fort. His detailed plans are the basis for the current replica, Fort Wayne's sixth fort. As I previously stated, Major Whistler created very detailed diagrams and plans of the fort he built. Once the fort was completed here in 1816, he sent those plans off to the War Department in Washington where they would overtime be forgotten and left to lie in those archives. Ironically, like Little Turtle's grave, the plans would be unearthed almost one



William Wells



Painting of Fort Dearborn as seen from the north in 1816, Chicago Historical Society.

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A sketch of Fort Wayne in 1816 by Major Francis Smith Belton (1791 - 1861) who was a U.S. Army officer who served in a number of campaigns, starting with the War of 1812.

hundred years after the fort's completion. BJ Griswold, the well known local historian whose great work "The Pictorial History of Fort Wayne" would be published that same year, discovered the plans 1916. It was his research for this book that would uncover a Fort Wayne treasure that would be utilized in 1974-75 by the previous Historic Fort Wayne Inc. to build our current replica.

The major himself is one of the people in our next true story of peculiar situations of our past. Around July, 1816, The War Department issued an order that was designed to curtail and eliminate the giving away of Native American annuity payments and gifts to non-Native Americans by the appointed Indian agent. In normal government fashion, the order was vague enough to allow some interpretation at each fort and/or Indian agency. Major Whistler, the commandant at that time, felt that the orders made

the Indian agent accountable to the commandant for who received the gifts and how much of the gifts they received. Benjamin Stickney, the Indian agent at that time, did not see it that way. He felt disrespected and angry that Whistler demanded Stickney be accountable to him directly. This disagreement started off as a letter from Stickney to Whistler where Stickney let the Major know he was incorrect in his interpretation of the order. Whistler responded that it was Stickney who was incorrect. This continued for a few days with letters going back and forth to the point that Stickney wrote the governor of the brand new State of Indiana. The humorous point of the story is that both men lived in the Fort at that time so they were having the letters delivered to each other across the parade ground instead of speaking to each other!

These are just some of the historical oddities in the Fort's past. We are always happy to field questions, so please ask any volunteer or re-enactor at our events or feel free to email me at forthistorian@gmail.com. Who knows, maybe your question will lead you to learn of a historical story like one of these or it may be the motivating factor that helps us discover lost or forgotten Fort Wayne history!

Keith C. Layman is a lifetime resident of Fort Wayne and is a graduate of Indiana University at Fort Wayne with a BA in history. Currently Mr. Layman is the historian for Historic Fort Wayne, Inc. and has served on the Board of Directors for ARCH, the local historical preservation society. He is the president of Apple Tree Financial Group, an investment advisory and tax preparation firm. He is married, with three beautiful daughters.



You can find us on Facebook and Twitter for up-to-date event news and happenings!

[@OldFortWayne](http://www.facebook.com/HistoricFortWayne)



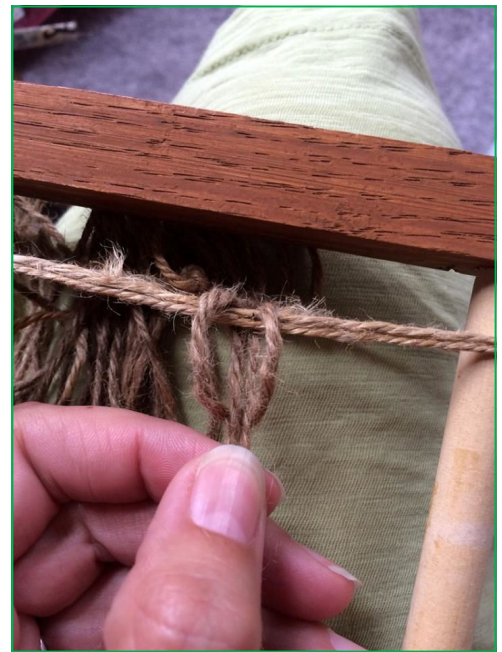
Bag Weaving

By Adele Stuerzenberger

Twined bags were commonly remarked upon in descriptions of Natives in North America in the 17th and 18th centuries. The bags were made of the fibers of stinging nettles, basswood, dogbane, milkweed and, if used for storing cornmeal, cedar bark. The method of construction consists of a loop of fiber tied around two vertical poles, with the weft then tied in pairs onto it. The bags were then constructed downwards from the top loop using a twining method. I've personally made three bags this way and all of them are time consuming but not actually difficult.

I was taught the basics of construction by Ms. Pat Scott in under an hour. My oldest bag has gone to every event with me for over 5 years and shows very little sign of wear or tear. If you'd like to try your hand at making a twined bag, the construction is fairly easy.

- 1) Find a usable frame. This one is just two dowel rods inserted into chunks of wood that were around. The first "frame" I ever used was actually an embroidery frame that I found at JoAnne's. If you want to be historically accurate, get two sticks and stab them into the ground.
- 2) Get some fibers. Many reenactors make their bags from jute and/or hemp. It's not accurate but they are readily available. If you want to be accurate, nettles and dogbane are the way to go.
- 3) Tie a loop between the two poles. This is your starting point.
- 4) Figure out how long you want your bag to be. Cut your weft twice that length, plus an extra 4 inches or so for finishing. Cut enough to go all the way around the top loop when the wefts are tied to it with hitch knots at the halfway point resulting in two wefts of equal length.



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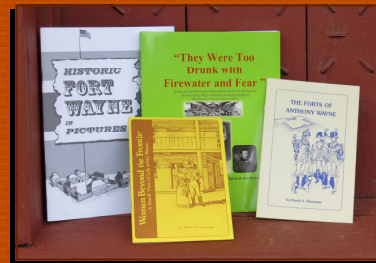
- 5) Start twining! Cut a long length of fiber and, just under the top loop, start twining the pairs of weft. This is done by flipping the top and bottom warp in between every pair. Keep going until you run out of wefts (this will take awhile). When you run out of twining fiber, just splice more in and keep going.
- 6) To finish the bag, pull it off the poles and sew the "top" together using more fiber and a blunt tipped needle. Flip it inside out. You should now have all the ends of the weft sticking up. Fold these over to the side and encase them using a buttonhole stitch. You may have to go around the edge more than once.
- 7) Add a strap and you're done!



Adele Stuerzenberger has a Bachelor's degree in biology and an Associate's degree in chemistry. She has been a reenactor for 10 years and her interests are primitive skills, herbal medicine, wild foods, and sewing - when she isn't chasing her toddler.



**SUPPORT THE
OLD FORT
BY SHOPPING
IN OUR
MERCANTILE**



Coming in 2017...

We're currently finalizing our 2017 schedule. Watch our Facebook page for updates. There will be one significant change to the schedule. Our **Education Day/Muster on the St. Mary's** event is being moved one week earlier and will be held May 5-7. Our usual weekend falls after the schools' cut off for fieldtrips. So, please mark you're calendars now. We hope to see you!



Who's Who

Board Members: Norm Gable, President

Bob Jones, Vice President

Tom Grant, Treasurer

Emily Kersey, Secretary

Members: Josh Grubaugh, Andi Hahn, Sean O'Brien, Gerret Swearingen

Events Planning & School Demos: Bob Jones

Facilities Committee: Sean O'Brien

Finance Committee: Tom Grant

PR/Marketing: Kathleen O'Connell

Fort Historian: Keith Layman

Volunteer Coordinator: Ruth Swearingen

Send your comments/questions to
info@oldfortwayne.org.

Your message will be sent to the
appropriate contact person.

Sign up to receive our quarterly
e-newsletter

THE OLD FORT PALISADE

Send your request to:
info@oldfortwayne.org

We are looking for articles
for future issues.

If you have a historically pertinent
subject you'd like to write about,
let us know at
info@oldfortwayne.org

Deadline for submissions to the Fall
Palisade will be
Nov. 1, 2016.

Historic Fort Wayne, Inc.



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Kathleen O'Connell, editor
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