

# A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Two hundred years ago the area from Indianapolis north was simply called Indian Territory on maps. When Indiana became a state on Dec 11, 1816 there were only a few counties in the southern part of the area along the Ohio River. What was there in northern Indiana? Fort Wayne! The new 1815 Fort was built to house a garrison of soldiers to be the U.S. Government's representative in this part of the world. Natives came to the Indian Factory (trading post) located here to receive the goods promised to them by treaty. Local settlers, many of French ancestry, looked to the post for protection and legal jurisprudence. On June 11th-12th this summer we will celebrate the Bicentennial of the State of Indiana with a

to a very unpleasant sight. There were forty British ships anchored in the waters surrounding the fort."

The Last Battle of the War of 1812 By Neil O'Brien

special event. We have already engaged musicians and entertainers to add to the reenactments ambiance, so if you haven't put this event on your calendar yet, do!

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

2015 Financial Report	2
The Last Battle of 1812	3
A Needle in a Haystack	5
Fall in Pictures at the Fort	6
New at the Fort	7
Education Day	8
2016 Event Schedule	8
Big Ash Maul	9
Volunteer Profile	11
Who's Who	12

New things keep happening at the Fort. Groups want to occupy the Fort for Garrison weekends. Watch our Facebook page for updates and keep checking our web site.

I know I keep harping on this but we really do need more volunteers. Your skill set may be just what we need. You don't have to be in reenactor garb to be a valuable asset to the Fort.

Finally, we know that our web page is a mess. Please bear with us; it's taking longer than any of us thought it would. Stay up to date by liking and following our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/HistoricFortWayne

Norm Gable

President, Historic Fort Wayne, Inc.

## Treasurer's 2015 Year End Report

The year 2015 started with a challenge; the Board of the Hefner Foundation agreed to MATCH any grants that we received during the year - up to \$30,000. Fortunately we already had requests in process to fund the "Access the Fort" campaign and those requests resulted in a total of \$12,500 from the McCrea Wilson and the Auer Foundations. With the MATCH, those funds paid for the installation of the balcony posts and supports and the ground level porches. Three Rivers Federal Credit Union Foundation followed up with a grant of \$2500 that, including the MATCH, will fund plaques that are planned to describe the buildings and grounds so that visitors



will have information when the Fort is not occupied. Additionally we received operating grants from the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne and from Johnson & Johnson totaling over \$4,600. Seeing that shingles on the Modern Building were disappearing at an accelerated rate, we began requesting funds to reroof that building. We received a \$1,500 grant from the Waterfield Foundation towards that goal. With the end of the year closing in it began to look like we would fall short of reaching the \$30,000 needed to max out the matching challenge. But early in December, Norm Gable was able to get the North Central Co-op to fund \$5,500 towards the roofing project which then was matched by the Land O'Lakes foundation for a total of \$11,000 which pushed us over the \$30,000 and fully funded the roof repair. Based upon our success the Hefner Foundation has extended an additional \$30,000 match for 2016.

We also received an extra \$10,000 from the Hefner Foundation to assist with the Bicentennial celebration in June of 2016. It is assumed that those funds will be used for programming, advertising and any special maintenance needed to really put on a great show.

The Fort's Endowment fund reached \$20,000 this past year. Due to changes in available investments, we decided to place the \$20,000 with the Community Foundation to manage. Part of their "mission" is to provide that service to small not-for-profits like Historic Fort Wayne, and as an incentive the Community Foundation matches Endowment Funds turned over for management by 20%. Immediately our \$20,000 became \$24,000. Remember, by definition an Endowment Fund is never exhausted. Only the earnings are available to spend, and in our case those funds are restricted to programming and maintenance.

Our operations, primarily event receipts, store and bake sales, speaker fees, color guard/cannon crew etc. generated almost \$18,000, while costs of events were \$8,200. In short we paid for our programming and contributed to the overall costs of operations.

It's going to be another interesting year, so look for grant and donation opportunities so we can max out the \$30,000 MATCH available in 2016.

Tom Grant, Treasurer



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

www.facebook.com/HistoricFortWayne @OldFortWayne



Saving the Fort

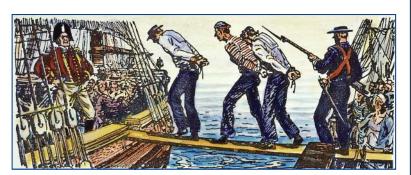
One Cookie

#### THE LAST BATTLE OF THE WAR OF 1812

By Neil O'Brien

The war of 1812 was accurately called the second war of independence. Even though we won our freedom from the British with the help of the French, the British in their arrogance simply didn't believe that the fledgling United States would be able to govern themselves. They considered us undisciplined rustic rabble, and treated us accordingly. Samuel Johnson said, "America is a nation of convicts and should be happy for anything we British give them, short of hanging."

In general, the British treated us with high handed contempt. They continued to send arms to the Indians in the Indiana Territory. They encouraged a separatist movement in New England. The unintended effect of their economic sanctions against Napoleon caused great economic hardships particularly in the Northern United States and they continued an official policy of kidnapping American sailors and impressing them into the British Navy. The impression of



US Sailors being impressed by British Soldiers

American sailors came to a head with the "Chesapeake Leopard affair." The HMS Leopard stalked, stopped, fired on, and boarded the Chesapeake. They took off four British deserters, all of whom had been impressed off American ships to begin with. This was a blatant act of war.

President Thomas Jefferson responded to this attack with an embargo on British goods, but he also tried to resolve our differences with the British through diplomatic means. Our diplomatic efforts were met with derision and contempt by a government headed by the most autocratic British king of that century, George III. Our relationship with the British continued to deteriorate, and in June of 1812, President Madison, reluctantly went to Congress with a declaration of war. It passed, but by the narrowest margin in US history.

The first year of the war was a stalemate. One author said, "If it had been a boxing match, the British would have been ahead on points." Then on September 10, 1813, Oliver Hazard Perry won a brilliant victory on Lake Erie and captured the entire British fleet, turning Lake Erie into an American lake. This was followed by William Henry Harrison's invasion of Ontario and the Battle of the Thames, in which the British were defeated and the great Indian leader Tecumseh killed.

The battle of the Thames happened in early October 1813. War in those days was a seasonal thing, and with the onset of winter and frozen lakes, most of the armies spent their energy just trying to keep warm and fed. The British however were not idle. They were carefully planning and gearing up for a series of major offences in the United States during the summer of 1814.

The British were planning a three pronged simultaneous attack against the United States and these plans were greatly aided by Napoleon's defeat, abdication and exile to Elba in April of 1814. This freed up thousands of seasoned British troops that had served under the Duke of Wellington. These seasoned troops were going to be sent to America to fight.

The initial group of British troops sailed to Halifax and were staged around Montreal, under the command of General Prevost. A squadron of British ships under Captain Downie was readied to sail south to Lake Champlain. Their goal was Plattsburg. Plattsburg was defended by an army lead by General Macomb and navy commanded by Post Commandant Thomas Macdonough. Early in September 1814 the British marched and sailed south and the battle was engaged. After a bloody sea battle in the Plattsburg Bay the British navy was routed and Captain Downie killed. When General Prevost heard of his navy's defeat, he ordered his army to retreat back to Montreal. The battle of Plattsburg is called by some historians, the most important victory in US history.

The second British group was commanded by Admiral Alexander Cochran. His squadron of forty ships were carrying a large British army commanded by General Robert Ross. They entered Chesapeake Bay early in the summer. This powerful armada spread terror in the Bay and under Vice Admiral Cochburn, burned Washington. Almost to the day of the Battle of Plattsburg, they attacked Baltimore. This is a well documented page in US history. The British army was stopped at North Point and the bombardment of Fort McHenry, viewed by Frances Scott Key was ineffectual. General Ross was killed and the British bloodied. Realizing that taking Baltimore was problematic and would come at too high a cost, the Admiral prudently withdrew. He meant to save his army for his prime objective, New Orleans.

We have to go south for the third British thrust. Four British ships led by The *HMS Hermes* captained by Captain Percy anchored off the shore of Fort Bowyer, located at the east shore of the entrance to Mobile Bay. Fort Bowyer was a timber and earthworks fort commanded by Major Lawrence and 160 men. The British attack started almost at the same time as the attacks on Plattsburg and Baltimore. Initially, there was little damage to either side, and then the Americans got lucky. A shot from an American cannon severed the stern anchor cable and the *Hermes* swung with the tide and ran aground. Raking cannon fire proved so deadly that Percy abandoned the *Hermes* and set it afire. The subsequent explosion was heard in Mobile, fifty miles away.

When the news of the British defeats reached England, their politicians had had enough. The English were almost bankrupted and Napoleon was back. They ordered their representatives at Ghent to sign a peace treaty with the

MOBILE BAY

FORT BOWYER

GULF OF MEXICO

Americans, which was signed December 24, 1814. It took a month for John Quincy Adams and company to get the treaty back to the United States and to Congress for ratification. However, the British military fought on.

The British were unable to attack New Orleans from land, because Fort Bowyer protected Mobile which was still in American hands. Admiral Cochran chose a more difficult route to New Orleans by marching up the banks of the Mississippi River. This is another well documented event in US history that proved a disaster for the British. This should have been the last battle of the War of 1812. It wasn't.

On February 8, 1815, now Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence in command of Fort Bowyer awoke to a very unpleasant sight. There were forty British ships anchored in the waters surrounding the fort. He must have thought that the whole bloody British navy was anchored off his little fort. He watched

anxiously as 1600 British troops, as many Indians and 10 cannons were brought ashore to the east of the fort. The British cannons were dragged within point blank range of the fort, and when the British were ready, they approached the fort under a flag of truce. Their proposal was simple: either surrender the fort or the British would reduce it to a pile of smoking ashes. With an overwhelming advantage in fire power this was not a bluff, but a tragic fact.

It seems evident that Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence was aware that a peace treaty had been signed and he was waiting to hear if Congress would ratify the treaty to end the war. The British were certainly aware of this. At noon on February 12, 1815, Lawrence surrendered to the British. Under the circumstances it is understandable why Lawrence made the choice to avoid unnecessary bloodshed. A later US Court of Inquiry vindicated the Colonel of any misdoing. So, the British flag was raised over Fort Bowyer. Two days later, word arrived that the peace treaty had been ratified and the war was over. The British lowered their flag, boarded their ships and sailed off.

So, the *British* actually won the last battle of the War of 1812.

O'Brien is a retired business owner and longtime student of the War of 1812. In 2013, he made presentations on the Battle of Lake Erie to a Perry group at Put-in-Bay and as part of George R. Mather Lecture Series at the Fort Wayne History Center. While wintering in Gulf Shores, Alabama, research showed him that the last battle of the War of 1812 happened at the nearby Fort Bowyer, now occupied by the Civil War Fort Morgan, located at the entrance to Mobile Bay. This led to Neil writing and lecturing on the last battle.

## NEEDLE IN THE HAYSTACK - A HAPPY ENDING

**Bob Jones** 

August 30, 2015 a reenactor at Fort Miamies (Historic Fort Wayne's Seven Year's War event) reported having lost a gun part during the battle, the side plate of the lock. A thorough search of the area with the help of volunteers yielded nothing. Since that day, heavy equipment and the crews of Fort Wayne's Parks Service have been over the site removing trees, grinding out stumps, and landscaping the area. Hundreds of walkers, joggers, runners, and cyclists, have made their way along the River Greenway past the spot where the part was lost, including at least one major 5K-10K event, The River City Rat Race in October. Still no side plate. End of story, right? . . . Not quite.

On December 17, 2015 a message arrived via Facebook from Tim McCartney, a Revolutionary War reenactor and member of the 13th Pennsylvania Regiment. A lady walking her dog along the River



Greenway near the Fort had found something unusual. As she was walking with her dog, opposite the pedestrian bridge connecting to Headwaters Park, the dog stopped, sniffed, and began digging and scratching at the turf, when out, "popped" the metal part in question. She knew Tim was a reenactor at the Old Fort because she was his academic advisor, so she called him. Tim sent a picture of the artifact which was forwarded to the Ranger who confirmed that this was his lost side plate.

How in the world after all this time had this part turned up? We are familiar with blood hounds tracking down missing persons, drug-sniffing dogs, even dogs working with the bomb squad. But now it seems that if you lose a small metal part, instead of a metal detector, call a lady with a dog. The lost side plate has been returned to its owner. That is the happy ending to my convoluted account of a "needle" in the haystack.

# FALL AT THE OLD FORT





Lowe's Heroes









First Lady's Visit











#### New at the Fort...

The Fort was recently approached by lan Baker, a friend and acquaintance of Dean Rapp, who had been tasked to "find a home" for the contents of a historical Tin Shop. It was previously owned by Donald B. Jarrett, aka Devereaux Jarrett, who had recently passed away. Donald's family hoped that lan could find a historical site that would welcome a fully contained Tin Shop, and that the sale could be used to benefit a Christian Youth Camp that the family supported. In my discussions with lan it became apparent that this was quite an



assembly of usable and unique tools and equipment. The family was willing to accept a reasonable donation to the Camp as a memorial to Donald B. Jarrett, and would consider the remaining value of the collection as a donation to the Old Fort. On January 3rd Norm, Sean, Josh, Kathryn and I journeyed to Maywood, Ill. and loaded up all but one piece of the shop. We then drove to Crystal Lake (about 45 minutes north) and picked up the last item, a metal shear weighing nearly 800 pounds. This was lag-screwed into the floor of my trailer for safety, and we proceeded home with the entire contents of the shop.

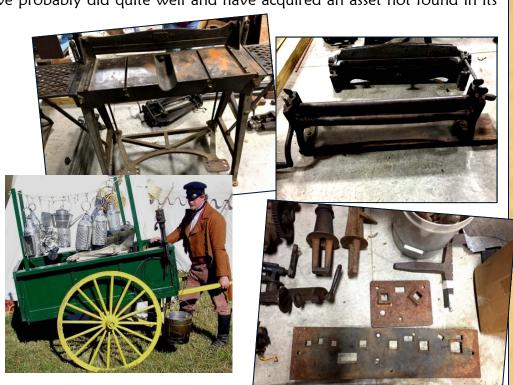
Norm, Josh and I had done some preliminary checking on this type of tooling and we had quite a discussion as we barreled through downtown Chicago and the surrounding suburbs on our way back. We are satisfied that we probably did quite well and have acquired an asset not found in its

entirety at most historic sites.

We hope to engage a tin smith or two to assist in designing a shop layout that would allow visiting tin smiths to demonstrate and produce items at events without having to drag their equipment to the Fort.

Our thanks go to the Jarrett family for this wonderful addition to the Fort in Donald's memory.

Tom Grant



# Historic Fort Wayne, Inc.

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www.facebook.com/ HistoricFortWayne

# The Old Fort Palisade

volume 9, issue 1

Published quarterly

The Old Fort Palisade is a publication of Historic Fort Wayne, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, which is solely responsible for the content herein. All information, articles and pictures are the exclusive property of the submitters and are only used with their express permission.

#### 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.

January 23-24: Civil War Garrison

Sat. 10am - 4pm

January 30: Nouvelle Annee:

A French Garrison 1755

Sat. 10am - 5pm

March 12-13: A Winter Garrison 1775 - 1781

Sat. 10am - 4pm, Sun. 10am - 2pm

March 19-20: Civil War Drill

Times TBD

April 9-10: British Garrison (Seven Years War)

Sat. 10am - 5pm

April 16: 13th Pennsylvania Drill: 1776 - 1782

Sat. 10am - 4pm

April 23: Early Modern Muster of Arms:

Soldiers of Pike and Shot 1580 - 1610

Sat. 10am - 5pm

May 14-15: Muster on the St. Mary's:

A Time Line Event

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

June 11-12: 1816: Frontier Fort to Statehood

A State Bicentennial celebration

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

July 9-10: Camp Allen Muster: 1861 - 1865

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

July 30-21: Colonial America on the Frontier

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

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,

\$2.00, under 12 free

November 26: Christmas Open House

Sat. 11am - 5pm

#### EDUCATION DAY

Parents and Teachers -

Our Education Day for grades 4 & 5 will be Friday, May 13th. The event is for students from area public schools, private schools, and home school programs. All attending groups must pre-register. We'll have a day full of wonderful interactive learning opportunities focusing on a wide variety of time periods including:

- Revolutionary War and the history of the Indiana Territory,
- War of 1812 and statehood,
- Civil War and Indiana's role in this pivotal war,
- Life skills of pioneers, trappers, and settlers of Indiana. What did it really take to survive?
- Folk arts and crafts, including fiber arts.



The day's events will go from 9am - 2pm. Registration deadline is March 15, and there is a limit to the number of students we can accommodate, so sign up early. If you would like more information or a registration packet, send a message to <a href="mailto:educationday@oldfortwayne.org">educationday@oldfortwayne.org</a>, or call the Fort Phone (260) 437-2836.

#### BIG ASH MALLET

By Kip Lytle

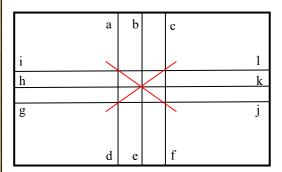
Since I have worked in the woodwright's shop at the Old Fort, I have been asked to make more than a few wooden mallets (see plate to the right, figure F9). Here are some of the things I've learned from making and using them:

Historically, both Joseph Moxon and Peter Nicholson, writing a century apart, state that a wooden mallet is an essential tool for a joiner or carpenter (see bibliography). The question I get the most is, "Why wood?" Economically, I can make wooden tools; all I need is the stock and time. Couple that with the scarcity of steel tools in this region in the period and the fact that metal tools change the shape of wood (hit a 2x4 with a hammer to see what I mean) and you have three compelling reasons.

The head of the mallet must be a hardwood. Harder is better. Stay away from pine, poplar, and aspen; they are too soft. Oak, maple, and walnut are OK but fruitwoods like apple, pear, cherry, and persimmon are better. Black locust, mesquite, and live oak make excellent heads but can be tough on your tools. I have been using ash because it's just as durable as oak and I have access to a goodly selection.

Nicholson, The Mechanic's Companion, plate #12

Let's start with the stock. For the handle, use a width that fits well in your hand. I like to use a true 1 inch (called 4 quarter) thick stock about 2 to 3 inches wide and 10-14 inches long. For the head, look for stock in a 3 inch by 4 inch cross-section about 6 to 8 inches long. You can go smaller or bigger in crosssection but remember that bigger equals stronger but heavier. Conversely, a smaller head is lighter and less durable. You can start with dimensioned lumber or split and plane it yourself. Don't make your head stock narrower than 1 inch plus the handle's width.



Once the stock has been selected, the first step is to lay out the cuts. Set your marking gauge so it finds the long center line (hk) of the mallet head. Mark the top and the bottom of the head. Once you have the center line, reset the gauge so that it is shorter by half the thickness of the handle. Again, mark both the top and the bottom of the head from both side faces (i-/ & g-j). The idea is for the gauge to mark a handle-wide space down the middle of the head on the top and bottom.



Next, on the top of the head, make two lines perpendicular to the marks near the center of the head (a-d & c-f). The distance between these lines is the width of the top of the handle. The top of the head should now have a rectangle that is the same size as the top of the handle. Connect the opposite corners of the rectangle to find the center of the marked rectangle (red lines). Use a square to transfer line b-e down one of the sides and onto the bottom.

The handle is tapered so that it slides in from the top of the head. How much it tapers is up to you. I like the handgrip part of my handles to be about 1½ to 1¾ inches wide on 4 quarter stock. Set a pair of dividers to half of that; in my

case, that would be somewhere between 34 and 7/8 of an inch. Place one tip of the dividers at the intersection of lines b-e and h-k on the bottom. Then, put two marks on line h-k. Save the setting on the

dividers; you'll need it for the handle. Set a square on the two new marks and draw lines a-d & c-f for the bottom. You should now have two rectangles drawn on your mallet head: one on the top and a smaller one on the bottom centered under it. Set a bevel on the side of the head to connect the end lines of the rectangles. This is the taper of your handle. Save the bevel setting; we'll need it later.

Now, we're ready to remove wood. Start by scoring the top and bottom rectangles with a chisel that is as wide as the handle; in this case, use a 1 inch chisel. Scoring means that you drive the chisel in about 1/8 of an inch. This way, should the auger (used in the next step) rip out a chip instead of cutting into the wood, the chip will stop at the scored lines.



Select a bit that is the same width as the handle; in this case, 1 inch (or #16). Place the center of the bit on the center of the rectangle on either the top or the bottom. Move the brace to an upright position and start drilling. Screw augers were developed in the 1790s and started wide-scale usage in the early 1800s. A spur bit can be used instead of a screw auger for earlier reenactments but they can be difficult to find.

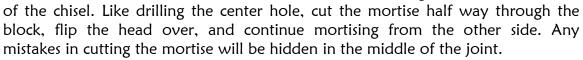


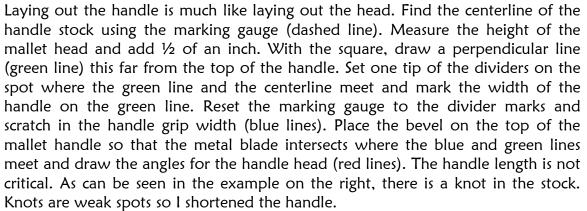
I have found it useful to keep a square handy when drilling. Once the screw of the auger has bitten into the wood and the spurs are just starting their cutting, check your angle with a square from 2 or 3 directions. Stop drilling about halfway through. Back out the bit, flip the head over, and repeat from the other side. The holes should meet in the middle. If they don't, it's OK because no one

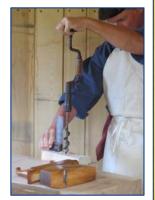
will see the inside of the joint.

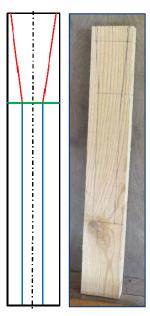


Once the hole is complete, chisel out the remaining wood by "walking" the chisel from the center back to the end lines. This is called 'cutting a mortise', and is a time consuming step in the process. Take little bites with the chisel or else it will get stuck. Be patient; you will be rewarded. Use the angled lines on the sides of the head as guides for the end cuts









The handle is then cut out using a saw. There are two ways to do this. The first is to use a crosscut saw and cut on the green line to where the blue and red lines meet and then switch to a rip cut saw and cut on the red and blue lines. I started with this method and found that the ripsaw wanted to follow the grain so I switched to the second method and used my turning saw. I cut a little outside my lines and then pared down to the lines with a chisel.

Put the handle in a shaving horse and round the long edges with a spokeshave for comfort. I also put a bit of a flair out on the end of the handle to make it easier to hold on to.

Finally, assemble the mallet by sliding the bottom of the handle into the top of the head. The handle and the head should wedge together. Turn the mallet upside down and firmly tap the handle top on the workbench to seat the head. Trim off the excess handle top, if desired. The head can be resized at this point. I like the striking faces

of my mallets to be angled slightly because there's a greater chance for the face to be parallel to the work bench when I use it to strike a chisel, but that's a personal preference. With that final cut, your big ash mallet is done!

Moxon, Joseph (1703). Mechanick Exercises: or the Doctrine of Handy-works. Dedham, MA: Toolmera Press.

Nicholson, Peter (1850). The Mechanic's Companion. Dedham, MA: Toolmera Press.

Kip Lytle volunteers as a woodworker at the Old Fort. He has a BA in History and works for the Indiana Air National Guard as a Network Administrator, aka "Computer Geek".









# Volunteer Profile: Emily Kersey

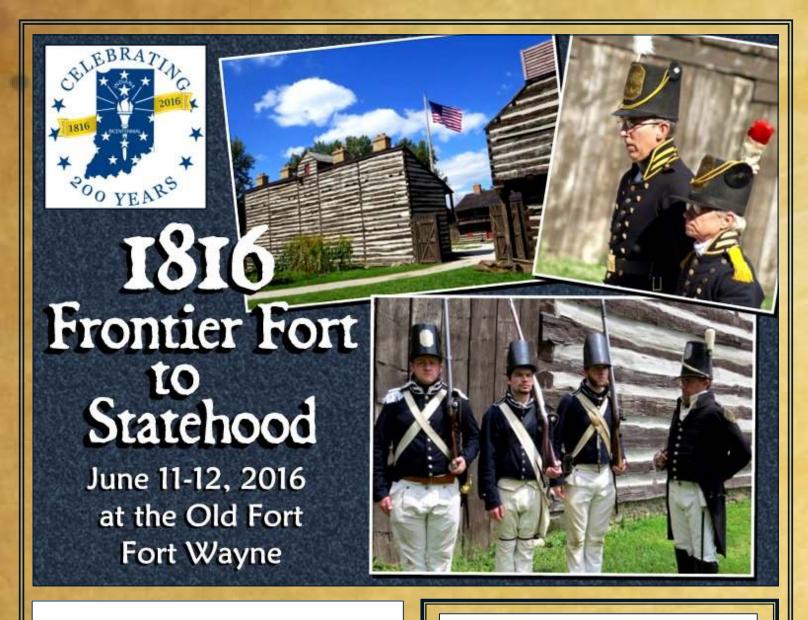
I have been re-enacting since 2007, focusing on the French and Indian War. I have a daughter, Chloe Kersey, who is 16 and also loves re-enacting that era, although, I think she'd like us to get fancy-schmancy 1812 dresses too. My nickname is "Jackson". Because I portray a British sailor, "Emily" was not going to cut it and "Kersey" sounded too Irish. Jackson was my maiden name and was what people called me when I played sports in high school and college, so I knew it would be a name to which I would readily respond.

My unit participates in the Post Miamies event each fall and asked if I would act as a liaison with the fort. In that role that I began to meet more Fort volunteers and take on responsibilities that assisted the facility, not just my unit. Attending a Tin Caps baseball game in the summer of 2015 was my first event as a "Fort Volunteer," and then I got to help with Lantern Tours at Fright Night. Most recently, I was asked to

come on as the Board Secretary and look forward to participating in that way.

My family moved to Fort Wayne from Churubusco when I was 4. My parents live one block away, which is very helpful when I need to borrow an egg. I have a sister who lives with her family in Michigan. In my non-reenacting time I volunteer at my church teaching Sunday school and writing curriculum. I also volunteer with Junior Achievement. I enjoy thrift shopping, antiquing and going to auctions, as well as science fiction movies and politics, rock collecting, art, and refurbishing old furniture. I just recently began working as an Administrative and Marketing Assistant at a construction and design company. I have never directly used my history degree in a work setting, so re-enacting allows me to fulfill that interest.

H



#### Who's Who

Board Members: Norm Gable, President

Bob Jones, Vice President Tom Grant, Treasurer

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O'Brien, Gerret Swearingen

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Facilities Committee: Sean O'Brien

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PR/Marketing: Kathleen O'Connell

Fort Historian: Keith Layman

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 publications@oldfortwayne.org

Deadline for submissions to the Spring Palisade will be April 1, 2016.