

# THE OLD FORT PALISADE

## FALL 2021

### A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings!

Welcome back! I just checked my files and it looks like our last issue was dated "Winter of 2017." Thanks to Kathleen stepping back into the editor position of the Palisade, we have a newsletter again.

Let's see, what has happened in the last four years? We've all gotten older; oh yes, you knew that. The Fort was run into by a car over the dike! Can you believe it? And then, again, the Fort was run into by a car over the dike!! The Parks Dept. brought in large stone blocks and set them along Spy Run Blvd. to protect the Fort from this happening yet again. Then guess what? The Fort was run into by a car over the dike a third time! This time the palisade wall was damaged and getting it repaired has been a slow process...remember the getting older part? Parks has now brought in more blocks and planted them along the street, so we'll see!

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"On the rare occasions when there was enough food, the poor preservation tactics and the greed of private contractors often left large amounts of supply in a ruined state."

Quartermaster's Corner:  
The Issue of Supply  
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We built a new, state-of-the-art 18th century, bake oven in the Fort! This version has a cover over the top to protect it from the weather. Our old one was left out in the elements too long and became unusable.

In the north end of the Workshops, we have been able to create a tinsmith shop. Equipment owned by renowned tinsmith Don "Devereaux" Jarrett was acquired following his unfortunate passing. Three Rivers Tinsmith, Brian Kilmer, operates this new venue. Be sure

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to stop in and admire his work during events. You might even convince him to sell you something!

Kip has continued to furnish his woodworking workshop on the south side of the building and makes beautiful boxes and other pieces. Just try to stump him with a woodworker question!

I would be remiss if I didn't comment on our current plague. It has been a hard 18 months for everyone, including the Fort Board. As a city-owned facility, we must follow the guidelines put forth by the State of Indiana and the City of Fort Wayne. We had to cancel our events last year and did not open until May of this year. We have opened more fully as the summer has gone on, but now are facing a resurgence of the pandemic. We continue to monitor this situation closely as things are changing almost daily. The Mayor has just declared that masks will be worn in all city buildings. Well guess what, we are city-owned buildings. We will follow their rules, so while we hope you will want to visit the Fort for our events, you may be asked to "Mask Up."

The most up-to-date way to find out what's going on at the Fort continues to be Facebook so please continue to check there.

Norm Gable  
President, Historic Fort Wayne Inc.

## The Palisade is Back

After a several year hiatus, the Palisade is back. I'm looking forward to working with you to put together our quarterly newsletter, highlighting all the great activities at the Fort. I'm excited to be able to share the skills and passion of our talented reenactors, and what we're learning about the history of our area. If you've got a skill or interest, let's share it. I'd love to hear what you'd like to see in future issues.

Kathleen

## Who's Who

**Board Members:** Norm Gable, President  
Bob Jones, Vice President  
Tom Grant, Treasurer  
Nancy Stansberry, Secretary  
**Members:** Randy Elliott, Josh Grubaugh, Andi & Rick Hahn, Kip Lytle, Sean O'Brien, Gerret Swearingen

**Events Planning & School Demos:** Bob Jones

**Facilities Committee:** Sean O'Brien

**Maintenance:** Randy Elliot

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Bob Jones

**PR/Marketing:** Jennifer Balkenbusch

**Social Media:** Kathleen O'Connell

Send your comments/questions to  
[info@oldfortwayne.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@oldfortwayne.org)

Deadline for submissions to the  
Winter Palisade will be  
December 1, 2021

# THE WOODWRIGHT'S APPRENTICE: ADAPTING THE COLONIAL SYSTEM TO REENACTING

By Kip Lytle

I have been the Fort's resident woodwright for almost eleven years. During that time I and the other trades workers have expanded the Fort's shop as we improve our historical presentation. Two years ago, my reenacting life took a new and unexpected step in recreating the life of a colonial woodworker.

During the *Be a Tourist in Your Own Hometown* event in 2019, a 9-year old girl parked herself on my window sill and watched me make a dovetailed box with a sliding lid. She asked several questions and often reminded me of what step I was on after other visitors' questions derailed my train of thought. After the first hour, I remarked that she and her mom should see the rest of the fort and visit the other reenactors. Half an hour later they were back at my shop and the girl, named Becca, resumed her spot on the sill. Her mother, Beth, informed me that the young lady was enamored of the woodworking and wanted to spend the rest of the day watching me. Two days later, Beth called me (she had taken one of my business cards) to ask what I charge for private lessons in woodworking. I had no idea what my teaching time was worth so I asked if Becca would like to become my apprentice. She was delighted, and I had to figure out how to adapt a traditional apprenticeship system to reenacting.

Apprenticeship traces its roots to the guild system of Europe and came to North America with the European colonists. Of course, changes were made to the system based on the needs of the colonists. For instance, European apprentices made their contracts with their master through the master's guild and there was a strict formula outlining what was expected of each party. In North America, the contracts were between the apprentice and the master only. The provisions of the contract, including the length of service, were up to the two parties involved and could include anything. Generally, apprenticeship contracts promised free or cheap labor from the apprentice in exchange for education (both vocational and scholastic), room, board, and clothing. In essence, the apprentice would leave their family and become part of the master's household. Often, the contracts included a provision for "Freedom Dues". Basically, this was a gift to the apprentice for the completion of the contract. Typical Freedom Dues were a set of tools, new clothes, or money. The most common contract was for a 14-year old boy to spend seven years learning a trade and how to run a business. Although girls made up slightly less than 20 per cent of the apprentice work force, their contracts tended to end when they turned 18, the age of majority for a woman.

Since the field of contractual obligations is wide open, the question became one of adapting the historic customs into a modern reenacting lifestyle. My first step was to have a serious talk with Beth about Becca's expectations, goals, and challenges. With events averaging one per month, it was obvious that the



*Becca, the Woodwright's apprentice,  
working with a Plough Plane*



*Marking Dovetail joints,  
while Woodwright Kip watches.*

*Continued next page*



*Working with a drawknife  
to create a hatchet handle*

colonial model of teaching woodworking as an occupation was not going to work; I was going to have to approach this relationship as a hobby. However, I could provide the basics of clothing, food, and tools, in addition to teaching. For clothing I arranged for Becca to borrow clothing from other reenactors and my wife Kathleen made a heavy canvas apron (with pockets). I pack extra food and water in my lunchbox or make arrangements to purchase lunch for my apprentice. As for tools, she has gotten a good start on building her toolbox inventory from her family, other reenactors, and me. As for her obligations, Becca must obey the rules of the shop, clean up at the end of the day, answer questions from the visiting public, and respect that this hobby is supposed to be fun. In fact, shop rule number one for both of us is to say

something when it stops being fun. Throughout the day, I encourage her to go visit other parts of the events and see the other reenactors.

Anything that she makes is her property to disperse as she sees fit. Her first project was a sliding top box made of poplar with dovetailed corners. She is currently working on a hinged top box made of cedar and a new hatchet handle made of ash. Becca says, "Being the apprentice is fun and interesting because the end result is cool knowing that you made that. And it's interesting to learn about how they made stuff back in history and how it's different than how they make it now. The supplies are easy to get. It's easier to get wood than gold. It's fun to tell people about how things work and what you're making, too. And the clothes weren't all that different from now so it's not terrible to wear. Basically an apron, skirt and shirt, just not as many bright colors and patterns."

Becca is not the only new reenactor in the shop; Beth can also be found there in period clothes and knitting winter wear with wooden knitting needles. She has been most helpful to me with understanding Becca's moods and attitudes. With both of them there it has enabled me to get out and see events. The inclusion of an apprentice has added a wonderfully realistic element to the presentation of the woodwright's shop at events and furthers the Old Fort's mission of providing education.

For more information on period apprenticeship practices, see these sources:

<https://eh.net/encyclopedia/apprenticeship-in-the-united-states/>

<https://b-womeninamericanhistory18.blogspot.com/2019/03/in-business-female-apprentices.html>

<https://teachinghistory.org/history-content/ask-a-historian/24098>



*Becca's first completed  
project: a dovetail box with  
a sliding lid*

**Kip Lytle** has a BA in History and volunteers as a woodworker and militia member at the Old Fort. After retiring from the Indiana Air National Guard as a Network Administrator, aka "Computer Geek" he started his own company: Macaddis, Woodwright, where he creates hand made wooden items using period tools and techniques.





## Volunteer Profile: Cameron Wilds

Cameron Wilds has been a volunteer at the Old Fort for the past five years, and is a great asset to our team! Sometimes you'll catch him re-enacting a Private in the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry, and he definitely prefers the 1812 time period. More often, he's busy giving tours and working behind the scenes, doing whatever it takes to help pull off our events. He says, "I have been there early to clean away cobwebs, pull weeds, or just help open the Fort in general. There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes of the Fort and that is where I am."

One of Cameron's favorite parts of volunteering is working with our school group tours, especially answering the numerous and often unique questions they love to ask. (*Can you dodge a musket ball? No!*) As Cameron says, "I love the excitement on their faces when they would learn something or when they saw the soldiers. I enjoy telling stories. I guess that's one reason I love giving tours at the Fort. You're telling a story to people and trying to get them to see what it was like to live over 200 years ago."

Cameron is a native of Fort Wayne, and has lived here 44 years. In fact, his home is "a stone's throw away from the Fort." He is a single parent with one son, and every year they make a point of taking time for a "2Wilds4You Vacation" together. Recent adventures have included a trip to Gatlinburg, TN, and a six day trip to Mackinac Island which included time to explore the Fort there. Even on vacation he's hanging around old forts!

A graduate of the North Side (class of '94), Cameron went to IPFW for Hotel Restaurant Management. He's been at his current job for 20 years, doing construction, renovations, and maintenance for a locally owned commercial real estate company. When he's not dusting away those cobwebs at the Fort, he enjoys cooking, and highly recommends his apple pies.

Next time you're at the Fort, keep an eye out for Cameron and say 'hi'. He may have a story for you!



You can find us on Facebook  
for up-to-date event news and happenings!  
[www.facebook.com/HistoricFortWayne](http://www.facebook.com/HistoricFortWayne)

And check out  
Old Fort Radio 1640AM  
for historic vignettes,  
invitations to events at the Old Fort,  
and announcements of coming activities.





# SUMMER AT THE OLD FORT



Siege of Fort Wayne: 1812



Muster on the St. Mary's: Timeline Event



Post Miamies



Memorial Day Parade



Day of Caring Volunteers



Fort Wayne Radio Club



Revolutionary War on the Frontier









food stuffs meant that the Fort's lieutenants frequently were ordered to "Immediately Examine the flour on hand & Inquire into the possibility of procuring a further Supply. (sic)"<sup>vi</sup> It is interesting to note that officers occasionally had access to a supply of ice that was harvested from the rivers. This obviously limited resource was kept under lock and key by one of the Fort's sergeants.<sup>vii</sup>

As a final note (there may be some personal bias present here), the rank of Quartermaster Sergeant was one of the few specialized ranks within the army at the time. In charge of "provid[ing] all forage and fuel for the use of the troops," as well as "the safe keeping and delivery thereof," the Quartermaster Sergeants were the crucial front line battling to keep the army fed in the field.<sup>viii</sup> This was long before the days of Specialists in the Army, the only other permanent specialized soldiers being in the artillery and a very small engineer corps responsible for constructing forts, mostly on the east coast. One Quartermaster Sergeant was assigned per regiment in the field as well as at most forts throughout the country. The fact that a dedicated rank existed for the men in charge of supplies from the very beginning of the US Army reflects the crucial role of supply within the military.<sup>ix</sup>



*A display of sample stores in the Old Fort's Quartermaster's Room.*

<sup>i</sup> Walter Font, *A Garrison at Miami Town: Fort Wayne October 1794 – June 1795* (Fort Wayne: Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society, 1994) 7.

<sup>ii</sup> Font, *A Garrison at Miami Town: Fort Wayne October 1794 – June 1795*, 7.

<sup>iii</sup> There are countless examples of this throughout *A Garrison at Miami Town* as well as *Fort Wayne, Gateway of the West*.

<sup>iv</sup> Bert Griswold, *Fort Wayne, Gateway of the West* (Indianapolis: The Historical Bureau of the Indiana Library and Historical Department), 90.

<sup>v</sup> Griswold, *Fort Wayne, Gateway of the West*, 90.

<sup>vi</sup> *Ibid*, 114.

<sup>vii</sup> *Ibid*, 120.

<sup>viii</sup> United States Adjutant-General's Office, *Military Laws, and Rules and Regulations for the Army of the United States* (Washington: United States War Department, 1816), 98.

<sup>ix</sup> United States Adjutant-General's Office, *Military Laws, and Rules and Regulations for the Army of the United States*, 4, 169-171.

**Cory Balkenbusch** has been a volunteer for the Fort since 2013, and served as our Summer Intern in 2020 and 2021. He recently finished his Bachelor's in History with a concentration in Public History at Ball State, and has begun work on his Masters Degree in History at Ball State as well, with concentrations in Digital and Public History. When not giving tours, Cory serves as the Fort's Quartermaster Sergeant, maintaining the site's collection of uniforms and equipment. He also trains any new volunteers on how to be soldiers and helps our Event Coordinator run events.



# Old Fort Events AM 1640



## Old Fort Radio

By Bob Jones

Travel Information Stations (TIS) exist in most metropolitan areas providing motorists with information on traffic patterns and highway construction announcements. TIS is also employed by National Parks and historic sites for promotional purposes.

In the fall of 2018, William Baker of Information Station Specialists (ISS) approached the board of Historic Fort Wayne, Inc. with a proposal regarding the installation and operation of a Travel Information Service radio station. Old Fort Radio 1640AM, licensed by the FCC, is an automated system with an audio unit, a ten-watt transmitter, a few additional components, and a vertical antenna attached to the east end of the Modern Building.

The following is about ISS from their website:

“Since its founding in 1983, Information Station Specialists have become the go-to source for exclusive radio and signage products utilized by governmental agencies, educational institutions, nonprofit groups, broadcasters, businesses and individuals. A provider of fixed Travelers' Information / Highway Advisory Radio Stations since their inception, Information Station Specialists offerings now include radio solutions for emergencies and events, multi-station synchronization, networked content delivery, streamed simulcasts, high performance antennas and a variety of license-free radio solutions. Quick-erect, remotely controlled road signs with the latest LED technology and the Severe Storm Detector round out our product line. Information Station Specialists offer a full range of services, including lifetime support for every system. The result is a tailored communication solution that fits your application perfectly.”

More information about Information Station Specialists is at:

<https://www.theradiosource.com/default.htm>

Old Fort Radio 1640AM content includes historic vignettes, invitations to events at the Old Fort, and announcements of coming activities. Additionally, for over a year now, an announcement regarding COVID-19 has been running as well.

Announcements are prerecorded, prepared for broadcast, and loaded onto a flash drive. Old Fort Radio has the potential to get the word out to motorists who tune their car radios to the AM dial. Signs in neighborhoods alert motorists and remind them to tune in. Our signal is limited by the FCC and our license. We get good signal reports within a two to three mile radius of the Fort. The signal is strongest during the day and to the east. In the evening hours, a Wisconsin AM station changes the pattern of its antenna and its commercial broadcast signal overpowers our signal beyond about a one mile radius.

## 'Hit and Skip' Repairs Update

Last November, we had some major damage done to the Old Fort. A car came over the berm along Spy Run Road, and crashed into the north east corner of the palisade wall, damaging the wall and beehive oven. The car had been stolen and was abandoned on site. Police have continued to investigate the incident. The City of Fort Wayne is still attempting to work with the insurance company to get the repairs paid for.

Immediately following the 'hit and skip', Historic Fort Wayne, Inc. Board members oversaw the initial clean up. Since then, they have been working to arrange more permanent repairs which are turning out to be more challenging than expected. Some delays are due to the difficulty finding an available contractor because of Covid and the building surge. There are also some structural challenges to the repairs. Treasure Tom Grant explains:

"Approximately 12 years ago when we reconstructed the walls there was no bake oven to restrict access to that corner of the Fort grounds. While working to install the corner we discovered the remnants of the original concrete foundations of those sections and due to their size had to work around them rather than remove them. This repair will be expensive due to the space being constricted by the presence of the bake oven and those remaining concrete foundations. It would appear that the damage to the corner and adjoining walls may require that all the walls between the corner and both buildings will need to be replaced. Excavation of the original foundations will require a full size backhoe operation, which will be difficult in the changed environment due to the existence of the bake oven and its shelter."

Following this incident, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation department placed a number of large stones along the sidewalk, to help prevent future accidents.

If you would like to make a donation to help with repairs to the Fort or general upkeep, you can do so at:  
<https://oldfortwayne.org/get-involved/donate/>

Your support is greatly appreciated.





## Summer Work Project

There's always a long list of ongoing repairs and maintenance needed at the Fort. We're fortunate to have talented and generous supporters who step in to share their time and skill with us.

One of this summer's projects was repairing the bunk beds in the Enlisted Quarters. Several of the bedposts had warped and twisted (*circled in yellow*), and all of the headboards and footboards needed to be repaired or reinforced.



With thanks for the donations of wood from Brian Kilmer and Robert Dantzer and some labor from our woodwright Kip Lytle, reenactors staying in these rooms should sleep much more securely!



## Support the Fort

The Fort exists because of the wonderful support of our volunteers and friends. Here are two very simple ways you can help!

### Kroger Community Rewards:

Are you a Kroger customer? You can now support the Fort through your regular shopping! We are one of the organizations that you can designate under their "Community Rewards" program. To enroll, go to [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) and look for Historic Fort Wayne, Inc. Then every time you shop, we automatically receive a rebate based on what you spent.

### Amazon Smile:

AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice. If you shop through Amazon, all you need to do is start your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). Be sure to designate Historic Fort Wayne, Inc. as your preferred charity. The donation will be made at no extra cost to you.

Once you register for these programs, you don't need to do anything each visit. Your donations will automatically accumulate and you'll be helping to keep the Fort in Fort Wayne with every purchase. Thanks!

## 2021 SCHEDULE

Public hours as listed below. If you're interested in participating as a reenactor or vendor, please contact [events@oldfortwayne.org](mailto:events@oldfortwayne.org) for registration forms, or visit our website.

### October 16: Fright Night

*Experience the Old Fort after dark.  
Hear tales of encounters with the ill-fated  
Lieutenant Philip Ostrander, the Fort's  
resident ghost.*

Saturday: 6pm - 10pm,  
\$5.00, 9 and under free with an adult.

### November 27: A Christmas Open House

*Jump in your car, hop on the Holly Trolley  
or hitch up your sleigh.  
Welcome the holidays with  
fun and festivities at the Old Fort!*

Saturday: 11:00am - 5:00pm  
Admission free

## 2022 Schedule of Events

Jan. 29-30	Nouvelle Annee
Feb. 19-20	1812 Winter Garrison
Feb. 26-27	Rev. War Garrison
March 5-6	Civil War Garrison
May 6	Education Day at the Fort
May 7-8	Muster on the St. Mary's
June 11-12	Siege of Fort Wayne 1812
July 16-17	Colonial America
Aug. 27-28	Post Miamies 1755
Sept. 3-4	Napoleonic Days 1804-1814
Sept. 11	Be a Tourist
Oct. TBD	Fright Night Lantern Tours
Nov. 26	Joyeux Noel



## Historic Fort Wayne, Inc.



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