

THE OLD FORT PALISADE

WINTER 2021



A Word from the President:

Greetings,

Thankfully, 2021 is coming to an end as I write this. Last year I was glad to see 2020 end. Little did I know that 2021 would be as bad in many ways.

The Old Fort stood strong throughout this plague but not without injury. Our stockade wall has been repaired after an unprovoked attack by a mechanical beast (car). Time has taken its toll on our timbers and we're seeing more and more problems all the time. The Bake Oven, outside the

Cottage, has begun to collapse and will soon be taken down for safety sake. If anyone wants to raise funds to rebuild it, we would be happy to talk to you.

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Our programs have suffered this year as we were not allowed to offer participant lodging in the Fort for the first half of the year. Tours and overnight stays by Scout Troops had to be discontinued, but currently have resumed in a limited manner.

Now for some "good news"...we have a full schedule planned for 2022! Check out our Facebook page and website for dates and times (*see page 12*). Hopefully everything will work out and we all can have a pleasant new year, able to enjoy each other's company.

Welcome 2022!

'Twas Christmas Day at the Fort, and, well, there were several creatures stirring.

The cold air was punctuated by the sentries calling "All's well" every five minutes while the night watch nestled snug in their beds, with visions of whiskey rations dancing in their heads.

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Norm Gable, President
Historic Fort Wayne, Inc.

From the Treasurer...

If you are considering a gift to support the Old Fort, December is a perfect time! One of our key sources of support is our Endowment Fund and this month all gifts to our Endowment Fund are eligible for a 20% match.

The Fort's Endowment Fund is managed by the Community Foundation which gives an organization our size the advantage of professional investing which has averaged close to 10% annually. This month, the Community Foundation has its annual gifting drive and provides a 20% match to additions to Endowment Fund balances.

Typically our Endowment contributions range from the "keep the change" at the bake sale, volunteers who send in a check, and random visitors who mail in checks, to bequests from estates and memorials. Additional contributions come from various sources. I have several clients who instead of taking a taxable IRA distribution, direct their custodian to pay the year's amount to their church or other charity.

We have managed to add almost \$10,000 a year (which translates to \$12,000 with the Match) for the last 5-6 years and, with accumulating investment returns, our Endowment is approaching \$150,000. Not bad for an organization our size.

During this season of giving, we hope you might consider a special gift to the Old Fort, and help "Keep the Fort in Fort Wayne." Donations can be made through our webpage, <https://oldfortwayne.org/get-involved/donate/> or by check made out to Historic Fort Wayne, Inc., and mailed to P.O. Box 12650, Fort Wayne, IN 46864.

In addition, mention the 20% match to people you talk to. It might be just the motivation to create an Endowment Contribution. As always, thank you for your continued support!

Tom Grant
Historic Fort Wayne, Inc. Treasurer

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 Elliott

Volunteer Coordinator: Bob Jones

PR/Marketing: Jennifer Balkenbusch

Social Media: Kathleen O'Connell

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

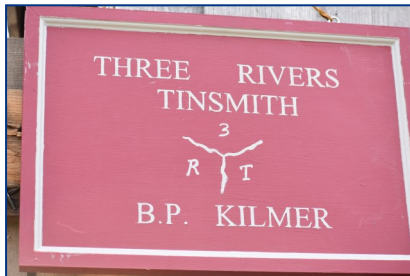
THE OLD FORT PALISADE

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
Spring Palisade will be
March 1, 2022



Tinsmithing Basics: A Nutmeg Grater

By Brian Kilmer
Three Rivers Tinsmith



I was asked to write about a simple tin smithing project. This is how to make a nutmeg grater. A nutmeg is hard nut; you need a way to grind or grate it to a powder form. The nutmeg grater would also be used to grate other hard spices, like cinnamon. The nutmeg grater pattern that I will be showing here was gifted to me by the family of the late Tinsmith D.B. Jarrett. The nice thing about this pattern is there are only two pieces and no soldering involved.

TOOLS:

- Wood Mallet
- Metal Cutting Shears
- Metal Sharp Punch for punching holes
- Scratch Awl or something to mark on the metal
- Flat Punch to make small indentation
- Hole Punch
- Makers Mark Metal Stamp
- Files
- Ball Peen Hammer or a hammer for punching
- Pattern
- Steel Wool: 00 to 000 will work
- Axe Stake
- Mandrel (*pictured on next page*)

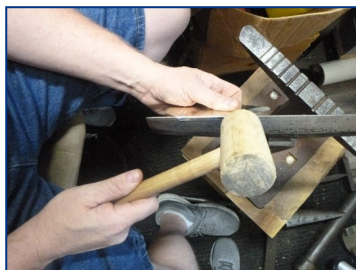


The first step is to lay out the pattern on the tin plate. There are two types of tin plate. One is hot dipped tin which is more period correct. You can identify it by the ripple effect on the surface of the sheet. The other is electro plated, which has a smoother looking finish to it. Lay the patterns on the tin and take the scribe to trace around them. Once I do that, I mark out the holes I am going to punch by marking them with the scribe. You could also use a Sharpie. It is less period authentic, but it is a little easier to see. Below, you can see a sample—a shape of a heart marked and ready for the next step.

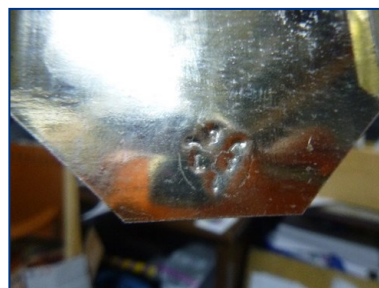


Once the pieces are scribed and the holes are marked, I'm ready to cut out the pieces. In the picture above right, you can see the pattern on the left and the cut outs on the right. At this time, I clean up the pieces. I use both the files and then the steel wool on the edges to dull them so you will not be cut while working with them.

Next, using the wood mallet on the grater piece, I turn over approx. 1/8" to form a nice smooth edge. That helps protect the person using the grater from nicking themselves. Then I move to the back piece. On this one, I fold the side edges over about 45 degrees. That way when I am ready, I can slide the top piece in and close it down.

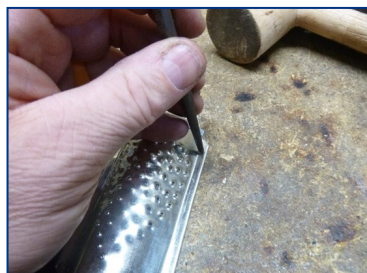


Now for the fun part, doing what makes the grater work. It's time to punch all the holes. I normally start on that outside of the pattern and then work my way in. I don't think that I have ever had two graters turn out the same. Somewhere in all of this I typically forget to punch my maker's mark. This time I remembered, and got a photo.



The next step is to form the grater. Put a 45 degree angle on the side of the grater about 1/8" to 1/4" from side edge. I get a nice curve by forming it around a mandrel—use a piece of 1 1/2" to 2" round stock.

Once the grater piece is formed, slide the top into the bottom. Bend the sides over and take the flat punch to indent all 4 corners. This will help keep the grater together. Now you have a finished Nutmeg Grater. All you need are a few nutmegs ready to be grated.



Brian Kilmer is the Fort's resident Tinsmith. He says, "I started reenacting 30+ years ago, but only been reenacting 18th century for about the last four years. I did not know what I wanted to do. All I knew was I did not want to portray a soldier. A friend suggested taking a tinsmithing class at Fort Meigs. I fell in love with it right away, and here I am. I came, I saw, I tinned!"

Rhubarb Custard Pie

Looking for a way to use that nutmeg grater Brian showed how to create (*see page 3*)? Check out this tasty recipe from the Old Fort kitchen, courtesy of one of our favorite cooks, Rowena Richardson. Rhubarb used to be known as “pie plant” and both it and nutmeg are documented in use in the late 1700s.



1 1/2 cups sugar
3 Tablespoons flour
Pinch salt
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
3 eggs, beaten
3 - 4 cups fresh rhubarb, chopped
1-2 Tablespoons butter

Mix dry ingredients, stir in eggs and rhubarb. Pour into 9 inch unbaked pie crust. Dot with butter. Bake at 400° for 50 minutes until filling puffs up (similar to pumpkin or custard pie).

Volunteer Now

Bob Jones

Historic Fort Wayne is an all volunteer organization. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped this past year, a challenging year, a building year. Volunteers are involved in every aspect of Historic Fort Wayne. They respond to outreach opportunities, help with building maintenance, and do furniture repair. During events volunteers serve as tour guides, direct children's activities, and lend a hand with event set up and tear down. Volunteers present craft and life ways demonstrations, cook and bake, manage and maintain the Fort Gardens, and serve as committee members. We currently need a volunteer with experience in e-commerce. There's something for everyone.

It is with great sadness that we prepare to take down the iconic beehive oven next to the cottage (not the newer oven inside the Fort complex). It has suffered the ravages of time and has become unsafe. If you are currently on our volunteer rolls, you will get a notice of the date and time on which we will gather to carefully deconstruct the oven. If you are not currently a volunteer and want to help, contact us via the email link at the end of this column.

Volunteer Advance: Volunteer Advance happens the second Saturday of almost every month. Topics vary and include new volunteer orientation, Q&A, research, addressing historic wardrobe issues, and a project or two. There will be no meeting in December, so our next Volunteer Advance meeting will be held on January 8, 2022. Time and location to be announced. Other dates to mark your calendars now: February 12, March 12, and April 9, 2022.

Volunteer Now and find your place at the Old Fort.

Email Link: events@oldfortwayne.org
Fort Phone: (260) 437-2836
Volunteer Link: <https://oldfortwayne.org/get-involved/volunteer/>
fill in blanks and SUBMIT, or print out the PDF and mail it in.

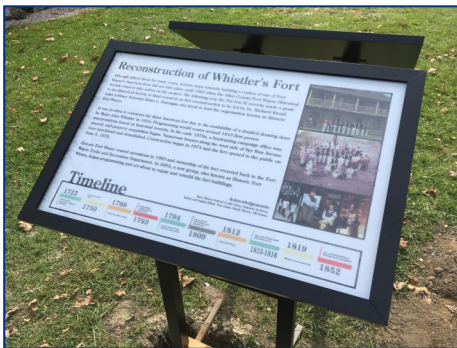
New Signage at the Fort

By
Randy Elliott

The Old Fort is located on public park grounds, along a beautiful park greenway frequented by walkers and bikers. With so many people wandering past these eye-catching buildings, there are often questions about the history of the site, what the buildings were used for, and the role the Old Fort played in the establishment of the city of Fort Wayne. While we have volunteers available during events to visit with the public, much of the other time there is no staff present to help answer those questions. Brochures about the Fort are stationed at two places but it has been noted that many visitors do not access them.



In our quest to help the history of the Fort to be more easily accessible, several of our Board members spearheaded a project to install signage in several locations around the Fort grounds. The grant request was submitted by Fort board member Tom Grant, and we are grateful to Three Rivers Federal Credit Union for awarding us the requested funds to install informational signs on the grounds of the Old Fort.



A timeline, the story of Whistler's Fort and its reconstruction, images, and drawings were compiled and submitted for the project. Staff images from 1977-2018 were chosen for the "Reconstruction of Whistler's Fort" sign. Whistler's drawings of both Fort Wayne and Fort Dearborn (Chicago) complimented the text of "Whistler's Fort". A site map from Griswold's Pictorial History of Fort Wayne completed the graphics. Local historians Randy Harter and Jill Downs assisted with research.

The graphics were first submitted to a local sign company but after several months another local company, Indiana Sign Works, was chosen for the project. Fabrication took a couple of months and the signs were delivered in October. Installation was no easy task as it was discovered the soil at the chosen site was highly compacted and impossible to hand dig. Fortunately, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation provided a power auger to bore the holes. Fort volunteer Sam Lipscomb oversaw mixing the concrete and setting the sign posts. After many months of planning and work, the signs are now ready to greet our visitors!

The signs are set on sleeves so that they can be removed for events, as we are also looking into the option of canvas covers during these activities. It is our hope that these new signs will help enhance visitors' enjoyment of the site, and will provide a learning opportunity to everyone who wanders through the Old Fort grounds.



Volunteer Profile: Meet Terri Poulson-Bartel



Terri Poulson-Bartel began reenacting in 2012. She met Bob Jones and got to talking about the Fort and the rest is history. We invited Terry to share what she enjoys about being involve at the Old Fort:

“I really have been doing a great deal of research into WWII. I don't get to use that persona at the Fort often but it is my favorite. I have done Revolutionary War, dressed in men's clothing. I have a dress for that time as well. I started out in Civil War reenacting. Hoop skirts can be tolerated. I recently went to an 1812 event, with many of the Fort family. There were 3 dresses made for that, so now I have the proper dresses for the era of our fort.

I appreciate both the teaching of history and the grunt work that keeps the Fort standing. I really enjoy being the zombie for Fright Night, letting the public know about our lantern tours, while having a bit of fun and brains.”



Terri moved to Fort Wayne when she was in the third grade when her dad went to work at the old International Harvester complex. She has been married to Nate for almost 24 years. They have one son, Gabe, and she says, “My boys are not into reenacting, but then again I'm not into Magic the Gathering.” They own a vintage (1901) home and have a house full of cats, 5 in total.

Terri adds, “I'm a full time mom and wife, so I have 2 jobs. When we found out we were having G, I stopped working to focus on him. We didn't realize that it would become a permanent part of the plan. I had my own business, I made bags from recycled paper, skirts from vintage bedding and some bags. Now I just taxi the kid around and sew.”

Want to get to know Terry better. She says 'easy, just ask. “



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

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 events.



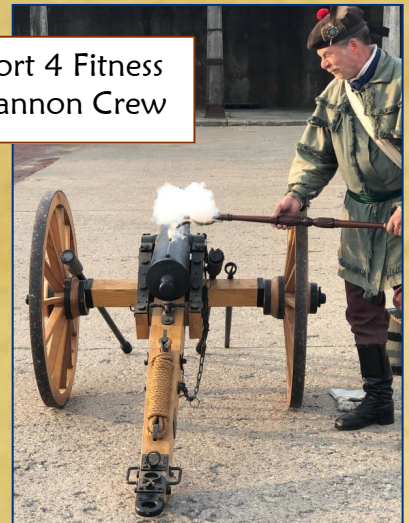
FALL AT THE OLD FORT



Be A Tourist



Fort 4 Fitness
Cannon Crew



Homestead
High School
Key Club
service project



Fright Night
Photo Booth



Civic Theater
Photo shoot



Palisade repair



Christmas at
the Fort



Veterans' Day
Parade



QUARTERMASTER'S CORNER

By Cory Balkenbusch

A Not So Merry Christmas: The Barracks Brawl of 1807

'Twas Christmas Day at the Fort, and, well, there were several creatures stirring. The cold air was punctuated by the sentries calling "All's well" every five minutes while the night watch nestled snug in their beds, with visions of whiskey rations dancing in their heads. Then suddenly from the barracks arose such a clatter, and out like a flash flew a private with blood splattered!

Privates James Johnston and James Carlton had just fought their way into one of the most unique court martials in Fort Wayne's history. Fights in the barracks were frequent and hardly surprising: with twelve to eighteen men crammed into a space little larger than a modern minivan, there were bound to be disagreements. This, likely worsened with an additional whiskey ration to celebrate the holiday, would bring Johnston and Carlton to blows.

Both men had served in the army for some time. Johnston was thirty-nine years old in 1807, having enlisted in the army likely many years prior as part of Wayne's Legion of the United States as it pushed west. His story was fairly typical for career soldiers in America's early years, having immigrated from Ireland and previously worked as a general laborer. Despite his lengthy term of service, Johnston boasted a fairly clean disciplinary record with only one court martial prior to 1807, as he had been caught drunk on parade in 1806. In fact, he was even lucky enough to dodge being lashed for this charge as it was only his first time being caught drunk (the standards for discipline on the frontier were decidedly low).

Carlton had served since at least 1805 and was another Irishman who listed his prior occupation as soldier, perhaps from before he left Ireland. Carlton was decidedly less of a model soldier than Johnston, having received fifty lashes in 1805 for the neglect of his duty. He had faced the same charge just a few weeks before the Christmas Day fight, but avoided any lashes the second go around.

It has been lost to history what initially started the fight between Johnston and Carlton on Christmas Day of 1807. Perhaps it was Carlton's patchy record that instigated the fight, or a disagreement over a use of space in the very crowded barracks. Whatever it was, we certainly know the results. The fight went decidedly in Carlton's favor, perhaps because he had an inch on Johnston. By the end of the fight, Carlton had bitten an ear clean off of Johnston's head (which ear has, alas, also been lost to time).

Carlton received forty lashes as punishment for the assault, with Johnston receiving twenty as well for his part in the fight. Captain Heald, commander at the time, pardoned the lashes that

Continued next page

Johnston was to receive. This was likely due to the fact that Johnston had already dealt with his fair share of pain as it was.

And so I shall exclaim, before I retire to deal with college finals, “Be sure to spread cheer this holiday season, but do keep hold of your ears!”

Resources

Griswold, Bert. Fort Wayne: Gateway to the West. Indianapolis: Historical Bureau of the Indiana Library and Historical Department, 1927.

A great deal of thanks is also owed to the research done by the previous iteration of Historic Fort Wayne Inc.’s staff, whose genealogical work on the men of Fort Wayne’s garrison was extensive and thorough. Much of their work utilized the McArthur Papers, held in the collections of the Library of Congress.

Cory Balkenbusch has been a volunteer for the Fort since 2013, and has 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.

Education Day

Education Day is one of our favorite and most popular events. Each year, we welcome students in grades 4-5 for a day of interactive learning as Indiana history (and more) comes alive. If you know students or teachers in those grades, please let them know about this wonderful opportunity. Homeschool groups are also welcome.

This year, Education Day will be Friday, May 6, followed on Saturday and Sunday by our Muster on the St. Mary’s timeline event.

Pre-registration is required for classes, and space is limited. Forms and more information can be found on our website at:

<https://oldfortwayne.org/event/annual-education-day-2/>

The deadline for registration is March 6, so be sure to start planning now to enjoy this event.

Questions: Contact Ken at educationday@oldfortwayne.org



Blue Line Calendar

Last Spring, students from the Advanced Photography class at the University of St. Francis came to the Fort for a photo shoot. They were working to create a charity calendar featuring K9 officer dogs pictured at Fort Wayne landmarks. The sale of the calendar supports Blue Line Paws, an organization that seeks to assist with much needed equipment and provide support to K9s and their families during service and after retirement.

The calendars are now available. They can be purchased for \$20 at USF in the campus bookstore as well as in the Rolland art building. The calendars are also available at Coney Island, GI Joes, and Science Central. Pictures from the Old Fort are scattered throughout the calendar, and featured for June 2022.



Merry Christmas And Happy Holidays
From all of us at the Old Fort!



2022 UPCOMING EVENTS

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

All events are free admission, unless specifically stated. Donations welcome.

January 29: Nouvelle Annee 1750s

Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

February 19: 1812 Winter Garrison

Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

February 26: Rev. War Garrison

Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

March 5: Civil War Garrison

Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

March 26: Union Civil War

Garrison

Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

May 6 : Education Day at the Fort

For Grades 4 & 5

Pre-Registration Required, Deadline to register is March 6.

May 7-8: Muster on the St. Mary's

Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

June 11-12: Siege of Fort Wayne 1812

Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

July 16-17: Colonial America

Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

August 27-28: Post Miami 1755

Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

September 3-4: Napoleonic Days 1804-1815

Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

September 11 Be a Tourist in Your Own Hometown

Sunday, 12 pm – 5 pm

October 22 Fright Night Lantern Tours

Saturday, 6 pm – 10 pm

Tickets Required.

November 26 Christmas at the Fort

Saturday, 11 am – 5 pm

Always check our website, Facebook, or Fort radio for event times and schedule updates.

Historic Fort Wayne, Inc.



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www.oldfortwayne.org
[www.facebook.com/
HistoricFortWayne](https://www.facebook.com/HistoricFortWayne)

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Winter 2021

Kathleen O'Connell, editor
Published quarterly

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