

THE OLD FORT PALISADE

SUMMER 2022



THE OLD FORT IS OPEN FOR THE SUMMER!

The Old Fort will have staff on site Wednesday thru Sunday this summer. Thanks to funding from a grant and special donations during Allen County's Day of Caring, visitors will be able to tour the buildings, talk with reenactors, and even see craftspeople demonstrating their skills.

Cory Balkenbusch is returning to lead our summer crew. Cory is a graduate student in history at Ball State. He is joined by Willow Ortiz, an intern from PFW, Will O'Brien, and Kyle Stark. On Thursdays, Kip Lytle is

on site demonstrating in the woodwright's shop. Our summer staff is available to give tours, visit with guests, and do needed maintenance on the Fort buildings. Willow is particularly working on the Old Fort's digital outreach and has been posting delightfully creative videos on Tiktok, one of which has gotten over 43,000 likes! We hope this outreach will encourage and excite the next generation of reenactors.

This is the third year that we have been able to offer this special summer programming, thanks to generous donations. Cory mentioned that before the bridge construction (*see page 3*), they were averaging over 350 guests to the Fort each week, mostly from out of town. Summer hours will continue through July 31, so this is a wonderful time to stop by and visit when you want some uninterrupted time to really take in the site. Enjoy!

In the time of the 1816 Fort, marriage was at the height of the movement for "equality and freedom within marriage" and young individuals, or at least those who weren't in the highest levels of society, were given much more involvement in their choice of spouse.

Regency Romance, pg 5

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Facility Update

Just a note from the Old Fort Maintenance Department:

One of this spring's big projects was demolishing the old bake oven. I'm sure by now everyone is wondering when we plan on cleaning up the debris pile we made tearing down the old bake oven. We are working on it. Anyone that's been down to the Old Fort recently knows we have an access issue with the Spy Run bridge being re-built (*see page 3 for more details*). This has kept us from getting a roll-off dumpster down there for the cleanup.

The good news is that the bridge on our side should be paved and two lanes open by July. This should facilitate getting a truck in there with the dumpster and Tom Grant's skid loader. Once that happens, it should be relatively straight forward. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for information as we schedule work days. We'd love your help.

Thanks for everyone's patience!

Sean O'Brien



A new door on the bake oven is completed and ready for use (image courtesy of Robert Jones).

Sourdough bread, fresh out of the oven at the Siege of Fort Wayne! (photo by Kathleen O'Connell).

Who's Who

Board Members: Norm Gable, President
Bob Jones, Vice President

Tom Grant, Treasurer

Nancy Stansberry, Secretary

Members: Randy Elliott, Josh Grubaugh,
Andi 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, Willow Ortiz

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
September 1, 2022

COMING THIS FALL: NAPOLEONIC DAYS

This fall will see a mostly-new event at the Old Fort. Napoleonic Days will highlight the period from 1804-1815, and the many changes that happened in that time period under the leadership of Napoleon Bonaparte. The event is being organized by the 6eme Regiment d'infanterie légère, a French light infantry unit that is a part of Brigade Napoleon. Grant Kohler, one of the lead organizers, shared that they had offered a similar event for the first time at the Old Fort in 2019 on Bastille day weekend and are glad to finally be back for a second time to explore the events of this time period.



This year's activities will include battle scenarios and small skirmishes, as well as a military fashion show. Grant says, "The aim is to try to create a small story over the weekend showing the struggles of the peninsular war."

Reenactors who would like to get involved for the Napoleonic Days event should contact Grant Kohler at delta4047@aol.com

SPY RUN ROAD CONSTRUCTION

The bridge over the St. Mary's river at Spy Run Rd. is getting a major overhaul, and it's making things challenging at the Old Fort this summer. Construction began this spring and is anticipated to be completed in summer 2023. When it is all done, the bridge will be renamed Veterans Memorial Bridge. In their report on the project, Radio station WBOI shared that "The bridge will remain three lanes, but will also offer 'pedestrian width' to improve connectivity with downtown and The Old Fort. Improved light fixtures and greater space for pedestrian walkways will also be part of the project."

Currently the bridge is down to one lane, so expect delays as you approach the Old Fort. Reenactors coming for events are directed to stay in the right lane as you approach the Fort and continue past the Fort to Balthes Avenue. Turn right onto Balthes, and right again into the parking lot. From there you can cross Spy Run to enter the Fort grounds. We are very grateful for the support we receive from the city and the construction crews to provide access during events. Parking is also available at Headwaters and Lawton Parks so you can walk to the Fort without having to cross traffic. We apologize for the inconvenience, and are doing all we can to ensure safe passage. For more information about this project, and an artist's rendition of the finish look, check out:



Approaching the bridge



Looking across Spy Run at the bridge

<https://www.wboi.org/news/2022-04-11/fort-wayne-breaks-ground-on-spy-run-bridge-improvements>

SPRING AT THE OLD FORT



Education Day



Union Civil War
Garrison



Muster on the
St. Mary's -
Timeline Event



Phi Theta Pi Tour Group



1812 Siege of Fort
Wayne



Tinsmith
Class



Regency Romance

By Willow Ortiz

"Marriage enlarges the scene of our happiness and miseries. A marriage of love is pleasant; a marriage of interest easy; and a marriage where both meet, happy. A happy marriage has in it all the pleasures of friendship, all the enjoyments of sense and reason; and, indeed, all the sweetness of life."

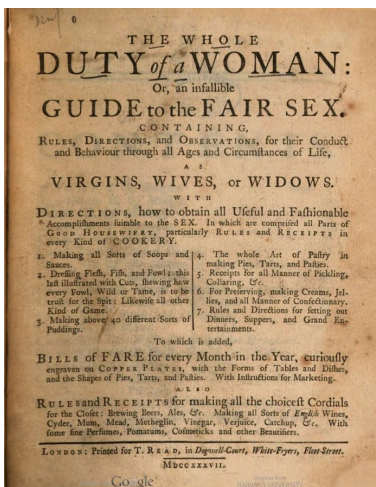
The Young Husband's Book, 1839

While researching traditions for my own wedding this spring, I dove deep into the history of marriage. As with many modern day traditions, much of what we do has roots deep in the past. Marriage itself has been a part of the human experience for as long as humans were in family groups. The earliest forms of marriage existed as deals between families, not only to unite them by blood, but also through new cultural, economic, and geographical ties. Marriages, in most cases, were not meant to be a showing of love and intimacy, but rather they were to be the foundation of the next generation. The modern day has slowly moved the idea of marriage from a public affair to something that is much more private.

In the time of the 1816 Fort, marriage was at the height of the movement for "equality and freedom within marriage" and young individuals, or at least those who weren't in the highest levels of society, were given much more involvement in their choice of spouse. There was a realization that marriages formed on compatibility and attachment were much more likely to succeed in the long run. To allow for some interest between the hopeful youth, the idea of courtship became popular. Courtship was much like modern dating, but the couple was never supposed to be alone. It allowed for interaction between them, but nothing that would be considered indecent. The courtship itself was fascinating, as often it was the expressions and movements of a fan that directed the relationship, and not the words that were spoken.

At the point where the couple had decided on one another, there were a few steps before the marriage became reality. Oftentimes, young men would request a dowry from the woman's family as a way to help support the new couple in the months ahead. The dowry was often for the woman to use, whether it be for spending money outside of her husband's control, or to take care of her whether she died and needed to be buried, or if she were widowed by her husband. There was still also the government and church paperwork that needed to be filed for the legality of the marriage. Marriage itself, even with the changing mindset around how it came to be, was still much paperwork and negotiations.

Unfortunately for some, without the intervention of family arrangements, they were doomed to a life of a spinster. There is a quote from *The Whole Duty of a Woman (1737)* that states "Woe to she who remained unmarried: an old maid is now thought such a curse as no poetic fury can exceed, look'd on as the most calamitous creature in nature." Women who did not wish to marry, or were unable to, had a few choices. Some of these women became educators or nannies for other families. Others, and usually only those who had the funds to support it, would



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write or produce art, much to the dismay of many around them. A bachelor's life, whether his profession was an artist, general, or anything in between, was much less of a disgrace to both the man and his family.

Now, with the marriage to my own husband (whom I did choose), I wonder what my fate would have been at the time, especially here. Would I have lived out my life as a spinster author surrounded by the many felines I would have wished to collect? Or would I have married a man, whether by choice or convenience? I think it is a question we must all ask ourselves at one point.

Sources:

"Courtship & Marriage in Jane Austen's World" by Maria Grace

"Marriage, a History: How Love Conquered Marriage" by Stephanie Coontz

Willow Ortiz is a Fort Wayne native who attends Purdue Fort Wayne for a degree in history with focus in medieval and religious studies. She can often be found wandering through the farmer's market and enjoying local restaurants. She reenacts not only 1812 at Historic Fort Wayne, but many different time periods with various groups, both in the United States and internationally.



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.

July 16-17: Colonial America

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

August 27-28: Post Miami 1755

Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

September 11: Be a Tourist in Your Own Hometown

Sunday, 12 pm – 5 pm



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.



Volunteer Profile:

Jennifer Balkenbusch

There are a lot of ways to be involved at the Old Fort. You don't have to be a reenactor, or even a history buff. Just ask Jenifer Balkenbusch!

Jenifer got involved through her son, Cory. He started reenacting in 2013 when he was 12 years old. He is now 21. While she is not interested in reenacting, she has found many ways to contribute to the Old Fort's outreach. "Primarily, I am the current PR person (or Community and Media Specialist) for Historic Fort Wayne. I started this position in 2019. I send out press releases to various media outlets for our events and arrange interviews when requested. I work with Visit Fort Wayne and Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation to keep our information current on their respective websites. I assist in keeping our own website current with event information. I take photos at events for use on websites and Facebook. Since 2019, I have been responsible for updating our fort brochure each year. I am a cookie baker for the Bake Sales. I am also a seamstress."

Jennifer was born and raised in Evansville, Indiana and moved to Fort Wayne in 1980 upon graduation from Ball State University. She got a job teaching and coaching at Northrop High School. She taught the Marketing Education/DECA program and various other business classes at Northrop High School for almost 21 years, skills she puts to use now for the Old Fort. She was also the assistant volleyball coach for six years. She stopped teaching in 2001 when Cory was born.

Jennifer is married to Skip Balkenbusch. In addition to their son Cory, Skip has an older daughter, Melissa, and son, Craig. Together, they have five grandchildren.



When she's not helping promote the Old Fort's events, Jennifer enjoys tennis, biking, hiking, baking, and sewing.

One of Jennifer's favorite Old Fort memories is from the Timeline Event (2017 or 2018) when the World War II unit decided they wanted to attack the fort. "It was machine guns against muskets! The crowd loved it! The reenactors loved it!"

Next time you're at the Old Fort, keep an eye out for Jennifer - she'll probably be taking pictures. Say hi, but she says, "Please do not ask me any history questions! I am definitely not an expert. Just ask my son." Whatever your interest or skills, there's a place at the Old Fort for you!



Volunteer Now

Bob Jones

Volunteer Advance normally meets the second Saturday of the month from 10:00am to 12:00pm for new volunteer orientation and topical discussions. However, the summer months are filled with events at the Old Fort and family/recreation time, and so there will be no scheduled meetings until September.

In the meantime, we are looking ahead and making plans for the fall. We're excited to be putting together gatherings to welcome new volunteers and offer new skills and training for current ones. Mark your calendar now:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 10, 2022 | Hand sewing for men, women, and children. |
| October 8, 2022 | Food preservation in the home or
"Get your share of the horseradish while it's hot!" |
| November 12, 2022 | "We'll Dress the House With Holly Bright and Sprigs of Mistletoe."
Help prepare for Christmas at the Fort. |

All sessions may include new volunteer orientation, FAQ, Q&A, historic clothing questions, and research questions. If you have questions or suggestions, I welcome your comments. Send messages to Bob Jones: events@oldfortwayne.org

Just because *Volunteer Advance* isn't meeting, it doesn't mean we don't have ways for you to get involved. There is one big need through the summer and we would gladly welcome new helpers. This time of year the weeds outpace all other things growing in the garden. Volunteers are needed to weed and cultivate to keep our gardens looking neat and plants growing strong. You don't have to have a super green thumb. If you're willing to get your hands dirty, come pull some weeds! Park on the east side of Spy Run and walk over with your own cultivator/hoe or small shovel and work on a small section of the two garden plots along the west side of the buildings. Weeds you pull can be left in piles near the garden and others will see that they are disposed of correctly.

If you are interested and able to help with the garden send a message to events@oldfortwayne.org and I will forward your interest to Willow Ortiz, our gardener.

Thank you for helping us *Keep the Fort in Fort Wayne!*

Bob Jones



Bob and Willow doing the initial planting



Progress by Mid-June

QUARTERMASTER'S CORNER

By Cory Balkenbusch

Coatees, Caps, and Cockades: A Brief Look at the Uniforms Worn by the Fort Wayne Garrison

Part Two: 1810-1812

In the Winter 2022 issue of The Palisade we took a brief look at what the Fort Wayne garrison, consisting of the 3rd and then 5th Infantry Regiments, wore during the final years of occupation. Simplified after several years of war and crippling financial and material restraints, the army had emerged with a functional yet still fashionable uniform that would serve for years to come. However, it was the coats worn at the outbreak of the War of 1812 (and the years preceding)

that created this need for simplification. This article will take a quick look at the ostentatious coats and caps of the pre-war and early war years.



This column of infantry is wearing the 1810 pattern coats and the felt shakos. The furthest left private can be seen wearing the winter blue wool trousers.



A sergeant can be seen here in the 1810 coat and felt shako. The white infantry trim and rows of decorative buttons is noteworthy, as well as the hook and eyes that hold the coat closed at the front.

First, the jackets introduced with the new 1810 clothing regulations were to feature a new cut, as the jacket would be closed at the front to replace the older style which had a cut away front. This was accomplished by a row of hook and eye closures that met in the middle of the jacket. The front of the jacket also featured “round-section worsted cord” trim placed horizontally across the chest with buttons “place[d] at the outer termination of the breast holes for mere decorative effect.”¹ Cuffs, collars, and the turnbacks of the tails were all red and heavily trimmed as well, with decorative buttons centered upon trim chevrons down the length of the tails and cuffs.

As with later uniforms, trim color dictated a soldier's role in the army with white trim being reserved for the infantry. Infantry buttons at the time consisted of an American eagle holding an oval, oftentimes with a regimental number inside.

Headgear also changed in 1810 to match the new military styles that had been worn by European armies for nearly a decade, the tall cylindrical shako. It would feature a “cockade affixed to the left side near the top” with a “leather-lined visor” and “white feather plume,” and was finished with a set of white cording and tassels.² These felt shakos were certainly in fashion at the time, but suffered in wet weather and had to be replaced annually. It is also interesting to note that most infantrymen did not receive the new style hats until 1811, as surplus stocks of the older round hat style headgear were already available when the new regulations were made.³

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A soldier's under clothes were still a basic white linen shirt, with gaitered trousers made of linen for summer and blue wool (to match the coat) in winter. To help protect the trousers and boots further, half gaiters were issued that the trousers were oftentimes tucked into. For work details, soldiers were issued a linen work smock which was cut long to again help protect the trousers. Linen roundabouts were utilized as fatigue wear as well, particularly once the war had begun. ⁴



Here a mixture of the linen fatigue roundabouts can be seen in conjunction with the dress uniforms.

It is easy to see how these elaborate uniforms would not survive long into the war, especially considering the fact they were not even truly popular when they were first introduced. Officers across the nation reported their disdain for the coats, even including our own Captain Rhea (commandant from 1810 until the siege in September of 1812).

The next iteration of this series will address the uniforms of the Legion of the United States, as well as briefly mentioning the clothes worn by the ill-fated troops of Harmar and St. Clair.

References

¹ Kochan, *The United States Army 1812-1815*, 9, 13.

² Kochan, *The United States Army 1783-1811*, 34.

³ Kochan, *The United States Army 1783-1811*, 35.

⁴ Kochan, *The United States Army 1812-1815*, 9.



***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.*

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www.oldfortwayne.org
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editor

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