

THE OLD FORT PALISADE

SPRING 2023



Greetings from the Board President:

I'm currently reminiscing about my college years. We listened to a lot of music from all different genres. "The Who" was a group we listened to constantly, so it was a 'blast from the past' when I first heard the song, "Who are you?" as the title song to crime TV show, "CSI."

As I think about it now, I have to ask myself, "Who am I?" The answer is complex. I'm a father, husband, farmer, blacksmith, pilot, mechanic, board member, reenactor, and a role-player. According to my DNA testing results, I'm 55.6% German and 29.2% Norwegian. Does that make me a Viking or a Hessian?

"...Lakes abounding with almost every kind of the first fish, and water fowls, and their margins covered with game, must produce a conviction to the minds of Gallant Soldiers of the Legion, that their Situation in future will be happy pleasant and easy."

*Quartermaster's Corner,
pg. 7-8*

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My training and skill as a blacksmith have allowed me to focus on role-playing while reenacting. I love reenacting and people, but learning the art of blacksmithing came first. To be able to properly answer curious questions about blacksmithing, I've had to do extensive research covering many time periods through-out history, not just the time periods I represent. Some of those questions have been asked by the public and I haven't always known the answers. That's why research is vital for me to properly play my role.

To be a proper reenactor, you have to figure out who you want to be and investigate that particular persona to prepare to step into that role. I'm not just talking about first-person portrayals; I'm talking about all portrayals. One critique I've heard about many movies and TV shows is that the people are TOO clean, their clothing shows no sign of wear or

Continued next page

(cont.)

is too refined for their station in life...just not realistic.

I believe it's important to have a good understanding of who your character is while portraying their life, rather than to have had an ancestor who actually was that person. Find a persona that speaks to you and do everything you can to be that person, both good and bad. Remember the core word in re-acting is acting. What we're doing is role-playing. Do it well.

Norm Gable
President, Historic Fort Wayne Inc.

Looking to the Future

Historic Fort Wayne, Inc has entered into another five year license agreement with Fort Wayne Department of Parks and Recreation. This license covers the period September 2022 through and including September 2027, and allows HFW, Inc to operate the site, offer historical and educational programming, and maintain the facilities.

When HFW, Inc. was first incorporated in 2004, we were given a one year renewable contract. As we became established, those contracts were extended to 3 years as a show of confidence. This is the third time our contract has been extended for a 5 year period at one time. The Parks Department assists HFW with groundskeeping.

From the Treasurer

Tom Grant

Historic Fort Wayne is pleased to announce that we have been chosen to receive a grant for the amount \$53,075 from the ARPA Sub Grants funding (aka Covid relief) under the City of Fort Wayne's tourism allocation. Those funds are specifically allocated to the rebuilding of the second floor of the Spy Run Blockhouse. The Fort is now in the process of satisfying all the required Federal requirements to receive those funds, which means filling out and filing a lot of paperwork.

Once every 't' is crossed and 'i' is dotted and the funds are released, we'll begin the repairs on the blockhouse. Currently, the area along the north facing window is rotting. This will be torn down and replaced with timbers that are being sourced from Tennessee.

While this is the smallest of the major projects needed, it is only the beginning. The blockhouse is the first of a multi-project, long range plan for the renovation and restoration of our facility, which will be tackled as funding is secured. We are looking forward to the 50th anniversary of the Old Fort in 2026, and working hard toward maintaining the buildings so they can be enjoyed for years to come.



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.





On Thursday, April 20, you have the opportunity to be part of a community-wide initiative to make a lasting difference in Fort Wayne, and help support our Summer Internship program!

Give Greater Allen County is a one-day, 12-hour initiative that fosters philanthropy in Allen County, hosted by the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne.

Our goal at Historic Fort Wayne is to raise funds to support our Internship program, training our next generation of historians. Any additional funds will help with needed maintenance to Fort buildings.

This year, your gifts will go twice as far! Every dollar received during the Give Greater day (up to \$30,000!) will be matched by the Hefner Foundation. Double the impact of your gift!

Give Greater Day kicks off at 7am. Donations can be received online during the 12 hour period. If you prefer to make a donation off-line, you can send it to our mailing address (P.O. Box 12650 Fort Wayne, IN 46864) but we have to receive it by noon on Thursday, April 20 to count toward the match.

Check out our fundraising page here: <https://www.givegreaterallen.com/organizations/historic-fort-wayne-inc> Links and additional information will be shared through our Facebook page. Please help make this a historic day for the Old Fort and Allen County!

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: Sean O'Brien

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:
publications@oldfortwayne.org

We are looking for articles
for future issues.

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

Deadline for submissions to the
Summer Palisade will be
June 1, 2023

Volunteer Advance

Bob Jones

Volunteer Advance is an effort to address building, maintaining, and equipping a force of volunteers who together help us keep the Fort in Fort Wayne. This is your chance to become immersed in special living history events, experience behind-the-scenes VIP Tours, and participate in hands-on workshops on select days.

Why Should I Volunteer?

Volunteering offers you the opportunity to become active in the community, meet fascinating people, and help keep Old Fort Wayne a beautiful and exciting place to visit.

We have volunteer opportunities to fit every interest and schedule! There are many ways you can help Old Fort Wayne continue its mission of education and preservation. From planting flowers and vegetables in the Soldier's Garden and Major Whistler's Kitchen Garden to baking soldier's bread, there is a fun and rewarding experience waiting for you. Volunteer opportunities are available whether you can assist for an hour, a day, or on a regular basis. Motivated individuals are needed for daily activities June through August, during special events such as reenactments, conferences, and festivals.

Volunteer Advance meets the second Saturday of every month. When that coincides with an event, volunteers have the opportunity to pitch in and help with on site activities. Other months will focus on specific areas of volunteer skills and knowledge, and offer behind the scenes tours of the Fort. Upcoming themes include:

- April 8 Historic Clothing update, sewing and mending projects, tour guide etiquette, VIP Tour, Q&A
- May 13 Muster on the St. Mary's - a Timeline Event. We need you!
- June 10 Music, Games, and Distractions 1816, VIP Tour, Q&A
- July 8 The Manual of Arms, Safety, Rolling Cartridges, Loading and Firing a Musket, VIP Tour, Q&A

Watch our Facebook page for more information, or request to receive regular volunteers emails at events@oldfortwayne.org.



Volunteers receive and stack firewood for winter garrison events.



March Volunteer Advance: Preparing pies for the outdoor oven



Education Day Registration Open

Space is still available to register your class for our annual Education Day. 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 12, followed on Saturday and Sunday by our Muster on the St. Mary's timeline event. Pre-registration is required for classes. Forms and more information can be found on our website at:

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

Questions: Contact Ken Sorg at educationday@oldfortwayne.org

What's Happening Along the River?

If you've been by the Old Fort recently, you may have noticed extra construction equipment along the river, in addition to the Spy Run bridge construction. So, what's happening?

Back in 2019, a river bank restoration project began. The city of Fort Wayne, Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources and the Army Corp. of Engineers are working together to stabilize and repair the riverbank on this section of the St. Mary's river. In the ten years prior to the beginning of this project, over 10 feet of riverbank across from Headwaters Park had been lost to erosion, so this is an important step in preserving and maintaining our site.

Four years ago, phase one of this project was completed. This year, the second half of the restoration is underway. A new contractor has moved on to the Fort grounds and is finishing the riverbank from the overlook on the north end of the property to the area across from the south west corner of the modern building. To begin, they will need to drive steel panels into the river. Then they will dig out the muck between those panels and the riverbank, backfill it with gravel and build up the bank with large rocks—some up to the size of a VW bus! Once that stabilization is done and filled in, the shore will be replanted with native plants. The contractor plans to have all the heavy work finished by the end of April, weather permitting, leaving only the landscaping and cleanup to be finished in the following months.

Tom Grant, Board Treasurer, shares an exciting aspect of this project. "The Fort was able to negotiate that this portion contain a Canoe Landing! This will allow for period activities, and be an inviting way-point for tourist and recreational river traffic. We hope that this addition to our riverbank will increase our programming opportunities and our visitor traffic."



WINTER AT THE OLD FORT



1812 Winter
Garrison



Nouvelle
Annee

Tearing down
the burned
oven roof



Home
School
Symposium



Rev. War
Garrison



Quartermaster's Corner

Cory Balkenbusch



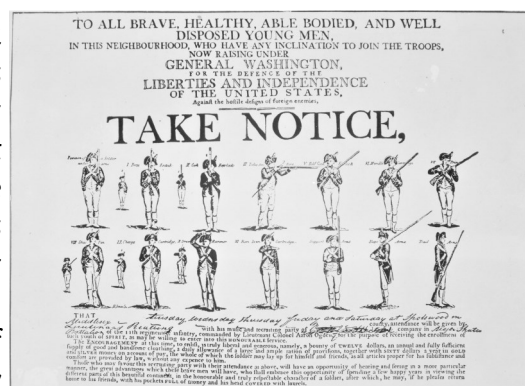
For this edition of the Quartermaster's Corner, I wanted to highlight a section of my ongoing MA thesis project: *The Forts of Fort Wayne: Twenty-Five Years of Army Occupation at the Three Rivers*. This digital resource will be publicly available by this summer, offering users a look into all three American forts that were constructed here, as well as an overview of the reconstruction project. Published as a website, the project will be an open and interactive resource that hopes to help further understandings of what life was like during these years. Below is one of the opening sections, addressing the enlisted men of the first fort.

Drunk and Disorderly: The Enlisted Men, 1794-1800

For the soldiers who served in frontier forts across the U.S., life was repetitive, boring, and tiring. So why join? Regular pay, food, and clothing along with a possibility for adventure have been the reasons for young men to join for much of human history, and there is no compelling evidence that indicates the men of the Legion were any different. Recruits were expected to be able bodied, at least five feet six inches tall, and between the ages of eighteen and forty-six years old. Full sets of clothing were provided annually, including: one hat, one coat, one vest, two pair of woolen and two pair of linen overalls, four pair of shoes, four shirts, two pair of socks, and one blanket. Food theoretically consisted of daily rations containing one pound of beef (or three quarters of a pound of pork if beef could not be obtained), one pound of bread or flour, and half a gill of rum, brandy, or whiskey. There were also allotments of salt, vinegar, and soap along with other essentials. Pay for privates started at \$3 a month, with opportunities to advance to sergeant-major making \$7 a month, given a successful and largely court-martial free career. New enlistees also earned a \$6 bonus upon enlistment.

Of course, this is how the system was supposed to work under ideal conditions. Frontier forts, dozens of miles apart, with vulnerable supply lines under near constant attack by local Native Americans, and corrupt contractors were not ideal conditions. Shortages were frequent and theft was rife, leaving Fort Wayne's garrison often on half rations or completely without portions of what they were supposed to be allotted. These issues were at their worst during construction of the Fort. Food shortages were temporarily solved by raiding the stores left behind in Kiihkayonki (Kekionga) by the Myaamia (Miami), until a slightly more reliable supply chain was established by building flatboats for use on the rivers.

Despite these horrible conditions, the officers were keen on keeping the experienced and trained men in the Legion to stay put. It was time consuming to train new troops and recruitment was slow (after all, the Legion was only at roughly 70% strength before Wayne's campaign even began). Officers played up the benefits as much as they could to the soldiers of the garrison.



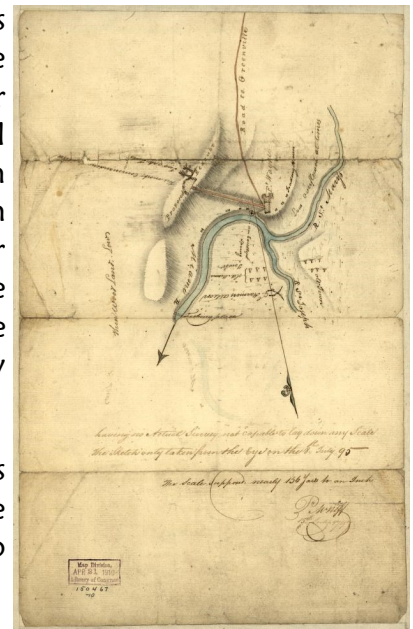
Desperate to fill the ranks of the expanded U.S. Army, posters appealed to patriotism and adventure in perspective recruits. Source: National Archives at College Park, via Wikimedia Commons.

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“The Liberal pay Bounty Clothing and rations allowed by Congress to the NonCommissioned Officers and Soldiers, Serving on the frontiers North West of the Ohio, far exceeds that of any other Army in the Universe add to the pleasing prospect of peace with all the late Hostile Tribes of Indians, and the possession of the British posts upon the margin of the Lakes, those Lakes abounding with almost every kind of the first fish, and water fowls, and their margins covered with game, must produce a conviction to the minds of Gallant Soldiers of the Legion, that their Situation in future will be happy pleasant and easy; attended with agreeable Variety and plenty...”

Soldiers that reenlisted also got a \$16 bounty (over five months pay) while new recruits got a \$14 bounty. It's clear through the court martial records that survive that none of this was enough to keep the men happy.

Theft, most oftentimes relating to food or liquor, was a huge problem amongst the enlisted men. Tired of the constant court martials on the matter, Hamtramck ordered that those that were found guilty of being thieves were marked with “a Branding Iron made with the Letter T” on “the forehead and Both Cheeks, or both Hands.” It is unclear if this brutal punishment was ever dealt out.



Map of the first American fort at the Three Rivers made for Wayne in 1795. Source: Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division.

Lashings were, however, nearly weekly occurrences. Per the Articles of War in place at the time, “No person shall be sentenced to suffer death, except in the cases expressly mentioned in the foregoing articles; nor shall more than one hundred lashes be inflicted on any offender, at the discretion of a court-martial.” One hundred lashes, of course, could be a death sentence, a fact conveniently overlooked by Congress at the time. Soldiers at Fort Wayne were flogged for a myriad of things, from fifty lashes for disobedience, fifteen for deficiency of cartridges, or all the way to one hundred for neglect of duty.

Issues with hygiene and military appearance frequently appeared in reports as well. In December of 1794, even after the arrival of new uniforms, Hamtramck was so disappointed that the orderly book noted “he [had] no reason to Congratulate the Troops on their appearance at yesterdays review, he hopes that the next will give him a better opportunity...” and that he expected their weapons to “at least be free from rust, dirt, or any stains, and perfectly Clean from any Spots.” Months later the issues had continued, with the officers complaining that “the filthiness of the number of Soldiers, is almost incredible many of them are Dirty enough to ease [relieve] themselves on their posts when on Sentinel.”

Unfortunately, it is unclear how many of the enlisted men's wives and families had joined them at the Fort. The number of women and children at the first fort is likely the smallest out of any of the forts at the Three Rivers, just due to the fact that many of the soldiers had been part of Wayne's campaign in the Legion and had been away from their families, if they had any, for some time. However, there were at least a few camp followers around as one court martial in late 1794 punished two soldiers for sneaking women over the wall after sunset.

Sources:

Emory Upton, The Military Policy of the United States

Walter Font, A Garrison at Miami Town: Fort Wayne, October 1794 - June 1795



April 20,
7am - 7pm
GiveGreaterAllen.com

2023 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.

MARCH 25: CIVIL WAR GARRISON

Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

MAY 12: ANNUAL EDUCATION DAY

For Grades 4 & 5

Pre-Registration Required

MAY 13- 14: MUSTER ON THE ST. MARY'S — A TIMELINE EVENT

Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

JUNE 10-11: SIEGE OF FORT WAYNE 1812

Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

JULY 22-23: TRADING POST ON THE NORTHWEST FRONTIER

Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

AUGUST 26-17: POST MIAMI — 1755

Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

SEPTEMBER 2-3: NAPOLEONIC DAYS 1804-1815

Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

SEPTEMBER 10: BE A TOURIST IN YOUR OWN HOMETOWN

Sunday, noon – 5pm

OCTOBER 21: FRIGHT NIGHT LANTERN TOURS

Saturday: 6 pm – 10 pm

Admission is \$5.00. Nine and under free when accompanied by an adult.

DECEMBER 2: CHRISTMAS AT THE FORT - A TIMELINE EVENT

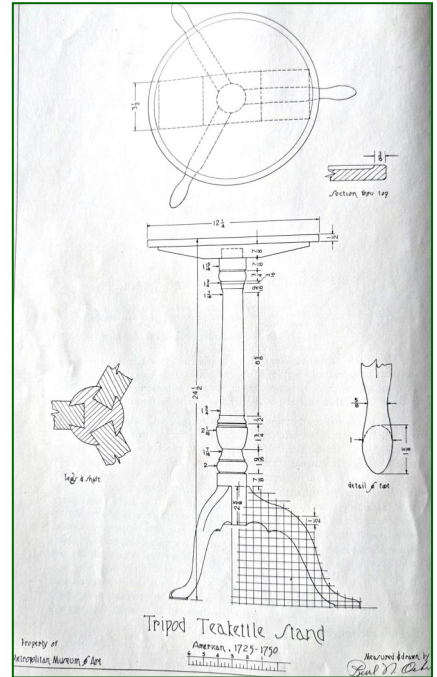
Saturday: 10 am – 4 pm

A Year in the Making

Kip Lytle

As the woodwright at the Fort, I'm always looking for ways to demonstrate the craft at events. For too long I have been coming up with woodworking projects that I could demonstrate in my shop at the Fort that could also be finished in a day. That has led to quite a collection of wooden mallets and dovetailed boxes. Noticing that the woodworkers at other historical sites worked on projects that take several weeks to complete, I thought that it was time I attempted the same. Besides, a long term project could induce visitors to return and check on my progress.

Choosing the project was a fun first step! It has been my pleasure to attend Colonial Williamsburg's annual woodworking conference for the last 5 years. Their collection of period furniture is extensive as is the skill of the artisans they asked to speak and demonstrate. Seeing the ease that these artists plied their craft inspired me to (at least) attempt to make a period reproduction. Fortunately, Hyde Brothers Booksellers (<https://hydebros.com/>) had a copy of "Measured Drawings of Early American Furniture" by Burl N. Osburn and Bernice B. Osburn. Every piece in the book is in the care of a well-known and respected institution. Since I am relatively new to working on a lathe, I picked the Teakettle Stand on pages 30 & 31, a piece currently in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and dates between 1725 and 1750. There are a total of six pieces to make: three feet, a central column, a table top, and a cleat for the top. The original at MMoA is made of maple but I opted for walnut. The only criticism I have is that, as wonderful as the drawings are, the book does not provide construction details. It is assumed that the woodworker has enough experience to figure it out.



Tea Table plans

The first thing to do is get the lumber together. I chose walnut because I had some on hand, thanks to a storm a few years ago. With the wood chosen, I created a cardboard template and cut out the pieces. Two helpful tips that I can pass on are: 1) use a white pencil on walnut, and 2) make a cardboard template of the foot using a carpenter's square for the root (where the foot joins the support column) and bottom. If you use corrugated cardboard, the ripples can be used to indicate the wood grain direction.



Preparing the basic pieces

Once the template has been traced, it's time to rough cut the pieces. The graceful curves of the feet are cut with a turning saw, the coping saw's grandfather. Don't worry if the saw cuts are ragged; they are supposed to be. Sawing is designed to remove the bulk of unwanted material. Over the course of the summer, I would use a spokeshave, rasp, and scraper to gently round the edges and smooth out the curves. This is a long process so it was perfect for filling days during events.

Continued next page

The majority of the work involved creating the upright post. The central column has a finished maximum diameter of just over 2 inches (2 1/16) and a length just over 19 inches (19 1/16). I started with a 24 inch 3x3 and turned it on a treadle lathe. I'm lucky enough to belong to the Three Rivers Woodworking Club an organization full of veteran turners who love to share their knowledge. Spending the whole summer on this project was a wonderful opportunity to hone that skill.



Creating the support column on the Treadle Lathe

Once done, the bottom of the column had to be set to fit the feet. Since the dovetails on the feet are all different (it happens, no matter how careful you are), the corresponding sockets had to be custom cut. The best way to do this is to trace the profile of the dovetail onto the bottom of the column at one of the numbered points. Once the tracing is done, write the point number on the root of the foot that you just traced. To cut the sockets, I used a 1/2" auger bit, a dovetail saw, and a chisel. Test the fit of the foot in the socket often!

Attaching the cleat to the top is the next step. The hole for the column's tenon is bored at the center of the cleat. Lay out the cleat so that it runs perpendicular to the grain of the top and is centered on the underside. Attach the cleat to the underside of the top with the screws until they are snug. As the humidity increases, the top will expand across the grain. Conversely, as the air dries out, the top will shrink. This effect can be minimized by applying a finish. I prefer a mixture of beeswax and citrus oil but you can get similar results with mineral oil, boiled linseed oil, or tung oil.

So far, the reaction to my finished piece has been very positive and it makes a wonderful addition to the ladies' sitting room (aka the shop space next to my shop). I learned a few things about laying out the pieces and I've gotten a great deal more confident in my lathe techniques. Stop by the shop and I'll be happy to show it to you.



The Finished Table

To conclude, what did I learn? Well, two things: 1) take a chance and 2) practice will pay off. Wayne Gretzky's quote about missing 100% of shots not taken comes to mind. Two years ago I did not challenge myself with this project and I was wrong to walk away. Last year I resolved to stretch my woodworking. I used to tell my apprentice that only difference between us is that I've had more practice. Try the new thing; you'll surprise yourself.

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: Meet Michael Engle

If you stop by the Doctor's Office, there's a good chance you'll run into Michael Engle. Michael is a family physician with Parkview Physicians Group in Albion for the last 21 years. He did his undergraduate studies at IPFW, receiving a degree in General Studies. "This degree allowed me a wide breath of studies. I thought it would be my last time to study history, political science, philosophy, psychology, English Literature etc in an academic setting while completing my pre med requirements." Michael then went to what is now the Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine, and completed his family medicine residency at the program in Fort Wayne that included Parkview, Lutheran and St. Joe back then.



This medical knowledge and experience infuses his reenacting. He has a Facebook page, *Historic Colonial Medicine*, and is working on developing a YouTube channel as well. Michael says, "I like to keep current on history. I visit Colonial Williamsburg periodically. A few interpreters have encouraged me to pursue historical interpretation as a hobby. I belong to the National Association for Interpretation. I was on the Elmhurst High School debate team for 3 years so public speaking and to a certain extent, role playing, is not new to me. I hope to certify as a heritage interpretive guide later this summer."



Michael was born in Fort Wayne. In fact, his family first came here in the 1830s. His oldest son is a middle school counselor in Allen county. His younger son is in psychology graduate school in Michigan, and his daughter is a food scientist with the Indiana State Department of Health.

Michael's other hobbies include walking or hiking out of doors and dining out and he is a member of St Johns Lutheran Church in Kendallville. Stop by the Doctor's office to say 'hi', and watch out for leeches!

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editor

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