

THE OLD FORT PALISADE

WINTER 2023



Seasons Greetings from the Board President:

This past weekend I spent most of my time in bed, suffering from COVID while some of you enjoyed the Fort's Christmas event. How did I know it was COVID vs. a bad cold or flu? I took a test. I was able to look up on the internet what to expect and how best to deal with various symptoms. Today (only four days later) I feel considerably better.

Think, if you will, what it must have been like living in the 1800's on the frontier and you started to feeling ill. What could you do? Go to bed, stay warm, drink hot tea? Yes, there were home remedies that you could try, but sometimes the cure was worse than the sickness itself or could even hasten your demise. Did you have enough wood prepared to heat your cabin or did you have to drag yourself outside to get firewood so you didn't freeze to death? What about having food and being able to cook it into something nourishing? It's easy to see why people teamed up, to live together, to support each other in times of need and to share the workload.

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NOTE:

Reenactor
Registration Forms
for all 2024 events
are now available
on our website:

<https://oldfortwayne.org>

The most helpless feeling a parent can have is when their child gets sick. Today doctors, clinics, and hospitals are available for people to receive help. People are loaded into ambulances and onto helicopters and transported miles in minutes. Imagine a time when there was no help and there were no childhood vaccines to prevent diseases that are now nearly wiped out. As reenactors, we speak about the large families people had and what percentage of children lived to

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adulthood. We tell how the number one cause of early death in women was childbirth. And the second one occurring from burns. Wow!

My oldest daughter said to me years ago that she wished she had been born 200 years ago. I responded that I wouldn't, because I'd rather live in the present with all our modern conveniences. That being said, I also told her I do enjoy going back in time to reenact the past. Be grateful for what you have.

Norm Gable
President Historic Fort Wayne

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 10, 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. The deadline is March 10, so start planning now to enjoy this event. For more information, Contact Ken Sorg at:

educationday@oldfortwayne.org



Who's Who

Board Members: Norm Gable, President
Bob Jones, Vice President
Tom Grant, Treasurer
Nancy Stansberry, Secretary
Members: 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

Send your comments/questions to info@oldfortwayne.org. Your message will be sent to the appropriate 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
Spring Palisade will be
March 1, 2024

Easy Cord Making Demos

by
Rick Hahn

Cording, netting, or luceting are all demonstrations that can be done while relaxing in camp. Many reenactors feel you need to be proficient with a spinning wheel or a drop spindle to make cord, but there are many online sources for various other types of cording demonstrations. I usually carry a spool of twine with me to events to make lucet cord, with my fingers as the lucet, similar to youtuber “modernmedievalman” and his Finger Lucet Braiding demonstration. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K07u6ou0s_I



While no fancy equipment is necessary for finger lucet braiding, a hand cut or carved netting shuttle is handy to have and can be used to make small pieces of net for snares or fish traps. The same technique can be used to create bags for collecting forage items or for hanging hams, bacon, or other meats in the smokehouse. There are several videos available on YouTube explaining how to make netting. “How To Make Your Own Fishing Net” is very thorough. My netting is not this even, but is still functional and good for a snare demonstration! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEGjwjrfzGE>

There are also several videos online that show how easy it is to make cord out of fibers from various plants, including YouTube channel Coalcracker Bushcraft. One of my favorites is Sally Pointer demonstrating how to prepare stinging nettle for making cord. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Eq7fyLMu9I>

While sitting in camp making your stinging nettle soup, you could prep the stems for making cordage! After they dry, you can use the fibers to make your cord and then lucet or braid an even heavier cord as needed. Now you’re showing how you could get multiple uses from foraged foods!



The best part is you don’t have to be an expert at these types of demonstrations. My nets are crooked and my cords have errors, but my wife uses them for laces for her stays or petticoats and the kids make shoestrings or belts from them. Eventually when the children sit still long enough, they want to try making their own cord! Watching me try to teach them is an even better demonstration.

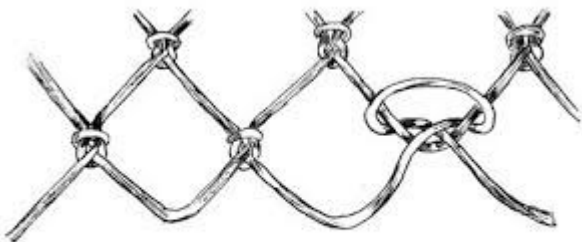


FIG. 10.
Knotted Netting.

When you begin using these items in camp it adds to the authenticity of your portrayal as you are using items made in camp that you can say you made from scratch.

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String and cordage was vital in the past for fishing, trapping, smoking foods, setting camp, making tumpline, tying bundles, for clothing and laundry, gardening, and many other uses. These projects can be started and put on hold as needed, which is great for a camp demo. Maybe this will be your next choice for a fun teaching demonstration.

Rick Hahn has been involved in reenacting for 17 years, since meeting his wife at Feast of The Hunters' Moon. His first reenactment was Locust Grove Market Fair as part of Francois Charleville's company of the Illinois Regiment of Virginia.



Traditional Christmas Meat Pie

Tourtière is a traditional French-Canadian meat pie dating to the early 1600s. During the recent December event at the Fort, Chris Braman cooked one up over the open fire, based on a recipe found here: <https://www.kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/christmas-tourtiere-recipe>

Check out what you can create while cooking over the kitchen fire!



Line the pie tin with half the crust dough



Spoon the prepared meat filling (pork, chicken, beef, lamb, etc.) into the crust.



Top and seal with remaining crust dough



The coals on top of the cast iron help the pie evenly cook with heat from all directions



Bake until golden brown, and let cool 10-15 minutes



Dinner is served!



From the Treasurer...

The Spy Run Blockhouse reconstruction is scheduled to begin in January of 2024. We have signed a contract and have ordered the logs. The total cost of reconstruction is approximately \$103,000. A portion of that cost is being funded by a Grant from the City of Fort Wayne ARPA funds. Additional funds will come from the Old Fort's endowment funds.

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% return annually.

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

For 2023, our goal is to add \$30,000 to the endowment. After the match this would add \$36,000. We are already close to 80% of that goal. If we can raise \$6,000 or so this month, we will achieve that \$30,000 level! With the market being what it is this year, our total endowment fund could easily reach \$200,000. Not bad for an organization our size.

During this season of giving, we hope you might consider a special gift to the Old Fort, to 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.

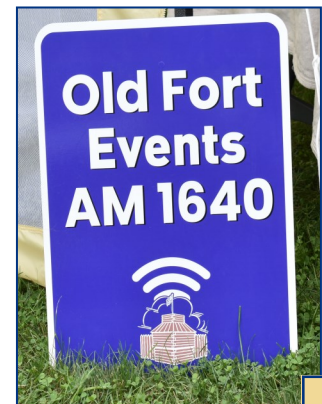
In addition, mention the 20% match to people you talk to. It might be just the motivation to create an Endowment Contribution. As always, thank you for your continued support!

Tom Grant, Historic Fort Wayne, Inc. Treasurer



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 Advance

Bob Jones



Keeping the Fort in Fort Wayne requires a lot of planning and resources and most especially individuals who show up and help. Some of the work takes small adjustments, other projects involve major renovations and require professionals.

With few exceptions, during any one of our living history events, we hear someone say they have lived in Fort Wayne for years and it is the first time they've been to a Fort event. We also frequently hear, "I first came here as a student, stayed over night and today I brought my family." The Old Fort has a significant place in the life of the city.

With events about once a month, there are plenty of ways volunteers can help. Volunteer Advance is a series of sessions to welcome new recruits and introduce topics related to living history. The meetings are generally on the second Saturday of the month from 10-noon, and are open to the public. We meet at the Fort Complex located at 1201 Spy Run Ave. (not our mailing address) with a few noted exceptions. All meetings include Q&A time, a V.I.P. Tour of the Fort Complex, and New Volunteer Orientation, unless otherwise noted. Sessions are free for registered Fort Volunteers. Topics and locations are subject to change. Watch our Facebook page for updates.

Volunteer Advance 2024

January 13	Genealogy Dept ACPL Research/lunch - Special Guest and Author - Jim Pickett
February 10	Simple Sewing: Chemise and Shirt, hand sewing, historic wardrobe ideas
March 9	The Garden to the Table - Soldier Rations and Garden Planning - Herb Garden Basics
April 13	Manual of Arms, rolling cartridges, fire a musket, field safety, cannon college
May 18	Hearth Cooking and Baking - Special Mystery Guest
June 15	Music, Games, Distractions
July 20	Care and Feeding of a Quill Pen
August 10	Musket ball casting, make a "lead" pencil
September 14	Textiles, twining, weaving, wool and flax
October	No Meeting
November 9	Flint and Steel Fire Lighting - Special Mystery Guest
December	No Meeting



Volunteers working on reconstructing the Bake Oven Enclosure

FALL AT THE OLD FORT



Fright Night
Lantern Tours



Loom
Restoration



Christmas at
the Old Fort



Veterans Day
Parade



Helpful
Volunteers



Bake Oven Shelter
Construction





Volunteer Profile

Meet Nancy Stansberry. Nancy is the secretary for the Historic Fort Wayne, inc. Board of Directors. She moved to Fort Wayne in 2006 when she was hired by FWCS as a District Curriculum Coordinator. She got involved at the Old Fort in 2018 and attends events where she enjoys the role of greeter—welcoming people as they arrive and keeping count of attendees. She particularly enjoys the Revolutionary War, Be a Tourist, Lantern Night, and Timeline events.

Nancy's first introduction to reenacting came through her work in the school system. "I taught US History in Middle School. I found a dress pattern for revolutionary period clothing. My mother was a seamstress and made my costume so I could show up at school as Martha Washington. The students reenacted the Continental Congress complete with "put together outfits from their home." Several years later I changed to teaching High School British Literature. On opening day, I asked my students what they remembered from 8th grade. All of them took turns saying what colony they had represented at the Continental Congress, what they wore, and the words of their speeches. How heart warming for me".

Nancy has been a teacher or administrator in public education for 38 years. She knew she wanted to be a teacher when she was in 4th grade and put herself through school by working as a waitress. During her career, she taught K-12 special needs students, middle school US Social Studies, and High School British Literature. She is presently an independent contractor as a Behavior Specialist.

Nancy has a son and daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren who enjoy weekend stays at 'Nana's house'. Together they go on many adventures: train rides, the zoo, the theater, and playing games. They like to walk the pond near Nancy's house and help the environment by picking up trash.

Reflecting on her involvement at the Old Fort, Nancy says, "One of my favorite memories is being an honorary member of the Cannon Squad. Every year the Race for the Fort starts with the booming of the Fort's cannon. The usual members of the squad were short a "man" and I volunteered. My task was to light the fuse. Wahooooo!!!"

In addition to her time spent working with the Fort Board and at events, Nancy volunteers at the Embassy Theater and the Zoo. Next time you see Nancy greeting at an event, say 'hi'!



Welcoming visitors to 'Be A Tourist In Your Own Hometown'

Loom Reconstruction

Lora Stafford

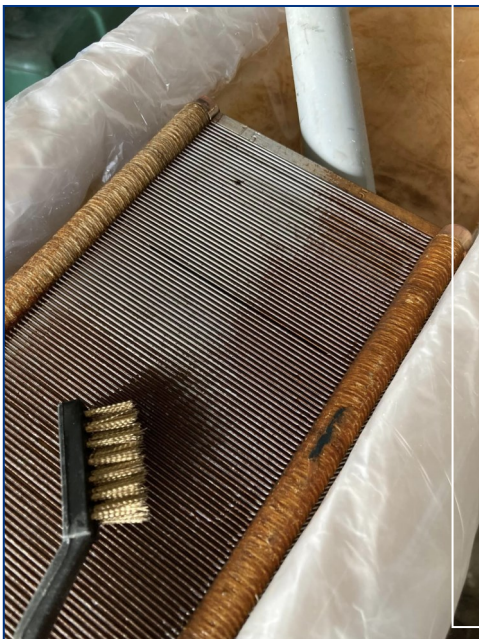
Humans have been weaving thread since before recorded history. The method is much the same, taking threads and interlocking them to create something stronger – cloth. From the finished cloth comes all manner of things from clothing, blankets, to sail cloths. We still weave thread for cloth production today. Though the looms used are usually highly mechanized, the methods and parts of the loom remain unchanged.

My name is Lora Browning and with my dear friend Connie we have been given the opportunity to restore the floor loom at the Fort for use in history demonstrations. We have plans to help educate the public about cloth production from raw animal and plant fibers through weaving and clothing production. The biggest step to take in this plan was to start the restoration process.



The floor loom housed at the old fort was built by JL Hammet company sometime between 1930 and 1960. This loom, model number 401, has a lot of versatility, and the ability to weave quite fine cloth all the way up to thick and sturdy rugs. This is still a popular loom style for artisan crafters and this loom in particular can be found at estate sales and on ebay from time to time. We are very excited to get to work on this loom.

This loom has been sitting unused since 1992, the date we discovered on some newspapers used in the last warp, which we uncovered during the initial cleaning of the loom. There was a lot of dust and a little rust to be cleaned from the loom and that was the first step in the process. Once we got the dust and rust removed we restrung the pieces that needed new tie-ups and it was time to decide on what the very first project was going to be.



When weaving it is impossible to start without some planning before you can get to the fun parts. For the first project on this loom we have decided to make a couple of kitchen towels for use at the fort. Once we had a plan it was time to create the warp – the ‘warp’ is the name for the threads that run up and down in a piece of cloth. This process was completed by Connie and me at ‘Christmas at the Fort’ to the amusement of many people who came by to see us. Once the warp is created it was time to thread the loom.

At this point some weaving definitions are required. We have already discussed the ‘warp’ so let’s start with the

Continued next page



other threads that will make up the weaving. The threads that move across horizontally will be called the 'weft'. The process of putting the weft in between the warp threads is the act of weaving. In order to weave the weft with the warp threads we must create sheds. You could manually move your thread over and under every thread across but that would mean that the act of weaving would take approximately forever. The 'sheds' are created by the machine in a very clever manner. This loom has four frames that hold 'heddles' which move freely left and right. A heddle is anything that is used to hold a warp thread

that can be raised or lowered. The heddles in our loom are made of thin metal wire with an eye in the middle. The warp ends are each individually threaded through an eye of one heddle. The frames are then tied to the 'treadles' which are the foot peddles at the bottom of the loom. By pressing on the treadles, the frames are raised or lowered in sequence creating different sheds for the weft to be passed through, thus creating the woven pattern.

During the Christmas event Connie and I were able to string the 315 warp threads and begin the process of threading the heddles. Both Connie and I are looking forward to many more events and many more weaving patterns as we both continue to work on the loom and learn more as we go.

*Watch our Facebook page for updates
on this project!*



**Merry Christmas
And Happy Holidays
From the Old Fort**

2024 UPCOMING EVENTS

Public hours as listed below. If you are 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 27: NOUVELLE ANNEE 1744

Saturday: 10 am– 5 pm

FEBRUARY 17: 1812 OFFICER & NCO TRAINING GARRISON

Saturday: 10 am – 5 pm

MARCH 2: REVOLUTIONARY WAR GARRISON

Saturday: 10 am – 5 pm

MARCH 23: CIVIL WAR GARRISON

Saturday: 10 am – 5 pm

MAY 10: EDUCATION DAY

Friday: 9 am – 2 pm

Pre-registration required

MAY 11-12: MUSTER ON THE ST. MARY'S

Saturday: 10 am–5 pm

Sunday: 10 am-4 pm

JUNE 8-9: SIEGE OF FORT WAYNE 1812

Saturday: 10 am–5 pm

Sunday: 10 am-4 pm

JULY: TBD

AUGUST 3-4: NAPOLEONIC DAYS

Saturday: 10 am–5 pm

Sunday: 10 am-4 pm

AUGUST 24-25: POST MIAMI

Saturday: 10 am–5 pm

Sunday: 10 am-4 pm

SEPTEMBER 8: BE A TOURIST IN YOUR OWN HOMETOWN

Saturday: Noon –5pm

OCTOBER 19: FRIGHT NIGHT LANTERN TOURS

Saturday: 6 pm – 10 pm

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

DECEMBER 7: CHRISTMAS AT THE FORT: A TIMELINE EVENT

Saturday: 10 am – 4 pm

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

Historic Fort Wayne, Inc.



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Editor

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