

Spring, 2022



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BRIGADE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
NORTHWEST DEPARTMENT

# ***B.A.R. SHOT***

***Commander: Bob Cairns (330) 455-9722***

***B.A.R. SHOT Editor: Karen Kashary (330) 523-0629***

## **Commander's Corner**

I'd like to begin by writing about our recently completed NW Dept. School, held at Hale Farm and Village in Bath Ohio, 9 April, 2022. Originally planned as a two-day event, the scheduled was changed so that everyone attending would be free to attend their local places of worship on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday. All the scheduled presentations took place, and we started a little earlier, took shorter breaks between sessions, and everyone cooperated and brought their own lunches, which were supplemented by hot soups made by several NW Dept. Board members. This saved a great deal of time by not having members leave the site for nooning. We had 35 NW Dept. members attend, representing 9 units of the NW Dept. All the presentations were very professional, scholarly, and elicited stimulating questions and discussion from the audience. A fine selection of original artifacts was on display, including period tools, clothing, weapons, equipment and coinage.

I would like to thank Board members Bob Kashary and Dianne Miller who helped provide soup for lunch. I want to also thank our fine presenters:

- Tom Hornbrook and Mark McFarland (8<sup>th</sup> Pa., Ft. Laurens) – The History and Use of Period Tools
- David Weidner (Haslet's Lt. Coy.) – 18<sup>th</sup> c. clothing and accessories
- Stephanie Miller (5<sup>th</sup> Va.)- Funerals and Burials of the Continental Army
- Bruce Egli (Westmoreland Cty. Militia)- Currency and Coins of the Revolution
- Travis Henline (Director, Hale Farm & Village) – Native Americans in the Revolution
- Bob Cairns (8<sup>th</sup> Pa., Ft. Laurens)- Making a correct flashguard

Finally, I want to thank everyone that attended and participated in the School. You were all most cooperative, and encouraging to our speakers, and I hope you all took away from the day a new understanding of some of the topics presented. Thanks too, to those of you that brought your tools and made a correct, documented flash-guard.

On the subject of flashguards, I presented information to document their use, and also photos of their use in a period painting as well as photos of original flashguards found in Austria and Sweden. I have included the material for my presentation in this BARSHOT, so you can make one for yourself even if you did not attend the school or workshop. You can find the documentation, painting, photos of originals and a pattern elsewhere in this BARSHOT.

The next thing I would like to address is the schedule. There is one change to the earlier-published schedule. The Site Director of Hale Farm & Village, Travis Henline, has requested that we move the event we have scheduled at his site from October 15-16, 2022, to sometime next Spring. The NW Dept. Board complied, and on that weekend, we instead will hold a Firelock Match at Jim Workman's Campbellsport Tavern, near Ravenna, Ohio. We have had several fine events at Jim's place, and I look forward to returning there this Fall. Our **2022 NW Dept. Schedule** is at follows:

**30 April-1 May - The Ohio Civil War Show** (see the event notice in this BARSHOT)

**10-11 June - Heritage Village**, Cincinnati, Ohio

**16-17 July - Fort Laurens**, Bolivar, Ohio

**6-7 August - Fort Steuben**, Steubenville, Ohio

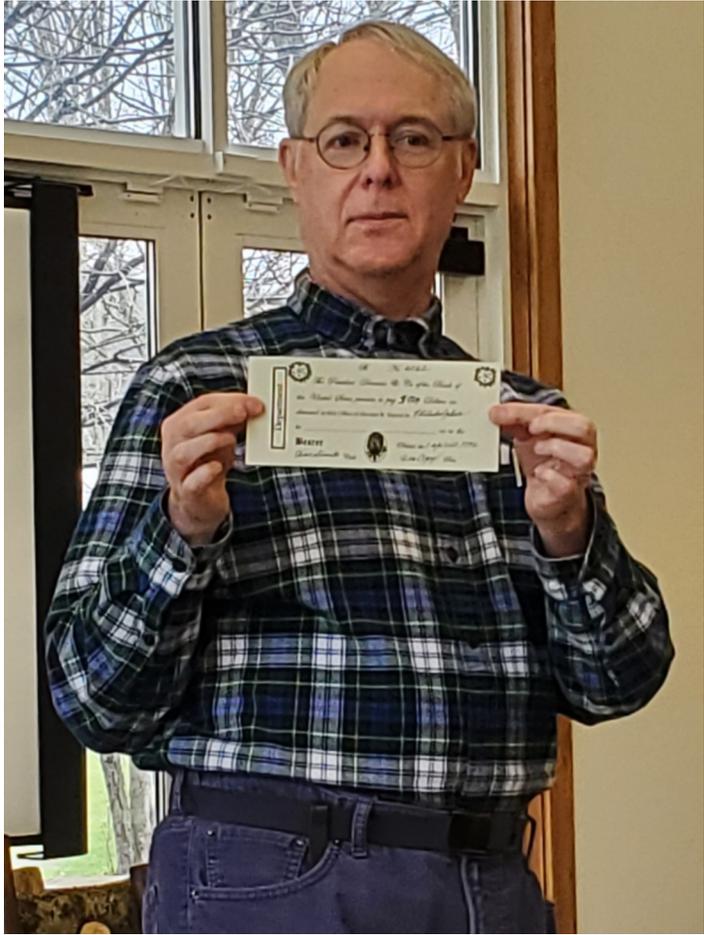
**25 September - Brecksville**, Ohio

**1-2 October - Adena Mansion**, Chillicothe, Ohio

**15-16 October - Firelock Match**, Campbellsport Tavern, Ravenna, Ohio

Just a few comments on the scheduled events. Heritage Village, Cincinnati, is a Timeline event and that portion of the show is only scheduled for Saturday. Sunday is a time we can use to polish up our presentations and work on drill. I think we can be done by noon on Sunday, and would say that if you cannot make Saturday, don't drive a long way just for Sunday. Fort Steuben is another "first-time" site for the NW Dept., and both Heritage Village and Ft. Steuben are potentials for places we can hold our own B.A.R. events once we get a foot in the door. For Brecksville, I hope that you will make a maximum effort to attend this one and support the NW Dept. Most of the 8<sup>th</sup> Pa. will be travelling east for an event that same weekend, and event coordinator Bill Lucas will be looking for your help with Brecksville. Watch the NWDBARSHOT.com page for all the event notices.

Bob Cairns, 8th Pa. Reg't., Ft. Laurens Det.  
Commander, NorthWest Dept., BAR



Bob Kashary





Dianne Miller

**Event Notice**  
**Ohio Civil War Show, 31 April- 1 May 2022**  
**Richland County Fairgrounds, Mansfield, Ohio**

The Ohio Civil War Show is one of the largest Militaria shows in the country and features a number of exhibit halls with items from the time period of early America through WW II, with the primary focus on the American Civil War. There are usually plenty of articles of the Revolutionary War period and you will have time to browse these exhibits during the day. As an added feature for us this year, if you would like to be certified as an artillerist you can get that done during the weekend by a nationally certified Instructor. The NW Dept. howitzer will be present for you to practice and be certified. If your unit has recruiting information you would like to share with the public, bring it along. In addition to our presence there will also be reenactors from the Civil War and WW II.

**Meals:** you are on your own for ALL meals. There are two cafeteria-style food vendors indoors, as well as a few food trucks. You can also bring your own, and if needed build a small cooking fire in our camp for cooking. (Let me know ahead of time so I can arrange for firewood).

**Lodging:** There are several motels in the area, and you can 18<sup>th</sup> tent camp, too. (Again, let me know ahead of time, since space will be limited). We can use the building we usually have for sleeping, as well.

**Activities:** We will put on several 30-minute demonstrations include Musket/rifle, uniforms, music, and other topics. We also will open and close each day with a flag ceremony. The event day for us is:

Saturday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Please bring enough cartridges for firing in these demos. For both days 50 rounds should be ample.

The address of the Richland County Fairgrounds is: (just off Oh. Rt. 30)  
**750 N Home Rd, Mansfield, OH 44906**

Event website is:

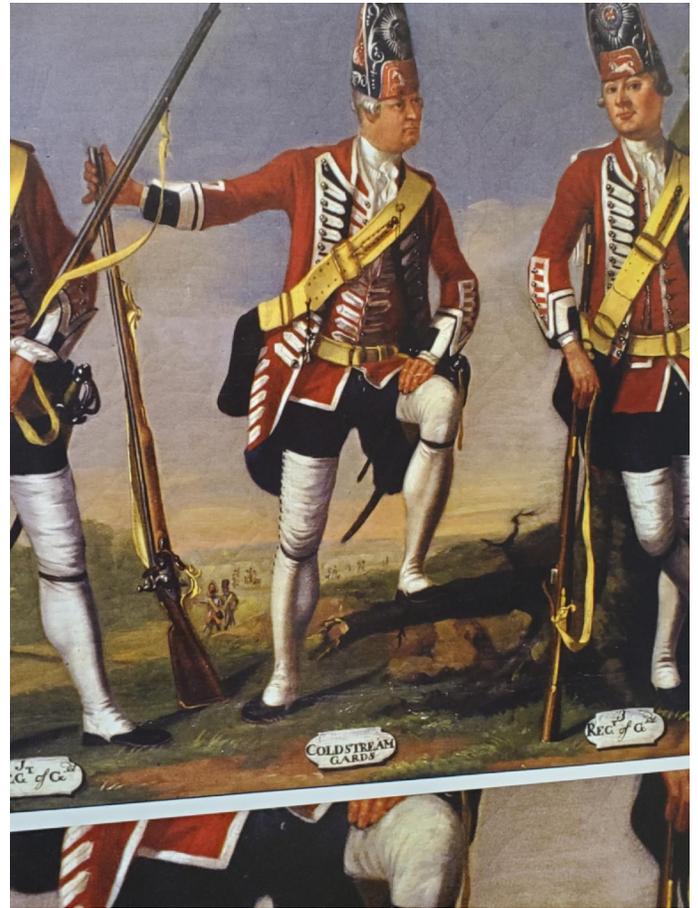
<https://ohiocivilwarshow.com/wp/>

Event coordinator: Bob Cairns (330) 455-9722 or [robtcairns@cs.com](mailto:robtcairns@cs.com)

**PLEASE LET ME KNOW YOU PLAN TO ATTEND**



Bob Kashary



## Inspector's reminder

Our first event for 2022 at the Mansfield Civil War Show is only ten days away. Check your kit and bring it up to specks for this one and you will be good to go for the season. Most of us have been around for a while and know what's correct but I'll be there if there are any questions I can help with.

See you at Mansfield!

Bill Lucas 64<sup>th</sup> Reg't. of Foot  
NWD Inspector

## Adjutant's Freshest Advices

I know that those that attended our first NWD Event of the 2022 Year had a wonderful and enlightening experience at the NWD School held at Hale Farm and Village. Personally, I can't wait to go back there for an Event. All our presenters brought fresh new research to the attendees and all of the "original pieces and clothing" were just amazing!

Our next NWD Event is the Mansfield Civil War Show, the weather looks to be changing and we may even see some 70's. Tell a friend...

As always, please, make certain that your Unit Commander has your most up to date information. All updates need to go through the Main Dept Secretary Donna Cole: [dlcole10940@yahoo.com](mailto:dlcole10940@yahoo.com). Check your email every couple of days for EVENT BLASTS for new and updated information. Don't forget about our "Better than Ever" website: [www.NWDBARShot.com](http://www.NWDBARShot.com) or find it on the Brigade website: [www.brigade.org](http://www.brigade.org)

See you at Mansfield,  
Bob Kashary, 5<sup>th</sup> Va. Reg't.  
NWD Adjutant



Dave Weidner

## Hammer Stalls

As reenactors that use flintlock weapons, we're all familiar with hammer stalls even if we don't regularly handle firelocks. We all know their purpose and simple construction. I am much less certain, however, that we all know that they are historically correct and accurate, and not just some "reenactor invention". It is possible to find any number of original paintings and sketches that do not show hammer stalls in use, but there is also ample evidence of their existence in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and therefore their use. Unless otherwise noted, all the quotes of original 18<sup>th</sup> c. writings are from R.R. Gale's A Soldier-Like Way, pages 21-22

. . . Captain James Stewart of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment (British) gave the following order in February of 1760:

"The mens arms to be in perfect repair and to be completed in stoppers, pickers, brushes, and **hammer caps** . . ."

(Emphasis by B. Cairns)

. . . Captain Robert Stewart of the Virginia Regiment, writing to George Washington in March of 1761 wrote:

". . . we can make Lock Covers of cow hides, and **Hammer Slatts** of Deer Skins & etc. . . "

(Emphasis by B. Cairns)

Safety was an important issue. Accidental discharges were frequent and occasionally resulted in wounding or death of a fellow soldier, as General Jeffrey Amherst noted in June of 1758:

"A man of mine was wounded and one of Bragg's wounded by a firelock going off."

As a safety precaution, a leather hammer stall or thumb stall was issued, which was placed over the hammer to prevent sparks should the flint strike the hammer accidentally. Captain Robert Orme recorded in his journal on 2 July 1755:

". . . an officer of a company is to see at retreat beating that the men fix on their **thumb stalls**"

(Emphasis by B. Cairns)

Morier's painting of the Coldstream and 3<sup>rd</sup> Foot Guards . . . shows dark brown covers on the hammers of their muskets, attached by matching straps.

Moving into the period of the Revolution, we find the following in the orderly book of Colonel Meredith's Minute Men from Mecklenburg County, Virginia, in the National Archives, Publication number M853, Folder 3, Record Group 93:

July 11<sup>th</sup> 1776

Parole Hampton

That each soldier make **a Leather cover to the Steel** of his gun which is to be kept on the same . . .

(Emphasis by B. Cairns)

While not mentioning hammer stalls, General Washington does try to deal with the problem of accidental discharge of firelocks, as well as conserving flints, in his general order of May 21, 1776.

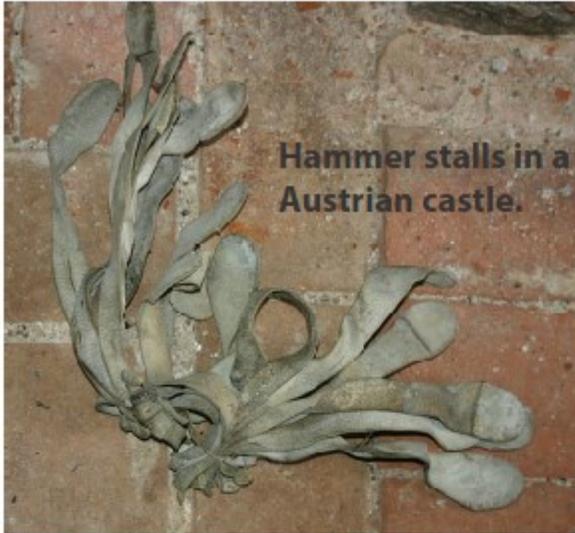
By the present demand for Flints, by some of the Troops, the General has reason to apprehend, that due care has not been taken of those lately deliver'd to the Soldiers, who have had no occasion to make an extraordinary use of them--and it is well known, that a good flint, well screw'd in, will stand the firing of sixty rounds (after which it may still be repaired) 'tis therefore presumed, that the men have either lost their Flints through negligence, or abused them by that worst of practices, *Snapping their pieces continually*, which not only spoils their Lock, softens the Hammer, and destroys the Flint, but **frequently causes the death of many a man, by the Gun being unknowingly loaded**--The Officers are therefore required, to pay a very strict attention to this particular, and have their men's Flints examined when they review their Ammunition; for Men being surprized with bad flints in their Guns, may be attended with fatal consequences--The Officers are also desired to be careful, that when their men turn out to exercise, their Flints be taken out, and a wooden Snapper screw'd into their gun, until their exercise be over; when the Flint is again to be well screw'd in, and their arms immediately put in proper fighting order, after which, no man is on any account to snap his piece.

(Emphasis by B. Cairns)

So, we can see that accidentally discharge of firelocks was a problem that occurred regularly, and that many officers took steps that included both hammer stalls and wooden snappers to alleviate. Our modern-day hammer stalls are an important part of our impressions, and you now have the documentation.

As a postscript, I would like to highly recommend R.R. Gale's book. Although it's focus is on the period just before the American Revolution, most, if not all the information regarding the material culture of soldiers is applicable to our chosen period. The book is [A Soldier-Like Way, The Material Culture of the British Infantry 1751-1768](#), by R.R. Gale, copy write Track of The Wolf, Inc. 2007, ed. By John Neitz and Joshua Pollock. I would also like to thank Brigade member Greg Sandor for the excerpt from the Virginia Orderly Book of Col. Meredith.

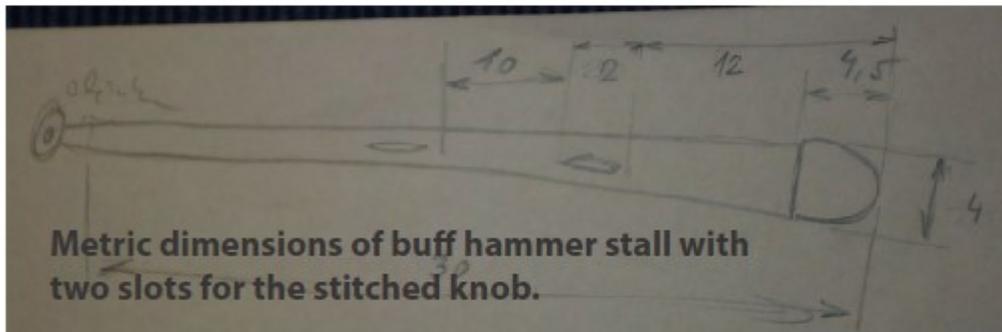




**Hammer stalls in a  
Austrian castle.**



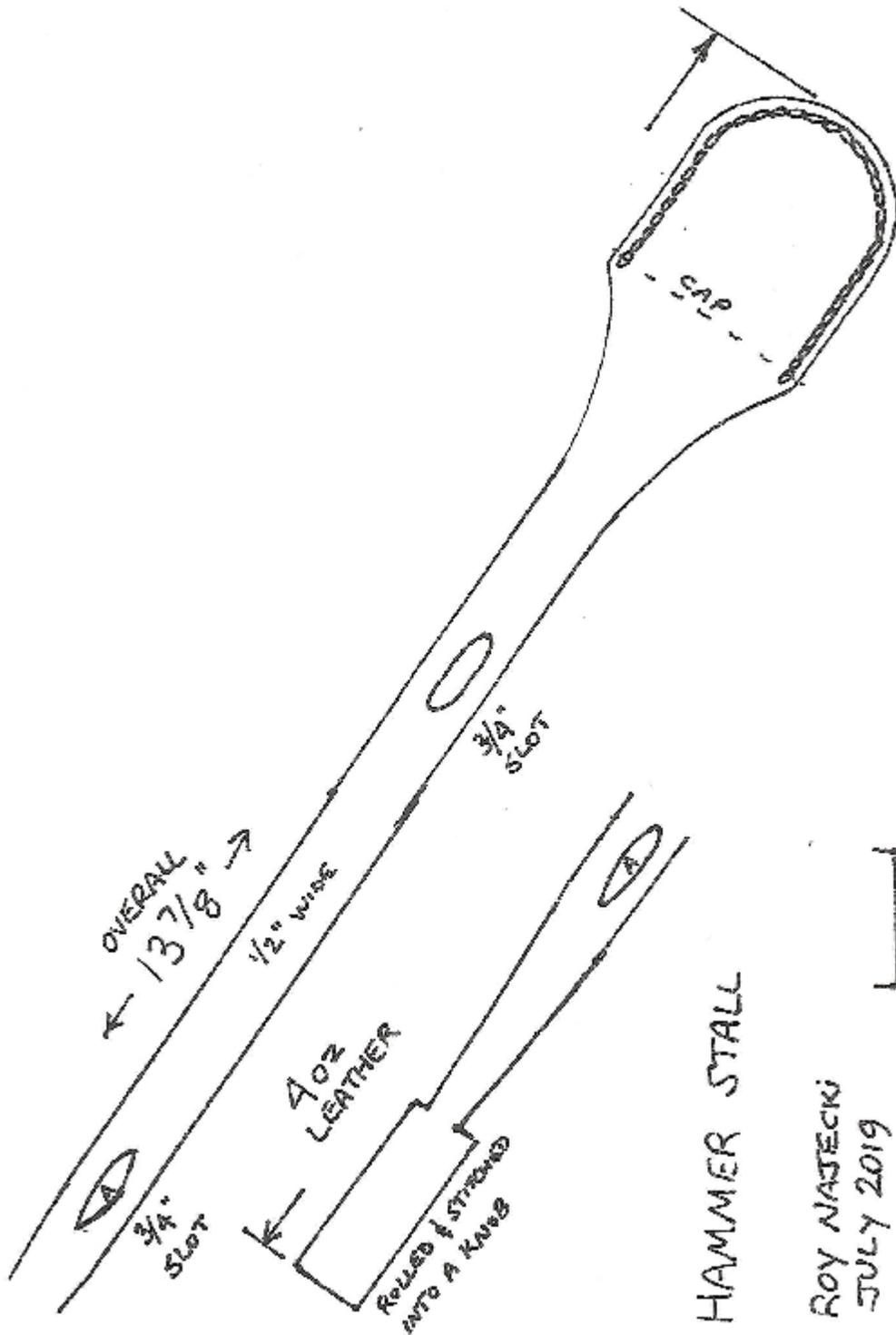
**End of thong rolled and  
stitched into a knob.**



**Left: Russian army russet  
leather hammer stall in  
a Stockholm army  
museum.**



**Detail of the  
thong end rolled & stitched.**



HAMMER STALL

ROY NADJECKI  
 JULY 2019

## **Special Event Notice**

**What: Fort Laurens School Day**

**When: Friday, 20 May 2022**

**Where: Fort Laurens State Memorial, Bolivar, Ohio**

This event is for school children of all grade levels, but mostly primary and middle school. They will visit a number of stations set up near the museum, to learn about the Revolutionary War period. Skilled interpreters (that's you) will provide demonstrations and talks of a variety of topics as the students rotate through the activities. I hope you will volunteer to be a presenter/demonstrator and hands-on topics are very welcome (i.e. 18<sup>th</sup> c. games, cartridge rolling, wooden musket drill, etc.). Please let me know what you would like to do, and if you want to participate but don't have an activity in mind, we will find something for you. Please bring everything you need for your demo. (I have wooden muskets). We will begin approximately 9:00 AM, and end by 3:30 PM. Bring your own lunch. Coffee & donuts will be provided. Please get in touch with me ASAP.

We've always had fun with the kids, and I expect the same result this year. You can reach me at:

Bob Cairns    [robtcairns@cs.com](mailto:robtcairns@cs.com)    (330) 455-9722

2021 Laurens School Day Volunteers



**The NWD B.A.R. SHOT**

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**Brecksville, OH 44141**

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Contact the editor for advertising rates (\$7-\$40, depending on size and placement). The Brigade of the American Revolution was established in 1962 as a not-for-profit association dedicated to recreating the life and times of the common soldier of the War for Independence, 1775-83. The NWD was established in 1973. Extracted passages are scholarly comment only.