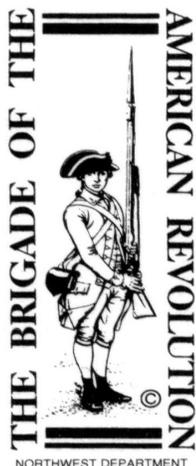


Spring, 2021



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**

NW Department Members,

First let me say that I am very happy to be getting ready to begin a full season of events after last year's shutdown of everything. We have a good schedule planned, and I hope that you will take advantage of the NW Dept. Board's work and attend as many of these as you possibly can. One of the very negative effects of the Corona Virus is that it made it easy to stay at home. I hope now that things are opening up again you will remember why you got involved in Revolutionary War living history and all the time, effort and money you put into assembling your kit, and get back out with the rest of us and enjoy that thing that brings us all together.

I dislike bringing up this next subject, but believe I am obligated to do so. My impression of the current social climate is that we, as a nation, have become politically polarized and hyper-sensitive. It is important that we not allow this to become part of our events. I am asking that you refrain from discussing modern politics and social issues during the public portions of our events. When we are in front of the public, we represent the entire Brigade of the American Revolution. It is important that we do so in a manner that teaches about our time period and does not alienate members of the audience. Even small side comments could illicit a negative reaction and take away from our intended goal. Whigs and Tories should be the politics of our public discussions. I am not saying you should not have your own opinions. I am just asking that you not share them with the public. Around the evening campfire would be the time, and be sensitive to your friends there, too.

This next bit is for the **unit adjutants and commanders**. Please take note, as mentioned in NWD Dept. Adjutant Kashary's piece, that NW Dept. Deputy Commander Dave Miller is getting out of the B.A.R. Membership Secretary business, after doing a fine job for more than a decade. **ALL dues** are to be sent to:

**B.A.R. Membership**  
**17 Riverdale Rd.**  
**Middletown, N.Y. 10940**

I advise units to make sure that all your unit dues pass through the hands of your unit adjutant, or whomever takes care of unit dues, and that person should then forward dues to the B.A.R. address. This goes for not only the dues you send as a group, but any new members or late dues as well. In this way, your unit can keep track of who is actually a paid unit/B.A.R. member.

In closing, I want to remind you to look carefully at the NW Dept. schedule and event notices that follow in this newsletter and mark your calendars to participate in as many events as possible. Each event is better if you are there.

I'll see you at the next formation,

Bob Cairns, 8<sup>th</sup> Pa. Ft. Laurens  
Commander, NW Dept., B.A.R.

**Event Notice**  
**Ft. Laurens School Day, 14 May 2021**  
**9:00-2:00**

Last fall a group of NW Dept. members from several of our units gathered at Fort Laurens State Memorial for a day of teaching home-schooled students about various aspects of the period of the American Revolution. Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, we again will gather to present to public school elementary students and enhance their knowledge. Already a group of you has committed to participating, and there is still room for more help.

We will split into stations, and the students will rotate every 20-25 minutes, so you will give the same talk multiple times during the day. (Dick Watkins explained "firecakes" at least 150 times!!). I will try to pair you up so one person does not have to do all the talking. Every hour and a half we will bring them all together for a musket demo and artillery firing. I would ask that all the soldiers bring rounds for their longarms.

If you know how to roll a cartridge with powder and ball, and would like to teach the students, I have all the material needed. (Black model railroad ballast is our "gunpowder").

The kids will have a hands-on activity and something to take home. You will need to be set up and ready to go by 9:00 AM, and we will finish at 2:00. Currently no food is provided, so bring your own lunch. There will be a coffee pot on all day with donuts for you.

To sign up (if you haven't already), or for questions please contact:

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

Because the site has many other things scheduled for the Spring, if weather cancels this event, there will be no rain day, and fees will be returned to the students.

**NW Dept. B.A.R. Firelock Match Event**  
**Campbellsport Tavern, 5200 Hayes Rd., Ravenna, Ohio 44266**  
**Sat. & Sun., 26-27 June, 2021**

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

Shooting Coordinators:

Chris Ankeney [chris.ankeney@yahoo.com](mailto:chris.ankeney@yahoo.com) (937) 604-3539

Tom Morris [tkmorris1955@gmail.com](mailto:tkmorris1955@gmail.com) (740) 675-9658

Tom Yoder [tomarmy62@gmail.com](mailto:tomarmy62@gmail.com) (513) 446-9030

**Lodging:** Campbellsport Tavern is owned by 8<sup>th</sup> Pa. member Jim Workman. It is a very welcoming site, with plenty of indoor sleeping accommodations in the tavern and the blockhouse. The tavern will also be the site of our evening meal and jollification on Saturday evening. You may arrive Friday evening, and space is on a first come basis.

**Meals:** you will be on your own for breakfasts and lunches, but there will be a simple, hot meal provided Saturday evening. Once all firelocks are safely lodged away, the tavern's bar will be open on a cash basis. Please DO NOT bring any of your own spirits. Prices at the bar are very reasonable and help maintain the site.

**Shooting:** We will begin shooting at 9:30 AM both Saturday and Sunday. All live cartridges are to be rolled in foil. Rifles are not required to use prepared ball-and-powder cartridges but should have their powder rolled in paper rounds. Horns are only permitted to have 2 oz. of powder. (see the sheet with live-firing tips). All B.A.R. safety and authenticity rules will apply. Rev. War period dress is required.

Saturday's shooting will be focused on team shooting, and Sunday will be individual matches. Planned matches at this time are:

Team matches

- large silhouette torso
- stake shoot
- life-sized man targets volley fire
- opposing teams elimination shooting at playing cards
- hanging bottles
- assorted hanging targets

### Individual matches

- NMLRA Green Bottle
- NMLRA Deer
- NMLRA squirrel
- Alvin York target
- Over-the-log
- tomahawk throw

Teams will include both rifles and muskets, with both arms equally distributed. Inexperienced shooters will also be divided among the teams. Some matches will be a single shot, while others will require many shots. Bring at least 80 live rounds. (If you don't use them all, they don't "go bad"). Obviously, you cannot throw a tomahawk if you don't bring one.

For questions about food, lodging, etc., contact Bob Cairns. **Please let Bob Cairns know you plan to attend so food can be arranged for Saturday evening.**

For questions about the actual shooting, contact Tom Yoder, Chris Ankeney, or Tom Morris.

## **NW Dept. B.A.R. Fort Laurens Event**

**Ft. Laurens State Memorial, 11067 Fort Laurens Rd. NW, Bolivar,  
Oh. 44612**

**Saturday and Sunday, 17-18 July, 2021**

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

Fort Laurens was the only fort constructed by the Continental Congress within the modern borders of Ohio. An army of 1,200 men, consisting of men of the 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania, 9<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Va., Pa. and Va. Militia and N.C. dragoons marched from Ft. McIntosh on the Beaver River, 4 November 1778, arriving at the Tuscarawas 18 November. After construction was nearly completed, most of the army returned to Ft. McIntosh. The fort changed garrisons several times, endured an ambush followed by a siege. The fort was abandoned 2 August 1779. British units known to participate in the siege were The King's 8<sup>th</sup> and Butler's Rangers, both in support of Native warriors.

The modern Fort Laurens Memorial has a museum that tells the story of the fort in the context of the Revolution, the Tomb of the Unknown Patriot, and the outline of the fort as determined by archeology. The park has plenty of room for camps, demonstrations and tactical exercises, and the Ohio Canal runs through the eastern edge. The Fort Laurens Memorial is only five minutes off Exit 93 of I-77. There are convenient restaurants and lodgings nearby.

A full day of activities are planned, beginning approximately 9:00 AM and continuing through the closing of the park at 4:30 PM. Sunday we will try to accommodate those of our number with lengthy drives by ending at 4:00 PM.

There will be traditional 18<sup>th</sup> c. camps, and room for modern camping. Fires will be centrally located in each camp to comply with site regulations. Fresh, potable water is available and modern restrooms in the museum (during museum hours) and at a restroom building will be available. If you wish to have straw for bedding, please make arrangements with the event coordinator.

You will be on your own for breakfast and noon meals. A hot, period-style meal will be provided for Saturday supper. Please bring your own eating utensils, plates, bowls, & cups.

A very special part of this year's event is that the NW Dept. B.A.R. has invited the **NorthWest Territorial Alliance** to attend and participate with us. We have done many events with the N.W.T.A. over the years. We look forward to working with our friends again this summer.

Hotels near the Fort Laurens State Memorial;

**The Sleep Inn**, 11155 SR 212 Northeast, Bolivar, OH 44612 .7 miles (330) 874-3435

**The Ramada**, 509 South Wooster Avenue, Strasburg, OH 44680 5 miles (330) 878-1400

**77 Inn and Suites**, 889 Commercial Parkway, Dover, OH 44622 8.7 miles (330) 364-7724

There are also a number of Bed and Breakfast accommodations in the Bolivar/Zoar area.

You can visit the Fort Laurens website and/or Facebook page at:

<https://www.ohiohistory.org/visit/museum-and-site-locator/fort-laurens>

<https://www.facebook.com/fortlaurens/>

On Saturday, after the end of the scheduled public events, we will have a "Flea market" for reenacting & related items. This is a chance for you to sell the stuff you bought several years ago to someone else. Please only bring items related to our hobby.

Please let me know the following information relative to your participation:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Number in Your Party \_\_\_\_\_

Tentage(type and number) \_\_\_\_\_

men/music \_\_\_\_\_ distaff \_\_\_\_\_

Demonstration(s) You Will Help With \_\_\_\_\_

See you at Fort Laurens,  
Bob Cairns (330) 455-9722 [robtcairns@cs.com](mailto:robtcairns@cs.com)

Please return this to Bob Cairns by 1 July 2021 so arrangements can be made.  
You can provide this information via email, telephone, or via regular mail

Bob Cairns  
1919 Yale Ave. NW  
Canton, Ohio 44709

## **Adjutant's Freshest Advices**

I'm just itching to put on my wool!!! BUT FIRST...

Do IT Now!!! If you haven't already sent your 2021 BAR Dues to your Unit Commander or Adjutant... Yes, there is a new BAR Dues Computer Form that your Commander/Adjutant must fill out on the computer or "old school" paper hard copy this year. Either way, they need to collect and verify all your current information ASAP. Then send it to Donna Cole via the Brigade Membership computer site or U.S. Mail to:

**Donna Cole**

**17 Riverdale Rd.**

**Middletown, NY 10940-6813**

Our NWD "Campaign Season" is about to begin with the Mansfield Civil War Show May 1 & 2 , 2021. We want to see you there!!!

Bob Kashary, 5<sup>th</sup> Va. Reg't.

NWD Adjutant

## **From the Inspector**

As we approach the start of a new season and the reopening of our event sites after our long hiatus, I would like to remind everyone about camp authenticity. We represent an 18th century military camp and must guard against having non 18th century items in view of the public.

Incorrect items fall into two categories. One is modern camp equipment such as cots, bedding, cooking gear, etc. If you use such items, make sure they are out of view or covered and tent flaps closed.

The second category is 18c items which are just not correct for a military camp or in too great a number. Large furniture, fancy lighting, tons of iron cookware are examples. Items like these which are being used as part of a scenario or for demos should be kept behind the scenes as much as possible.

Looking forward to seeing everyone for the new season.

Bill Lucas, 23<sup>rd</sup> Royal Welsh Fusiliers  
NWD Inspector

## THE ENGLISH AND FOOD

Yes, the English – data may not apply to Scots, Welsh, or Irish. Colonists, you are free to apply this to yourselves, or not. Englishmen of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century were disdainful of foreigners and especially foreign foods. French food was a nearby target. William Hazlitt called it “an abomination,” recommending anyone forced to eat it “get near enough the door to make his exit suddenly.” The traditional Grand Tour for aristocrats ended in Rome. While the Classical Architecture, art, and bric-a-brac were admired, Peter Beckford wrote home complaining that the food might be “raw ham, Bologna sausages, figs, and melons. No boiled leg of pork and pease pudding. No bubble-and-squeak.” Named after the sound of it cooking, this still traditional English dish took leftover boiled beef, sliced and fried, and served with fried chopped boiled cabbage, perhaps with onions and potatoes. The word *macaroni* covered several forms of Italian pasta. Younger, more impressionable English travelers took it home along with other European fashions and of course were scorned or admired as *macaronis*. Other than Yankee Doodle’s hat, I have not encountered macaroni in the American colonies. If you have, please tell!

Foreigners returned these compliments. Peter Kalm of Sweden, who visited both England and North America, noted “Englishmen understand almost better than any other people the art of properly roasting a large cut of meat. This is not to be wondered at; because the art of cooking as practiced by most Englishmen does not extend much beyond roast beef and plum pudding.” A common French term for the English was “les rosbifs” Peas, or *pease*, were popular in England. A deserting soldier was found with a haversack full of peas. Remember, of course:

*Pease porridge hot, pease porridge cold, pease porridge in the pot, nine days old.*

The American colonies were both strange and familiar. Corn, maize, Indian corn, etc. were quickly popular in New England and Virginia where there was initially much contact with the local Indian nations. Pennsylvania Germans took several generations to accept it. In northern Europe and England, it only seems to have caught on as animal feed to this day. In Italy, perhaps because of its connection to Spain during the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, it became part of the regional cuisine as *polenta*. Captain Thomas Webb, a retired British army officer who lived in America for many years, grew fond of maize and after being forcibly removed to England as a loyalist, continued to have remaining American relatives ship it to him. The English usage of *corn* as referring to small grains, principally wheat (think of the Corn Laws) can be confusing.

A regional specialty was noted by Thomas Hughes, a young officer in the 53<sup>rd</sup> Foot held prisoner in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. We can only hope this was a strictly local foodway which I feel no need to sample:

*Saw an opossum with nine young. It is an ugly animal about the size of a pig of two months old. They are common in the woods here and it is not unusual for the country people to eat them, but they are first obliged to bury them for a day or two – to take off their rank smell.*

Bruce Egli, Westmoreland County Militia

### **NWD Unit Commanders, Adjutants and General Membership**

The “Nominations from the Floor” phase of the 2021 Election of NWD Board Officers is closed as of 01March 2021. The below members have stepped forward to run for office in this election cycle of 2 years. All nominated persons are running unopposed.

**Cmdr.** Bob Cairns 8th Pa.

**Deputy Cmdr.** Dave Miller 5th Va.

**Inspector** Bill Lucas 23rd RWF

**Adjt.** Bob Kashary 5th Va.

**Paymaster** Ken Tischler 64th Ft.

#### **Members at Large Candidates:**

Diane Miller 5th Va.

Doug Wechter 1st Jaeger

Joe Forte Geographers

Per our NWD By-Laws, the Adjutant will cast 1 Vote for the Slate and all are ELECT-ED. Installation shall be at the Fort Laurens Event July 17 &18 2021.

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

## IRON OR BRONZE GUNS

18<sup>th</sup> Century cannon (*guns*) were made of either iron or bronze, but not brass. Contemporary writers often confuse the issue for us by calling everything *brass*. Both are copper alloys, brass being softer with a 15% to 40% zinc content, bronze being harder and stronger with a 10% to 15% tin content. Statues, bells, and cannon are bronze. Pots, utensils, etc. are brass. Brass was favored for small parts because it could be easily beaten or filed into shape. These copper alloys melted at a much lower temperature than iron, and were less temperamental to handle. Centuries of casting bronze church bells translated easily into casting guns. Traditionally the bronze church bells of captured towns were taken by the artillery for recasting as guns.

While iron is actually lighter per volume than bronze, the primitive state of metallurgy and melting and casting at high temperatures meant that iron guns could be brittle and burst catastrophically when fired, flinging large fragments in all directions. To compensate iron guns were cast with thicker and supposedly stronger tubes, ending up heavier than bronze guns. By 1775 a British 6-pounder iron gun tube for sea service could weigh up to 1900 lb. while a light bronze 6-pounder field gun tube weighed about 800 lb. Casting guns was more of an art than a science, and the quality of iron guns improved over time with experience, but they remained subject to bursting. Bronze was also costly, up to ten times the price of iron. For metallurgical reasons, worn-out bronze guns could be melted and recast, while iron guns could not, ending their careers as ship's ballast or bollards on the docks.

Casting guns of either metal was a slow process. A new mold had to be made for each gun. It may not have been possible to cast more than four guns from one crucible of molten metal, or less for larger guns. Initially cast with the bore hollow, by the 18<sup>th</sup> C. guns were cast solid, and the bore drilled out by a large machine, giving more consistent castings and better-quality bores.

Iron guns were principally used in warships and fortifications, where their heavier weight mattered less and large numbers of guns were required. Longer, and thus heavier tubes were often needed to reach through embrasures and gunports. Bronze guns were usually reserved for field artillery, where their light weight contributed to mobility.

During the American Revolution, the French passed on a number of older 4-pounder bronze field guns to the Continental Army. These fine quality guns had simply been too heavy. 4-pounders were an odd size to the Americans, especially since the French pound was about 10% heavier than the British pound. Some historians have mistakenly said that these guns were melted down and recast, but the Americans used a simpler solution, boring them out to their preferred 6-pounder size, as they had ample metal for safety. One of these guns now resides at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The French navy had lost many ships (and their guns) to the British during the French and Indian War. While building replacements, the French iron industry could not provide guns fast enough to meet naval demands. After the war, the British found themselves with a mass of iron guns in odd French sizes. They were put up for sale, cheap. Front companies working on behalf of the French government bought them to rearm the French fleet! As late as 1779 John Paul Jones was unable to get new French guns for the *Bonhomme Richard*, and had to accept some of these old used guns. One or two of the old 18-pounders burst during the battle with *HMS Serapis*, probably overstrained by double-shotting.

Bronze guns could last a long time if not shot out. US forces were still using bronze guns captured during the Revolution during the War of 1812. Losing field guns was such a dishonor that several British officers were seen to cry with joy when Detroit was captured and several guns taken at Saratoga were recaptured. A number of these guns changed hands several times.

Examples of burst guns offer eloquent examples of the horrors of these accidents. At least one burst iron tube can be seen at Ft. McHenry. Near the Gettysburg Battlefield Visitor Center a 12-pounder bronze "Napoleon" had a shell burst when partway down the barrel. An iron gun would have burst and fragmented, but the bronze tube has a bulge in the barrel, split open along the bottom, saving the crew from extinction.

Bruce Egli, Westmoreland County Militia

## **NWD Schedule 2021**

May 1-2	Civil War Show, Mansfield
May 14	Ft. Laurens School Day
June 26-27	Firelock Match, Ravenna
July 17-18	Ft. Laurens, Bolivar
Sept. 18-19	Ft. Niagara, Youngstown, NY
Sept. 26	Fall Fest, Brecksville ( <b>tentative</b> )
Oct. 30-31	Adena Mansion, Chillicothe

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

**Editor: Karen Kashary**

**9390 Brecksville Road**

**Brecksville, OH 44141**

The NWD B.A.R. SHOT is the newsletter of the North West Department, Brigade of the American Revolution (NWD-BAR) and has been in publication since 1977. It is sent to subscribers and member families throughout the U.S. Subscription rates are \$10 per year for non-members of the NWD-BAR. Visit our website at [nwdbarshot.com](http://nwdbarshot.com). Cutoff dates for submissions:

Winter Issue—Jan. 15 Spring Issue—April 15 Summer Issue—July 15 Fall Issue—Oct. 15

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.