

Winter, 2015



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BRIGADE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NORTH-
WEST DEPARTMENT

B.A.R. SHOT

Commander: Bob Cairns (330) 455-9722

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

NWD Commander's Corner

NWD Members,

Now that the holidays are behind us, many of you have turned your attention to the upcoming event season, and making that item of clothing or piece of gear that you've been wanting. It's always a pleasure to see what you have been busy with over the winter, and there are always some fine new items to examine and admire. I just want to remind you that the path to making a fine reproduction begins with research of the original item. I encourage you to try and recreate a specific original item, not a "generic" one. By doing this you have the original to use as a guide and to tell you the correct size, material, color, etc. I also recommend that you don't make modifications to the original pattern for your convenience, because it then is not a reproduction. Good luck and I can't wait to see all the new creations at our first event.

Speaking of events, as I write this Joe Forte is working on a date for us to return to Fort Randolph, Point Pleasant, West Virginia. The reason I bring this up is that a new title in the Osprey series is Point Pleasant 1774, by John F. Winkler. I have this book, but must confess I have only skimmed it. It does seem, however, to give a very good overview of the situation on the western frontier of Virginia and southern Pennsylvania just prior to the Revolution. I was glad to see that the author does not call this battle the first battle of the Revolution, as do many of the folks local to the Point Pleasant area, and the book also mentions many historic sites of which you may not be aware. These Osprey books are reasonably priced and usually do a very good job with the subject matter, as well as including lots of illustrations.

Finally, I would like to talk a little about attendance at NWD events. We have 20 units in the NWD, with the largest being 52 households and the smallest 4 homes. We have approximately 300 members in the NWD, in Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Michigan, and Indiana. (Sorry if I didn't mention your locale, but you get the idea - we're spread out). I know it is unrealistic to hope for all our members to attend every event, but I would encourage you and your unit members to do your best to make all the shows local to you (a two hour drive is my definition of "local"), and to choose a couple of the remaining events for maximum attendance for your units. With 300 members, if we can get just 50% attendance at a few of our shows, they will be nice-sized events, with a goodly number of troops and a camp large enough to be impressive. Besides, why have all that gear & clothing, pay dues, and then stay at home? I also want to remind you that we are already working on events for 2016, including one at Fort Meigs in NW Ohio, and Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, Indiana. If you have a site you would like the NWD to investigate for a possible event, let an NWD Board Member know.

I will leave you by reminding you that we have an election in progress and at this time the nominations are open from the floor for any NWD Board positions. All you need are two units to nominate you and be a member in good standing. Check with our NWD Adjutant Bob Kashary for details.

I will see you all at the first formation at The Ohio Civil War Show in Mansfield, Ohio.

Bob Cairns

Commander, NWD BAR



From the Inspector

Like those 18th century soldiers that we try to emulate, most of us go into some type of winter quarters during the current season of harsh weather. Whether or not you build huts as the Americans did at Valley Forge and Morristown or you move in with the people in town like the British did while the Americans were at Valley Forge, winter gives us the opportunity to improve our impression for the upcoming season. Here are a few suggestions that you may find helpful to help pass away the long evenings in front of the fire.

Those of us that portray men at arms in the BAR are all members of recreated military units that took part in the American Revolution. When your unit joined the BAR the members prepared a detailed documentation of that unit. They researched the appearance of the unit, the area where it was formed, the equipment carried by the unit and where it was during the war. As members of these recreated units we should all have a basic understanding of our unit's history. Knowing where your unit was formed may give you some insight into the occupations of the members of the original unit. For example, if you are a member of a unit formed in Philadelphia it's unlikely that you were a long hunter or frontier scout, but more likely you were a business man, tradesmen, apprentice or common laborer. In short the more we know about the men we seek to portray the more accurate the portrayal. Your unit leaders should be able to help you to learn more about your unit.

Some other ideas to pass those long winter nights:

1. Read my article from the BAR Shot, October 2014 on cleaning your musket. Then, go and clean your musket.
2. Get rid of those small things in your kit that aren't correct, e.g. cotton webbing straps.
3. Add the NWD schedule to your calendar now so that you have the weekends open and can attend as many events as possible.

The Board of the NWD has worked diligently to prepare a quality schedule of events in 2015. I hope that you will try to attend as many as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Forte, NWD Inspector

Adjutant's Freshest Advices

Winter quarters is a busy time for your Northwest Dept. Board:

1. We are working on the scheduling of NWD Events for 2015 and 2016. Are you interested in helping coordinate an event in your area? It is time to start planning for the Summer of 2016!

2. This is an Election year for the Northwest Dept. The process has begun. The Nominating Committee has provided the NWD Board with a recommended slate of officers and it has been accepted by the NWD Board. We are currently looking for "nominations from the floor" for any office as per the BAR Soldier's Manual. What is required you ask? Basically, be a member in good standing, willing to attend NWD Board Meetings, Events and help guide the NWD into the future. Any nominee from the floor must agree to the nomination in writing and be sponsored by two Units of the Northwest Dept in "good standing". This must be submitted via U.S. Mail to the NWD Adjutant on or before February 15, 2015:

Bob Kashary
9390 Brecksville Road
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

3. Membership Renewals!!! It is time to go to the BAR website, (www.Brigade.org) download the member application form, fill it out and get it to your Unit Commander or Adjutant with your dues. PLEASE update ALL your information, especially your email address. Your Commander or Adjutant will then forward your unit's membership roster to the BAR Main Dept. by March 1, 2015. I hope to have a NWD Membership Roster by April 15, 2015 to build our NWD Membership BLAST and B.A.R. SHOT email communication lists.

YMHS,

Bob Kashary, NWD Adjutant

K9Kash@roadrunner.com cell: 216-538-0411

2015 Schedule

Here is the upcoming schedule as it currently stands. Please mark the dates on your calendars.

2-3 May – The Ohio Civil War Show, Richland County Fairgrounds, Mansfield, Ohio.

This has been an annual event for the NWD for a number of years. It is one of the largest military shows in the country, and although it is primarily a Civil War show, you'll find items from the colonial period through WW II. It's like going to a museum where nearly everything is for sale, and in most cases, you can handle the items on display (with the exhibitor's permission, of course). We will put on drill, firing, music, and uniform demos, and if we have space for a camp, we'll do camp life, too. I REALLY hope we can get those of you that live within an hour's drive to attend, along with the rest of us.

Coordinator: Bob Cairns

6-7 June – Old Fort Niagara, Youngstown, New York.

The NWD will return to this site after a long absence. Old Fort Niagara's history goes back to before the French and Indian War, and continues into the 20th century. The fort sits at the mouth of the Niagara River as it flows into Lake Ontario. Many of the structures are original, and we should have a great time there. The fort staff is very used to and good at putting on living history events with reenactors, and I've never had a bad time there. I hope you will put this on your schedule of "must do" events for the year.

Coordinator: Dave Miller

27-27 June – NWD Firelock Matches, Log Cabin Gun Shop, Lodi, Ohio.

The Log Cabin Shop is one of the oldest muzzle loading supply houses in the country, and we'll be visiting there and using their range to shoot paper and traditional targets. Part of the firing area is covered, so we can shoot rain or shine. You can also spend time in the store examining the large selection of guns & parts, books, and just about everything else associated with muzzle loading. We can camp and I think we can also go inside if the weather demands it. They have a great museum room with all sorts of muzzleloaders, some cartridge guns, powder horns, hunting bags, and more, and I know you'll enjoy just looking around.

Coordinator: Bob Kashary

11-12 July – Fort Laurens, Bolivar, Ohio.

This is always the largest NWD event of the season. I don't need to say much about Fort Laurens or the original activities there. Suffice to say, I hope that if you can only make one event in 2015, it will be this one. Wouldn't it be GREAT if every member of your unit showed up!!! There are Rev. War veterans buried at the site, and we show our respect for them in a meaningful way. This is also the site of the NWD annual General Membership meeting, held on Saturday evening after supper.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THIS EVENT.

Coordinator: Tom Pieper

5-6 September – Fort Henry Days, Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia.

We had a good time there in September of 2014. They commemorate the siege of Ft. Henry and the hosts were very hospitable.

Coordinator: Joe Forte

27 September – Brecksville Fallfest, Brecksville, Ohio.

A really fine one day event with very large, interested crowds that soak up our interpretive efforts. Many of you have been there numerous times, and I hope you'll support the NWD by attending.

Coordinator: MaryJo Lucas

17-18 October – Hanna's Town, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

Although this is not a new site for the NWD, it has been some time since we did an event there. See further information on this site later in this newsletter.

Coordinator: Bob Cairns

7-8 November – NWD School, Campbell's Port, Ravenna, Ohio.

This is the site of our last school, and Jim Workman, 8th Pennsylvanian & owner of the site, has graciously allowed us to again use his property. If you attended our School last spring, you know what an outstanding site this is. With a tavern, kitchen building, two-story block house, bee hive oven, and much more there is ample room for us to do whatever we'd like. This school will have our regular menu of classes and demonstrations, as well as some surprises for the evening activities on Saturday. Those that attended last spring had a great time, and I hope you won't miss this one.

To conclude, we'll be visiting some of our usual sites such as Fort Laurens, The Civil War Show, and Brecksville, as well as some new sites, including Ft. Niagara, Hanna's Town, and the Log Cabin Shop. We'll be going to West Virginia at least once, to Ft. Henry Days, and possibly twice if we can work out a weekend in August for Ft. Randolph. That makes four states, and all but the firelock match and school are at authentic places to the Revolution. Before I leave the schedule let me mention that although this is a hobby, we need to have some money coming in to take care of the expenses of running the NWD. So, for the NWD the Civil War Show, Fort Laurens, and Brecksville are the only events that provide a stipend, and therefore monetarily support the NWD. That does not mean that we shouldn't have fun at the paid events. If I thought they weren't fun, we wouldn't be doing them. I will be at ALL the events on the schedule, and hope many of you will commit to the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Cairns,

Commander, NWD

Book Review

The Frontier War For American Independence, by William R. Nestor. Stackpole, 2004. 423 pages, maps. ISBN 0-8117-0077-1. Out of print, but available new and used on Amazon from \$6.99.

The "frontier" of this book extends from Canada to Florida, offering a wide-ranging view of areas of conflict that are often overlooked in most histories of the American Revolution. An introductory chapter sets the stage by reviewing developments on the frontier before the Revolution, and individual chapters cover each year of the war, briefly relating the major battles and events before describing frontier activities in more detail. A final chapter describes the effects of the peace settlement on the future of the western frontier. The author describes events in detail, with careful documentation of casualties and other statistics.

Some reviewers have complained that *Frontier War* is dry reading, burdened with actual information and reliable statistics! I found the author's approach to be very satisfactory, not only in being factual and documented, but allowing the reader to relate what they already know about the American Revolution to the activities described in the book.

William R. Nestor is a professor of government and politics at St. John's University, NY, and is also a reenactor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Egli,

1st. Battalion Westmoreland County Militia

Hanna's Town, Pennsylvania

Hannastown is an unincorporated community and important historical and archaeological site located in Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. Although the village is not tracked by the Census Bureau, it has been assigned the ZIP code 15635.

The village was founded in 1773 as the seat of the newly created Westmoreland County, and was known at the time as "Hanna's Town". It was located along Forbes Road, the main route into the Ohio Country from eastern Pennsylvania, and named for Robert Hanna, an early settler whose tavern also served as Westmoreland County's first courthouse. Hannastown was settled primarily by Irish and Scotch-Irish, though the surrounding area was mostly Pennsylvania Dutch.^[1]

On July 13, 1782, in one of the final actions of the American Revolutionary War, the settlement was destroyed by a force of The King's 8th Regiment out of Fort Niagara "The King's, or 8th Regiment - Detroit Garrison"^[2] and British-allied American Indians led by Guyasuta. The county government was moved to Newtown, which later became known as Greensburg. The village was rebuilt, but after Forbes Road was rerouted through Greensburg, the settlement grew little, and eventually most of it became farmland.

In recent decades, Hanna's Town has been excavated and extensively restored and rebuilt. Currently, the **Historic Hanna's Town** site includes the reconstructed Hanna Tavern/Courthouse, three vintage late 18th century log houses, a reconstruction of the Revolutionary-era fort and blockhouse, and a wagon shed housing an authentic late 18th century Conestoga wagon. The site is maintained and opened to the public by the Westmoreland County Historical Society and the Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation Department.

Submitted by Bob Cairns

Source: Wikipedia, last updated 23 November, 2014

Time for some Research

Do you know what this is? Do you know what it is used for? It is winter and time for cleaning, repairing, making something new and/or delving into your resources to get answers to questions. The answers to the questions above will be in the Spring B.A.R. SHOT.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Kashary, 5th Va.



The Sew & So...

In my sewing room this fall I've been pushing forward to complete an example of an 18C Brunswick which is a lady's traveling outfit and seems to be the "rage" these last couple of years of 18th century dress enthusiasts. It had been languishing in limbo for three years. In order to finish I've scoured the internet for examples of this garment and have found many period examples. My go to book for small details is Nancy Bradfield's book 'Costume in Detail' (available at Amazon.com). The book is mostly drawings of existing garments from various periods pictured inside and out with added detail by the author on the use and significance of each fashion shape and accessory. Some of the garments studied will never be put on display due to their fragility, so having this reference and the ability to 'see' these examples cannot be equaled, especially for our purposes of recreating authentic dress of the people we portray. Granted, like most museums, most of the examples displayed in the book are much too fancy for the class of people in which camp followers belong, but can still be a great help in developing the 'eye' for period seams and sewing techniques which we can use to make down class models for our camp impressions. As for the Brunswick, it should be finished in time for an 18th century Christmas gathering. I'll bring it to an upcoming event to share and discuss.

Good luck with your sewing projects ladies. May your fingers be nimble and quick.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Watkins, NWD CCS

The NWD B.A.R. SHOT

Editor: Karen Kashary

9390 Brecksville Road

Brecksville, OH 44141

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