

Summer, 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

Well, I've gotten everything unpacked, washed, dried out, and put away from our Fort Laurens event last weekend, and would like to start with several comments about that event. First let me thank **Tom Pieper, 23rd Reg't of Foot, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, for all his hard work getting the event arranged.** We had a new site manager this year, and while she is very capable and cooperative, not to mention a very nice person, she had no idea about most of what we were going to need and Tom was the one guiding her through. In addition, we had a larger event than normal, with a number of sutlers and a reunion of the Frontier Families to work with. Tom managed all this with a smile, then for two days narrated most of the programs that went on. Thanks, Tom.

Next I would like to thank all of you that attended this event. Some of our smaller units had very high levels of participation, and it really increased our overall numbers. We attempted to feature our artillery in both the camp and the demonstrations since we had a nice collection of guns and people to work them.

Another item of note was the participation of about 25 members of the NWTa, invited by the NWD Board. It is our hope that this will be the beginning of renewed cooperation between the NW Dept. B.A.R. and the NWTa, and we have several possible events for next season in the works. As I looked over the rough attendance records that I keep, it seems that of the 19 units that paid dues to the NWD this year, 16 were represented by at least one member at Fort Laurens. Well done, NWD!

I won't comment on the Fort Niagara event in this note, since I've written an event report that appears elsewhere. We had two other events scheduled earlier, The Ohio Civil War Show and the Firelock Match. The Civil War Show was again more lightly attended than we had hoped for. This year there was an attempt to make us a more visible part of the event, and we had demonstrations of cooking, harness work, medicine and cartridge rolling to go along with the demonstration of weapons/music/uniforms that we usually do on the parade field. In that demonstration we were joined by both Union and Confederate reenacting units which allowed for some outstanding "compare and contrast" interpretation. I am not sure why we do not have larger numbers for this event, but I am relatively sure it is NOT because our membership is not interested in things military. I also cannot understand why the number of people registered for this year's Firelock Match was so small. The event was postponed due to foul weather and will be rescheduled for later in the year. Since I do know that nearly every NWD member has at least one firelock, but that I have not seen most of you at a Firelock Match, that lack of a weapon is not the reason for a low turn-out. Our NWD Firelock Matches do

not emphasize competition, but instead strive to provide a shooting experience to help you with your historical interpretation. So, when you see the dates for the re-scheduled match in this BAR SHOT edition, how about registering and coming out for some live-fire fun? Besides, the site this year, The Log Cabin Shop, is one of the oldest muzzle loading supply houses in the country, and offers a fine arms museum, a store full of guns, parts and accessories, and more books on related topics than a person could read in several lifetimes.

We still have some outstanding events coming this season, and nearly all are 18th c. sites. Check out our schedule elsewhere, and we'll see you all at the first formation at Fort Randolph.

Bob Cairns

8th PA Reg't, Ft. Laurens Det.
Cmdr., NW Dept. B.A.R.

Fort
Laurens



Fort
Niagara

Event Report: Fort Niagara, 6-7 June

June 6-7 saw the NW. Department join other units in an invitational event at Fort Niagara, in Youngstown, New York. Fort Niagara is one of the oldest and most utilized military sites in North America. Sitting on Lake Ontario at the mouth of the Niagara River, a military presence there was first established by the French in 1678. In 1726 the two-story "French Castle" was built, and the two bastions and two other buildings that remain today were constructed in 1755. The fort was important in the French and Indian War and fell to the British. During the Revolution it was a base of operations for **Butler's Rangers, several companies of the King's 8th Regiment**, and various Natives loyal to George III. Although the fort was ceded to the United States at the end of the war, it did not fly the U.S. flag till the Jay Treaty, 1796. During the War of 1812 it was captured in a night assault by the British in December, 1813. After the Treaty of Ghent the fort returned to the United States, in whose possession it remained. Prior to the Civil War the masonry walls that are present today replaced the wooded palisades of the earlier period.

The fort was used to train troops for the Spanish-American War, W.W.I and W.W. II. During W.W. II it also was used to house German P.O.W.s, and murals painted by some of these prisoners can still be **seen in some of the fort's buildings. During the Korean War the fort was home to anti-aircraft artillery and Nike missile units.** Today the site is run by the Old Fort Niagara Association, and is designated a National Historic Landmark. There is still a military presence on the site in the form of a U.S. Coast Guard Station, marking the site as having a continuous military presence from 1726 to the present.

The central activity for most of the reenactors both days were the tacticals, all of which were centered **on Congressional attacks on some portion of the fort. Saturday morning's action started out of site of the fort, along the shore of Lake Ontario, and was "fought" primarily along a long stretch of beach.** It concluded with the Congressionals taking possession of the ravlin outside the sally port. Later that day, the Crown troops ventured out and not only took back the ravlin, but also sacked the Congressional camp. On Sunday, the Congressionals twice attempted unsuccessfully, to enter the fort. First they tried to enter over the drawbridge, but due to the very narrow space had to utilize the street firing drill, which did not permit enough fire power to force their way in. Later they attacked through a **lightly guarded gate and were able to form a battle line on the fort's parade and deliver well-coordinated volley fire until they were flanked and again forced from the fort.** Both the Crown Forces and Congressional commanders were B.A.R. members, and worked well together.

To this terrific military historical site the NWD went with about 50 members representing 10 of our units. We were joined by several B.A.R. members from the Main Dept. as well. In keeping with the history of the site, the Crown troops occupied the fort, with the Congressional forces camped outside. This invitational event saw units from as far west as Chicago and as far east as Vermont, with lots of New Yorkers, Pennsylvanians, Ohioans, Michiganders, and a large group of Canadians. Since the fort puts on a number of living history events every season, they are very skilled and accommodating in planning for and meeting the needs of the participants. They provided continental breakfasts both days and a fine evening meal Saturday, as well as a tavern after supper. Two speakers were featured over the weekend, both B.A.R. members, in the persons of Henry Cooke and Bruce Egli. Since our last B.A.R. event there, the site has greatly improved their interpreting by building a new museum in one of the warehouse buildings outside the old fort, as well as improving the museum inside the fort. We all had time to see these fine displays. The weekend weather was beautiful, with clear skies and moderate temperatures both Saturday and Sunday.

I had an excellent experience and the men from my unit reported the same. I believe the sponsor would like to try this event on an every-other year basis, and I would be glad to support that effort. I would encourage anyone that has not been to the site to make it a priority. It is well-maintained and is a major part of the military history of the United States, especially during the period 1726-1815.

Also, there are many outstanding historic sites nearby, including both military and cultural sites, and **could be a destination event. I would be remiss if I didn't mention that just across the river is the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, a terrific place to visit with a very long history of its own.** If this event does show up on our calendars for 2017, I encourage all B.A.R. members to give serious consideration to attending.

NWD units with at least one member present at the event included:

4th NJV

Crockett's Btn.

Nelson's Coy.

5th Va. Regt.

Geographers

Westmoreland Militia

8th Pa. Regt., Ft. Laurens Det.

Jaeger Coy.

23rd R.W.F.

Kellar's Coy., Ill. Regt

Bob Cairns

8th Pa., Regt., Ft. Laurens Det.

Fort Niagara



Notes from the Inspector

So, you are a re-enactor, a member of the Brigade of the American Revolution. That means you probably have more than just a passing interest in the period of our country's history between 1775 and 1783. Maybe you have a passion for that period of history. You find yourself digging through period documents and records, scouring the Internet for period sources and then driving to museums and libraries to see those sources or just reading the volumes written about this period in our country's history. No one can argue the point that with research comes learning and understanding. You definitely benefit from your hard work but you get more and more frustrated with those of us who are lagging behind.

So, what can be done? I think the answer is pretty obvious. You can share your knowledge; share the results of your research. Help us all learn more; help us all become better living historians. How do I do it you may ask? Share it at events. Ok, you probably already do that sitting around camp with the people in your unit or your friends. But, have you thought about writing an article for the North West Department's newsletter, **The BAR Shot? Do you want larger distribution? Write an article for the BAR Courier.** How about an article for The Dispatch, the journal of the BAR? How about offering to teach a subject at the School? It will be held this year in November. Some of you may be thinking that to just **give away the results of your labor are a waste of your time. OK, it's your work; you can do with it** what you please. But, I think there is much to be gained by sharing with each other.

Joe Forte

8th PA Reg't, Ft. Laurens Det.

Inspector BAR NWD

Paymaster Report

Brigade, our assets are: Checking \$2,148.99 petty cash \$51.18 savings \$18,980.65 for total assets of \$21,180.82 as of June 30, 2015.

Bill Dibbern

Feld Jaeger Corps

Paymaster BAR NWD



Fort

Laurens

NWD Firelock Match Rescheduled

November 14/15 2015

The new date for the Firelocks is the weekend of Nov 14/15, 2015 at the Log Cabin Store, Lodi Ohio. Mark it on your calendar and send me an email today! Non-Shooters are welcome to sit by the fireplace in the museum, but know that we will entice you to try one shot. All B.A.R. members are welcome to attend.

We have space reserved behind the store and can arrive on Friday afternoon. I will be there at 3:00 pm to set up camp and/or practice. I would recommend a cot in your tent. No straw will be provided. We will have 24-hour access to indoor plumbing in the store. **Meals are "on-your-own" and I will provide** wood and fire-irons. Dress for the weather! What we bring in, we haul out. Contact me for a list of hotel/motels in the area. The town of Lodi is but 1.5 miles South with restaurants, pizza shops etc. At I-71 and SR 18 there is every conceivable hotel and restaurant imaginable just 20 minutes (15 miles) from the Log Cabin.

The Log Cabin will be open to the public during normal business hours Saturday Only. There should be **plenty of time for us to see their excellent museum and of course shop for that "must-have" item, book** or whatever you forgot! Hunting season, Christmas and Winter Quarters are just around the corner.

Our matches will vary in distances fired between 10-50 yards. 50 rounds should be adequate. Prizes will be awarded for individual smooth-bore, rifle, and pistol. **For "new shooters"**, I will bring some extra .69cal rounds. We will assist you with live firing practice and will teach you how to make tin foil cartridges. Sunday will be for Team competitions and practice. Brigade Rules apply. No colored lenses, no range rods on the firing line, shooters must be in period clothing. Ear protection is recommended. **Range Master's Joe Forte and Bob Kashary decisions will be final.** Our goal is to have a SAFE and fun time.

If you haven't emailed your registration, DO IT NOW! Email Bob Kashary: K9Kash@roadrunner.com or call me: 216-538-0411 with questions. Please let us know in which matches you will participate: smooth-bore, rifle, and/or pistol. Matches will start after the Saturday morning 9:00 am Safety Meeting.

Log Cabin Shop - 8010 Lafayette Rd., Lodi, Ohio 44254 for those that use MapQuest.

Store Phone: 330-948-1082

Joe Forte says: "See you there! That's an order!"

Bob Kashary 5th VA, NWD Adjutant

Event Coordinator

NWD School of Instruction Date Change

The date for the NWD School of Instruction will be changed. At this time, the date has not been finalized but will be either October 31-November 1, or November 21-22. Please watch your email for a Blast regarding the new date. The location will remain the same.

FORT LAURENS
REVOLUTION ON THE TUSCARAWAS

The NWD BAR's event at Fort Laurens State Memorial was a wonderful success - both in terms of troop turn-out and public turn-out. For the first time in many years, The NWD BAR and The N.W.T.A. (North West Territorial Alliance) turned out together for the benefit of the public and for the benefit of the troops themselves.

Thanks to The N.W.T.A. , The Fort Laurens event had seven sutlers on hand offering wares as diverse as one could find anywhere. My thanks to all of the sutlers who were willing to "drag" large trailers full of tentage and goodies for our perusal and purchase for - in many cases - very long distances - not an easy task. As I spoke with most of the sutlers on Sunday, they all felt that they had a good day on Saturday and were glad that they had come to Fort Laurens and thanked Fort Laurens for having them attend. Having seen other "sutlers' row" at other events over many, many years, I was very pleased by how good the sutler's area looked - very attractive, almost no "modernisms" visible, and a pleasant and cheery smile on almost every face. It could not have been any better. As Event Coordinator, I wish I could have a sutler's area like that at every Fort Laurens event. THANK YOU !!! - to all the sutler's who attended Fort Laurens 2015.

And then we have the cavalry who travelled from Massachusetts and Vermont to be with us at Fort Laurens. Specifically, thanks to Sam Grant and Ken Siegel and their ladies and child for making such a very large commitment of time, energy, and expense. Cavalry and their horses always bring a special smile to the faces of many of our visitors. Thank you to our "long distance" cavalry for coming to Fort Laurens and "The Revolution on The Tuscarawas".

This year is the first year that Fort Laurens State Memorial is being operated by The Zoar Community Association. They did a fantastic job of providing a light breakfast each morning, lunch each day, and a dinner Saturday night. Further, they provided straw for the tents and hay for the horses. Plus, they worked hard at publicizing the event on a limited budget. Thanks to Fort Laurens and ZCA, they were able to spray for mosquitoes - which we greatly appreciated.

Finally, a huge "Thank You" to all the units that attended "Revolution on the Tuscarawas" this year:

Continental Dragoons (NWTa)	Keller's Coy	Grenadier Coy Coldstream Guards
BAR (East) Dragoons	Logan's Coy	Westmoreland County Militia
8th Regiment (NWTa)	5th VA Regt.	23rd Regiment, Grove's Coy
Delaware Regt	10th VA Regt	Nelson's Rifle Coy
Continental Artillery (NWTa)	64th Regt	Feld Jaeger Corps
Dept. of Geographers	8th Pa Regt	New Jersey Volunteers
Baldwin's Regiment of Artificers (Sutlers)	3rd NY Regt (NWTa)	Royal Navy Landing Party

Tom Pieper

23rd Regiment, Grove's Coy

Event Coordinator



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Adjutant's Freshest Advices

Our 2015 campaign season is only half over or just beginning for some members!!! We had 7 members sign up or renew their membership in the B.A.R. NW Dept. at the Fort Lauren's Event July 11/12 2015! There are still plenty of NWD events to attend in 2015, plus several Main Dept. events. It is never too late to renew your membership in the NWD! If your Unit Commander or Adjutant does not have renewal forms, please contact me at: K9Kash@roadrunner.com and I will get a form to you ASAP. If any of your personal information changes, PLEASE send the updates to me at the above email address. We currently have 22 paid members in the NWD that have "bad email addresses". It may only be a typo but we want to make sure our emails get to you. If you haven't been emailed a BAR Shot and are reading this on our website, www.nwdbarshot.com , then you need to contact me with your correct email address.

The NWD 2015 Elections are complete. Your B.A.R. Northwest Dept. Board of Directors for the next two years are: Bob Cairns- Commander, Dave Miller- Deputy Commander, Joe Forte- Inspector, Bob Kashary-Adjutant, Bill Dibbern-Paymaster, Board Members At-Large: John Conklin, Cheryl Weidner, Bernie Borowski and Bill Lucas. The NWD Board wishes to thank Mary Jo Lucas for her 20+ years of service as a Board Member At-Large and welcome Bill Lucas as the newest member of our Board of Directors.

YMHS,

Bob Kashary, 5th Va Regt

NWD Adjutant

Fort Laurens



Ordeal at Valley Forge

Book Review

Every once and a while, I stumble on to a book that ends up having my attention riveted to it. Such is the case with *Ordeal at Valley Forge*, by **John Joseph Stoudt**. **I found this at a used book dealer's stand.** I wish I had found it 35 years ago, which would have been entirely possible since it was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 1963. Having never heard of this work, I believe it must have been printed just before the men that created the Brigade of the American Revolution because interested in **our period, so it sort of "fell through the cracks"**.

The book is a real gem, and describes the Valley Forge encampment in a day by day fashion, with many days event having the weather mentioned. The author used primary documentation exclusively, and mixes information from orderly books, diaries, new papers and letters to create a real feeling for what the men at Valley Forge were experiencing. Of course the periodic shortages of nearly everything are covered, but so are lighter moments, such as the gentlemen of the camp hospital engaging Mr. John Trotter, dance master, to open a school so they could improve their dancing. (It strikes my sense of humor that a dance master would have the name "Trotter"). **Master Trotter's qualifications and accomplishments are listed.**

Another day noted something of particular interest to me when on Saturday, 4 April 1778, Morgan's Corps held a remembrance ceremony for comrades in the Rifle Corps recently lost in action. These formalities were led by Capt. Van Schweringer (actually Van Swearingin) and Lieut. Harden (actually Hardin) of the 8th Pennsylvania regiment.

The work includes poems written by soldiers of the camp, and many other interesting items. Due to the nature of its organization you can read for a few minutes or a few hours, and always have a logical place to stop.

This book has been out of print for years, but I believe it can easily be found using the internet book sellers. I hope that if you have *any* interest in Valley Forge, you will give this work a read. I suppose that it may even be available in some public and school libraries.

Bob Cairns, 8th Pa. Reg't, Ft. Laurens Det.

Fort Laurens



EVENT NOTICE: Fort Randolph Garrison Weekend

August 1&2, 2015

Point Pleasant, West Virginia

The NWD will be returning to Fort Randolph in 2015.

Fort Randolph is a reconstructed frontier fort. Its earliest buildings were built during the bi-centennial. Since then, several additional structures have been erected. These include: 2 corner blockhouses, a two story tavern, several cabins and barracks, a fully equipped blacksmith shop and a wood shop.

This will be a garrison weekend with the emphasis on those activities carried out by troops garrisoning a frontier fort. Some of the planned activities will include: Drilling, Posting of guards, Inspection, Pay Call, Water and fire wood calls. We will conduct the following demonstrations for the public: Rifle / Musket, Artillery, Music, and Uniform descriptions.

There will be jollification with period gaming in the tavern on Saturday evening.

This will be a "48 hour" event. The area inside the fort walls will be maintained in 18th C period from 9:00 AM on Saturday morning until 3:00 PM on Sunday afternoon. Anyone wishing to change into modern clothing or smoke non-period forms of tobacco will have to leave the fort. Crown forces will be permitted to stay in buildings in the fort or camp outside the fort. BAR members portraying Native Americans are encouraged to attend and will be permitted to use the fort's Native American camp area.

Amenities: The fort has platform style beds available for about 15 persons in the blockhouses, tavern and cabins. There is ample floor space for another 30 people. There is ample space outside the fort for those wishing to use tents.

The fort has hot and cold running water, showers, and flush toilets. There are several porta-johns available if you feel that indoor plumbing ruins the ambiance of the weekend.

The Friends of Fort Randolph will provide the following meals: light breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday and dinner on Saturday. Point Pleasant has several restaurants downtown including **McDonald's**.

Since the Friends of Fort Randolph will be preparing meals we need to let them know how many will be attending.

Please contact Joe Forte before July 26 to let him know how many will be attending and whether or not you need sleeping space in the fort.

Sleeping space will be filled on a first come, first served basis. If you do not register for meals you will be fed after all those registered have been fed.

Fort Randolph is located in Krodel Park just east of Point Pleasant, WV. The fort will be open for Friday arrivals.

If you haven't been to Fort Randolph come and check it out.

Contact information:

Event Coordinator: Joe Forte. E-mail: jjforte@frontier.com

Phone: (740) - 474 - 6183

EVENT NOTICE: Fort Henry Days

September 5 & 6, 2015

Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia

Again in 2015 the NWD will be attending Fort Henry Days on Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend. Fort Henry Days are held at Oglebay Park in Wheeling, West Virginia. We are planning to take a more active role this year with more of the demonstrations we typically do. There will still be plenty of time for shopping, listening to period music, taking in the planned activities or just enjoying the **ambiance. The organizers provide a very nice meal on Saturday evening. If you don't want to cook there** are concessionaires on site.

Those of us that attended in 2014 had a good time and hope you will join us in 2015.

Registration will be accomplished by completing the registration form on the Fort Henry Days website: **forthenrydays.org. Please identify yourself as a BAR member by putting "BAR" after your unit name.**

Please come out and support the NWD.

Event Coordinator: Joe Forte: jjforte@frontier.com

(740)-474-6183

FALLFEST 2015

SUNDAY SEPT. 28

BRECKSVILLE OHIO

Place: Meadows Picnic Area, Brecksville Reservation, Cleveland Metroparks

Time: 11 AM - 5 PM NOTE - Construction on I 271 Southbound from Summit county line to RT 8 and North bound to Cuyahoga county. Arrival anytime after noon Saturday. Overnight camping permitted. Please let us know about camping so we can inform park security.

Provided: Lunch Sunday, wood, straw

Needed: Tents for camp and displays for the public

This is a one day event featuring large crowds (6500 last year!) and is a paid NWD event. Great event for displays, talks, demos. If you come on Saturday the park is yours for unit drill or activities. Come to Cleveland for the weekend and visit the Rock-and-Roll Hall of Fame, Hale Farm, Horseshoe Casino, Museum of Art.

Location: Park entrance is located off SR82 near Route 21 intersection in Brecksville Ohio

MapQuest address : 9305 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Event coordinator: MaryJo Lucas, 440-461-2196, E-mail blmj@sbcglobal.net

Schedule:

- 10 AM - camp opens - all cars to parking area
- 10:45 - Officers call
- 11:15 - Formation and drill
- 12:00 - Lunch
- 1:00 - Soldiers uniform and equipment presentation
- 2:00 - Ladies Tea
- 3:00 - **Women's clothing and social role**
- 4:00 - TWD
- 5:00 - Break Camp

The Sew & So...

Attention Ladies!

You are cordially invited to **ABIGAIL'S TEA PARTY**

Date to coincide with the School of Instruction

We are planning an entertaining and educational weekend.

Tentative schedule includes:

Saturday meet at Kent State Museum; Lunch at restaurant in Kent

Afternoon- block-print a kerchief/neck scarf

Evening - "Show & Tell" and "Tea Party"

(Bring books, items found or made, research, etc. for others to study and enjoy.)

Sunday - presentations by guest speakers

We'll stay at Barb Eakin's house, North of Warren (Champion Twp).

Kent Museum is 8.3 miles from School of Instruction site in Ravenna and 33 miles from Eakin's house.

The museum has several pieces of clothing from our period on display, including an "inside out" exhibit, which will allow us to see the inside construction details! (robe a l'anglaise, man's suit, linen shirt.)

Plan to bring:

-beverage, dessert or snack for Tea Party OR baked goods for Sunday Breakfast.

-air mattress or cot and bedding.

Interested? Send email address to: BobEak@inbox.com for updates as plans develop.

Fort Laurens





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 \$6 per year for non-members of the NWD-BAR. 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.