

THE OLD FORT PALISADE

WINTER 2024



Greetings!

This has been a year of change. The obvious one is political which has caused many hurt feelings and friction between family and friends. Just remember that our founding fathers set things up so that change can happen. They all came from Europe where the political system never changed unless a King died.

The canceling of Mississinewa 1812 has hit the reenacting community hard. It's hard to replace an event of such prominence. If you've been following them you know that they have purchased a new site and plan to put on an event there next fall. We wish them success.

Whether making this treat over a fire in the Commander's kitchen or enjoying it with family in the modern comforts of home, the cookie that is rumored to have been Thomas Jefferson's favorite won't leave you disappointed.

Page 5

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Who's Who | 2 |
| The Fort in Pictures | 3 |
| From the Treasurer | 4 |
| Ginger Cakes | 5 |
| Volunteer Advance | 6 |
| Education Day | 8 |
| Volunteer Profile | 9 |
| Upcoming Events | 10 |

For us this was the last year for Post Miamies. This was our F&I event of the year and it's sad that it has ended. We hope, down the road, to replace it with something else in that era.

By the time you read this, the Hospital building will be gone, torn down before it became unsafe. But in its place will be a replacement built from the blueprints of the 1975 reproduction Fort. We've worked tirelessly over the years to maintain the Fort but it has always been our dream to rebuild so that the next generations can experience what frontier life was like. Before the building came down, we salvaged everything that we could possibly reuse—including doors, windows, shutters, hinges, and paneling. We also

Continued next page

added stabilization to the existing chimneys so they should not need to be rebuilt.

Now we need your help. These buildings are expensive and are being built with donations. If you have any knowledge of or influence with a foundation or person that might want to see the Fort rebuilt, speak to them for us. The personal touch is always the best.

They say the only sure thing in life is death and taxes, but I'd add change. Whether it's positive or negative depends on your perspective. Let's try to make all the change in our lives positive.

Norm Gable
President Historic Fort Wayne Inc.



Who's Who

Board Members: Norm Gable, President
Josh Grubaugh, Vice President
Tom Grant, Treasurer
Nancy Stansberry, Secretary
Members: Andi Hahn, Bob Jones, Brian Kilmer, Kip Lytle, Sean O'Brien

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, 2025

FALL AT THE OLD FORT



Fright Night



Ranger Garrison



Werewolf Chase



Fort 4 Fitness Starting Cannon Crew



From the Treasurer...

The Spy Run Blockhouse was completed this summer and was brought in under budget. The timbers are aging better than expected and it is blending in quite well with the rest of the buildings.

December 4th we received two semi-truck loads of timbers and flooring that will reconstruct the Doctor's Quarters building, which backs up to Spy Run, and has been gradually deteriorating before our very eyes. The demolition of the existing structure may have already been completed when this is published and hopefully the new building is starting to appear from the original foundation. All of our reconstruction is done using the original blue prints and should be a carbon copy of what was built in 1975. The only difference will be that the timbers are treated using environmentally sensitive materials and are protected from both rot and insect infestation, guaranteeing an extended life time. This building is fully funded and we are currently raising funds to demolish and reconstruct the Commander's Building. Our budget for the next building is \$500,000 and we hope that we will be able to maintain our track record of bringing these buildings in under budget.

Our goal is to have the entire Fort complex reconstructed by July 2026, the 50th anniversary of the Old Fort! This ambitious plan will guarantee that the Old Fort will continue to welcome and educate our community and the visitors to our city.

We need your support and that of your employers and local foundations to achieve this goal, so we ask that each and everyone of you become advocates for this mission.

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.

Tom Grant, Historic Fort Wayne, Inc. Treasurer



From the Kitchen



When I moved to Fort Wayne in 2015 and began volunteering at the Old Fort, I went looking for a tasty, relatively simple Colonial-era dessert recipe. On a website I've long-since forgotten, I found this recipe, and it very quickly became a favorite reenactment treat as well as a staple in my autumn baking repertoire. When our children were born, they quickly took to this delicious, fragrant cookie, and it wasn't long before I had lots of little helpers in the kitchen! Whether making this treat over a fire in the Commander's kitchen or enjoying it with family in the

modern comforts of home, the cookie that is rumored to have been Thomas Jefferson's favorite won't leave you disappointed.

Ginger Cakes:

- 3/4 cup shortening (or butter, margarine)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp ginger
- 2 cups flour
- extra sugar for rolling

Pre-heat oven to 400 degrees.

1. Mix sugar and shortening.
2. Add egg and molasses.
3. Sift dry ingredients and add to wet ingredients.
4. **Optional** Chill in refrigerator for 3-4 hours.
5. Roll into 1" balls and coat in sugar.
6. Place on baking sheet. Bake for about 10 minutes, or until the outside is a golden brown.

TIP: If your cookies become brittle after cooling, either reduce the sugar content by about 1/4 cup, OR bake for 1-2 minutes less. Over-baking will result in a harder cookie.



Malinda Pagel began reenacting in 2012 at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, MD. She moved to Fort Wayne in 2015 and has been an Old Fort volunteer ever since. She is an Army Veteran, registered nurse, and homeschooling mom of three.



Volunteer Advance

Saturdays 10:00AM to 12:00PM

Sundays 2:00PM to 4:00PM

Whether you are a recent volunteer or have years of experience, Volunteer Advance is intended to give you a window into the many facets of living history and an opportunity to experience historic hand arts and daily skills used in the past. Historic Fort Wayne, Inc. operates the Old Fort on behalf of the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department, City of Fort Wayne. We are an all-volunteer organization. Some volunteers may

already have specific interests in mind. Others welcome a variety of experiences before deciding where to put their focus. Volunteer Advance sessions give new volunteers the opportunity to try various skills and tasks. By attending events at Historic Fort Wayne and other sites in the region you will see living history in action.

For the coming year, 2025, January through April sessions will have a specific theme. May, June, July, and August sessions will be on Sundays only, offering New Volunteer Orientation with a VIP tour. September through November we resume meeting both Saturday and Sunday. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram and watch for emails with updates and announcements. Thank you for your interest in our mission to *Keep the Fort in Fort Wayne*. We need your help. Join us when you can.

Except where noted, Volunteer Advance sessions meet at the Fort, 1201 Spy Run Ave. Parking is on the east side of Spy Run. Take the River Greenway under Spy Run Ave and the Veterans Memorial Bridge to the Modern Building.

January's theme is finding primary sources of Fort Wayne's history. This session will be held in the Genealogy Department of the Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza. This session will meet on Saturday only, January 11, 10:00AM to 12:00PM. We will see original documents regarding the Fort Wayne garrison 1810 to 1819. John Johnston served as the Indian Agent and the Factor. His records shed light on what materials and cultural items were present in the Fort. The Fort Wayne Manuscript is an early document and a portion of a journal written by Captain William Wells. It includes a history of the Miami and details about Native American lifeways. Captain Wells was a captive and lived as a Miami warrior. If you have articles, books, or other resources to share bring them.

In **February** we'll explore the historic wardrobe collection of the Fort and answer wardrobe questions. If you are a recent volunteer, you may want to work on a chemise or a shirt. If



you are an experienced volunteer bring a clothing item that needs mending. Patterns and materials will be available. One popular project is the market wallet. It can be finished in a single session.

Whether you really like to cook or are called on to help in the kitchen, **March's** session is your chance to learn about the ins and outs of hearth cooking. Baking in the Fort's brick oven is fascinating and requires some orientation. If you have no char cloth, we'll make a supply, and you can light our fire with flint and steel. This takes practice and is an essential frontier survival skill.

April brings warmer days and springlike weather. If you have never had a soldier's basic training, now is your chance. Learning the manual of arms and how to load and fire a flintlock musket is the order of the day. Our fiber arts specialists will be invited and can demonstrate twining, spinning, and weaving.

May, June, July, and August Volunteer Advance sessions will be Sundays only and limited to new volunteer orientation and VIP tours of the Old Fort Complex. September, October, and November sessions will each have a special theme and meet on both Saturday and Sunday. No meeting of Volunteer Advance in December, though we need your help during Christmas at the Fort, Saturday, December 6, 2025. A new Volunteer Manual is being prepared and approved. Volunteer Advance sessions may include time for all volunteers to review this document.

Send questions and comments to events@oldfortwayne.org or call the Fort phone (260) 437-2836 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday. Thank you.

Bob Jones
Co-Volunteer Coordinator/Event Manager



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 9, followed on Saturday and Sunday by our Muster on the St. Mary's timeline event.

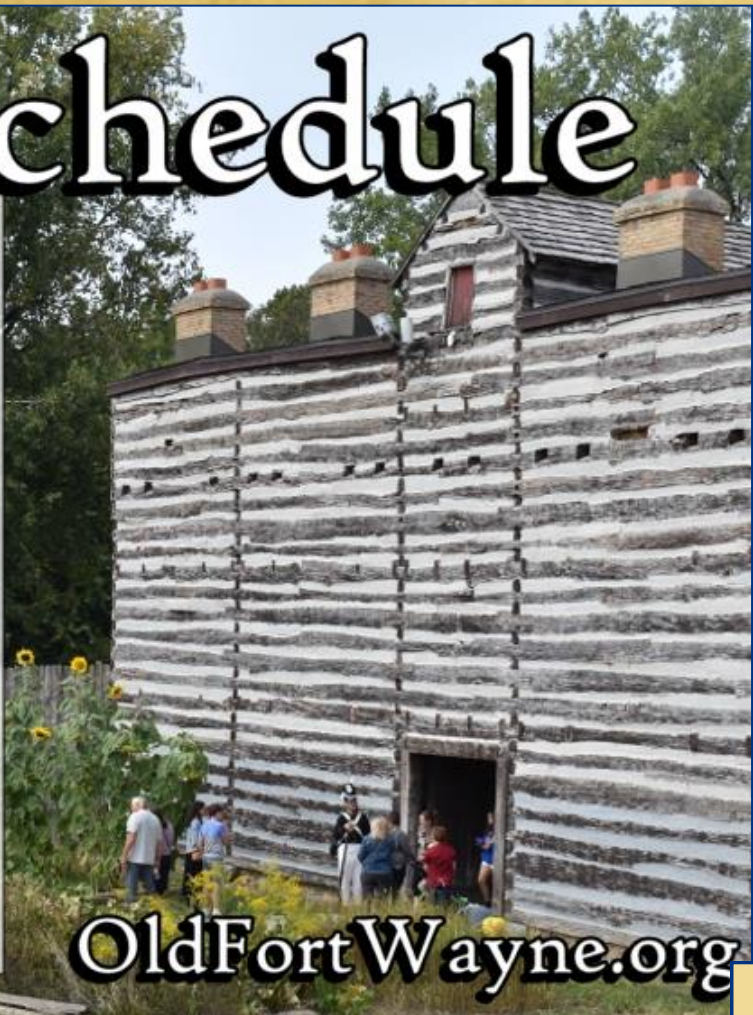
Pre-registration is required for classes, and space is limited. The deadline is March 10, so start planning now to enjoy this event. Registration forms are available online at OldFortWayne.org/event. For more information, Contact Ken Sorg at:

educationday@oldfortwayne.org



2025 Schedule

Jan. 25: Nouvelle Annee
Feb. 15: 1812 Training Weekend
March 1: Revolutionary War Garrison
March 29: Civil War Winter Garrison
May 9: Education Day (grades 4 & 5)
May 10-11: Muster on the St Mary's
June 7-8: Siege of Ft Wayne 1812
Aug. 9-10: Napoleonic Days 1804-1814
Sept. 7: Be a Tourist in Your Hometown
Oct. 18: Lantern Tours
Oct. 25: Wayne's Legion Garrison
Dec. 6: Christmas at the Fort



Volunteer Profile:

Meet Maria Susanne Early

Maria Early started her journey with the Old Fort in 2008 when her family joined the 44th Indiana Civil War group, which was based at the Fort at the time. "Over time we made friends in other time periods and joined some of them." They've attended the CW weekends, the Rev War weekends, and the May Timeline weekends, as well as some of the 1812 weekends, sewing days and Fright Nights.

Which time period(s) do you prefer to re-enact? "We do four technically. CW, REV War, Landsknecht (15-16th century mercenaries) and 1812. I also have clothes for 1836, ancient Rome and medieval. They all have their advantages and disadvantages. I can't pick just one. I like them for different reasons. I think that is why I like being at the Fort so much; we do different times throughout the year. You can really learn a lot about history and life in general, jumping time periods.....humanity really doesn't change. They were worried about the same things we worry about today. They celebrated the same things we celebrate today. The jokes may be different, the technology may be different, but life still goes on."

Maria and her family live in Muncie, IN, but since 2008 they are in Fort Wayne almost monthly. "I estimate that we have stayed the night on the Fort grounds at least 100 nights since 2008. We have had several offers from Fort friends, that they would hand pick us a house if we ever wanted to switch jobs and move to the Fort Wayne area. We kind of consider the Fort and its people as our second family and home." Maria and husband Johnathan were married in 2001. She says, "We were high school sweethearts and still are". They have two adult daughters; Gwendalyn and Lillyanne.

Maria went to Ball State University and spent three years in Medical school, before having a crisis of conscience. "I decided that if my patients died on me it would mess me up. I switched to three years of making my own detective degree, also at Ball State, because dead bodies in cornfields don't bother me in the least. Just to pay the bills I worked in two different library systems for a total of 15 years. I almost switched my career to the library world, but left after a very large argument with Muncie Public Library, which resulted in our very bitter divorce. So technically I don't have a degree, but I've had a lot of interesting experiences and bloom well where God plants me." Currently, she is working at Conner Prairie as the current historical clothing manager.

When asked for her favorite memory of time at the Fort, Maria said, "This is probably everybody else's too, but hands downPaul Revere the Second and the corresponding funeral the next year. We have a whole lot of fun at the Timeline weekends. Also "Fight the Dragon" when we all went after the Komsatsu construction equipment, with every weapon we could find. That was a good day too." Feel free to find her at an event if you want to hear those stories! She would love to tell you more.



2025 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.



JANUARY 25: NOUVELLE ANNEE

Saturday: 10 am–5 pm

FEBRUARY 15: 1812 TRAINING WEEKEND

Saturday: 10 am–5 pm

MARCH 1: REVOLUTIONARY WAR

GARRISON

Saturday: 10 am–5 pm

MAY 9: EDUCATION DAY

Forth and fifth grades classes welcomed, pre-registration required

MAY 10-11: MUSTER ON THE ST. MARY'S

Saturday: 10 am–5 pm

Sunday: 10 am–4 pm

JUNE 7-8: SIEGE OF FORT WAYNE 1812

Saturday: 10 am–5 pm

Sunday: 10 am–4 pm

AUGUST 9-10: NAPOLEONIC DAYS

Saturday: 10 am–5 pm

Sunday: 10 am–4 pm

SEPTEMBER 7: BE A TOURIST IN YOUR OWN HOMETOWN

Sunday: Noon—5pm

OCTOBER 18: FRIGHT NIGHT LANTERN TOURS

Saturday: 6 pm–10 pm

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

OCTOBER 25: WAYNE'S LEGION

GARRISON

Saturday: 10 am–5 pm

Sunday: 10 am–4 pm

DECEMBER 6: CHRISTMAS AT THE FORT

Saturday: 10 am–5 pm

If available, we post a schedule of activities prior to each event. Always check our Facebook page and webpage for any updates or schedule changes.



You can find us on Facebook for up-to-date event news and happenings!

www.facebook.com/HistoricFortWayne

Follow us on
Instagram

[historic_ft.wayne](https://www.instagram.com/historic_ft.wayne)