

Summer 2018



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**

At the NW Dept. General Membership Meeting held Saturday evening at the Fort Laurens event, I notified those few present that I would not be running for another term as NW Dept. Commander, or for any other position on the Board. I have been an elected member of the NW Dept. Board continuously since 1986, and the conclusion of my current term makes a total of 33 years for me on the Board. I served originally as a Member-at-Large, then Deputy Commander, and then Commander. During Jack Rogers time as Department Commander I was actively involved as Past-Commander and stepped in at the Board's request to fill the position of Inspector when the person in that office resigned. I very much enjoyed most of my time serving the NW Department, and am very pleased with many of the things we accomplished during my tenure. However, recently I have, against my own better judgement, made some decisions that have turned out to work against the best interests of the NW Department. I believe I have lost the ability to motivate and inspire the Board and the General Membership, and I also believe I have lost your confidence. For those reasons I will not be seeking another term on the Board and will not take an active part in planning schedules, or developing events for the NW Dept., so that the Board can get on with becoming their own entity without me "looking over their shoulders". Thank you for the privilege of leading the NorthWest Department.

On the subject of the NorthWest Department Board, we need to begin the bi-annual election process by naming and seating a nominating committee. The duties of the committee, made up of 3-5 B.A.R. Dept. members, is to find a slate of candidates, one for each office, and submit that slate to the NW Dept. Board for approval. We need to have this committee in place by early September, so that the election can stay on schedule. The committee will have 6-8 weeks to secure their slate, and this will be most easily done while we still have events going on, so the committee can meet with each other, as well as prospective nominees. PLEASE step up and volunteer for a spot on the committee. You can do so by contacting me at;

Bob Cairns  
(330) 455-9722  
robtcairns@cs.com

Once the slate has been accepted, the committee's work is done, and they are excused.

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

Commander, Northwest Dept.

## After Action Reports

### **Blennerhassett Island, W. Va., 2-3 June**

A return to this site was suggested at the Unit Commanders Meeting held in Bolivar January 2017. We had not been to the island in some time, and those present at the meeting who knew the site were very enthusiastic. John Conklin was the event coordinator and did a very fine job, especially since he was not going to be the primary NW Dept. contact when the event was originally proposed. It is very easy to get an 18<sup>th</sup> c. period "feel" since the island is completely surrounded by the Ohio river, with a beautiful reconstruction of the 18<sup>th</sup> c. mansion that once stood on the island, and there are no bridges to bring vehicles to the site. A sternwheeler brought spectators to the island each day, and our demonstrations and other activities were timed to the arrival and departure of the boat. The spectators were very receptive for the short time they had on the island, and many expressed the thought that they wished they had more time with us. Saturday evening John had arranged a very pleasant river cruise and dinner on the same boat that brought the public to us. Cruising while having a fine repast, along with the fellowship of those on the cruise really helped make this a fine event. The only negative was the much less than desired attendance by our NW Dept. membership. However, many of those few that did attend worked hard both days to engage our audiences. A real highlight for the public was the demonstration and firing of the NW. Dept. howitzer, and those members present had a chance to be trained and exercise on the gun for two days. Units in attendance included;

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Distaff</u>
5 <sup>th</sup> Va. Regt.	1	1
8 <sup>th</sup> Pa. Regt., Ft. Laurens Det.	7	3
10 <sup>th</sup> Va. Regt.	1	-
23 <sup>rd</sup> Royal Welsh Fuzileers	1	-
Garrison Regt.	1	-
Geographers	3	3
Royal Naval Landing Party	1	-

A special thanks to those who stayed on the island the entire weekend and shared a very special experience, and especially to John Conklin for coordinating the event.

### **Monmouth Courthouse 240<sup>th</sup>, Freehold N.J. 16-17 June**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania, Ft. Laurens Det. took 3 guns, ( 2 3-lbers and a small howitzer), along with 16 men and 3 distaff. We also had the help of John Conklin (Royal Naval Landing Party) and Brad Jarard (13th Va.) to crew the guns. We were part of one of the largest assemblages of Revolutionary War artillery in some time, a battery of 9 guns. We emplaced on Saturday on Combs Hill, and on Sunday on the ridge opposite Combs Hill, just outside the cherry orchard. Both those sites were positions for the original Congressional guns.

To begin the event on Saturday morning everyone received their assignments and joined the gun & crew to which they were posted. We then spent several hours drilling till everyone knew their specific duties and could work together seamlessly. (Prior to this event most of the men had attended at least one artillery school to prepare for the weekend).

This was all done under the direction of our Master Gunner and brevet Lt. Jim Workman, who trained and drilled us. Once we moved onto the field, our three guns made up the left section of the grand battery, and Jim commanded us. He was very busy, watching and moving from gun to gun to help with issues. We received commendation from the Major commanding the artillery for our handling of mis-fires, and this was due to Jim's expertise. We also added a piece of historical recreation by portraying "Molly Pitcher". Sue Workman was the powder transfer crewman for the howitzer, dressed appropriately as a camp follower.

She was the only woman dressed as a female, and the narrator pointed her out as he told the story of Molly Pitcher.

I was not surprised but was very pleased by the way everyone involved focused on their tasks at hand, and we became three very efficient gun crews, with every crewman adept and conscientious about their duties. There were times when we were not firing and had time to actually watch part of the "battle", not something we normally get to do. However, when we were firing, everyone was concentrating on the work and responsibility at hand. I will say that it was a great time, and although the 8th Pa., Ft. Laurens Det. has and will always be an infantry unit, this is certainly not the last time we will act as artillerymen, especially since we can document the original unit's involvement with artillery for the period of Summer 1778-Spring 1780.

A very special thanks to Jeff Jones for supplying one of the 3 lbers and the howitzer, and to Jim Workman for supplying the 2nd 3 lber. and transporting all three guns. Also, thanks are due Jim for being willing to train a number of rookies. Thank you to all of you that took the time to attend artillery schools this spring to get ready for the event. Your advanced knowledge made it easier to assign spots on the crews. Thank you to Sue Workman, Diane Newton, and Kathleen Schneider for making sure that we had our daily ration of tavern biscuits and cookies. (I am particularly fond of these). Two of our newest members, Tom Yoder and Shaun Smith participated and fit right in, as we knew they would. NW Dept. units attending were;

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Distaff</u>
4 <sup>th</sup> N.J.V., Timpany's Coy.	2	1
8 <sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania, Ft. Laurens Det.	16	3
13 <sup>th</sup> Va.	1	-
Geographers	3	

Let me say that there may have been other NW Dept. members present, but the event was large, I was busy, and these are the NW Dept. folks I saw.

In closing I wanted to mention that we had members from Michigan, Pennsylvania, and from all over Ohio attend the event, and I thank you all.

Bob Cairns

8<sup>th</sup> Pa. Regt., Ft. Laurens Det.

Photo by  
Paula Noble



## Fort Laurens, Bolivar, Ohio, 14-15 July

I still have to take care of some of my gear, the event just being completed, so I still haven't completely collected my thoughts. I will say that we had a smaller than usual turnout of our membership, and I am sure that in part the heat of the weekend was a contributing factor. Not as many of our NW Dept. units were represented by at least one person as we usually see, but I must commend our Crown regulars for having a good showing. Another thought is that if a person came to the event and didn't learn something, I would be amazed. We had on-going demonstrations each day of 18<sup>th</sup> c. tools/artificers, physicians, Native Americans, artillery, geographers, history of the fort, and our usual rifle/musket, music and clothing demonstrations. Many of our members were involved all day in engaging and educating the spectators. Thanks to all those that stuck out both very warm days. Attendance was roughly (from my memory, not records) and I apologize for any inaccuracies;

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Distaff</u>
5 <sup>th</sup> Va. Regt.	4	3
8 <sup>th</sup> Pa., Ft. Pitt Det.	1	1
8 <sup>th</sup> Pa., Ft. Laurens Det.	29	4
13 <sup>th</sup> Va. Regt.	1	-
Logan's Coy.	1	-
Garrison	1	-
Geographers	3	-
Westmoreland Militia	1	1
2 <sup>nd</sup> , Coldstream Guards	4	1
23 <sup>rd</sup> Royal Welsh Fuziliers	4	1
64 <sup>th</sup> Regt.	3	-
Jaegers	2	-

Photo by  
Paula  
Noble



## **Missing in Action**

I left my canvas stool at Ft Laurens. It's kind of Red with a canvas seat. Please contact Jack Rogers at: jrogers3340@embarqmail.com. Thank you!

## **Blanket Sale**

I no longer "rough-it" so am looking to sell my wedge tent. The tent is a Tentsmiths "French 1750" style. It is 8'-0" wide across the front, 7'-0" tall and 8'-6" long plus the 4'-0" bell and has the mud flaps. With the poles, pegs and storage bags it would be ready to set up. The tent has been modified to have period correct hook closures and short stake loops.

Includes 2 ½" octagon wood vertical poles with metal ferrules at top, two-piece 2 ½" x 4" wood ridge pole, metal tent stakes, storage bags for the tent and pegs, tent peg pullers, "S" hooks for the tops of the pole and mallet. This tent is in excellent condition.

Contact me for pictures and price.

Contact ; Don Newton

8th PA, Ft. Laurens

412-417-0130

revbook@comcast.net

I have for sale 2 Earlys of Witney pure wool blankets I no longer have a use for. These blankets are vintage Witneys. The blankets are 74" wide X 90" long and will cover a queen sized bed. The blankets are a deep red color and have black stripes across the blanket for the entire length. These are the most awesome blankets and the warmest you will ever experience. We bought them to reenact but no longer camp out so they have been unused for 10 + years. The blankets are in excellent as-new condition. I would be happy to send pictures and pricing upon request.

Contact ; Don Newton

8th PA, Ft. Laurens

412-417-0130

[revbook@comcast.net](mailto:revbook@comcast.net)

I must have been very optimistic in my earlier sewing days. I have several yards of white hook and eye tape that I will never in a million years be able to use. Both the tape and the hooks and eyes are white.

Contact: Karen Kashary

5th Va. Reg't

330 523-0629

kalena4563@roadrunner.com

## Notes from the Inspector

As we proceed through the 2018 North West Department schedule of events and as I look at my kit I realize that time has taken its toll. There are holes and worn places in my small clothes not to mention the stains. While these may look unsightly to the non-reenactor, to me they are part of the natural patina that the soldiers of the American Revolution would have attained in the daily use of their clothing and equipment. I am not advocating a trip to the dry cleaner or even the washing machine, I am advocating that you take the time to sew the ripped places and patch the holes. There are many deserter descriptions that mention a piece of clothing with the notation, "Patched" following the fabric or color description. You don't have to be a tailor to patch your clothing, in fact most of the soldiers weren't tailors but figured a way to attach a patch with thread. If you can't, then find someone who can. Our organization has many people who are knowledgeable and willing to help each other. I'm sure that you can find someone to help you and then you can pass it on.

I hope you will find the time to come to the remaining events on the NWD schedule.

Joe Forte, 8<sup>th</sup> Pa. Reg't., Ft. Laurens Det.  
Inspector, North West Department



Photo by Paula Noble

## **Adjutant's Freshest Advices**

For those of you at the Annual General Meeting of the NWD, this is a repeat. It is mid-Summer 2018 and time to begin our Northwest Department election cycle so that our 2019 Officers and Members-at-Large may be installed at the 2019 Fort Laurens General Meeting. Please consider running for office if you are willing to attend Board Meetings and Events on a regular basis. Your valuable time and desire to serve the BAR Northwest Dept. is all that is needed. You can make a positive difference in OUR organization! A Nominating Committee will be in place shortly. A BLAST will be sent to all members about whom on the committee to contact, to submit your name and for which office. Please think about this election as a commitment to the future of BAR NWD.

A Special Thanks to those members that have contacted me regarding updates of their addresses, and email addresses. I have forwarded them to our BAR Shot Editor and the BAR Main Dept Membership Clerk. Do you know any of your Unit members that have moved or changed their email address? Please ask them to send me their updates.

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

NWD Adjutant

K9Kash@roadrunner.com



Photo by Paula Noble

## Remembering an Old Friend

At the Fort Laurens event I made a terrible mistake, and I would like to, in some small part, rectify it now in print. In my concentration to run a smooth NW Department event, I forgot to remember an old friend, Jack Lasswell. I have no excuse, and it was a real oversight on my part. Jack was a fine man, and I was pleased to call him my friend, a thing I shared with nearly everyone that knew Jack, as evidenced by the packed church for his memorial service last Fall. Jack served the NW Department as both Member-at-Large and Deputy Commander, and I greatly valued both his counsel and his sense of humor. Jack and Mary Ann were involved in reenacting nearly every war since the Crusades, and his knowledge and expertise were obvious in any conversation. At Jack's memorial I learned things about him, including his like of acting. We often talked about music, (Jack had been a drummer in his early years) and he passed his love of music on to his son, who is still regularly performs in the Pittsburgh area. Jack's sense of humor was unique in that he was never mean with a joke, often being self-deprecating. He was a many-faceted individual, and his interests were many and varied. I should have realized that the feeling of something being missing at the Fort Laurens event was caused by Jack not being there. If I had slowed down, I would have realized it.

To Mary Ann, I apologize for not making a special mention to remember Jack and will do my best to in part remedy the situation at our Fort Meigs event.

Sincerely, with deep regret,

Bob Cairns

Jack Lasswell with a squad of militia at the Fort Frederick B.A.R. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Encampment.





## **Event Notice**

### **Fort Meigs**

WHAT: Fort Meigs, Perrysburg, Ohio REVOLUTION ON THE OHIO FRONTIER

Combined NWTa and BAR NWD Joint Event

WHEN: August 25/26 2018

The NWD and NWTa will be joining forces again at Fort Meigs, Perrysburg, Ohio. We are in the final planning stages and need you and your Unit to plan on attending. Please contact your Unit Commander and encourage them to come and support this combined event. Last year we received warm praises from the Fort Meigs Superintendent, Geoffrey Earnhart and Dan Woodward Programs Administrator. With their cooperation, we have moved our Event one week later to avoid other conflicts in the reenacting community.

This year we will have several sutlers committed to attending, ongoing Tradesmen demonstrations, The Dutch Milners will have sewing and clothing demonstrations. If you would like to participate, please send me an email or find them on Facebook. A new drama with a Court Martial trial of several suspected criminals within the fort. We can always use your help. Come and see the Geographers' NEW TENT and displays. Come and meet old friends and make some new ones in the NWTa.

Camp set-up will be Friday Aug 24, 2018 any time after 1200hrs. The Fort's address is: 29100 W. River Rd. Perrysburg, Ohio 43551. Please visit their website: [www.fortmeigs.org](http://www.fortmeigs.org)

Registrations for NWD members should be sent to your Unit Commanders, who will forward them to Bob Kashary, Event Coordinator at: [K9Kash@roadrunner.com](mailto:K9Kash@roadrunner.com) by Aug. 19, 2018 Questions? Email or call Bob Kashary 440-546-9184

Watch your email for detailed NWD BLASTS regarding final details our Fort Meigs Event.

We look forward to seeing YOU!!!

Bob Kashary, 5th Va. Reg't., Event Coordinator

440—546-9184 or [k9kash@roadrunner.com](mailto:k9kash@roadrunner.com)

Photo  
By  
Adam  
Weidner



## **Brecksville Fallfest 2018**

Once again the Brigade will be featured at the Brecksville Metropark Fall Festival on Sunday, September 30th. This one day event is known for large crowds of interested spectators and numerous opportunities to interpret your favorite impression, display or demo.

Date: Sunday, September 30, 2018

Place: Brecksville Reservation, Meadows Picnic Area, Cleveland Metroparks. Park entrance is located of SR 82, near the intersection of SR 21, in Brecksville, Ohio.

Mapquest address: 9305 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, 44141

Time: 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Provided: Lunch, firewood, straw

The lunch is legendary and more that you can eat!

Arrival: Camping is permitted Saturday night but inform Bill or Mary Jo so Metroparks security will be aware of you. You can arrive anytime Saturday afternoon. Cars will be admitted to display area up to 10:00 a. m. Sunday, but must be out of camp by 10:00

PARKING: Park in general parking area with public. The earlier you get there the closer you park!

Event Coordinators: Bill and Mary Jo Lucas

Blmj#sbcglobal .net

440-461-2196

See you at The Park!



## **BROWN BESS ORIGINS**

The origins of the name "Brown Bess" for the British Army musket have been debated for many years. A recent article by Jonathan Ferguson, Curator of Firearms, Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds, in *Man at Arms* magazine (full citation below) has what may be the conclusive answer, as well as some interesting information on 18<sup>th</sup> Century language usage. He found the term used in print by 1763 in Britain, and 1771 in the American colonies. It was likely in use even earlier. Generally speaking, the term Brown Bess referred to both the soldier's firelock and to his wife, mistress, or prostitute. The article is illustrated with period prints and numerous quotations. Not wishing to steal Mr. Ferguson's thunder, or his publisher's profits, you must now get the magazine itself for the tasty bits.

Jonathan Ferguson, "Brown Bess: Musket or Mistress?" *Man at Arms*, Feb. 2018, Vol. 40, No. 1. pp. 31 – 34.

Bruce Egli, Westmoreland County Militia

## **WHERE IS MARGARET "MOLLY" CORBIN?**

A statue of Margaret "Molly Pitcher" Corbin stands on the grounds of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY. In 1926, the Daughters of the American Revolution moved her remains to under the statue from a nearby unmarked grave. Research now shows that the remains are of a male, probably living in the 19th century.

Researchers are exploring the area and also Margaret Corbin's history. Can they confirm her birth in Pennsylvania? Details of an Indian raid that killed her father and her mother was captured are difficult to verify. She also left no children, making the process even harder. There are many questions unanswered for now.

Michael Hill, Associated Press, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, April 29, 2018

Karen Kashary, 5th Va. Reg't.

Photo  
By  
Adam  
Weidner



## **The Sew & So...**

Dear Ladies,

Quite a bit happened this weekend, so if you weren't able to join us, let's get you caught up.

First off--we send our condolences to Barb Borowski on the death of her brother, and to Sherri Saines on the death of her sister-in-law, (I believe). Of course they were not with us, but we thought of them and missed them.

Secondly, and this is important, at the NWD meeting on Saturday, Bob Cairns announced that he is stepping down as Commander effective the end of the season next year (2019). As it so happens, many of the Board members are also looking to step down, and so the nominating committee is going to have their work cut out for them! But seriously, this is the time to consider replacements for our Board members. We ladies don't vote as a block or anything, but as we look around at participants in Brigade activities, names may come to mind and should be considered. Most of us are getting older and our energy levels are not what they once were, and I think THAT is the main cause for dwindling attendance at events. But if you have ideas to energize events, to encourage participation, to spark new leadership, let's hear from you. In the meanwhile, keep in the back of your mind that there's lots of work to be done in the coming 14-15 months.

Fort Laurens, was, as it always is, HOT and humid, but our fly was under the trees and UP IN FRONT of the museum! Yea! So we weren't back behind the tents, and instead we had opportunities to interact with the public more than we have in recent years. And the visitor turnout on Saturday surprised me, what with the weather. I mean, we had lots of visitors. Thanks to Bob Kashary for placing the fly where he did! (I also thanked Bob Cairns at the annual meeting and told him how much the ladies appreciated being up in the front. I just wanted him to know!).

One small problem that we need to deal with is Fort Laurens' dwindling ability to feed us. They have a bare minimum budget to start with. For next year we should consider planning some or all meals "on our own". There are food trucks there (this year there was also a beer truck!) and we should be able to buy food and not need to rely on the fort. So, if this is OK with you, then we're all good, but if not, someone remind me to remind you next year about meals "on your own".

Our next event will be at Ft. Meigs in Perrysburg, OH (just south of Toledo). The fort is huge, we usually have a nice time. Why not plan on joining us August 25 and 26? By then we'll have lots of pictures of our new little camp follower, Baby Blackstock, soon-to-be-born daughter of Stephanie Miller, who proved that you can still dress (without stays) and join us for events even when you're 37 weeks pregnant!

Watch for more information about Ft. Meigs. We hope to see you there.

Dianne Miller  
5th Virginia

## Up-Coming Events

**25-26 August, Fort Meigs, Perrysburg, Ohio.** This site is the Ohio History Connection's Gateway Military Site and is the largest wooden stockade in North America. It is the site of several War of 1812 actions, and is VERY near The Fallen Timbers battlefield, as well as several other Indian and War of 1812 historic sites. This is our third year doing an event at this site jointly with the North West Territorial Alliance, and I hope you will participate. I am sure the event coordinator, Bob Kashary of the 5<sup>th</sup> Va. Regt., will have more to say about the event in this **B.A.R.SHOT**.

**30 September, Brecksville Fallfest,** Cleveland Metro-parks. A one-day event in a beautiful setting with lots of very interested, enthusiastic spectators. Thousands of people attend this event and give us all ample opportunity to interpret our favorite areas of 18<sup>th</sup> c. life. Bill Lucas, 23<sup>rd</sup> R.W.F. is the event coordinator, and look for more on this event elsewhere in this **B.A.R.SHOT**.

**20-21 October, Schoenbrunn Village 18<sup>th</sup> c. Trade Faire,** New Philadelphia, Ohio. I attended this event last fall and was very impressed, as well as having a good time. Many of you already have this as one of your "don't miss" events, and this year the NW Dept. is participating as a group. It is VERY IMPORTANT that if you plan to attend as a B.A.R. member you pre-register with me, Bob Cairns, so that you are not asked to pay the entrance fee on arriving on the site. Simply email or telephone me with your name & the names of those B.A.R. members coming with you, the number and type of tents, and when you plan to arrive/depart. There is lots to see and do, and the NW Dept. will obviously be involved in presenting our own part of the program. There will be plenty of time for you to shop, visit the historic buildings and museum, and just enjoy the Ohio Fall. **PLEASE REMEMBER TO REGISTER WITH ME.** My contact information is;

Bob Cairns

(330) 455-9722

[robtcairns@cs.com](mailto:robtcairns@cs.com)

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

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