

Winter, 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 B.A.R. Members,

Let me begin by saying that I hope you and your families are all well and looking forward to a much more normal 2021 event season. In Ohio, the vaccination process has begun for the general public, going by age, and if all goes well everyone that wants the vaccine should, according to the state's plan, receive their shots by mid-April. I know many of you have already gotten vaccinated, and many more are scheduled. Hopefully, those of you in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Kentucky, Indiana, West Virginia and anywhere else you live are also looking forward to vaccination soon. That being said, I believe we can go back to our regular operation by mid-summer. I will urge each and everyone of you to follow your best instincts about attending events, and we will still observe whatever are the recommended safety protocols for the time and place.

Now let me focus on the events we already have planned. It is a thin schedule since many historic sites are not open, and although our NW Dept. Board members are working to make contacts and arrangements, finding someone to talk to at a site that is closed presents a particular set of problems. The events we have definitely scheduled are:

### **1-2 May, The Ohio Civil War Show**

Richland County Fairgrounds, Mansfield, Ohio. We have been doing this event for many years. The show is one of the largest militaria shows in the United States, and although the primary focus is on the American Civil War, you will find items from early colonial American through World War II, in 5 buildings crammed with tables of exhibits. In addition, reenactors from the Revolutionary War (us), the Civil War, and WW II give out-door presentations throughout the day, and you might even see President Abraham Lincoln give the Gettysburg Address. We will set up a camp and have an indoor sleeping area, and we usually give 3-4 half-hour-long presentations to the public, as well as an opening and closing ceremony. You can go to the event's website:

<https://ohiocivilwarshow.com/wp/>

where you can get directions and see a gallery of photos that include some fine pictures of NW Dept. participants. As of now you will be on your own for all meals. Please be ready to go on Saturday and Sunday morning at 8:30 AM, and the show closes at 5:00 PM Saturday, and 3:00 PM Sunday so most of you will be able to be home for supper. For questions, please contact the event coordinator:

Bob Cairns (330) 455-9722

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

### **14 May (Friday), Fort Laurens School Day**

Fort Laurens State Memorial, Bolivar, Ohio. Last October we presented our first School Day at Fort Laurens and everyone that participated seemed to have a fine experience, (even Dick Watkins who explained how to make firecake 200 times). We will set up stations to present topics that you select to students, primarily middle school-age. The students and their chaperons will rotate through the stations and you and your presenting partner(s) will have about 15-20 minutes with each group. In addition, we will form an artillery crew and several times during the day we will firing the howitzer, as well as firing volleys with muskets/rifles. This day is a fine fund raiser for the sight, and if you wish to support Fort Laurens in a financial way, your participation as a presenter during this school day is a great donation. So, all of you retired folks that are looking for a fine Spring day activity, get in touch with me and we will sign you up, along with your topic. Event coordinator:

Bob Cairns (330) 455-9722

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

### **17-18 July, Fort Laurens State Memorial, Bolivar, Ohio.**

This is our annual event and over the years has become our best-attended event of the season. Fort Laurens is the site of the only Revolutionary War fort build by Congress within the confines of modern-day Ohio and is also the site of the Tomb of the Unknown Patriot of the American Revolution. There is a fine museum, and you will help recreate the sights and sounds of the 18<sup>th</sup> century with demonstrations, displays, one-on-one interaction with the public, as well as narrated skirmishes. The audience at this event is always knowledgeable and full of questions, and we will combine our usual large lecture/demonstrations with the smaller stations for interpreting. This site has Revolutionary War veterans entombed there and is a very important part of our national and local heritage. Currently, lunches on Saturday and Sunday, and supper on Saturday are planned, and will be 18<sup>th</sup> c. in nature. Visit the Fort Laurens websites:

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

<https://www.fortlaurensmuseum.org/>

There will be further information on this event in the Spring BARSHOT, but if you have questions, contact the event coordinator:

Bob Cairns (330) 455-9722

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

## **18-19 September, Old Fort Niagara, Youngstown, NY.**

This event is being held at Old Fort Niagara, which has been in continuous use as a military site since the 1720s, beginning with the French and currently as a U.S. Coast Guard Station. It was a British post during the Revolution, U.S. and British during the War of 1812, a U.S. Army site for the U.S. Civil War and housed German P.O.W.s during WW II. It also served as a Pershing missile training site in the 1950s & 60s. It has the 6 oldest buildings on the Great Lakes within its boundaries and welcomes more than 100,000 tourists each year. It sits at the mouth of the Niagara River where it meets Lake Ontario. Added to all this are the facts that it has been designated the B.A.R. National Grand Encampment, and by both the British Brigade and the Continental Line as one of two national events for their organizations. It is being sponsored on the Congressional side by the 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regt., Ft. Laurens Det., and on the Crown side by The 64<sup>th</sup> Regt. of Foot, Major's Coy. This will be the largest Revolutionary War event of 2021. Please put this on your calendars now and look for more information as we go forward. Please look carefully at the photo presentation in this BARSHOT, and note the amenities offered. This is a terrific area to plan a Fall vacation, being in the center of many historic and natural attractions. Please note that if you plan on traveling to Canada, you will need a passport. I am VERY excited about this event, and on a personal note, if you decide not to attend, please don't ask me why we don't have big events anymore. For questions contact the event coordinator:

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

Old Fort Niagara website    <https://www.oldfortniagara.org/>

## **DON'T MISS THE BIGGEST REVOLUTIONARY WAR EVENT OF 2021!!!**

Before I leave the subject of events, let me again acknowledge that while I am an optimist about the listed events taking place, ANY of these events could be cancelled for health reasons, or for that matter, any reason. Also, the NW Department Board is still looking into events in Brecksville, Oh., Chillicothe, Oh., Columbus, Oh., Hale Farm for our next School, and we will also plan at least one live shoot once we have the all-clear on the virus situation. We are also in discussions with the leadership of the NWTa to designate as a joint BAR/NWTa one regular event per year, alternating between a BAR event one year and NWTa the next.

For those of you that are not Ohio residents, it is obvious that we are not currently planning anything outside the state, with the exception of the joint BAR/NWTa event. If you have a site or sites in your state that are possible event venues, please get the contact information and bring it to a Board member or Board meeting. We WANT to do events in your area, and YOU are the best source of prospective sites in your area.

## **2021 B.A.R. DUES**

Although the National Board is discussing the possibility of a discount for units that paid full dues in 2020, this is still under discussion. After a conversation with National B.A.R. commander John Lopez, it seems that the best way to precede with 2021 dues is to pay them in full, and if the National Board decides on a discount, we can apply that to our 2022 dues. So, unit commanders and adjutants should begin collecting your unit's dues, and send the entire unit dues package to Dave Miller, B.A.R. Membership Secretary. NO ONE should send their individual dues in directly to Dave Miller. The current dues are as follows:

\$25.00 – for the primary member of the household  
\$ 5.00 – for each of the next two members of the household  
Over the age of 16

Please note that "household" means people living in the same house. This is a household membership plan, not necessarily a family plan, and adult children not living in the household should pay their own dues. Unit Commanders and Adjutants should send their dues to:

David Miller, B.A.R. Membership Sec.  
2851 Fleger Dr.  
Parma, Ohio 44134-6439

Dues questions should be directed to Dave Miller at; [david.miller2@cox.net](mailto:david.miller2@cox.net) or (440) 842-9128. Please make sure that all the information, (address, phone and email), are correct for ALL your members.

Thank you to unit commanders and adjutants for their prompt, accurate attention to this.

## **BOOK REVIEW**

I am in the middle of reading ANATOMY OF A MASSACRE, The Destruction of Gnadenhutten, 1782, by Eric Sterner. This book was published in late 2020 and became available last October. It was published by the folks that produce the Journal of the American Revolution. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of Native Americans and the western frontier in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is not a large book, with 156 pages of text before footnotes, but so far, I have not read a single paragraph that did not include important information. The author's style is easy to read, and the only thing a reader may want to do is keep a notecard with names and their identification, since most are either German or Native and not easily remembered, at least by this reader. Much of this history takes place within a few miles of the site of Fort Laurens, and you will be doing yourself a real favor by picking up a copy. The Zoar Village store sold out very quickly the copies they had, and they have scheduled the author, Mr. Sterner, to speak at Fort Laurens.

(Sadly, it is the same Saturday we will all be at Fort Niagara, but they may record the presentation for us). Currently this book is only available in hard-back and can be purchased from Westholme Publishing for about \$28.00. I highly recommend this book.

I want to close by reminding you to mark the scheduled events on your calendars, get your dues paid to your units, get your kits in the very best of repair and fit, and take good care of yourselves and your loved ones, and I'll see you all at our very first formation.

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

## **HUZZAH THE NORTHWEST DEPT. B.A.R.!!!!**



## Adjutant's Freshest Advices

Well, NWD Members it is January 2021 and we in the NWD Board are dealing with scheduling 2021 events in hopes that Covid-19 begins to diminish as more time passes and more folks get vaccinated.

It is time to contact your Unit Commander and/or Adjutant and send in your 2021 Brigade dues. Please make certain that your information is current for all your contact information including phone number, mailing address, and email address. The Main Dept is working on a NEW computer program for registration and renewal of all members and units, hopefully for the near future. Until we get the "Go Live" with the new program, we must be prepared to renew as in the past. Please see your upcoming Brigade Courier for further updates. I will BLAST them out as soon as I get them.

Go to the NEW Brigade Website and take a look around. Our new Public Information Officer, Dakota Griffin has done a great job in updating the Brigade.org site. To log into the "Members ONLY" section:

Your username is the first initial of your first name, followed by your full last name, then followed by @brigade.org.

Your password is the first initial of your first name, followed by your full last name

If your name was George Washington Your Login would look like this:

Username - [gWASHINGTON@brigade.org](mailto:gWASHINGTON@brigade.org)

Password - gWASHINGTON

YMHS,

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

**COME FOR A FALL VACATION IN THE BEAUTIFUL  
NIAGARA FRONTIER REGION  
NO HOTEL/MOTEL EXPENSE (TENT AT THE FORT WEDNESDAY TO MONDAY)  
FREE/DISCOUNTED ATTRACTIONS \* \* \* FREE SHUTTLE BUS TO FALLS**



**EASY TO GET TO IN YOUNGSTOWN, NEW YORK, JUST 20 MINUTES  
NORTH OF NIAGARA FALLS. EXPRESSWAY THE WHOLE WAY!**

Route Segment	Distance	Time
Youngstown to Blairville	14.3 miles	25 min
Blairville to Stella Niagara	16.0 miles	26 min
Stella Niagara to Niagara Falls	16.2 miles	26 min

**FORT NIAGARA IS THE KEY TO YOUR HOLIDAY**  
**MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTION VISITED BY OVER 100,000 PEOPLE EACH YEAR**  
**VACATION WITH LIVING HISTORY & BATTLES!**  
**SITE HOLDS MULTIPLE LARGE SCALE REENACTMENT EVENTS EVERY YEAR**



### **Book Review – *The Boston Massacre: A Family History***

Serena Zabin. *The Boston Massacre: A Family History*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2020. 296 pages, illustrated. ISBN 9780544911154. \$30.

Professor Zabin's book does not concentrate on the Boston Massacre itself, but on the many personal and family relationships formed and broken as British army regiments occupied Boston to enforce the collection of customs duties. British regiments brought their own women and children with them, and while in Boston soldiers and officers married local women, and local women married them. Other relationships formed as officers sought local accommodations. Despite the use of existing and rented barracks, many soldiers and their families were quartered in rented rooms and even whole houses in the town. Initially, many had to live in the military camp on Boston Common. Many relationships were cordial and even helpful. Army women in the camp rescued a kidnapped child and returned him to the town watch. Other, more unfortunate incidents were inevitable in a physically small city filled with beer and rum and too many people living in close proximity. Military guard posts throughout Boston served more to agitate than suppress political fevers, leading to an inevitable ugly confrontation. As family relationships were formed and broken with the tide of history, the author points out that the final family relationship to be broken was the tie of Boston, and the American colonies, to the "family" of the British empire. An engrossing read, with several good period illustrations.

Bruce Egli, Westmoreland County Militia

# BARRACKS & TENTING INSIDE FORT NIAGARA

18TH CENTURY BARRACKS SPACE FOR ABOUT 200

OUTSIDE THE FORT "QUICK ESCAPE" CAMPS FOR THOSE LEAVING EARLY



## HOW ABOUT SOME SPIFFS?

1. FREE FORT NIAGARA, WATERCOLOR, ANON, C.1784, GICLÉE PRINT ON 60LB. ARCHIVAL MATTE PAPER
2. MEALS, SATURDAY NIGHT TAVERN
3. FREE ICE. WOOD, WATER. ETC.
4. PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER FOR FREE UNIT PORTRAITS
5. DRILL COMPETITION WITH PRIZES
6. TOURS, LECTURES, & WORKSHOPS
7. GIFT SHOP DISCOUNTS
8. LOTS OF SUTLERS

Second Regiment, Albany County Militia  
At Saratoga 2012



## FORT NIAGARA IS FRIENDLY TO ALL

CAVALRY. BOATS. NATIVES. ARTILLERY. INFANTRY. LADIES. FAMILIES.



BOAT CAMP ON RIVER NEXT TO LAUNCH.



HORSE CAMP WITH WATER AND HAY, PUBLIC COMPETITIONS.



ARTILLERISTS CAN CREW THE FIVE 12 POUNDER DAUPHIN BATTERY



PERIOD BARRACKS



NATIVE CAMP AND INTERPRETATION OPPORTUNITIES.

# INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMMING ALL DAY

## FRIDAY SCHOOL PROGRAMS.



WEEKEND FULL SCHEDULE OF REENACTOR-DRIVEN HISTORICAL VIGNETTES/DEMONSTRATIONS, HOSPITAL, TAVERN, PETTY SUTLER, LAUNDRY, RANGERS, RATIONS & COOKING, CRAFTS, PEOPLE OF THE ARMY, ETC.



## BATTLES

**FRIDAY EVENING**  
*CONTINENTAL  
 ADVANCE GUARD  
 ENGAGE BRITISH  
 PIQUET GUARD*

**SATURDAY PM**  
*CONTINENTALS PUSH  
 TO FORT WALLS*

**SATURDAY DUSK**

**SUNDAY PM**

**OPTIONAL AM  
 BATTLES**



**Fort Niagara State Park  
 Has 600+ Acres**



**Friday Evening Battle – Advance  
 Guard of Continentals Engage  
 British Piquet Guard**

# BATTLES

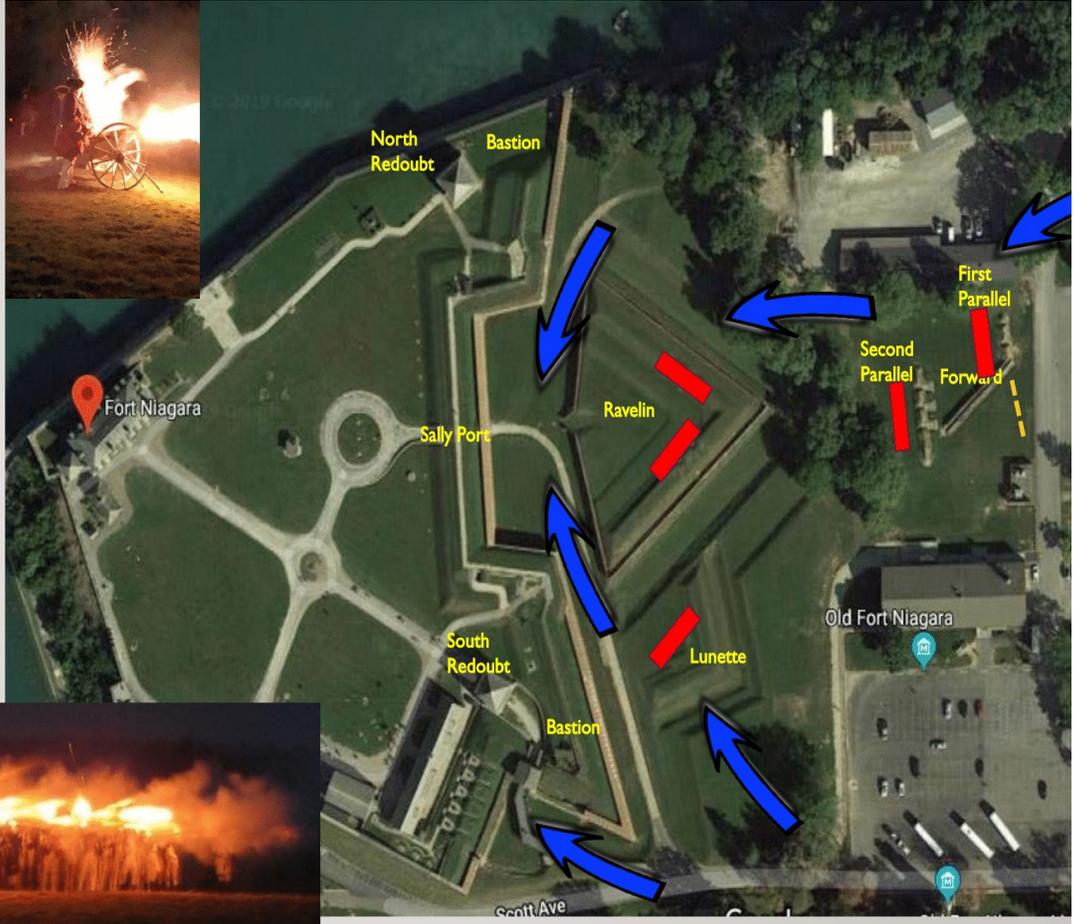
FRIDAY EVENING

SATURDAY PM

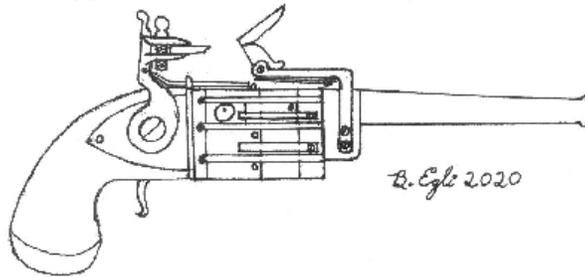
SATURDAY DUSK  
CONTINENTALS  
CAPTURE THE  
RAVELIN

SUNDAY PM  
CONTINENTALS  
GARRISON FORT  
AGAINST BRITISH  
ATTACK

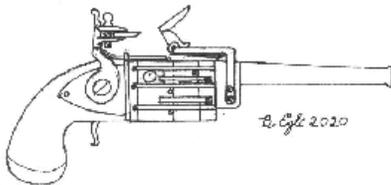
OPTIONAL AM  
BATTLES



Flintlock Revolver, Thos. Annely, 1710



Flintlock Revolver, Thos. Annely, 1710



## **A FLINTLOCK REVOLVER**

Several flintlock revolvers were made by Thomas Annely of Bristol, England about 1710. This example is in the Royal Armouries, Great Britain. The overall length is 17.8 in., bore .398 in., with eight chambers in the cylinder. The barrel, bolster, and buttcap are brass, the remainder iron, with a wood stock. The weight is only 2.84 lb., a little more than the handy Colt Navy revolver of the American Civil War era. There is no trigger guard.

Please excuse my simple drawing, intended to help you understand the revolver's operation. It should not be relied upon for any precise measurements.

Loading would require a separate ramrod, priming and main charge powder flasks with measuring spouts, and a container for balls. The balls would have to fit tightly or be patched to stay in place. Each chamber has a priming pan and touchhole with a cover sliding between rails, and held in place by a flat steel spring. The steel is suspended above a pan, pivoting on the end of an iron arm, and held "open" or "closed" by a flat spring under the arm. The lock, of necessity, is back-action. The cock is offset to center over the cylinder and barrel. It appears that the cylinder is turned by hand. A long flat spring atop the grip, about where the barrel tang would normally be, has a pin on the bottom that engages a hole in the cylinder at the end of each chamber, ensuring that the chamber and barrel are aligned. This, too seems to be hand-operated. A "pushrod" is attached to the left side of the cock, extending through a loop to keep it aligned. It will engage with a pin atop each sliding pan cover.

Once primed and loaded, the pistol could be carried in a saddle holster, or perhaps in a desk drawer. It could be left loaded for an extended time with the cock forward and the steel open to ease the mainspring, as the priming pans remain closed and ready. With the lock on half-cock and steel closed, the pistol could easily be drawn with one hand, full-cocked, and fired. As the cock flies forward, it drives the pushrod forward, striking the small pin atop the pan cover, sliding the cover forward as the sparks from the steel drop into the pan. BANG! The next shot requires cocking the lock and closing the steel. The left hand must pull up the cylinder locking spring and revolve the cylinder until it locks into place. With the covered pans, you should have eight shots even in the rain. Reloading would require ramrod, powder flasks, etc. and perhaps a quick cleaning. A thorough cleaning likely means disassembling the revolver.

Gunmakers tried for almost two centuries to produce a reliable flintlock repeating firearm. The Annely Revolver is one of the better efforts. Black powder, attractive to dampness, corrosive, and producing much fouling, worked against these efforts. Its low power required a big charge and a big bullet to have a deadly impact, pushing up the weight of firearms, especially those with multiple barrels, etc. Metallurgy needed further development to provide stronger materials. Lack of precision measurement made parts difficult to produce and duplicate. Only master gunmakers could produce the close tolerances of repeating firearms, one at a time, and at great expense. Most common people and soldiers could not operate and maintain complex firearms. By the time these problems were resolved, percussion firearms swept the flintlock away.

Bruce Egli, Westmoreland County Militia

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

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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.