

THE CLARK MESSENGER

WWW.GRCHA.ORG



MARCH 2010

George Rogers Clark Heritage Association

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Upcoming meetings: March 3 and April 7, 2010

From the President's Quill

January 25, 2010

Dear Members,

I'd say the moon of the snow blind is pretty fitting this year. I think glaciers are forming down the hill from our house to the barn.

It has been a rough winter. We still have quite a few members who are under the weather or recovering from surgery and in need of encouragement. Remember them in your thoughts and prayers. We also have several members who have lost their jobs. If you know of a job opening anywhere, please share it with your GRCHA friends who are filling out job applications. _

Gerry Barker's Ox, William, passed away. There is a campaign to help Gerry replace him as quickly as possible due to a tendency by Oxen to pine away for their yoke partner. This trait puts the lead ox George, in jeopardy. Please check out websites at

<http://manskerman1780.blogspot.com/> and

<http://hyalineprosaic.blogspot.com/2010/02/introduction-to-george-farewell-to.html> for some interesting historical background on oxen behavior, and see www.purefinder.com if you are interested in helping Gerry out. After having spent a couple days as an "apprentice drover" with Gerry and his big guys, I've got a bit of a soft spot for them and he is always so supportive of our projects that I feel we should really support Gerry at this time. The board has offered to advance part of his fee for the Fair, but he preferred not to upset his budgeting flow for the year. He has an ox located, Nick, but it will take about \$3,000 to get things moving. The "Purefinder" website (named for Hester Purefinder) is the best method to help. If you have any other questions, feel free to call me.

I notice the bucks are starting to drop their antlers, so spring can't be too far off, no matter how it looks outside. Been practicing with my period correct turkey "wing bone" calls.

Pele-ti-nuc-shel-wa, - Rusty

Liberty Dancers

New Carlisle Bicentennial has something planned every month. www.ncbicentennial.com. The GRCHA Liberty Dancers helped with their kickoff Bicentennial Ball this past month and had a great time. We led the grand procession, gave an 18th Century dance demonstration and had easily 50 people who tried out the crowd participation dance.

Night at the Museum

Night at the Museum on March 27 is coming up quickly. The script is being adjusted and tickets will go on sale March 2 for members of GRCHA and the Clark County Historical Society. Member price will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for under 18 years. Call 324-0657 to reserve your time slot. Hours are 6 - 10 p.m. Last tour starts at 9:15. General Public will be able to buy tickets after March 16, at \$12 for adults. We always sell out, so tell your friends to buy their tickets early. We have lots of room for more volunteers, come and try out your first person skills in a warm climate controlled environment. You don't have to portray a character. There is need for "behind the scenes" people to take tickets, host the GRCHA table, be tour guides, serve refreshments, and more. Contact Pam Cottrel or info@grcha.org to volunteer. We will split the proceeds with the Heritage Center, so please support this cooperative fundraiser.

Spring Plant Sale

Spring Plant Sale is May 1 - 2. Contact Mike Wright or Pam Cottrel to volunteer.

Fair at New Boston News

Fair planning shifting into high gear. We lost the February meeting due to "Global Warming". The meeting is rescheduled for Thursday, March 18th at 7:00 p.m. We are still hoping to get much of the organizational process done before spring activities commence. Registration notifications should be out. Please register early and often. There are new jury rules out and we hope we have clarified many of the issues we have noted the past several years, but at the same time, are continuing to maintain a friendly and educational policy. Thanks to the jury committee and all who worked so hard on this needed chore.

Due to the economic downturn we have lost some major grant money and have been forced to cut back on our budget for 2010. In addition to reducing the number of paid re-enactors, we are also reducing the fee paid for education day participants and are asking for re-enactors to donate their services. We were saddened to learn also that Mike Rumping who has portrayed Simon Kenton at the Fair will not be participating due to health reasons. Though we have made cutbacks, we still anticipate a great Fair with the same great quality.

Wm. Smith & Wm. Cottrel
Fairmasters

Interview to be on the radio! On March 7, at 6:00 a.m. and at 9:30 a.m. tune to AM 1290 or 95.7 FM News Talk Radio WHIO- Darryl Baurer will talk with Jim Campbell about the Clark County Park District. Promises to be very informative.

GRCHA Members “Acting Out”

GRCHA member, Lisa Hrinko, will portray a “Teacher Who” in **SEUSSICAL the Musical**. Lisa describes the play as all your favorite Dr. Seuss characters set to music and a great show for kids. Performances are scheduled for March 18 - 21 afternoons and evenings at the Turner Theatre in Kuss Auditorium in Springfield. Presented by the Springfield Civic Theatre and Ohio performing Arts Institute. Ticket Office - (937) 328-3874

GRCHA member, Liz Cottrel Culbertson, will be portraying the character Bianca in the Shakespeare classic, **The Taming of the Shrew**. Liz has performed in all three plays presented at the Fair at New Boston. Performances will take place from April 22 to May 1 at the State Theater in Springfield.

Upcoming Events of Interest

Old Towne Trade Fair - March 6 & 7 at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia
Saturday 9 - 5 Sunday 9 - 3

Night at the Museum - March 27 at the Clark County Heritage Center.

Saturday evening 6 -10 p.m. tickets/reservations needed

Midwest Open Air Museums Coordinating Council (MOMCC) Spring conference March 4 - 6
at Olathe, Kansas. See momcc.org for more information.

Book Review: UNION 1812

My Book Report: Yes, the Ratcatcher can read!

What do you know about the War of 1812 or the Second War of Independence? If you are like me, a while back, not much. I recently read a book called **Union 1812** by **A. J. Langguth** which gave me that much needed information. Starting with the Constitutional Convention in 1788, Langguth uses the primary characters of the period to tell America's story that ended with the battle of New Orleans in 1815.

What makes this book such an interesting read is that the story is told through the primary characters of the period such as Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Dolly and James Madison, Tecumseh, Perry, Crockett, Decatur, General Hull, Wm. Henry Harrison, J.Q. Adams, Andrew Jackson and others. Human interest stories and little known facts about each of the characters make this book read like a great novel that holds your attention.

Union 1812 connects the War of 1812 to the Federalist period and shows how Washington, Adams and Jefferson made major concessions to avoid conflict with Europe, but the War Hawks from the South and West demanded that Madison force a war with Britain to uphold America's honor and though unprepared for war, America was established as a world power.

As we approach the bicentennial of the War of 1812, this would be a good read for all to gain more insight not only about the period we represent as re-enactors, but also to know more about what happened in our own backyard as much of the action centers around the Ohio country.

Submitted by Silas Moore

A Look Back: Re-enacting 30+ Years Ago...

Spring is approaching and many of us are gearing up for the year's re-enacting events. Have you ever wondered what re-enacting 18th century history was like 30 years ago? The following column was taken from an interesting article that Dick Ward forwarded about re-enacting 33 years ago. The original appeared in the Springfield City Employees 'Communicator' newsletter. It gives us a glimpse into the past, 30 years ago and 230 years ago.

INDIANS

Doctor Joseph Doddridge wrote, sometime about 1775, "I well remember, when as a little boy, the family was sometimes waked up in the dead of night by an express with a report that Indians were at hand," and quietly, in the dead of night they were off to the fort.

"In a "similar manner" members of the 9th Virginia and 1st Maryland Regiments, dressed as 18th Century militia, backwoodsmen and farmers arrived at Prickett's Fort, Marion County, West Virginia in the early morning hours of October 13, 1978, to garrison the fort as part of Pricketts Fort State Park's living history program." Wives and children of the men, also dressed in 18th Century clothing added to the authenticity of the event. Complete with correctly portrayed camp life, mock battles and realistically presented Native Americans, "it was truly a 200 year step back in time."

"The original Prickett's Fort was built in 1774 by the people of Prickett's Settlement as a place of refuge from Indian attack. During the Revolution, the fort saw use as a military post." Dismantled in the late 18th Century, the fort was reconstructed and open to the public in 1976. Perched on a small rise overlooking the confluence of Prickett's Creek and the Monongahela River, this rustic log fort is still in operation and you may check for more information at www.prickettsfortstatepark.com. Local legend holds that late at night when the campfires burn low and the mist hangs in the forest, you may still hear the echoes of Dick Ward and his reenactment companions and their "jollification" celebrations held in the long houses inside the fort.



Annual Membership Renewals

Annual Membership renewals were due on January 1. Everyone should now be caught up with their membership cycle starting at the beginning of the year. The form is downloadable on the website or available at the general meeting.